



Value Insight

(Mūlya Samīkṣā)

JAN 2021

VOL: 01 ISSUE: 01

Striding Towards an Ethical Tomorrow

‘METRO MAN’ SREEDHARAN

Celebrate Republic Day
as Values-Renewal Day

BHARAT WAKHLU

Are grandparents and
parents listening?

VIBHA PARTHASARATHI



Foundation For Restoration Of National Values (FRNV)

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VOL: 01 ISSUE: 01

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Dr Gopal Ganesh (IAS Retd.)

Members:

Satish Kumar

Ashwani Kumar

Prem Arora

Sunil Kumar

For feedback on the journal, contribution and membership enquiries,
please contact:

Secretariat: A-59, Shivalik, Near Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017

Phone: +91-9599697643

Website: <http://www.valuefoundation.in>

Email: frnv@outlook.com

Note: Opinions expressed by authors/writers are not necessarily that of
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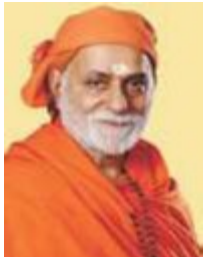
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Inspiration: Values Indispensable for Human Life

Swami Bhoomanandatirtha- Inspiration & Guide



Poojya Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha, a well-known exponent of spiritual treasures like Bhagavad Gita, is the head of Narayanashrama Tapovanam, Trichur, Kerala. He has provided inspiration to people across the globe including corporate leaders on ethical practices

Harih Om Tat Sat. It is heartening to note that FRNV is launching 'Values Insight' as its bi-monthly journal.

Like the human mind and intelligence, values relating to them are also eternal and ever fresh. Fortunately, our country has very good values, all of which are time-tested

and wholesome to enrich and empower individual, societal, national and global life. These have been well documented in the form of illustrious narrations, especially by sagely authors, for whom purity of the mind and heart as well as wisdom of the intelligence constituted the most invaluable treasure. I wonder whether there is any other country in the world, which has evolved and preserved National values with so much of fondness, inspiration and dedication. What more?

These were evolved right from the prehistoric times. Initially they were transmitted from tongue to ear. Later they were inscribed in palm leaves by cutting their fibres with a sharp steel pen. Inasmuch as they were clearly documented and the treasure is available even now, none can doubt or question their relevance and applicability.

Any individual, family, society or nation will not be able to survive without ample values to cherish and pursue throughout. Like education, wealth and fulfillment of desires, values also are indispensable for anyone to live effectively and gloriously, be it an individual, family, societal segment, an agriculturist, industrialist, an administrator or a king. In the absence of sustaining and enduring values, any individual, family, society or institution is bound to perish sooner or later. This is the one message of our National values, which have been in vogue in this holy land right from immemorial, prehistoric times.

I do not expect any resistance or denial when our national values are presented properly to individuals, families as well as educational, industrial and other institutions. This is because our values are always relating to the emotional mind and rational intelligence. Whenever a value is rightly presented, it is bound to evoke an emotional persuasion and a rational compulsion from the listener or reader. For this reason, it is important that FRNV has a regular medium to communicate with its members and associates. This will help spread FRNV's activities to as many cities and towns as possible. Much depends upon the joint efforts of the earnest members of FRNV to ensure the quality as well as the outreach of the publication.

I hope and bless that our team will do well in this regard.

I do exhort readers of 'Values Insight' to take up the cause of reaching the message to more and more people by enlisting them as subscribers and persuading them to be active members of FRNV's activities and programmes. That will undoubtedly be a service they undertake, which will benefit them as well as the Nation as a whole. Remember the Nation consists of individuals born and reared in families by the parents and elders.

The birth and growth of children nursed by values at home as well as in educational institutions are the backbone of any society as well as the Nation.

Individuals make homes, homes make societal segments, societal segments make the nation, and nations make the globe. Thus every born child and growing individual is a centre, from which are drawn all the circles called family, societal segment, the nation and globe. Hence the right growth of the individuals results in the desired growth of the Nation.

May FRNV through its 'Value Insight' journal, strengthen and broaden its efforts to inculcate National Values as effectively and widely as possible. I wish it widespread readership and a cherished place in the hearts and minds of our citizens.

Love and ashirvaad to all of you.

Swami Bhoomanada Tirtha
Narayanashrama Tapovanam
Venginissery, Thrissur Kerala 680653
Ph: 00 91 487 2278302
E-mail: ashram@bhoomananda.org
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“Your mind has enormous hidden dimensions. Open yourselves completely to whatever reactions and emotions the world evokes from time to time. Accept them all without any reservation or resentment. By assimilating everything and all, your mind grows deeper, more stable and more enriched.”



" The 22.87 Kms long Lucknow Metro has brought glory and pride to Uttar Pradesh Govt. by being the only Metro in the country completed in less than 4.5 years. This was possible only due to the unique work culture of LMRC, based on PUNCTUALITY, INTEGRITY, high professional COMPETENCE and a commitment to serve the STATE ".

Dr. E Sreedharan
Metro man

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- With the commencement of revenue services on 8th March, 2019 for the entire 'North-South' Corridor (Phase 1A) from CCS Airport to Munshipulia, Lucknow Metro has set a new benchmark among all the Metro projects across the country by achieving the landmark before the target date
- Provides state-of-the art, modern, world class facilities and infrastructure
- Ensures that its metro operations are environmentally sustainable, viable and eco-friendly in line with its vision of 'Green Metro-Clean Metro'
- Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation is now Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) and implementing Metro projects in important cities of Uttar Pradesh like Kanpur and Agra



Kanpur & Agra Metro Project:

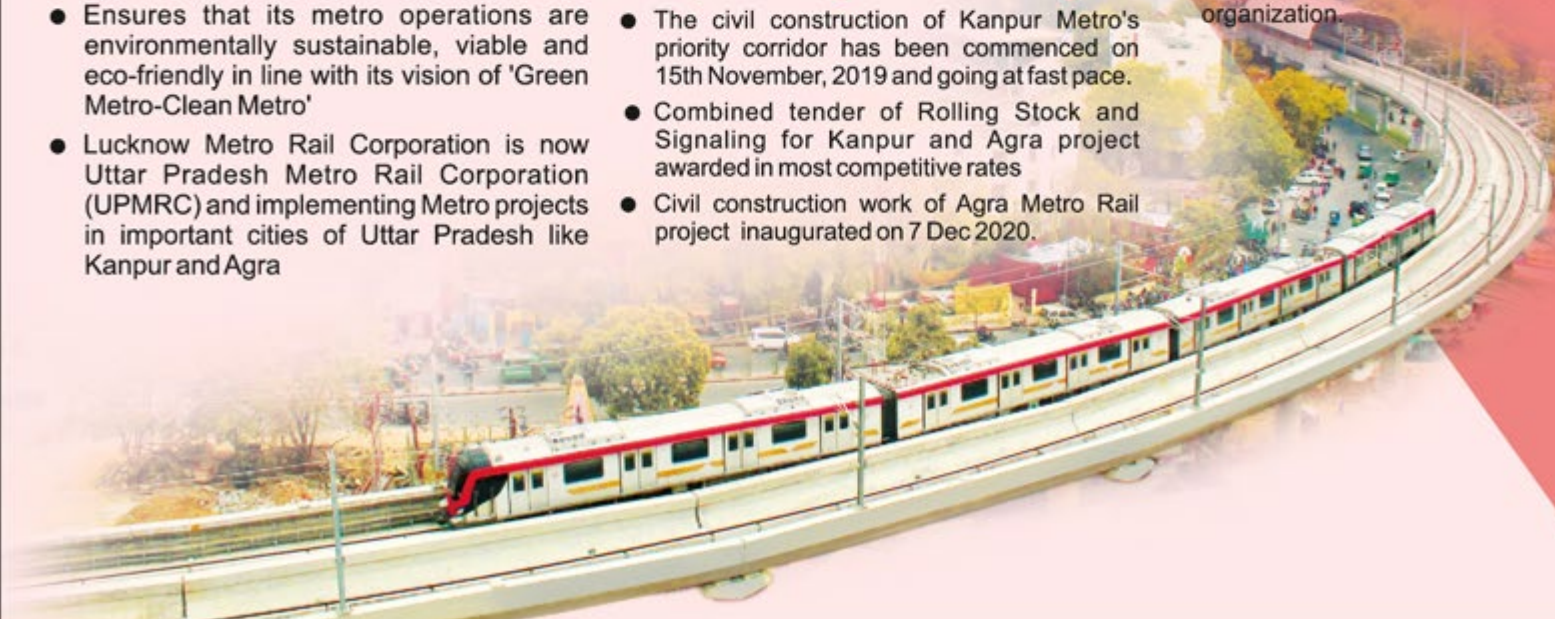
- The civil construction of Kanpur Metro's priority corridor has been commenced on 15th November, 2019 and going at fast pace.
- Combined tender of Rolling Stock and Signaling for Kanpur and Agra project awarded in most competitive rates
- Civil construction work of Agra Metro Rail project inaugurated on 7 Dec 2020.



KUMAR KESHAV,
Managing Director

Awards :

- 'Best Mass Rapid Transit System' at the 12th Urban Mobility India Conference, 2019.
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Cover Story: Striding Towards An Ethical Tomorrow

Dr. E. Sreedharan- Founder President



Dr. E. Sreedharan, the famous ‘Metro Man of India’, was MD of Delhi Metro from 1997-2011 and currently serving as the Principal Advisor, DMRC. He is a recipient of the Padma Shri Award in 2001 and the Padma Vibhushan Award in 2008. He has also been honoured with the Chevalier de la Legion d’honneur (the highest French order for military and civil merits) in 2005 and the ‘Order of Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star’ –The second highest civilian award conferred by Emperor of Japan on 06th November, 2013.

India, that is Bharat, had a glorious past, leading the rest of the world in civilized living, knowledge on all subjects, tolerance and human values. Till a few hundred years ago, our country was very peaceful and prosperous, contributing 28 per cent to the GDP of the world, justifying the common saying, “milk and honey” used to flow freely in our land. Frequent foreign invasions and occupations as well as plundering made this country impoverished not only materially but also led to irreparable loss in terms of values, tradition and culture in general. Even after 73 years of independence, we haven’t recovered completely. A large section of our population is still below the poverty line. Basic needs of housing, healthcare, good education, clean drinking water, electricity, etc. are still out of reach for many. As per the Global Human Developmental Index (dated December. 2019), we are 129th in a list of 189 countries. It is a matter of regret that on the corruption index, as judged by Transparency International, we were down to the 80th position in 2020. The reason why we have not emerged as a modern and model nation is mainly due to the steep decline in values, ethical principles and social discipline in the country.

As a contrast, Norway occupies the first place in the Global Human Development Index. People there hardly have any religious practice. Less than 14 per cent of the population has a stated religious belief. How then the people of Norway have such high principles, integrity and human values? From where did they inherit strengths in character and behavioural integrity? Most certainly from their parents and elders at home, teachers and professors in schools and colleges. This is exactly what is missing in our country.

Seeing the steep decline in ethics and values in our country, a few disciples of Poojya Swami Bhoomananda Thirthaji, an enlightened sage from Kerala, came forward under his inspiration and guidance and registered a Society under the name, Foundation for Restoration of National Values (FRNV) on 9th June, 2008. The main objective of the organization is to restore the age-old values of the nation to all strata so that people, both individually and collectively, rediscover an abiding inner persuasion to be truthful, ethical and patriotic in their actions and aspirations.

FRNV organised a national seminar in Delhi in November 2008 that was inaugurated by the then Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, and boasted of the presence of Sri L.K. Advani, Sri Somnath Chatterjee and several other luminaries. The deliberations at the seminar led FRNV to shortlist four key areas that needed immediate attention:

1. Value-based education in all schools and colleges
2. Electoral reforms to cleanse the poll process
3. Police reforms to make the police force more effective and accountable.
4. Administrative reforms for improving governance across all levels

Later, Swachh Bharat was added to this list.

FRNV's aim is not to work at grassroots levels but to bring about changes and transformation by influencing decision makers and working with the central and state governments. Apart from a corporate office in Delhi, regional chapters were established at Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru and Kochi.

Values haven't disappeared entirely; we still find islands of excellences here and there. Look at the heroism and sense of duty displayed by employees of the Taj Hotel, Mumbai, during the terror attack on 26th November 2008. Not even one employee abandoned his or her place of duty but stayed right through the attack, helping guests escape the assault. In the process, many employees lost their lives. Harvard University did a case study on the exemplary behaviour of the hotel's employees and concluded that the unusual valour and sense of duty displayed by them were due to:-

Values haven't disappeared entirely; we still find islands of excellences here and there. Look at the heroism and sense of duty displayed by employees of the Taj Hotel, Mumbai, during the terror attack on 26th November 2008.

1. Employees were recruited not from big cities but mostly from villages where traditional virtues and values still prevail.
2. Employees invariably hail from families and educational institutions where basic values and principles were automatically instilled in them.
3. The unique value and work culture of the Tata Group strengthens the character of the employees.

The above is a classic example where embedded values and right work culture saved the country's image. This is exactly the message and work culture FRNV is trying to spread.

Beginning this year, FRNV has decided to bring out a bi-monthly journal in English under the title "Value Insight" (Mūlya Samīkṣā). The contents of the journal will delve into values and be devoid of religious, communal and political overtones.

We believe this journal will carry a powerful 'value' message to every home and institution and gradually awaken an inner persuasion in every individual to have excellence in character, behavioural majesty and interactional elegance. We also take this opportunity to request our esteemed readers to send their valued suggestions to improve the quality and contents of this journal.

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Special Story: Celebrate Republic Day As Values-Renewal Day

Bharat Wakhlu



Sri Bharat Wakhlu, Founder & President, The Wakhlu Advisory, has corporate experience with Tata Group. He has published many more books. Bharat is a Mechanical Engineer from BITS-Pilani India, with a PG Diploma in Management. He is former General Secretary, FRNV.

Even before India got independence, it was clear to the leaders guiding the freedom movement that the new administration of Independent India would need to focus on the creation of a compendium of values and governing principles. These values and governing principles, which would lay the foundations of a robust Constitution for the new nation - would guide the processes

of governance, and ensure that the manner in which citizens would be served by the State, would assure their material and emotional well-being, as well as the ability to participate in the essential democratic processes with dignity and enthusiasm, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or location.

Our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru expounded on the objectives for the need for the urgent creation of a Constitution in the following words: “The first task of this Assembly is to free India, [and then] through a new constitution, feed the starving people, and to clothe the naked masses, and to give every Indian the fullest opportunity to develop himself according to his capacity. This is certainly a great task. Look at India today. We are sitting here and there’s despair in many places, and unrest in many cities. The atmosphere is surcharged with these quarrels and feuds which are called communal disturbances, and unfortunately, we sometimes cannot avoid them. But at present the greatest and most important question in India is how to solve the problem of the poor and the starving. Wherever we turn, we are confronted with this problem. If we cannot solve this problem soon, all our paper constitutions will become useless and purposeless. Keeping this aspect in view, who could suggest to us to postpone and wait?”

Under the Government of India Act of 1935, and after a series of ups and downs in the run-up to Independence, an election was held – while India was still under British India - to choose Members of the Constituent Assembly, the body that would undertake the task of determining the themes, values and principles on the basis of which the Constitution was to be drafted. This elected group – chosen indirectly by the recently elected Provincial Assemblies – met for the first time on December 9, 1946, and eventually became the first Parliamentarians of Independent India. The Constituent Assembly Members chose Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to serve as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. By the 24th of January 1950 – nearly three years after the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly – the Constitution was signed and ready. It was finally adopted on January 26, 1950. The first “directly elected” Parliamentarians of Independent India were chosen by adult franchise, through the first General Elections held under the auspices of the newly minted Constitution in 1952.

During the past 71 years, 104 Amendments have been made to the Constitution. None of the amendments, however, has fundamentally transformed the structure of the original document. Instead, each of these has strengthened the character of the document.

The basic structure of the Constitution confirms that India has chosen to be a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic, where each citizen would have a voice through the process of adult franchise. Parliament would serve as the House of Representatives and Law-makers in the Centre, while states would have their own legislative assemblies to enact and enforce rules for effective governance. The Constitution, furthermore, details the role of the State in its relationship with the many different states of the Union and with its own citizens. The structure is based on commitments that are obligatory for all the concerned parties to follow, starting with the federal government itself and Parliament and including the state administrations and the citizenry.

The judiciary, which is an independent arm of governance, and a key pillar that upholds the democratic values of the nation, has the task of ensuring that these mutual commitments, and the laws enacted by Parliament and the states from time to time, are adhered to by all, without exception.

Unfortunately, this is where India – including its Parliament, as also its institutions - the citizenry, bureaucracy, police and the government agencies in the Centre and the states - has not shown due regard to the notion of complete compliance with the spirit, the values and the guiding principles enshrined in our Constitution. Not only that, if the judiciary - which plays a key role in ensuring that laws of the land are enforced – is provided evidence that there have been transgressions, then the courts of law can come down heavily on such people or agencies. Yet, in spite of this, many states/ organisations do not comply with the spirit of law. Citizens, in turn, who observe these acts of omission and transgressions, and who notice how recalcitrant states, organisations and some “powerful politicians” get away despite blatant disobedience, are then tempted to break laws for their own advantage, and cock a snook at the “system”.

At the heart of many of the above weaknesses there is the need to create a culture where all Indians choose to be self-regulated; and those who are not or choose to willfully break the law, are dealt with firmly and transparently by concerned law-enforcement agencies. However, even as citizens are encouraged and incentivised to be self-regulating, they, too, have to be taught the skills to deal with potential conflicts and spats with different governmental agencies in democratic ways. Situations where law-makers resort to violence to resolve differences are a glaring example of how the basic constitutional value of democratic functioning is given short-shrift!

Let us all become the living, walking enforcers of the Spirit of the Constitution, thereby propelling our nation to a truly effective, socially just, vibrant, obedient and thriving democracy

Where does one begin self-regulation? There is an old adage that suggests that if “anything is to be done, it is up to me”. Let’s therefore make a beginning. Let’s commit to observing every Republic Day as Values-Renewal Day. Let us all become the living, walking enforcers of the Spirit of the Constitution, thereby propelling our nation to a truly effective, socially just, vibrant, obedient and thriving democracy.

Education: Are Grandparents And Parents Listening?

Smt. Vibha Parthasarathy- Consultant In Education & Gender Issues



Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi is a prominent Indian educationalist. She was the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women from 1999 to 2002. Educated at Cambridge University and Boston University, she was the Principal of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, New Delhi

Values are not concrete products that can be injected into the mind of a person; nor can they be seen, counted, or adapted for use. The seeds of values enter the subconscious of a person during infancy; evolve and grow imperceptibly over time. They have the power to charge her/his emotions, which, in turn, drive the person into action. It is in

their behaviour, choice of words, and attitudes that the values inherent in the person can be discerned.

The acquisition of values and their internalisation is processed over a period of time through a person's experiences. This process is largely dependent initially on what a child sees and hears and over the years on what he/she observes and listens – interpreting its implications.

All our values are shaped in two most vital institutions of our lives – family and school. They are further strengthened as we grow in places of work and, generally, through social life.

In a nation only 73 years old, values for its citizenry are a recent phenomenon; families continue to adhere to traditional values evolved over our millennia-old civilization. A shift from the old to the new is required for the Republic's health and well-being because many of our "cherished" practices inherited from the "family-school" are in direct conflict with what Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his team in their wisdom and courageous foresight inscribed in our new "*Gita*" – the Constitution.

The two – traditional and Republican – do at times overlap. But the predominance of caste, institutional religion, patriarchy, exclusion, etc. have roots so deep and strong that only a determined political will can give the nation's citizenry a new face, an altered norm of behavioural set, attitudes in sync with the Preamble posited before "We the People". Unless this is initiated seriously, we shall continue to preach the new and practice the old. The first school – the family and the child's earliest environment – has to believe in the new 'adhyayas' or chapters.

The predominance of caste, institutional religion, patriarchy, exclusion, etc. have roots so deep and strong that only a determined political will can give the nation's citizenry a new face, an altered norm of behavioural set, attitudes in sync with the Preamble

Are grandparents and parents listening?



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Leadership: Not Economic Superpower, We Should Be A Happy Country: JRD Tata

Excerpted from In Search of Ethical Leadership by R.M. Lala, published by Vision Books

JRD always said that his model in whatever he did in business was the founder of the House of Tatas, Jamsetji Tata, and that whenever he needed inspiration, he would read about his life. In 1895, Jamsetji Tata said in one of the few speeches he delivered: “We do not claim to be more unselfish, more generous or more philanthropic than other people. But we think we started on sound and straightforward business principles, considering the interests of the shareholders our own, and the health and welfare of the employees the sure foundation of our prosperity.”



“Let industry established in the countryside “adopt” the villages in its neighbourhood, let some of the time of its managers, its engineers and skilled specialists be spared to help the people of the villages and supervise new developments undertaken by co-operative effort between them and the company”

JRD started Tata Airlines in 1932 along with an English friend, Neville Vincent. Tatas and Neville had an agreement whereby Neville would get one-third of the profit. The investment and the services of JRD came from the Tatas. In the first year of operation, the profit was Rs.60,000 which by today’s value would be a hundred times more. Five years later in 1937 when the contract expired, the profit was ten times as much! JRD was not then the Chairman of Tatas, and the legal advisor of Tatas J. D. Choksi felt the contract should not be renewed on the same terms as the profit was much larger. Vincent was terribly upset. JRD knew in his heart that it was not fair to the man who had come to him with the idea and helped him to establish it. He went to another solicitor named Dinshaw Daji, who opined that while Choksi was legally correct, but morally his opinion was not so. JRD recounted, “I went and told Neville, ‘forget it,’ and assured him that the terms would be the same as before.” “But did you not consult your co-directors?” I enquired. “No”, JRD replied. JRD was then 33 years old. A year later, he was selected Chairman of Tata Sons.

In a speech in Madras in 1969 he called on the management of industries to think of their less fortunate neighbours: “Let industry established in the countryside “adopt” the villages in its neighbourhood, let some of the time of its managers, its engineers and skilled specialists be spared to help the people of the villages and supervise new developments undertaken by co-operative effort between them and the company.” When he was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992 Tata employees arranged a function. JRD told the gathering: “An American economist has predicted that in the next century India will be an economic superpower. I don’t want India to be an economic superpower. I want India to be a happy country.” This was not only his hope, it was also his life.

Spell & Bound: Mahabharata

Mahabharata is a story that has been retold and adapted countless times. At 100,000 verses, it is the longest epic poem ever written and popular not just in India but also in all South and Southeast Asian cultures. Krishna Dwaipayana Vyasa, himself a character in the epic, composed it; and according to tradition, dictated the verses to Ganesha, who wrote them down.



C. Rajagopalachari, freedom fighter and the Governor General of India soon after we became independent, retold the epic story of Pandavas and Kauravas for children. Here we reproduce from Rajajgopalachari's Mahabharata, published by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Chapter 1

GANAPATI, THE SCRIBE

BHAGAVAN VYASA, the celebrated compiler of the Vedas, was the son of the great sage Parasara. It was he who gave to the world the divine epic of the Mahabharata.

Having conceived the Mahabharata he thought of the means of giving the sacred story to the world. He meditated on Brahma, the Creator, who manifested himself before him. Vyasa saluted him with bowed head and folded hands and prayed: *"Lord, I have conceived an excellent work, but cannot think of one who can take it down to my dictation."*

Brahma extolled Vyasa and said: *"O sage, invoke Ganapati and beg him to be your amanuensis."* Having said these words he disappeared. The sage Vyasa meditated on Ganapati who appeared before him. Vyasa received him with due respect and sought his aid. *"Lord Ganapati, I shall dictate the story of the Mahabharata and I pray you to be graciously pleased to write it down."* Ganapati replied: *"Very well. I shall do as you wish. But my pen must not stop while I am writing. So you must dictate without pause or hesitation. I can only write on this condition?"*

Vyasa first taught the great epic to his son, the sage Suka. Later, he expounded it to many other disciples. Were it not so, the book might have been lost to future generations.

Vyasa agreed, guarding himself, however, with a counter stipulation: *"Be it so, but you must first grasp the meaning of what I dictate before you write it down."* Ganapati smiled and agreed to the condition. Then the sage began to sing the story of the Mahabharata. He would occasionally compose some complex stanzas which would make Ganapati pause a while to get at the meaning and Vyasa would avail himself of this interval to compose many stanzas in his mind.

Thus the Mahabharata came to be written by Ganapati to the dictation of Vyasa. It was before the days of printing, when the memory of the learned was the sole repository of books. Vyasa first taught the great epic to his son, the sage Suka. Later, he expounded it to many other disciples. Were it not so, the book might have been lost to future generations. Tradition has it that Narada told the story of the Mahabharata to the devas while Suka taught it to the Gandharvas, the Rakshasas and the Yakshas. It is well known that the virtuous and learned Vaisampayana, one of the chief disciples of Vyasa, revealed the epic for the benefit of humanity.

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु
मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग्भवेत् ॥

सभी सुखी हों, सभी रोगरहित हों, सभी कल्याण
को देखें और कोई भी दुःख का भागी न हो ॥

**Let all be happy, let all be free of
diseases, let all see prosperity and none
should get sad.**

FRNV News And Events

1. The FRNV, Trivandrum Chapter organised “An interactive session with Dr. E. Sreedharan” on 2nd November. It was decided to form 3 task forces as under:
 - *Solid Waste Management*
 - *Value Education*
 - *Road Safety and Maintenance*
2. FRNV Governing Body held a meeting with Poojya Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha ji [Inspiration & Guide] at the Centre for Inner Resources Development [CIRD], Vasundhara on 14-Feb-2020 to discuss FRNV’s future plan and strategy. The President shared various activities undertaken by FRNV with the Karnataka & Kerala governments, Swamiji suggested involvement of more members of society in taking up garbage disposal and solid waste management programmes. Swamiji was informed that FRNV had made a recommendation to the ‘National Policy on Education Committee’ on creating a Permanent National Commission for Education in the country and also for including value based education [VBE] in their final recommendations.



3. In view of the COVID-19 measures and our strong desire to protect the health and safety of everyone involved, the 12th Annual General Meeting of Foundation for Restoration of National Values (FRNV’s) was held on December 26, 2020, Saturday, at 03.30 p.m. was held virtually through ‘Google Meet Video Conference’. General Secretary Sri Ashwani Kumar gave an overview of major activities that happened in the last financial year. The general body approved major decisions taken during the last one year by the governing body. The treasurer presented the financial report on the occasion.