

## RIVER CRUISE TOURISM

Jammu and Kashmir, often referred to as 'Paradise on Earth,' is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, pristine valleys, and serene water bodies. The region is home to several majestic rivers, including the Jhelum, Chenab, and Indus, which have played a significant role in shaping its history and culture. In recent years, the concept of river cruise tourism has emerged as an innovative and sustainable way to explore the beauty of J&K, offering travelers a unique experience that blends nature, adventure, and heritage.

The introduction of river cruise tourism in Jammu & Kashmir is part of a broader initiative to boost eco-friendly and luxury tourism. With the decline in traditional tourism due to various geopolitical factors, the government has been focusing on diversifying the sector. River cruises provide an opportunity for tourists to experience the mesmerizing beauty of Kashmir from a different perspective-gliding over the tranquil waters of its rivers while soaking in the surrounding snow-capped mountains, lush meadows, and rich cultural heritage.

The initiative has gained momentum with the government's efforts to improve roadway infrastructure, promote eco-tourism, and collaborate with private stakeholders to introduce luxury houseboat cruises and eco-friendly shikaras. The integration of sustainable tourism practices ensures that the delicate ecosystem of J&K's water bodies remains preserved while boosting local livelihoods.

The Jhelum River, winding through the heart of Srinagar, is one of the prime locations for river cruise tourism. The cruise offers a serene journey through the old city, allowing tourists to witness historical sites, Mughal gardens, and ancient bridges while enjoying traditional Kashmiri hospitality aboard luxury houseboats.

Though not a river, Dal Lake remains a central attraction for water-based tourism. The floating gardens, houseboats, and famous Shikara rides are being expanded into organized cruise experiences, offering cultural performances, Kashmiri cuisine, and storytelling sessions about the valley's history.

For adventure enthusiasts, the Chenab River presents a thrilling opportunity. White-water rafting and motorized cruises are being explored to offer visitors an adrenaline-packed experience while enjoying the breathtaking gorges and valleys surrounding the river.

Flowing through Ladakh, the Indus River provides an extraordinary opportunity for travelers to explore the stark beauty of the region. River cruises in Leh and Kargil are expected to showcase Ladakh's monasteries, cultural landmarks, and breathtaking landscapes.

The Tawi River, running through Jammu, is another potential location for short luxury cruises, allowing visitors to explore temples, local markets, and the scenic beauty of the region.

River cruise tourism in Jammu & Kashmir is not just about transportation; it offers a holistic travel experience.

Inspired by the heritage houseboats of Dal Lake, luxury river cruises will provide premium accommodations with traditional Kashmiri decor, gourmet dining, and guided cultural experiences.

Cruises on the Jhelum and Indus will include stops at historical landmarks, allowing tourists to explore Mughal-era architecture, ancient temples, and Sufi shrines.

## Children: our most precious possession

I.D. SONI  
The Child : The Life Of Nation



An infinite power lies hidden in the heart of every child. Educate him! Educate! The little ones will lead us out of chaos into light. The Nations walk on the feet of the little ones. The children are the richest treasure of a community, a society and a nation. The children are apostles on earth..... They are God's angels on the earth.

New India, will be built more in schools and homes than Assemblies and Parliaments. I do not exaggerate if I say, children are jewels. Yet see how we neglect them. Look at the little ones, in their homes, in the street, in the school. Let every teacher realise that it is a sin of grave character to inflict physical punishment on these little ones. There are teachers who box the ears of their students; there are teachers who ask them to stand up on the benches; there are teachers who slap their faces, forgetting that they have their angels who weep, when the teachers feel happy in inflicting punishment on the rosy faces of the little ones.

Children are spirits of joy, Give them joy in the classroom and on the playground. Build for them children's gardens, where they may, move looking at nature, at trees and flowers and streams. Take them out on excursions to quiet places. Give them stories reflecting the spirit of beauty and loveliness. Recite to them poems and show to them pictures. Nature, I sometimes think, is a lovely dream of God. So are the pictures and poems and stories; lovely dreams of the pure in heart. So, train the children that they grow in beauty and love. God's shadow is upon this universe. This shadow of beauty, loveliness. So, train the children that we bring the renewal and joy and the sunshine of life.

Let us guard our children

More intellectual learning, more pedantry does not take us to God. Life eternal cannot be realized by knowing the meanings of texts, not by brain power, not by study of many books; but we can learn the truth only by undergoing a churning of our mind, undergoing a laceration of our whole nature. It is not easy. But it is possible for everyone to attain it. If some people have attained it, they are the heralds for the rest

of humanity. They are the elder brothers, so to say, who tell us, "What is possible for me is possible for you. I am not made differently. The same God who dwells in me dwells in you too." So it is that many metaphysicians and thinkers have searched for a vision of true greatness, a vision of good men, saints; etc. If their stories are listened to by young children, if they patiently go through their tales of woes overcome by attainment of joy, unconsciously the mind is moulded. We will see that an impression is made. All influence is not deliberate, not conscious. It is more often unconscious than conscious.

By surrounding people, surrounding by young children with examples of true saintliness and great goodness, we unconsciously permeate their minds, perfume them, colour their minds with a desire for attaining similar positions, similar achievements. The child is an imitative being, first and foremost. Whatever we say it will do. If we put before it the ideals of great character, not of military victory, not industrial power, not intellectual eminence, but true saintliness, people who have suffered for humanity, who have laid down their lives that other people may live, if that kind of idea is put before them, we have no doubt that the idea will have some kind of influence on the young people's minds. It is, therefore necessary that in every school and in every home a little space must be left for the individual to be alone with himself, to examine himself. It is necessary for him to listen to the stories of the great saints and the sages of this world. That will make a tremendous impression.

If it is possible for us, let us give our children, the right ideals, they will grow into a world consciousness, a consciousness where everybody is treated as God's creature, where we never look upon other people as inferior to us, but look upon them as equals. That sense of equality is necessary to be inculcated in the minds of children in order to safe guard them from evils and hatred.

Children are our richest treasure

We all are busy gathering silver and gold; but we have been neglecting our richest treasure. The richest treasure of a community, a society and a nation is the children. The children are the richest treasure of a nation. This should be the faith of every school in India. It requires a new type of education. A new type of education - is this not the one urgent need of India, today? For, today, India, alas! is wandering from

distraction to distraction. Today, India lives in forgetfulness of ideals that made her great in the long ago. Today, India lives in forgetfulness of her Vedas and her Upanishads, her Ramayana and her Gita, her Shankara and her Shivaji, her Nanak and her Kabir, her Gurus and seers, her sages and her saints. And, today, in India both knowledge and power are running to waste, are being perverted into instruments of social chaos and destruction. Today, more than ever before, our urgent need is a new type of education, an education which may build up the character of the students through development of body and through training of the will-power and the emotions. A humble attempt is essential to be made in each and every school to train our richest treasure in this atmosphere of education, so that, in the years of their manhood or womanhood, they may become servants of India and humanity.

Five factors enter into the making of new education. The first factor is respect for the child. Respect the teachers, yes; but every teacher must respect the child. Who are these children, the little ones who come to the school, day after day? Behold them with true teacher's eyes. And we will see that they are angels of God who have come to bless us.

The second factor which enters into making of new education is reverence for the universe, reverence for Nature. For Nature is a garment of God. Make this richest treasure to come into contact with Nature as Nature has a lot to teach them. Let the students grow in the reverence of Nature and they will grow in reverence for life, for every unit of life.

The third factor of new education is reverence for oneself. Let the students be trained to respect their bodies. Keep the bodies pure, undefined. For body is a temple of the spirit, a Temple of the Lord. The body must become a fit vehicle for the forces of the spirit. The fourth factor of new education is reverence for humanity reverence not only for the great ones of our race, of our country, reverence for all the great ones, the seers and sages, the poets and patriots and the heroes and the holy men who have appeared in the east or who have appeared in the West.

The fifth factor that enters into making of new education is Seva, service of the poor and broken ones, reverence for the lowly and lost. The poor are the pictures of God. To serve them is to worship God.

Children are our most precious possession

Children are the most precious of the nation's possessions. In western countries, child-education is receiving more and more attention. We cannot spend too much for child-education. It begins in home-life and even earlier. In a sense, child-education is ante-natal. The child's education begins in mother's womb. Let the mother, in her period of pregnancy be in a good atmosphere, physical and metaphysical. Let her mind dwell on noble ideals. Let her heart be rich in aspiration. And the child in the womb will be influenced accordingly.

How to educate child's reasoning powers and his impulses towards freedom is the teacher's task. We must help him in self-realisation through education of the senses and feelings. For these are awakened first; and then, judgement and will-power. Teachers must take special note of the student's senses and emotions. Parents and teachers both should take good care of the child's health. And see that he grows not only in health but, also, in strength. Let our children develop love for games. Their irritations and nerve-excitements would disappear if they would be sportsmen in life.

Above all, teachers of the right type are needed to take care of this precious possession i.e. children. In ancient India, as in ancient Greece and Arabia, a beautiful feature of social life was reverence for the teacher : Not without reason. For the teacher in training the child is engaged in sacred work. At the Gate of Life stands the child asking for help to grow, to unfold latent power and to achieve. Pay well, and get the best teachers for boys and girls. What we spend today will return to us thousand fold in the future.

The child's unfoldment proceeds, partly, on the line of imitation. Therefore, let us be careful to the choice of teachers. They should not belong to no better than a "depressed" class. They should not be ill-paid, ill clad and overworked. Let us restore them to their rightful position in society.

Every primary school is a centre of spiritual work, that of unfolding the hidden life of the little ones of God. Carry the message of knowledge to every cottage. Vidya is the light of life. Vidya is a light of nations. Spread it for and wide. Light more Light in Goeth's words if we want to see that this precious possession grows in the right spirit.

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## India needs a startup on moral values

PK MAM

Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph." - Haile Selassie. Women have long been the primary source of intellectual and emotional inspiration for men. This reverence is reflected in the worship of mother goddesses across civilizations, acknowledging their role as givers of life, nourishment, and strength. Yet, in real life, women continue to face disrespect and injustice. The gap between ritualistic veneration and societal reality is glaring. A disturbing example of this disconnect was seen recently in the televised spectacle of India's Got Latent, where misogynistic remarks and body-shaming were shamelessly aired. Daily, reports of sexual abuse against women flood both print and electronic media, leaving society grappling with shame and distress. These horrific acts are not new, but their frequency and brazenness have escalated, spreading like a pandemic that corrodes the moral fabric of our society.

The real culprit is the beast within man, as reports reveal that no institution-be it educational, corporate, or religious-is immune to sexual exploitation and harassment. The situation is both disgraceful and alarming.

Sexual predators follow a calculated modus operandi, identifying vulnerable individuals or circumstances to exploit for their selfish gains. Their boldness often increases when they sense a lack of consequences for their actions. While public outrage erupts in protests and expressions of collective anguish, it is short-lived. Soon, society retreats into complacency, adopting a false sense of security-"we are safe, others are affected"-rather than working towards real solutions to eradicate such evils.

Encouragingly, the Supreme Court recently condemned a case as a "show of perverted mind" and called for strict action. However, despite recognizing the gravity of the situation, the court refrained from ordering the immediate arrest of the accused, highlighting the systemic delays and gaps in law enforcement.

India's judicial system is often criticized for its inefficiency, with

over four crore pending cases across various courts. This backlog denies justice to millions while allowing perpetrators to exploit legal loopholes. In some states, cases reportedly took decades-Arunachal Pradesh once took up to 99 years, while others ranged between 20 to 55 years. For a rape survivor, the idea of waiting until she was a grandmother to receive justice was not just a cruel joke but a damning indictment of a broken system.

Addressing the Crisis: A Call to Action

Sigmund Freud, a Western psychologist, has said that all humans have natural drivers and urges repressed in the "unconscious." Human beings are innately curious and perpetually learning creatures. However, in our fast-paced world, the constant influence of social media, TV, and other distractions often disrupts our peace and leads us to turn against one another. We must acknowledge that human nature is unpredictable. Just as dogs were domesticated from wolves but retained certain primal characteristics, humans evolved from hunter-gatherer ancestors over thousands of years, yet some of our

primal instincts still emerge when they align with our personal or community interests.

Further, people generally suffer when they are unable to satisfy their limitless needs, and crisis situations can stem from anything-work pressures, professional disturbances, or personal struggles. In fact, all humans have criminal tendencies-not by birth but as slaves to circumstances. Through the process of socialization, these tendencies are curbed by the development of inner control that is learned.

Thus, it is imperative to create awareness, sensitize society, and hold authorities accountable to close systemic loopholes. Basic civility will only be restored when those who commit these heinous acts face swift and severe consequences. And, it is from here that the superconscious needs to act. It must make an effort not to harbor negative thoughts.

Suggested Measures

a) **Lead by Example:** Moral values cannot be instilled in youth through sermons alone. Elders must embody and uphold high standards of conduct, inspiring the younger generation to follow suit.

b) **Self-Defense Training:** Women

and girls should receive self-protection training to counter predators who seek to exploit their vulnerability.

c) **Vigilant Law Enforcement:** Police must maintain strict surveillance on habitual offenders and take proactive action before crimes occur.

d) **Legal Reforms:** The government should consider easing gun laws for women's self-defense, similar to laws in the United States.

e) **Swift and Severe Punishment:** Heinous crimes like rape and murder demand rigorous punishment. Death penalties should be mandated, and fast-track courts must ensure speedy trials without political or bureaucratic interference.

f) **Religious and Community Accountability:** Faith leaders must publicly denounce sexual violence, condemn perpetrators, and ensure their expulsion from communities to create a strong social deterrent.

g) **Cultural Shift in Gender Education:** Boy's must be taught from a young age to respect women, regardless of their background. Gender equality and mutual respect should be ingrained in social conditioning.

h) **Regulating Obscene Digital Content :** With the rapid expansion of

OTT platforms and digital media, explicit and inappropriate content is becoming increasingly accessible. This calls for a well-structured regulatory framework that is transparent, clearly defined, and developed in consultation with stakeholders. The objective should not be outright censorship but responsible content creation-one that upholds democratic values while respecting social and ethical standards. Strengthening content guidelines, enforcing age-appropriate restrictions, and promoting digital literacy can help curb the negative influence of obscene and harmful media on society.

A Wake-Up Call for Society

All law-abiding citizens, social groups, and enforcement agencies must take proactive measures to deter such horrendous crimes. The root of the problem lies in the certainty of consequences-without it, crime thrives. Those in positions of power and influence cannot absolve themselves of the responsibility to uphold societal values. It is time for a collective, unwavering stand against those who foster and perpetuate evil. Only through determined efforts can we restore justice, dignity, and morality in our society.

A challenge to nip the evil in the bud in whatever form it exists.

## Reviving Tradition Through AI: India's Knowledge System in the Digital Age

RISHI YADAV

At the AI Action Summit in Paris, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his insights on the immense potential and challenges of artificial intelligence. He emphasized how AI is transforming society, politics, and the economy while also highlighting the need to be cautious of biases and potential risks. To ensure AI remains accessible to all, he stressed the importance of international collaboration, innovation, and democratization. He advocated for equitable and sustainable AI growth, showcasing India's contributions to AI and digital public infrastructure. Most importantly, he underscored that human well-being should be the primary focus of AI development.

AI's Role in the Renewal of Puppetry Art

According to Indian International De La Marionnette ,Oral histories trace puppetry back to the 9th century BCE. The Mahabharata, composed around the 4th century BCE, contains the earliest references to puppetry in India. The Sanskrit grammarian Panini described puppets in the 4th century BCE, and

Patanjali, the author of the Yoga Sutras, mentioned them in the 2nd century BCE. The Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, also from the 2nd century BCE, stated, "The actions of a person whose wisdom is not sensitive are like the imitation of life by puppets moved by strings." Richard Pischel (1849–1908), a prominent German scholar, emphasized Indian puppetry's significance and argued that India was the root of Western puppetry traditions.

Puppetry has been an essential part of India's rich cultural heritage. Beyond being an entertainment medium, it has played a vital role in tradition, education, and social messaging. However, preserving this ancient art and passing it on to future generations has become increasingly difficult. AI has the potential to revolutionize and expand this art form by aiding in digitization, ensuring the preservation of traditional puppet designs, performance techniques, and folklore. Furthermore, AI-driven virtual experiences, interactive digital performances, and learning systems can introduce classical works to contemporary audiences.

Technological advancements will

enable puppetry artists to reach global audiences. AI-powered 3D modeling, animation, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) can elevate their craft to new levels. Additionally, AI-driven e-commerce platforms, online performances, and digital museums could create new employment opportunities for puppetry artists. As a result, AI will not only digitally preserve puppetry but also revitalize it on a global scale, ensuring its relevance in modern times.

Ethics, AI, and Education: The Impact of the Indian Knowledge System

India's ancient educational system was rooted in the Gurukul tradition, the Vedas, and the Upanishads. It emphasized not only knowledge dissemination but also moral and practical values. In the modern era, AI-powered learning systems can significantly enhance traditional teaching methodologies. Smart classrooms, virtual tutors, and AI-driven personalized learning programs can improve the efficiency of education. By tailoring courses to individual students' strengths and learning styles, AI can make education more inclusive and

accessible.Ethical and conscious development is crucial in AI, a principle that aligns closely with Indian philosophical thought. Indian philosophy can help address AI-related ethical concerns such as justice, data privacy, and the societal impacts of automation. Concepts from the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads, including Dharma (righteousness), Ahimsa (non-violence), and Karma (action), can guide the development of AI in a more responsible and ethical manner. By integrating the Indian knowledge system into AI development, technology can progress while maintaining a balance between ethics and innovation.

AI-Powered Healthcare Solutions and Ayurveda

AI-driven predictive analytics and diagnostic tools have the potential to enhance healthcare efficiency. These technologies can help predict future health issues and improve disease diagnosis. By utilizing machine learning and natural language processing, valuable insights can be extracted from Ayurvedic literature, leading to improved treatment and diagnostic capabilities.

The Computational Efficiency of

AI and Vedic Math

Vedic mathematics offers quick and efficient computational methods that can enhance AI and machine learning systems. This can lead to greater efficiency in data processing, cybersecurity, and financial analysis. By applying ancient Indian mathematical principles to mathematical modeling, pattern recognition, and cryptography, AI algorithms can be made more effective and accurate. Thus, integrating AI with Vedic mathematics has the potential to significantly boost computational efficiency.

Natural Language Processing in Sanskrit

Sanskrit, with its logically and mathematically structured grammar, is highly useful for natural language processing (NLP). Panini's grammatical rules provide a strong foundation for automated language processing. AI-powered chatbots and translation systems based on Sanskrit can greatly enhance language accuracy and efficiency.

The Role of AI in Yoga and Mental Health

Yoga and meditation have long

been recognized for their mental health benefits. AI-powered applications can make these ancient practices more accessible and effective. By analyzing physiological data such as heart rate, breathing patterns, and brain waves, these apps can offer personalized yoga and meditation recommendations. AI-driven mental health monitoring systems can also assess emotional states and suggest appropriate practices to manage stress, anxiety, and depression. This technology can make mental health care more personalized and scientifically validated, helping individuals achieve better overall well-being.

AI's Role in the Indian Economy

According to Price water house Coopers (PwC), AI-driven data economies are expected to contribute \$15.7 trillion to global GDP by 2030, surpassing the combined GDP of China and India. However, India's AI adoption faces several challenges, including a shortage of skilled AI professionals, resistance from the existing workforce, and outdated government systems. Overcoming these obstacles will require advancements in network-

ing, cybersecurity, and data infrastructure.

Challenges and Solutions

While integrating AI with the Indian knowledge system offers numerous benefits, it also presents significant challenges. Standardizing knowledge, digitizing ancient texts, and incorporating traditional teachings into modern AI systems are complex tasks. To achieve this, collaboration among historians, AI researchers, and traditional scholars is essential to ensure technological advancements align with cultural and ethical considerations.

Furthermore, India can establish itself as a global AI leader by implementing transformative changes in governance, healthcare, education, and agriculture. By merging traditional knowledge with modern technology, India can drive AI-led innovation while prioritizing human well-being. This coordinated approach will enable India to play a significant role in shaping the future of AI on a global scale.

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