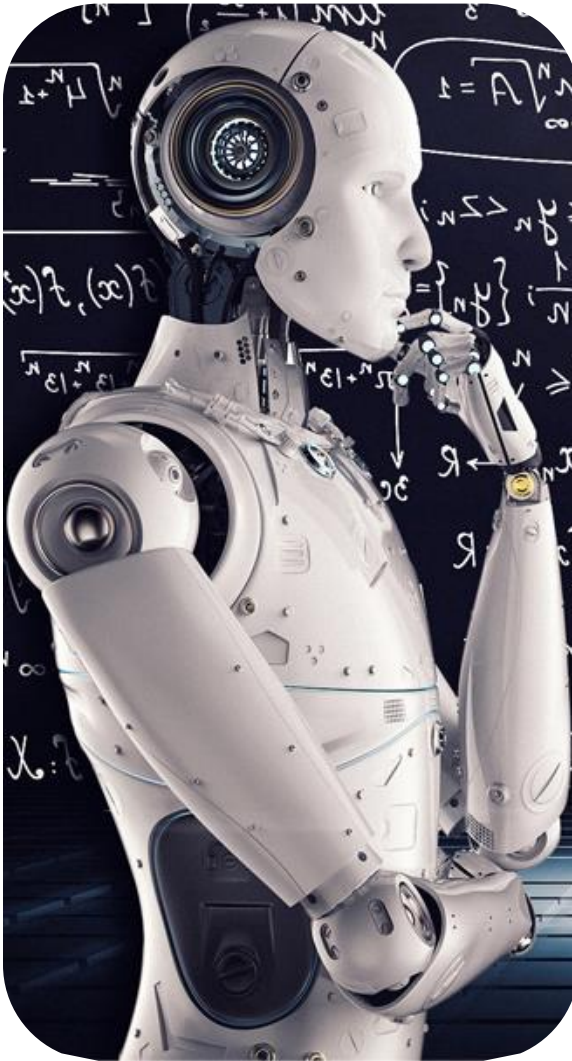


PRESENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations
Issue No 192 – Feb 2023
Published by Prime Point Foundation

Cover Story



Artificial Intelligence

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From the Desk of Managing Editor

Dear Readers



On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am happy to share the 192nd edition of your eMagazine PreSense with its rich content as usual.

We are happy to announce that the 13th edition of the Sansad Ratna Awards to be held in Delhi on 25th March 2023. The Jury has already nominated the awardees. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted all the Awardees through his Twitter handle.

Highlights of this issue:

Prince cartoon

Editorial: Is there any International conspiracy to damage the image of India?

Announcement: 13th Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards

Cover Story: In Two parts – Artificial Intelligence and its applications to society. The second part on the ChatGPT and its use. This will be useful for journalists and students.

Guest Column: Yoga for Children with simple methods and tips.

Know your English : Similar sounding words causing confusion.

Freedom fighter: Accamma Cherian, Jhansi Rani of Kerala

I am confident that readers will enjoy reading this edition too. Kindly send your feedback to editor@corpezine.com, so that our Editorial Board can examine your suggestions. Please share this edition with your friends. I will catch up with you next month with more varied content.

Jai Hind

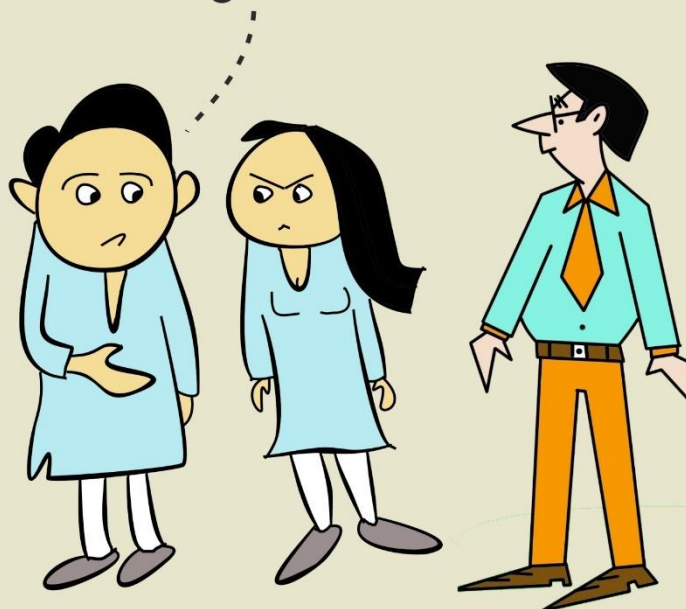
K. Srinivasan

PRINCE

By Triambak Sharma



Today..
Relationships are like
Netflix subscriptions..
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No Strings attached..



Triambak Sharma

Editorial

Owner's Pride – Neighbour's Envy: Is India Facing International Conspiracy?

By Prime Point Srinivasan, Publisher and Mg. Editor



Leadership during Independence

"Owner's Pride; Neighbour's Envy" used to be a popular slogan in 80s to brand a TV. The same logic applies to India too, as a brand today.



In the past few years, we have been hearing about International conspiracy theories to damage the India's economics and image. Though it is getting debated over three decades, a fact remains that India is emerging as one of the largest economies of the world with talented human resources. At the time of Indian Independence in 1947, Winston Churchill was reported to have remarked, "all Indian leaders will be of low caliber and men of straw." While giving freedom to India, British regime gave an

option to 500 plus Samasthans to either join India or Pakistan or to remain Independent. British regime thought India would break into several pieces and the leaders would find this unmanageable. After Independence, Indian leaders proved their leadership skills and brought together all the 500 plus Samasthans under Indian republic, thanks to Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

India's growth story

Over 75 years, India has been growing steadily and strongly, under various Governments - proving wrong the statement of Winston Churchill. India has emerged as the largest democracy in the world with more than 800 million citizens electing the Central Government, that too through EVMs. The change of power from one party to the other has been very smooth in the last 75 years. India developed her own written Constitution which saved the country from many crises. The Constitutional bodies like Supreme Court and Election Commission have remained independent.

After the liberalization in 1991, India is emerging slowly and steadily as one of the vibrant economies of the world. Today, we are in the fifth position, pushing even UK down. On several occasions, when the political crisis happens, our leaders have shown resilience and resolved the crisis within the framework of the Constitution and also with the guidance of Supreme Court. India has shown the supremacy in Science & Technology and in its rich cultural heritage. Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) are heading many Multi-National Companies (MNCs) and political system in various countries. With nearly 130-crore population and with multiple caste, language and culture, India has shown unity in diversity, due to the attitude of the people. On the other hand, neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Nepal are not able to maintain their economy and political system properly.

Even during the Covid time, India was able to vaccinate all the citizens with two or even three doses, besides sparing vaccine to some of the needy countries. India was able to reduce the



death rate due to the proper management of the health system, while advanced countries suffered heavily.

Traditionally, some of the advanced countries do not like India to grow and become a super power in the globe. In the past few years Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is emerging as a strong global leader. He is being carefully listened to by both America and Russia. India did not yield to pressure of America to stop import of oil from Russia.

Naturally, all the efforts to damage the image of India are being done by vested interests outside the country. The recent Hindenburg report on Adani, George Soros statement against India and the BBC documentary on Gujarat riots can be quoted as some of the strategies to damage the image of the country and that of the Indian Prime Minister. There are people who defend these reports in India and keep debating them in media.

Past examples

Even earlier, there were continuous protests against Koodangulam Nuclear Plant in the UPA Government. The then UPA Government termed this as global conspiracy. Construction of six nuclear reactors with capacity of 6000 MW was unduly delayed due to protests by the local people. The then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh blamed 3 NGOs using foreign funds to trigger the protests in India.

In 2018, Sterlite Copper was closed at Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu) due to protests by local people quoting environmental reasons. The closure of this unit has resulted in the increase of import of refined copper from 0.44 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 1.52 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. Same way our exports got reduced from 3.78 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 0.37 lakh tonnes in 2019-20.

USING Indians to damage India

India's growth and robust democracy is an eye sore to many of the developed countries. Naturally, they would pump in money through various Indian NGOs and make use of Indian citizens, media and political parties for their advantage. Innocently, our own Indian citizens, media and political parties knowingly or unknowingly help them to carry out the protests against the interest of the country. For example, the recent protests against CAA and Agricultural bill on a false narrative has created more damages. There are reports of invisible foreign hand in these protests.

Unfortunately, our own Indian mainline and social media play a role against the interest of the nation, supporting the invisible enemies under the pretext of environment protection, freedom of expression, social justice, etc.

Indian Foreign Minister Dr Jaishankar has also in his recent interview to ANI confirmed that some forces were making clever attempts to damage India's image globally. He felt that more than the conspiracy, politics was behind them.

Role of Indian media and political parties

Whether it is conspiracy or politics, we see a clear design to damage India's economy and image through our own people. Indian media including social media users and political parties should think beyond their self interest and not to be part of invisible hands that are damaging India.



Announcement

13th Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards 2023 Prime Minister Narendra Modi Greets Awardees

Prime Point Foundation and your eMagazine PreSense honour the top performing Parliamentarians since 2010 with Sansad Ratna Awards, at the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Till 2022 in the 12 editions of Award functions, we have presented 90 Awards and all the Parliamentarians have received the Awards in person on the stage. 13th Edition of Award function is scheduled to be held at New Maharashtra Sadan, New Delhi. The Jury Committee chaired by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal (Hon'ble MoS, Parliamentary Affairs) and Co-Chaired by Shri T S Krishnamurthy (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India) have nominated 8 Lok Sabha Members, 5 Rajya Sabha Members, 2 Parliamentary Committees for the Sansad Ratna Awards. One Veteran Parliamentarian will get Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has greeted all the Awardees through his Twitter handle on 22nd February 2023 itself. He has also sent a Greetings Message signed by him.

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya (Hon'ble Governor of Haryana), Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal (Hon'ble MoS, Parliamentary Affairs) and Shri Hansraj G Ahir (Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Backward Classes and first Sansad Ratna Awardee in 2010) will present the Awardees.



← Tweet



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

India government official

Congratulations to the MP colleagues who will be conferred the Sansad Ratna Awards. May they keep enriching parliamentary proceedings with their rich insights.



Pralhad Joshi @JoshiPralhad · 19h

Congratulations to the eminent Parliamentarians on being conferred upon Sansad Ratna Awards for 2023.

13 MPs, 2 Parliamentary Committees and 1 Lifetime Achievement honour will be awarded during the 13th edition of these awards.

For more details visit www.sansadratna.in | email sansadratna@gmail.com

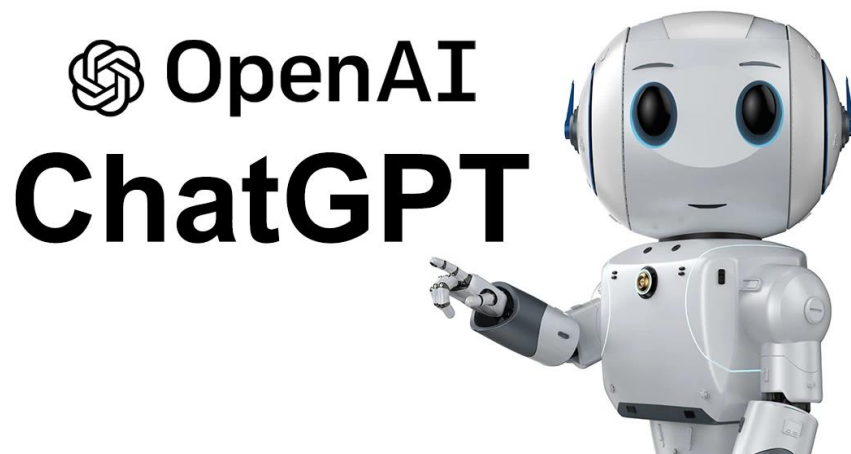
Download the brochure giving 14 years journey of Sansad Ratna Award
<https://www.prpoint.com/publication/sansadratna2023.pdf>



Cover Story – Part One

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its Applications in the day to day life: An Exclusive Interview with Robot ChatGPT

(Currently lot of discussions are going on about the Artificial Intelligence and its application to the day to life to help the society. As an experimental measure, instead of taking an interview with an expert, our Editorial Team decided to chat with OpenAI-ChatGPT directly and get the response. The response was validated by Ms. VM Charumathy, an Entrepreneur and AI expert. Please read this interview with Robot conducted through Chat. Please also see the clarity of response by the machine – Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor conducted the interview)



What is Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how will it be useful for mankind?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a rapidly evolving field that has been transforming various industries and aspects of human life. AI is a branch of Computer Science that aims to create intelligent machines that work and learn like humans. The technology behind AI involves teaching computers to recognize patterns and make decisions based on the data they have been trained on. It is achieved through a combination of techniques, including machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing.

AI has been around for several decades, but it has only recently become practical for widespread commercial use. Today, AI is being applied in a variety of industries and fields, from healthcare to finance and from retail to education. AI has the potential to significantly improve our lives by making processes more efficient and effective, freeing up time for humans to focus on more meaningful and creative tasks.

What are the practical uses of AI currently employed today?

One of the most significant applications of AI in the current times is in the field of **Healthcare**. AI is being used to diagnose diseases, predict health outcomes, and personalize treatments. AI algorithms are trained on large amounts of medical data and can identify patterns and relationships that would be difficult for human Doctors to discern. For example, AI can analyse medical images, such as x-rays or MRIs, and assist in the early detection of conditions like cancer. AI can also be used to predict potential health outcomes based on a patient's medical history and current condition. This allows healthcare providers to proactively intervene and prevent the onset of serious conditions.

Another area where AI is being applied is in the **Financial sector**. AI is being used to analyse vast amounts of financial data and help investment firms make informed decisions. AI algorithms can analyse market trends, identify patterns in financial data, and make predictions about future market conditions. AI can also be used to automate various financial processes, such as compliance checks, fraud detection, and risk management. This not only makes the financial sector more efficient, but also helps to reduce the risk of errors and fraud.

Retail is another industry that is being transformed by AI. AI is being used to personalize shopping experiences and make recommendations to customers. Retailers are using AI algorithms to analyse customer data, such as purchase history and online browsing behaviour, to provide personalized recommendations and targeted promotions. AI can also be used to optimize pricing and inventory management, which can help retailers increase sales and reduce waste.

In the field of **Education**, AI algorithms are being used to analyse student data, such as test scores and performance history, to provide customized learning plans and personalized feedback. AI can also be used to provide real-time feedback to teachers, allowing them to adjust their teaching methods and improve student outcomes. In addition, AI can be used to automate administrative tasks, such as grading and record-keeping, freeing up teachers' time to focus on teaching and student engagement.

Can AI help study the perception of people in Politics and Governance?

AI has the potential to help study people's perceptions in politics and governance in several ways:

Sentiment Analysis: AI algorithms can be used to analyse large amounts of text data, such as social media posts, news articles, and survey responses, to determine the overall sentiment of people towards a particular issue, political figure, or policy.

Predictive Analytics: AI algorithms can be used to analyse data on political events and public opinions to make predictions about future trends and voter behaviour.

Image Recognition: AI algorithms can be used to analyse images and videos, such as political rallies and protests, to gain insights into people's attitudes and behaviours.

By providing more accurate, comprehensive, and real-time insights into public opinion, AI can help improve our understanding of political and social trends and informed decision-making at all levels of government.



What are the drawbacks of using AI?

There are several potential drawbacks to using AI technology:

AI automation can lead to job loss, as machines and algorithms replace human workers in certain tasks.

AI algorithms can perpetuate and amplify existing biases and discrimination if they are trained on biased data.

AI systems can be vulnerable to hacking and other security threats, potentially leading to sensitive information being compromised.

There are also concerns around the ethical use of AI, particularly with regards to its potential use in military or surveillance applications.

Overreliance on AI can lead to a loss of critical thinking skills and decision-making abilities, as well as a decrease in human creativity.

In conclusion, AI is a rapidly evolving field that has the potential to transform various industries and aspects of human life. AI is being applied in healthcare, finance, retail, and education, among other fields, and has the potential to significantly improve our lives by making processes more efficient and effective. However, it is important to evaluate the drawbacks and work to mitigate them. It is equally important to carefully consider the potential consequences of AI and ensure that it is used in an ethical and responsible manner.




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Cover Story – Part Two

How to use ChatGPT for our Routine Works

(Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor conducted this interview with the Robot of OpenAI/ChatGPT on its own function and usefulness to the society. This Chat script also validated by Ms V M Charumathy, Entrepreneur and AI expert. Please read the interview with the Robot)

What is ChatGPT and its relevance to OpenAI?

OpenAI is a research organization that was founded in 2015 with the goal of developing and promoting friendly AI (Artificial Intelligence) in a way that benefits humanity as a whole. Over the years, OpenAI has made significant contributions to this field, particularly in the areas of natural language processing (NLP) and generative models. OpenAI was founded by Elon Musk, Sam Altman, Greg Brockman, Ilya Sutskever, John Schulman, and Wojciech Zaremba.

One of OpenAI's well-known AI models is ChatGPT, a state-of-the-art language generation model that can generate human-like text. ChatGPT is a variant of the Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) architecture, which has revolutionized the field of NLP. These GPT models have been widely recognized as a major breakthrough in the field of AI and have been used for a wide range of applications, including chatbots, content generation and language translation. The ChatGPT application has been trained on a massive amount of text data and can generate human-like text responses to a wide range of prompts and questions.



What are the main applications of ChatGPT?

One of the main uses of ChatGPT is as a conversational AI model. The model can be integrated into voice assistants, and other conversational systems to provide users with a more natural

and human-like experience. For example, a chatbot powered by ChatGPT can respond to customer inquiries and help resolve issues, allowing companies to provide 24/7 support to their customers.

Another use for ChatGPT is as a language generation model. The model can be used to generate text for a variety of applications, such as content creation, news writing, and language translation. For example, a news organization could use ChatGPT to generate articles on a wide range of topics, freeing up journalists to focus on more in-depth reporting.

In addition to its language generation capabilities, ChatGPT can also be used for language analysis and understanding. The model can be used to perform tasks such as sentiment analysis, text classification, and named entity recognition. This makes ChatGPT a valuable tool for companies looking to gain insights into customer sentiment and behaviour.

Can ChatGPT be used in the field of Digital Journalism?

Yes, ChatGPT can be used in the field of digital journalism. ChatGPT's ability to generate human-like text responses and its capacity for language generation and analysis make it a valuable tool for journalists. Here are some ways in which ChatGPT can be used in digital journalism:

1. **News generation:** ChatGPT can be used to generate news articles on a wide range of topics. For example, ChatGPT could generate articles on sports, weather, or business news, allowing journalists to focus on more complex and nuanced stories.
2. **Data analysis:** ChatGPT can also be used to analyse large amounts of data, such as financial or political data, to uncover trends and patterns. This can help journalists to provide more in-depth analysis and insights into the stories they are covering.
3. **Personalized content generation:** ChatGPT can be integrated into digital news platforms to provide users with personalized content recommendations based on their interests and reading history. This can help improve user engagement and increase the reach of digital journalism.
4. **Fact-checking:** ChatGPT can be used to fact-check statements made by politicians, public figures, and others, helping to ensure that news articles are accurate and reliable.
5. **Content creation:** ChatGPT can be used to generate content for digital journalism, such as headlines, summaries, and captions. This can help to save time and improve the efficiency of the content creation process.

ChatGPT has the potential to bring about significant benefits for digital journalism, from news generation and data analysis to personalized content and fact-checking. However, it is important to ensure that the use of AI in journalism aligns with ethical principles and standards, and that the technology is used in a way that benefits the public and strengthens the credibility of journalism.



How can ChatGPT help in rural development in India?

ChatGPT, being an AI-powered language model, can assist with rural development in India in several ways:

1. **Agriculture:** ChatGPT can provide valuable information on best practices for farming, such as crop selection, irrigation methods, and soil management, helping farmers improve their yields and increase their income.
2. **Education:** ChatGPT can provide access to educational resources for people in rural areas, helping to bridge the digital divide and improve educational outcomes.
3. **Healthcare:** ChatGPT can provide information on basic healthcare practices and connect people in rural areas with healthcare providers, improving access to essential health services.
4. **Financial Services:** ChatGPT can provide information on financial services, such as microfinance, insurance, and savings schemes, helping people in rural areas access these services and improve their financial wellbeing.
5. **Job Creation:** ChatGPT can provide information on job opportunities and entrepreneurial training, helping to create employment and stimulate economic growth in rural areas.

These are just a few examples of how ChatGPT can support rural development in India. However, it is important to note that the impact of AI-powered systems like ChatGPT will depend on the quality and availability of data, as well as the overall technology infrastructure in the country.

Is AI reliable? What about the information given by ChatGPT?

The reliability of AI systems can vary greatly depending on the specific system, the data it was trained on, and the use case it is applied to.

The reliability of AI systems can vary greatly depending on the specific system, the data it was trained on, and the use case it is applied to.

In general, AI systems can be highly accurate and reliable when they are well-designed, trained on high-quality data, and the problem they are solving is well-defined. However, AI systems can also be prone to errors and biases if they are trained on biased data or if the problem they are trying to solve is complex and not well understood. It's important to carefully evaluate the reliability and limitations of AI systems before using them in real-world applications.

With regards to ChatGPT - as a language model developed by OpenAI, I strive to provide accurate and reliable information. However, it is important to note that I am not perfect and can sometimes provide incorrect information.



Please keep in mind that I am a machine learning model and my responses are generated based on patterns in the data I was trained on. My responses are not intended to be a substitute for professional advice, and I cannot be held responsible for any consequences that may result from using the information I provide.

What do you think is the future technology beyond AI?

The future beyond AI is uncertain and difficult to predict, as technology is constantly evolving and new breakthroughs are being made all the time. However, some potential areas of technology that may become prominent in the future include:

Quantum Computing: This has the potential to revolutionize many areas of technology, including cryptography, simulation, and optimization, by providing dramatically increased computational power.

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR): AR and VR technologies have the potential to change the way we interact with computers and the world around us, by providing new and more immersive ways of experiencing and interacting with digital content.

Internet of Things (IoT): IoT involves connecting a large number of devices to the internet, allowing for the exchange of data and the creation of new applications and services. The future of IoT could lead to the development of smart cities, homes, and industries.

Robotics: Robotics is likely to continue to evolve and improve, leading to the development of more advanced and sophisticated robots that can perform a wider range of tasks, such as caregiving, manufacturing, and space exploration.

These are just a few examples of the many areas of technology that could become prominent in the future beyond AI. It is important to note that the technology landscape is constantly changing, and new breakthroughs and innovations are being made all the time, so the future beyond AI is likely to be much different and more advanced than what we can imagine today.

In conclusion, OpenAI and ChatGPT have been key players in the evolution of artificial intelligence. They have been at the forefront of language generation technology, and their work has had a significant impact on the field as a whole. However, they are far from the only companies and individuals working on AI, and the competition in this field is intense. ChatGPT is a powerful AI model with a wide range of potential uses. From conversational AI to language generation and analysis, ChatGPT has the potential to bring about significant benefits for a variety of industries and applications. However, it is also important to carefully consider the potential drawbacks of AI and work to ensure that its development and use align with humanity's best interests. OpenAI's commitment to transparency and accountability in AI and its ethical principles are steps in the right direction towards ensuring that AI benefits all of society.

However, it is also important to carefully consider the potential drawbacks of AI and work to ensure that its development and use align with humanity's best interests.



Guest Column

Yoga for Modern Children

By Yogacharyan Suresh Veera, Yoga Expert



The suggestions given below are applicable to both boys and girls in the age group of 0 to 18.

Children below 8

Children above the age group of 8 only can perform Yoga Asanas. Children below 8 need moral values and suitable physical movement (not structured yoga Asanas) like playing, running, jumping, etc. Moral values should be imbibed by the parents, teachers and elders in the family. They should be given natural nutritious food.

In most of the modern families, both the parents are employed and busy in their office routine. In schools, teachers engage themselves more in completing their curriculum. Modern families do not have elders. In view of this, suitable alternatives should be found out by the parents to imbibe moral values and physical movement to the children below 8. This will become the foundation for the future of the children and to make them responsible citizens.

Children in the age group of 8 to 13

The children in the age group of 8 to 13 need physical growth. Physical body stretches (Tadasan, Trianka Tadasan, Kati Chakrasan) and dynamic yoga postures (Surya Namaskar) will help the physical growth.

Simple breathing exercises (e: Bhramari Prayanam) will increase the memory power and activate the para sympathetic nervous system.

Model courtesy: Prithvi, Chennai

It is preferable to take the guidance of an Yoga Teacher. In those places, where Yoga Teachers are not available, they can take the guidance from any standard book in the market (e.g: The book titled 'Yoga' published by Vivekananda Kendra in different Indian languages).

To gain good physical growth these children need food rich in proteins. (e.g.: Cereal and pulses).

Children in the age group of 13 to 18

Physiological and hormonal changes happen rapidly at the age of 13 in general. At this teenage coupled with adolescence modern parents may find it difficult to handle the children. This is an important phase in the human life and parents need to be extremely careful.

For this age group, Surya Namaskar will help to regulate the hormonal imbalance by balancing the nervous system. For these children in the age group of 13 to 18, the following two activities are suggested:

- Stretches like Tadasan, Trianka Tadasan and Kati Chakrasan combined with Surya Namaskar (minimum 12 rounds and maximum 24 rounds), and



- Nadi Suddhi Pranayam (minimum 10 minutes and maximum 20 minutes). During Nadi Suddhi Pranayam, no holding of breath and exhalation should be longer than inhalation. It should be followed with Bhramari Prayanam for 27 times.

As already said, this age group passes through an important phase in the life both physically and mentally. Postures, Asanas and Pranayama mentioned above will regulate the hormones in a balanced manner. The inverted posture in Surya Namaskar will increase the blood



*L to R : Tadasan , Kati Chakrasan , Trianga Tadasan , Bhramari Pranayam
Model: Prithvi, Chennai*

circulation and activate the brain, thereby increasing the memory power and creative thinking. Through sweating, the body eliminates toxin as well as the stress. **General suggestions**

- Sunlight is very important for the growing children. Expose them to sunlight during morning and evening for a minimum of 20 minutes. It will improve the physical strength and eyesight.
- The children above the age group of 8 can drink half a litre of warm water early in the morning before starting the practise.
- For all Yoga Asana practices, use only Yoga Mat. If Mat is not available, use thick bed sheet available in the house.
- During the Yoga practise, good ventilation is needed, if available.
- Choose calm environment without much noise and pollution.
- Practise in empty stomach during dawn and dusk. Take food after a minimum of 20 minutes gap.
- Wherever possible avoid junk food and processed food that lacks nutrition. As far as possible, provide natural food like fruits, vegetables available in the season. Avoid taking fruits and vegetables that are not available in the season.
- Expose the children to positive books and thoughts.

Know your English

Similar Sounding Words, causing confusion

By T N Ashok, Consulting Editor



English is the most dynamic of all foreign languages in the world as it's continuously evolving and is mature enough to absorb more than 30,000 words from other languages wherever Englishmen went to establish colonies. Curry was absorbed from India in cookery, ayah for servant and purdah for curtain. So many Spanish, French words have been absorbed as also Japanese words like Tsunami.

The English spoken in USA and England is vastly different and spellings are also different. This is because the people who migrated from England to the new found land was in the fifteenth and 16th centuries after Columbus discovered America. Words like Gotten are old English which they took to America but in London standard English replaced colloquial cockney and medieval English, so gotten became got, but remained gotten in America.

Wanna is American but want to in English and so on. Recently abbreviations, mostly coming from the US has made English even more vague a language than it was earlier. ASAP is the most commonly used word in America and England. **As Soon As Possible**. This sentence is completely enveloped in ambiguity, where is the time line for this. It's vague. ASAP doesn't set a time limit for doing things. But it's the most common usage. People should prefer do it soonest or do it by 3 pm today. In corporate language you have the word yesterday. Most corporate honchos when asked by juniors as to the deadline for submission of a project report, the CEO says, yesterday.

That's means I want it on my table like you submitted it yesterday, or before the end of the day is what it means.

You see, as super star Rajnikanth says, English is a punny (funny) language. I walk English and I talk English. Indeed English is a funny language with lots of double e'tendres (double meanings and puns) I have selected some fourteen words that can cause much confusion in English language usage. It's good to be equipped with a good vocabulary of English words before you converse in English with different English language speaking people.

If you want to speak English fluently, you must first master word and speech accuracy as a whole. This means that you must own your vocabulary and always know the right words to say, without getting confused by certain words. However, knowing what those words are, what they mean, and when to use them correctly in speech is what ultimately might save our next conversation, message or essay in English from being a complete disaster. Here is something we need to know the difference between same sounding words with sometimes different spellings. Let's start with:

Advise vs Advice: Even good English speakers mix up these two words. They have almost the same meaning and very similar spellings, but the real difference between them lies in the usage. "Advice" is a noun and is pronounced with an "s" sound. On the other hand, "advise" is a verb which means "to give advice" and it's pronounced with a "z". Take for instance the sentences: What is the best piece of advice you've ever received? My English teacher always advises me to speak when I don't want to.



What is the difference between **Affect vs Effect**: These two share one small difference. Most English language speakers make a mistake in using these two words. Nonetheless, the difference is easy to remember! "Affect" is typically used as a verb while "effect" acts as a noun. That's it! Take for example: The weather affects my mood a lot. The current weather has a devastating effect on my mood.

Among and Between are very commonly used words: Both the words express connections or relationships between certain things or events. However, there is a big difference because "among" indicates that the items being compared are close to or within the same group of things while "between" compares one thing to another or many other things, but clearly separates them. Here is the example: Andy was among the 20 students awarded by the President. Distance was the only thing standing between her and Andy.

Disinterested vs. Uninterested: They seem to mean the same thing but they don't actually. Even native English speakers use these two adjectives interchangeably. You should not. Let's set this in stone for both native English speakers and English learners: "uninterested" indicates that someone is bored or not interested in something while a "disinterested" person is someone who is impartial, objective or not taking any sides during an argument, e.g. a judge during trial. Examples: He was totally uninterested in the plan I proposed. The disinterested judge looked at the evidence carefully.

Especially vs. Specially: As Rajnikanth says this is where English becomes a funny language. Interestingly, there's only one letter that differentiates these two in pronunciation, English learners have a very hard time finding any differences between them, often thinking it's the same word. However, there is a great difference that separates the two words. "Especially" means "above all" or "particularly" while "specially" means something along the lines of "specifically purposed for/aimed at" someone or something. Examples: He loves fast food; especially pizza. This bed was made specially for him. When you apply spell check to your essay or article you will find the application confuses these two. As soon as I typed up the second example with "specially", I was prompted to use "especially" instead by the Spell Checker. Wrong! So, please learn the differences between these two and always be careful!

Farther vs. Further; this word pair is very confusing in the sense that both of these words have the same meaning and almost the same pronunciation, yet are used in different contexts. It's only the "far" and "fur" difference that differentiates. However, "farther" is used to indicate physical distance while "further" is rather situational and indicates more abstract contexts. Examples: The Red Sea was much farther than the map showed. You could not be further from the truth!

Lay vs. Lie: Last but definitely not the least, these two cause headaches for even the best of native speakers! It's probably due to the differences and/or similarities in their past forms. So, to put the differences between these two verbs to the rest once and for all, pay close attention and memorize what I'm about to tell you. The verb "lay" means to place or put something in a certain place. The closest synonym would probably be "put down". On the other hand, "lie" has two meanings. The first one is the more popular one, which means to not tell the truth. The second one relates to the meaning of "lay" and means to recline.

A cool and easy way to master this difference is to remember that there is an e in both "lie" and "recline". However, this rule only applies to their present tense forms. In the past tense, it's a bit trickier. Well, a lot trickier! The past tense of "lay" is "laid" while the past tense of "lie" is "lay". Phew! Examples: I always lay in my office chair and just relax during the break. I laid the phone down on the table. Let me lie in my bed for a minute. I lay down around 2 a.m. last night.





Freedom Fighters of India

Accamma Cherian: The Jhansi Rani Of Travancore



By C. Badri, Consulting Editor



Accamma Cherian was a freedom fighter from Kerala who protested against the ban on Travancore State Congress by Dewan of Travancore. *"I am the leader; shoot me first before you kill others"*. These were the exact words of Accamma Cherian who led a mass rally to the palace of Maharaja Chithira Thirunal from Thamapanoor to the Kowdiar. The rally was focused to get the ban on the State Congress lifted. Mahatma Gandhi proclaimed her as the Jhansi Rani of Travancore for the courage exhibited by her. She is one among many unsung India's freedom fighters whose names have sunk into anonymity over the years. Kandathil Sebastian, a social scientist wrote "For more than 15 years she was probably the toughest woman in public politics in Travancore and was at the forefront of the momentous people's struggle in Travancore in the pre-independence era,"

Accamma was born to Thomman Cherian and Annamma Karippaparambil on 14 February 1909 in a Nasrani family (Karippaparambil) at Kanjirapally, Travancore. She was their second daughter. She had her schooling at the Government Girls High School, Kanjirapally and later at St. Joseph's High School, Changanacherry. She completed her BA in History from St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam. During 1931 she took up teaching at St. Mary's English Medium School, Edakkara and she later became the Headmistress of the school and worked for six years.

Accamma joined the *Travancore State Congress* which was formed in February 1938. At that time the people of Travancore were pressing for a responsible government and started the agitation. The Dewan of Travancore decided to suppress the agitation since he was taking orders from the Maharaja and on 26 August 1938, the State Congress was banned by using his discretionary powers. This ban triggered to a civil disobedience movement which was the first of its kind in Kerala. The top Congress leaders like Pattom Thanu Pillai were jailed. This led to alter their course of agitation. The President

of the State Congress was given powers to choose a successor and simultaneously the working committee was dissolved. All the eleven Presidents of the State Congress were arrested one by one and the movement was about to collapse. However, fortunately Kuttanad Ramakrishna Pillai, the eleventh president due to his foresight before his arrest nominated Accamma Cherian as his successor. Thereafter a Strikers' Union emerged and the Congress found their new leader in this bold and a dare devil woman. Accamma who was only 29 years at the time and she writes in her autobiography thus exhibiting her courage and leadership.

"I was aware of the seriousness of the assignment and knew what the consequences could be, yet I volunteered to do the job."

Accamma Cherian's Autobiography – Jeevitham Oru Samaram (Life Is A Struggle)



The Congress Party under the leadership of Accamma Cherian gathered local youth from every nook and corner of Thiruvithamkur from Vadakkan Paravur to Kanyakumari. The volunteers gathered at Thampanoor in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday October 23 to disrupt the birthday celebrations of the Maharaja. From the dawn, the streets were filled with a sea of people proudly donning white *khadi* dress and Gandhi caps. The air was filled with slogans like '*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*', '*Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai*' and '*State Congress Ki Jai*'. The railway station grounds at Thampanoor was transformed into an ocean of protesters shouting slogans against the dictatorial rule of the Maharaja. E.M. Kovoov described the historical protest as follows:

"Not hundreds but tens of thousands wearing white Khaddar Jubbahs and still whiter Gandhi caps were surging forward in massive waves... Accamma Cherian was leading that white sea, standing in an open jeep, dressed in khaddar and a Gandhi cap, like Goddess Durga crushing beneath her feet evil and injustice; her hair played in the wind like black flags hoisted against autocracy."

The protestors under the leadership of Accamma then proceeded towards the Royal Palace to present the people's memorandum to the King. The protest continued despite various hurdles that it had to encounter and ultimately until the government yielded to release its prisoners and lift the long standing ban on State Congress. It was one of the most momentous people's struggles staged in Travancore during the pre-independence era. Historians say that this protest is a pivotal moment in the freedom struggle in the state of Travancore (now Kerala).

In October 1938, Accamma was entrusted by the State Congress to organize the *Desasevika Sangh* (Female Volunteer Corps). She travelled incessantly to the nook and corner of the country and encouraged the women to join as members and participate effectively in the *Desasevika Sangh*. Her relentless involvement and work led to a surge a large number of women volunteers in the local bodies. By then Accamma's sister Rosamma Punnoose, and her brother KC Varkey had also joined the freedom struggle.

On 24 December 1939, Accamma participated in the annual conference organized by the Travancore State Congress. Consequently she and her sister Rosamma Punnoose were jailed and were sentenced to a year's imprisonment. In the prison she was tortured, harassed and verbally abused. After her release from prison, she engaged herself as a full-time party worker and later ultimately became the President of Travancore State Congress. In her first presidential address, she welcomed the Quit India Resolution passed at the Bombay session of the Indian National Congress in 1942. Accamma encountered a series of arrests for violating ban orders and staging protests but it did not deter her from her mission.



Accamma was duly elected without any opposition to the Travancore Legislative Assembly from Kanjirapally in 1947. She married V.V. Varkey, a freedom fighter and a member of Travancore Cochin Legislative Assembly during 1952 and they had one son George V. Varkey who later became an engineer. She quit active politics in 1967. She served as a Member of the Freedom Fighter's Pension Advisory Board for some time. Accamma died on 05th May, 1982 at Thiruvananthapuram.

In her autobiography, she summed up her life when she wrote.....

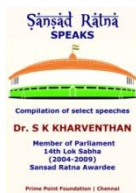
"Shakespeare has said that the world is a stage and that all the men and women merely players; but to me, this life is a long protest – protest against conservatism, meaningless rituals, societal injustice, gender discrimination, against anything that is dishonest, unjust...when I see anything like this, I turn blind, I even forget who I am fighting..."

A statue built in Accamma Cherian's memory stands in a park named after her in Thiruvananthapuram. A documentary on the life

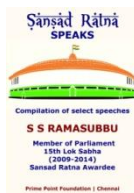
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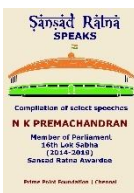
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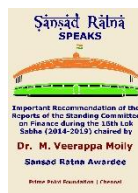
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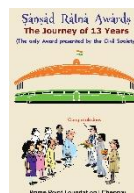
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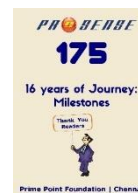
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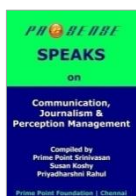
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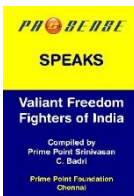
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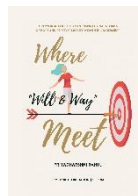
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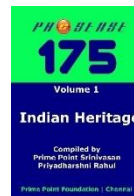
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