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बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जन्म शताब्दी के अवसर पर

NEPAL NO LONGER A HINDU KINGDOM

A historic decision was taken by the Nepalese Parliament on Thursday (18th May, 2006) by which Nepal's King Gyanendra has been stripped of much of his power and privileges by the Parliament that he recently reinstated, leaving the king a ceremonial monarch.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, sworn in by Gyanendra less than three weeks ago, on Thursday (18th May) presented the declaration to the Parliament that also makes Nepal a secular state, no longer a Hindu kingdom.

The king is removed as the supreme commander of the army, which is now known as the Nepal Army, not the Royal Nepal Army. The Prime Minister is now in command and the cabinet chooses the army chief.

King Gyanendra loses his tax-free status and is subject to the law, which means he could be ordered to testify in court or before the parliament.

The Parliament has taken over control of the purse strings and will determine the king's budget.

"It reflects the aspirations of the people and respects the sacrifices of the people who were martyred during the movement," Koirala said,

according to Reuters, as he tabled the resolution, referring to weeks of mass protests against King Gyanendra.

"Now no one can dare underestimate this. I urge people to remain alert and rise against anyone who tries to interfere in this and undermine this," Koirala said, speaking in Nepali.

Nepal citizens will also soon be singing a different tune, as the declaration calls for a change in the country's national anthem.

Analysts have expressed doubts over the effectiveness of the new proclamation, as no parliamentary bill can become law until the head of state - the king - signs it.

But politicians say the proclamation overrides the constitution and reflects the will of the people and therefore cannot be challenged.

They also say the king would have no powers and the proclamation would not need his approval.

"If anyone tries to dishonour this, they will be digging their own grave," former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba told Parliament.

A dramatic change took place in Nepal on 24th April night when King

Gyanendra reluctantly agreed to the restoration of the Parliament, which was dissolved in May 2002.



✍ Baleshwar Agrawal

Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, elected by the Seven Party Alliance, was sworn in as Prime Minister in the Royal Palace. Six ministers were added a few days later and they took the oath in the Singh Darbar and not in the Palace. Shri Koirala also declined to be sworn for the Raj Parishad (Privy Council), as the new Government intends to dissolve it, which is composed of all royalists.

The new Government withdrew the order declaring the maoists as terrorists and two important maoists leaders have already been released. It is likely that most of the others in Nepali prison will also be released soon. The demand of the maoists to release their men in Indian jails will be a little difficult, if there were serious charges against them. The Indian law courts will have to decide about it.

The Government has invited the maoists for a dialogue and Prachanda, Supreme leader of the



maoist, has also agreed for peace talks and has published the road map for the same. There are however certain controversial issues like the dissolution of the Parliament and the present 1990 constitution, setting of interim Government, which may delay the dialogue between the two sides.

There are reports that the maoists are still collecting money in the districts as extortion, which they call 'donations'. They are organizing big meetings in the districts and will most likely hold a big rally in Katmandu valley. The influence the maoists is increasing not only in the districts about also in the functioning of the central Government. The security aspect of Indo-Nepal

border is also involved and India has to take special care of the long 1700-kilometer border.

The expansion of the cabinet has not been possible during last two weeks because of internal differences in the democratic political parties. The maoists are taking advantage of it and fishing in the troubled water. The Royalists are completely frustrated and do not have any action plan in the near future. Four ministers of the King Gyanendra Government have been arrested and several senior officials of the previous Government have been suspended for their alleged act of misuse of authority. The ministers have approached the Supreme court and it has issued show cause notice to the Government to furnish reason for their detention.

The government had decided that the Parliament would make a proclamation on Monday (15th May) which would limit the power of the King and bring the army under the control of the Parliament. The leaders of seven Parties could not come to a consensus after five hours of discussion and the decision was postponed. It was said that after expansion of the cabinet, the final decision will be taken. A handful of youths demonstrated outside Singha Durbar and burnt a number of cars on 16th May and pressed the Government to take an immediate decision in the matter. The Government decided to hold the meeting of the cabinet on Wednesday (17th May) and approve the proclamation, which will be adopted by the Parliament on Thursday 18th May.

It is not known as to who the demonstrators were as the Maoists have denied their participation. They are said to have shouted pro-monarchy slogans. They also shouted

slogans against Sher Bahadur Deoba and alleged that he wanted the king to continue as the Supreme Commander in-chief of the army.

There is general feeling in the minds of those who are aware of Nepal situation that the political parties because of the internal contradictions will not be able to stand up to the maoists, who are disciplined, united and decisive.

It is being said that the Government proposes to suspend Shri Pyar Jung Thapa, present army chief. It is a very serious matter and will have far reaching consequences.

The Indian Government is also worried at the fast developments. Security of the 1700 kilometres Indo-Nepal border is the top priority. The reported link up of the Nepali maoists with the Indian Naxalites is also causing concern. Bihar, Uttarpradesh, West Bengal and Uttaranchal state Governments are reported to be taking special notice of the situation developing on their border with Nepal.

It is all agreed that Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, who was unanimously elected leader of seven party alliance, be given all support by the Government of India and others to enable him to resist undue pressure of the Maoists.

It is gratifying to note that Shri Madhav Nepal of CPN-UML party has publicly ruled out the immediate dissolution of the Parliament (as demanded by the Maoists) till some alternative mechanism is developed.

Nepal is passing through a critical period and the democratic political parties have to maintain solidarity and unity to face the Maoist pressure. □

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CONSOLIDATING THE RROMANI LANGUAGE: A PIVOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR BOTH LINGUISTIC JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION—AND A DUTY FOR SCIENTIST AND POLITICIANS

(Continued from the Previous issue)

Below superficial diversity - a strong underlying unity

Basically, all Rromani groups use the same language (to the extent that they have not shifted to another language, for instance the local majority language of their present or former homeland). All languages can be subdivided into dialects, and it is also the case with Rromani. Some of its varieties may have developed in directions making it hard for speakers of other varieties to understand them. However, Rromani does not differ very much from other languages such as German, English or Spanish, where some dialects remain unintelligible to other dialect speakers without special study or prolonged exposure. The exaggeration of the dialectal factor is therefore, more an ideological option than a scientific approach. In fact, the impression of dialectal disparity felt by non-Rromani observers in their field work is typical: those who have learned some Rromani have already struggled hard to acquire the superficial level (phonetic realization) of a given Rromani vernacular, not necessarily well preserved and anyway simplified as in everyday life. When confronted with other vernaculars, they lose their landmarks because they do not possess the underlying phonological keys, which are innate tools to the speaker who grew up in Rromani and allow him/her to naturally identify non-significant divergences and get round them. In lexical terms, heritage speakers are intuitively able to privilege old or even obsolete Rromani vocabulary,

because they expect it is likely to be shared with partners - a reflex out of reach for non-Rromani researchers, thus the misperceptions encountered in their conclusions.

From the dialectological point of view, the unity of the Rromani language (at least of the "main trunk", covering 90% of the total, or some 7 millions speakers - see above) was demonstrated by means of dialectometry as a milestone on the way toward standardization and a prerequisite to this venture (Courthiade 1982:15-24).

Is Rromani an indigenous language ?

The departure of the Rroms' ancestors from the former imperial city of Kannauj, lying in today's Uttar Pradesh, occurred one thousand years ago and this Millennium was celebrated in prestigious places of India in late 2018: National Museum in New Delhi with a two day scientific conference and an impressive exhibition about the Rroms and their mother tongue, University of Lucknow, National Trust for Promotion of Knowledge, Indian Association of Archaeology, Government Museum of Archaeology in Kannauj, National University of Law in New Delhi-Dwarka, and in several European countries. As stated above, the Proto-Rroms reached Asia Minor with the Seljuk Turks shortly after 1060 AD and half a million of them still live there to date, 960 years later, so if the Turks are today indigenous in Turkey - so are



Prof. Marcel Courthiade
(Professor, Linguist, Poet & Author)

the Rroms as well. The same is true about their arrival in Greece (early 14th century) and Western Europe (early 15th century - 600 years ago). The indigenous character of the Rromani language was first recognized at CONFINTEA V (Hamburg 1997) and it is at present widely accepted, at least in Europe.

Standardization and literary production

One may consider that Rromani is by now standardized but the process was long and arduous. Although the Polish ethnologist Antoine Kalina (1846-1906) paved the way to standardization as early as 1882 (1882:3), the first real attempts started around 1930 in the USSR, led by Prof. Maksim Sergejevskii (1892-1946) who did not know Rromani at all. Within three weeks, the Russian alphabet was adapted to the so-called North-Russian dialect of Rromani, the



→ variety prevailing in Moscow - and led to a failure, because this unique form was eventually imposed as a universal norm to all Rroms. Given the linguistic knowledge of the time, one could hardly have expected a different result. This undertaking was anyway discontinued after the ideological changes of 1938 in Soviet linguistics, when Stalin stopped supporting non-territorial minority languages.

A new and much more structured endeavour started in the wake of the 1st World Rromani Congress in London which declared that "no dialect is better than anyone else but we need an international form of language allowing us to understand each other in international conferences and literature" (8 April 1971). Almost twenty years of wide consultations led to the proposal of a common alphabet for all varieties of Rromani, presented at the 4th Congress in 1990 in Warsaw - a congress held under the patronage of UNESCO and attended by 5 high UNESCO representatives, among whom Prof. Viktor Koptlyov (Linguapax). This alphabet, called integrative or polylectal, is based on the underlying phonemic level, not the superficial shades of pronunciation of one selected variety, and therefore allows to bring under a widely common spelling all the local phonetic realisations, so as to respect dialectal diversity while granting easy worldwide communication in written mother tongue. Since then thousands of pages have been published in the "Warsaw spelling" and circulated successfully at an international level - unlike the Soviet products. This confirms Bernabé's statement: "narrow phoneticism is a nearsighted practice that mistakes transcription with writing" (2000:242).

Both waves of standardization gave birth to publications and - to give a figure, the BULAC library in Paris possesses to date 480 titles of literature written in Rromani language - yet its existence is as a rule passed over in silence or even denied by experts.

Resources for formal and informal transmission

In 1991 the Romanian Ministry of Education and Science integrated Rromani as a minority language into the national school curriculum and began publishing school textbooks - reaching some 60 titles today. This decision was based on a political will to insure literacy in Rromani mother tongue and assert the linguistic component in education for this minority on a foot of equality with speakers of other heritage languages.

The originality of the project is that it covers European Rromani as a whole, not only some local disparate varieties - unlike some attempts in several other countries. It has been found that the dialectal differences are largely erased by Warsaw's inclusive spelling and that the experience of diverse texts allows the student to understand well all four dialects in two or three years of schooling - while cultivating his own maternal variety. The yearly number of pupils attending classes in Rromani language, literature and history exceeded 36,000 in 2017-2018 and their total number since 1991 is probably 500,000. A comprehensive dictionary of Rromani with translations into Hungarian and 9 other languages was issued in 2009 in Budapest, while a university course (Rromani language, literature, history, ethnology etc.) is available on line (www.red-rrom.com). This project, supported by the Education,

Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission, includes the "reinjection" into public use of texts collected during the past decades and so far available only to researchers.

The corpus of Rromani texts is unexpectedly rich; forgotten contents are often discovered. Various institutions enrich textual documentation and archives in both written and audio forms but a significant effort is needed to coordinate their task, so as to ensure wide, easy and enjoyable access to this corpus, a key monument of the Rromani people. It is clear that the Warsaw inclusive spelling has a crucial role to play for the public use of this treasure, because it empowers Rroms of various origins to read it beyond dialectal differences (in addition to IPA for scholars) and represents thus a gateway to revitalisation not only of the language itself but also of the textual heritage. Connections with pocket screens - all young people's obsessive fetish, have to be promoted together with wise annotations and contextualisation giving life and attractiveness to this legacy. As many other less used languages, Rromani faces the digital paradox: namely IT makes in principle processors in minority language very affordable for all users, but in reality rather channels young users toward resources in dominating languages. In this respect any activity which would not take on board this concern would remain an exercise in futility; much energy has to be therefore devoted to awareness and motivation among young generations, teaching them how to be wise in their linguistic choices (as they are in food, health, ecology etc.). The Rromani visibility on IT interfaces and on-line data-bases is

→ also of the utmost importance to ensure sustainable recognition, in a much more efficient way than school text-books and confidential radio programmes - also very much needed anyway. Games, poems, songs and clips have been devised for the informal transmission of Rromani; more are in project.

The importance of Rromani for the Rroms' social inclusion

The offensive statements by scholars of the past about the Rromani language and its speakers, as mentioned above, have given birth to the revolting fiction of the Rom (or rather "Gypsy") as poor, dirty, ragged, lazy, idle, wandering or "nomad", vagabond and beggar, macho and patriarchal, liar, deceiver and thief (even thief of children), cheater, ignorant and careless, irresponsible, parasite etc. even though such views are mitigated by "positive" features, be they romantic (handsome and seductive, mischievous and resourceful, outstanding musician and no less sublime dancer, holder of occult knowledge and especially skilled in fortune-telling and magic, loving freedom etc.) or humanitarian (victim, scapegoat, social outcast, excluded in distress, chronically persecuted, abused and harassed, in a word a marginal and passive person). This blatantly racist picture has imbued for centuries the cosmic vision of many people since childhood so deeply that it seems to them unconsciously self-evident. Most media, politicians and NGO's focus on these classical features, either in terms of racism or of compassion according to their political orientation, and exhibit those severely outcaste Rroms who confirm at least seemingly their discourse. The circulation of this image, which corresponds in fact to a very limited number of Rroms,

repeatedly under light spots, reinforces the misperception, while a huge majority of this people is very well integrated in society and maintains with natural pride their language, culture and tradition. However the latter are almost invisible and they are even denied any visibility in most political contexts, since they threaten the mainstream routine of thought. In this respect, the affirmation of the Rromani language, as a vehicle of priceless heritage and original creation, together with the recognition of its prestigious Indian origin (the "umbilical link" with Sanskrit) and Rromani history as a whole, since Indian times up to present contribution to our world - including mediaeval slavery and the Nazi Genocide (the Samudaripen), is the unique tool which may induce a U-turn in the general perception of the Rroms, from a negative and fabricated social stigma to the dignified and true image of a specific people, one among others and a worldwide active partner in the cultural landscape of mankind.

Whilst a great majority of Rroms resulted in an exemplary model of constructive integration, living as peers among peers while keeping their heritage alive, the weaker segments of this population, continuously rejected, excluded, chased, hanged, burnt, gassed and slaughtered - mainly during the Nazi Genocide but also earlier, developed into marginalized social groups. This is therefore a matter of acceptance or not by the majority and for no other people probably the recognition of its language (and heritage) has ever been so decisive for its social integration as for the Rroms. This acceptance will not come into force over night but it is important to view the three axis: promotion of scientific and linguistic reality, social support for Rromani groups in distress and

fostering of entrepreneurship among all of them, not as conflicting actions but on the contrary as converging means to give back the Rroms the place they never should have lost.

The Rromani people as an intercultural bridge

The whole-day international seminar October 27th 2017 in Belgrade (see above) on the topic "The Rromani people - an intercultural bridge in the Balkans", was chaired by His Exc. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Director General of UNESCO and now president of the Foundation "Culture for Peace"; the Tunisian Nobel Prize Laureate Ouided Bouchamaoui and the former president of the International Rromani Union dr Rajko Đuriæ had also meaningful contributions. The traditional friendly living of the Rroms with other nations and denominations, sharing their everyday life and customs, was qualified as a major intercultural contribution to peace, in line with Indian philosophy, and in contrast with earlier views considering this attitude as opportunistic. Their intermixing with various peoples, partly due to linguistic osmosis and their traditional command of more than one language, is a valuable lesson for a concrete, albeit informal, dialogue among cultures at the grass-root level. Therefore academic and political stake-holders should be called to revisit and challenge the steady but erroneous image of the Rromani people and their language in view of replacing it by knowledge based on facts and observation. This is not only a matter of scientific commitment to deconstruct age-old fabrications and circulate realistic conclusions instead, but also of justice, social progress and ultimately building of peace for the entire society. □

NEW IFS Study Finds Indian Americans Rank AT THE Top in Family Stability

With the share of immigrants in the U.S. population near a historic high of about 14 percent, or 45 million, a new analysis of census data published by the Institute for Family Studies has highlighted the strength of immigrant families, according to which, as a group, immigrant families tend to be more stable than families of native-born Americans, with Indian Americans ranking at the top in family stability among the 30 largest groups of working-age immigrants in the U.S. The study highlighted that Indian immigrants not only top the list of family stability but are also one of the most highly educated and financially successful immigrant groups. Specifically, 72 percent of immigrants with children are still in their first marriage, whereas the share among native-born Americans is just 60 percent. Almost all (first-generation) Indian immigrants with children are stably married (94 percent), according to an IFS analysis of the 2019 American Community Survey. About four percent are remarried, and the share of unmarried Indian immigrants with children is only 2 percent, per the analysis.

The conventional wisdom that higher education and higher income drive family stability applies to immigrant families to some extent, noted Wendy Wang, director of research at the Institute for Family Studies and study author. For example, immigrants from Asia tend to have higher educational levels than other immigrants and their family stability is also higher. More than six-in-10 Asian immigrants with children are college-educated (64 percent), compared with 13 percent of their Hispanic peers, she wrote. Compared with native-born American parents, however, immigrants with children overall have lower levels of education and higher rates of poverty, according to the study, which pointed out that yet, immigrant families are more stable than native-born American families.

The study noted that while Indian immigrants have the highest family stability - 94 percent of Indian immigrants with children are stably married - the share of intact marriage drops to 87 percent among native-born Indian Americans with children, despite the fact that they have higher incomes than the first-generation

Indian immigrants, and their educational levels are equally high. "After controlling for education, income and age, Indian immigrants are more than twice likely to be in an intact family than native-born Indian Americans," Wang wrote in the study suggesting that "culture" plays a big role in making immigrants stand out because education and income alone cannot explain this family advantage of first-generation immigrants. An IFS survey conducted in California said that nearly 70 percent of immigrants said that it is very important for them to be married before having children, compared with 62 percent of native-born Californians.

According to a recent analysis by IFS senior fellow Nicholas Zill, children of immigrants are doing surprisingly well in school: they are more likely to get "As" and are less likely to have behavior problems. According to the analysis, "the reason for their academic success is not because these children are from better-off families (in fact, the majority of them are not), it is partly because they are more likely to live in intact families with two married parents." □

SCHOOL IN TEXAS TO BE NAMED AFTER INDIAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZER SONAL BHUCHAR

The Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) Board of Trustees unanimously approved naming upcoming elementary school 53, after Sonal Bhuchar, who died of cancer complications at the age of 58 in 2019, so that her legacy in education and philanthropy continues for generations to come.

Originally from Mumbai, Sonal Bhuchar was a professional physiotherapist with a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Bombay University. She immigrated to Houston in 1984 with her husband, Subodh Bhuchar, and was elected to the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees



Sonal Bhuchar was a popular community activist and a leader.

for six years and served as the Board President for two years. In 2015 Texas Governor Greg Abbot appointed Sonal to the One Star National Service

Commission Board, that promotes volunteerism and oversees administration of the AmeriCorps programmes in the US state of Texas.

Several current board members spoke highly about how Sonal encouraged them to serve the community. Sonal, until her passing, was actively involved on the board of many nonprofit and local organisations, including Child Advocates of Fort Bend, the Literacy Council of Fort Bend, AccessHealth, Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation and the Texas Medical Association Alliance, among others. □

India has NOT imposed any Export Ban on COVID-19 Vaccines: MEA

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, at an online media briefing on 2 April 2021, asserted that India has not imposed any export ban on anti-coronavirus vaccines, and said that the ministry's 'Vaccine Maitree' initiative to supply vaccines abroad has been "very successful and very well liked" by our partners across the world. "As on date, under the 'Vaccine Maitree' initiative, we have supplied a total of about 644 lakh doses to the global community and of these, 104 lakh doses have been supplied as a grant, 357 lakh doses on a commercial basis and 182 lakh doses through the COVAX

initiative, and "we are continuing to try to supply to the extent possible given our domestic requirements", Bagchi said. Asked about reports that Nepal has approached India to procure 5 million more vaccine doses but has not got any response, he said India has taken the lead on sending vaccines abroad. "No country has shared with the world the number of vaccines that India has while vaccinating its own population. Till now, we have supplied vaccines to more than 80 countries across the world and we have already stated that our external supplies would be done keeping in mind our domestic

requirements," the MEA spokesperson said. "At this time, I hope our partners understand that vaccines are primarily purposed for domestic consumption. I want to emphasise that we have not imposed any export ban on vaccines," Bagchi asserted.

Regarding the concerns of other countries, India's position has been suitably conveyed through its official channels, he added. India is one of the world's biggest drugmakers, and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for procuring anti-coronavirus vaccines. □

India backs WHO Chief's Call for Further Investigations into Covid-19 Origin

WHO and China released the long-awaited report on the origins of Covid-19 on 30 March 2021, listing four hypotheses in order of probability. The report said the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19 most probably jumped from bats to humans via an intermediary animal. It also said it was "extremely unlikely" that the virus had been leaked from a laboratory.

"We share the need for a comprehensive and expert-led mechanism that would expeditiously investigate the origin of Covid-19 in cooperation with all stakeholders," external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on 1 April 2021. "It is pertinent to note that the director-general of the WHO has separately raised the issue of delays and difficulties in accessing raw data for the team conducting the study. We fully support the director general's expectation that future collaborative studies will include more timely and

comprehensive data sharing," he said. India also welcomes the WHO chief's readiness to deploy additional missions, Bagchi said.

Ghebreyesus, who has for long been accused of being soft on China, has called for further investigation of the theory that Covid-19 began from a laboratory leak and also rebuked Beijing for sitting on crucial data. China has consistently rejected the hypothesis that the virus leaked from a lab.

The US and 13 other countries have raised concerns about the report in a joint statement, saying the WHO team was "significantly delayed and lacked access to complete, original data and samples". These countries have also backed an "independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence" of the origins of the pandemic. Bagchi said the WHO report is an "important first step" in

establishing the origins of the pandemic as it has stressed the "need for next-phase studies across the region". He said, "The report also stresses the need for further data and studies to reach robust conclusions. He added, "We join other stakeholders in voicing their expectations that follow up to the WHO report or further studies, including on an understanding of the earliest human cases and clusters by the WHO on this critical issue, will receive the fullest cooperation of all concerned."

India will continue to work with WHO to strengthen capacity and improve global health security so that the current report and further studies will provide inputs for developing protocols and building a knowledge base and expertise that facilitate genomic surveillance to track virus mutations and proactively respond to the next global pandemic, Bagchi said. □

Holi ki Shubhkamnayein': AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTER GREET'S PM Modi

Australian premier Scott Morrison greeted his 'good friend' Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Hindu community in Australia ahead of Holi, the festival of colours. "Wishing our Hindu Australian community, my good friend @narendramodi and all the people who are celebrating it, a happy and colourful Holi," the Australian leader tweeted his wishes along with a video message and also wrote 'Holi ki Shubhkamnayein' in Hindi.

Morrison also praised India, saying the country is doing a 'tremendous job'



in making vaccines, which are 'helping the broader world', and noted its role in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad, the informal strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India. "We will continue

to chart out a way forward together... In a spirit of unity, I wish you all a very happy Holi," the Australian prime minister said.

Holi was celebrated across India on 29 March 2021 even as cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) were rising in the country and several states had imposed restrictions asking people to celebrate the festival with their families inside their houses and avoid crowds. □

US Navy sings Hindi song from hit Bollywood Movie 'SWADES'

Members of the United States Navy were recently witnessed singing a popular Hindi song at dinner with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) on 28 March 2021. On the same day, India's Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu met with the CNO, Michael M Gilday. "Together, we will promote a free, open & inclusive rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. I look forward to our two navies' continued cooperation", Gilday tweeted.

The Navy sang the following in Hindi - "This is a friendship bond that cannot be broken ever", echoing the state of relations between the United States and India. The original song is called "Yeh Jo Des Hai Tera" and was performed by coveted musician AR Rahman for the soundtrack of the film "Swades" in 2004.

Cooperation between the United States and India has improved in the



face of increased Chinese activity in the Indian Ocean, Indo-Pacific. Recently, a grouping of four countries called "Quad" including India, United States, Japan, and Australia convened which was seen as signalling to China that their excesses in the region will not go unanswered.

The US also extended extensive support to Taiwan as it faces increasing threat of a Chinese invasion, with Chinese planes continuously breaching territorial borders. □

INDIAN EDUCATION SUCCESS—A MODEL FOR REPLICATION

A 258-page report of The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, set up by Prime Minister Boris Johnson into the UK's racial disparities under chairmanship of education consultant Dr Tony Sewell, was released on 31 March 2021 which concluded that class differences had overtaken racial disparity as an impact on life chances in the UK and overall found the country to be fairer even though overt racism remained a reality, particularly online. They found evidence that "certain ethnic groups such as Black African, Indian and Bangladeshi pupils perform better than White British group, once socio-economic status is taken into consideration," One of its central recommendations includes discontinuation of the term BAME, which stands for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, as no longer "helpful" and proposes references such as British Indian instead. "It is the commission's belief that educational success should be celebrated, replicated and used as an exemplar to inspire all pupils across the UK, reads the report. The report recommends the Department for Education (DfE) must invest in "meaningful and substantial research" to understand and replicate the underlying factors that drive the success of the high performance of pupils from different ethnicities, such as British Indians.

"In fact, as of 2019, the ethnicity pay gap - taking the median hourly

earnings of all ethnic minority groups and the White group - is down to just 2.3 per cent and the White Irish, Chinese and Indian ethnic groups are on average earning notably more than the White British average," it adds. The report also finds Indians are among those with the highest net property wealth, living in good neighbourhoods and overall tend to see "fewer obstacles and less prejudice" in British society. Among its recommendations, the independent commission calls for greater focus on Commonwealth influences on Britain, including a new dictionary that traces words of Indian origin. "We want to see how Britishness influenced the Commonwealth and local communities, and how the Commonwealth and local communities influenced what we now know as modern Britain. One great example would be a dictionary or lexicon of well known British words which are Indian in origin," the review suggests.

"The BAME acronym also disguises huge differences in outcomes between ethnic groups. This reductionist idea forces us to think that the principle cause of all disparities must be majority versus minority discrimination," the review warns.

The country has come a long way in 50 years and the success of much of the ethnic minority population in

education and, to a lesser extent, the economy, should be regarded as a model for other White-majority countries," it concludes, though highlighting that it is now yet a "post-racial society which has completed the long journey to equality of opportunity". Boris Johnson, who had commissioned the review last year in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests following the killing of African-American George Floyd in the US, said it's an "important piece of work" which will now define actions within government.

"The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities was launched to conduct a detailed, data-led examination of inequality across the entire population, and to set out a positive agenda for change," Johnson said in his response to the report.

"It is now right that the government considers their recommendations in detail, and assesses the implications for future government policy. The entirety of government remains fully committed to building a fairer Britain and taking the action needed to address disparities wherever they exist," he said. Sunder Katwala, the head of the British Future think tank, is quoted in the report as saying that "Britain is doing much better on race than on class". □

His Majesty The King ON ROYAL TOUR OF THE EASTERN BHUTAN



(Karma Pema Wangmo, who is a Desuup and a teacher at Mongar MSS, was the first person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Mongar)

His Majesty The King began a Royal Tour of the east, arriving in Mongar on 26th March 2021 accompanied by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen and Their Royal Highnesses Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel and Gyalsey Ugyen Wangchuck.

On 27th March 2021, the first COVID-19 vaccination in Mongar Dzongkhag was administered in the presence of His Majesty The King, at Mongar Dzong. In accordance with the astrological recommendations to start inoculations with a 30-year old woman born in the monkey year, Karma Pema Wangmo became the first person to receive the vaccine in the Dzongkhag.

His Majesty also visited Mongar High School, which is one of the several vaccination centres in the dzongkhag, and met with those administering and receiving the vaccination.

His Majesty informed the people that while the vaccine will be beneficial in protecting us during the pandemic, we need to continue to follow safety protocols diligently as a portion of the population, including children and pregnant or breastfeeding women, still remain unvaccinated.

His Majesty The King will be in the east for the duration of the nationwide vaccination programme.

As the people of Bhutan pray for the success of the vaccination campaign during this important time, the Royal Visit is doubly significant for being His Majesty The King's first visit to the east. □



BHUTAN RECEIVES THE SECOND CONSIGNMENT OF 400,000 Covishield VACCINES FROM THE GOVT. OF INDIA

The second consignment of 400,000 Covishield vaccines, as a gift from the Government and the people of India to the Royal Government and the people of Bhutan, arrived on 22 March 2021 at the Paro International Airport. On arrival, Venerable Dorji Lopen and Venerable Laytshog Lopen conducted the *Thruesel* and blessing Ceremony. The vaccine was handed over to Hon'ble Health Minister, Lyonpo Dechen Wangmo, by H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of India to Bhutan, in the presence of H.E. Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji, Hon'ble Foreign Minister, and senior officials of the Royal Government.



Speaking at the event, Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji conveyed the deep appreciation and gratitude of the Royal Government and

the people of Bhutan to His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, and the Government of India for this generous gift as well as for the Gol's unconditional and unstinted assistance to Bhutan's efforts in managing the pandemic. Lyonpo said that the arrival of the second consignment will enable the Royal Government to launch the nationwide vaccination programme, which began on 27 March.

As a steadfast friend of Bhutan, India has stood firmly by Bhutan at all times. India's unwavering support to Bhutan's COVID-19 response efforts is a clear indication of its commitment and high importance accorded to Bhutan-India relations. Bhutan was also the first country to receive the Covishield vaccine under the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative in January this year.

The Gol has assured the Royal Government of its full COVID-19 vaccine requirement of around 1.2 million doses to cover the country's entire eligible population. The first consignment of 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines was received in January this year. With the second consignment, the Royal Government has now received a total of 550,000 Covishield vaccines from the Government of India. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN MAY, 2021

May 01 : International Worker's Day	May 08 : Remembering World War II Victims	May 17 : Norway - Constitution Day	May 22 : Yemen - National Day
May 08 : Red Cross Day	May 10 : First War of India Independence	May 26 : Purnima ●	May 26 : Guyana - Independence Day
May 11 : Amavasya ●	May 11 : National Technology Day	May 28 : Azerbaijan - Republic Day	May 28 : Ethiopia - National Day
May 12 : Nurses Day	May 15 : International Day of Families	May 29 : International Day of United Nations Peace Keepers	

BSF HANDS OVER 8-YEAR-OLD TO PAK RANGERS

An eight-year-old minor boy was handed over to Pakistani Rangers after he "inadvertently crossed the international border in the Barmer sector on Friday, the Border Security Force, Gujarat Frontier stated in an official release.

The boy was identified as Karim Yamanu who crossed the international

border and reached up to the border fence near the border outpost Somar of 83 Bn BSF, Barmer Sector that falls in Rajasthan. "He was spotted by alert troops on duty and was asked to go back. Seeing men in uniform, the boy started crying. BSF men calmed him down and offered some eatables and

water. The boy seemed to have lost his way and crossed the international border," BSF said in a statement.

Later in the day, a flag meeting was held with Pakistan rangers and the minor was handed over to them. □

School Building Built in Nepal's Chitwan with India's Assistance

An Indian Embassy release said that as part of efforts to boost the education sector in Nepal, a new building for the Shree Rashtriya Primary School in the Chitwan district has been constructed with assistance from India as part of development cooperation between



India and Nepal. "The new building of the Shree Rashtriya Primary School, Sultana (renamed as Basic School Sultana) Khairahani VDC-5, Chitwan district was built with the Indian government's financial assistance of NPR18.66 million under 'Nepal-Bharat Development Cooperation'."

The new building was jointly inaugurated on 31 March 2021 by Nitesh Kumar, Consul General of India in Birgunj and Manejer Chaudhary, Chairman, Ward No.7, Khairahani Municipality, Chitwan. "The Government of India's grant under 'Nepal-Bharat Development

Cooperation' was utilized for construction of a double-storey school building having 12 classrooms and sanitation facilities," the release said. The project was taken up as a high-impact community development project under an agreement

between the government of India and Nepal. The Shree Rashtriya Primary School was established in 1973 at Sultana, Chitwan. However, the school was completely ruined by floods in 2004. □

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World ROMA Day : AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION AND COMMEMORATION

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations-ARSP

 **Md. Zameer Anwar**

Throughout history Romani people have preserved their culture, tradition and language in spite of constant marginalization, discrimination, and persecution. They were subjected to different policies and regulations for centuries after they arrived at Europe. Roma are internally segmented as a community and scattered across the world with different social and political milieus, however the sense of the unity of their community and its equality to the rest of the nations have evolved in modern times.

The first evidence of Roma's aspiration towards civil emancipation and equal status can be found in the 19 CE in the Balkans within the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire. The first Romani organization was established in Romania in 1926, other local organizations were also established, and in 1933 the Asociația Generală a Tiganilor din România (General Association of the Gypsies in Romania). In 1927, the first Serbian-Gypsy association for mutual assistance in sickness and death was founded in Yugoslavia. In 1939 Panhellenios Syllogos Ellinon Athinganon (Pan Hellenic Cultural Association of the Greek Gypsies) was founded in Athens. Its chief objective was to get Greek citizenship and Greek passports for the Gypsy immigrants to Greece from Asia Minor.

First Romani Congress was a watershed in the history of political movement and transnational unity of the Roma Community. It triggered move of the emancipatory activities including fight for equality and social justice as well as the preservation of language and cultural identity. The congress of April 1971 in Orpington in south-east London was organised by members of the Gypsy Council and the Comité International Rom with the financial support of the World Council of Churches and the Government of India. 23 representatives from nine nations (Czechoslovakia, Finland, Norway, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Spain and Yugoslavia) and observers from Belgium, Canada, India and the United States, attended the congress. Indian representative of the congress, W.R. Rishi, then an attaché at the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom, played a pivotal role in inscribing the red wheel (known as the Ashoka Chakra and Dharma Chakra) onto the blue and green Romani flag. The flag depicts historical and strong relation with their motherland, India, as well as symbolizes the eternal spiritual values and social and moral ideals of India. The name "Roma" was officially promulgated at the First World Romani Congress in 1971 as the sole preferred ethnonym for the Roma-Gypsy groups. The term

"Roma" refers to a collective form of self-identification with a different array of political implications arising out of the Romani emancipation movement (conventionally defined as having started with the First World Romani Congress in 1971). "Roma" is also the "politically correct" term employed by the larger societies in which those designated as Roma.

Roma remain till today the most prosecuted community of Europe. Almost everywhere, their fundamental rights are transgressed and threatened. Racist violence targeting Roma is commonplace. Discrimination against Roma in employment, education, health care, administrative and other services is the order of the day in most of the societies, and hate speech intensifies the anti-Romani stereotypes typical of European public opinion.

From the sixteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century, there was very depressing responses of most of European powers to the problems of Gypsies/Roma who were considered criminals because of their grievously deplorable position in the societies. Moreover, racial prejudices compounded by religious hostility persisted on account of their pagan practices and sorcery. The authorities were inimical to masterless





community with no fixed abode and their lives were at peril from the legislations dealing with vagabondage, beggary and sedentariness.

The persecution of Roma/Gypsies has a longer history and has been taking place for nearly half a millennium. In today's Europe, antigypsyism is still among the most virulent and most violent forms of social resentment. Millions of Roma live in inhumane conditions in many European countries, viz. Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary. In Kosovo, tens of thousands of Roma were evicted from their homes after the civil war. In several European countries

such as Italy, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, violence against Roma people have been common phenomenon during the last decade. Though, Roma are the largest so-called "ethnic minority" of Europe.

Since the revolutions of 1989 overthrowing the socialist governments of Eastern Europe, torture, prejudice and violence against Roma have heightened with steep fall in economic status in Eastern European countries. According to survey conducted by Times Mirror in 1991, preponderance of Europeans including 71 per cent of Bulgarians, 91 per cent of Czechoslovaks, 59 per cent of Germans, 79 per cent of

Hungarians and 50 per cent of Spaniards was contemptuous to Romani people. In the same year, the other survey, conducted by Freedom House and the American Jewish Committee, pointed out that 78 per cent of Czechoslovaks, Hungarians and Poles detest living with Roma. The third survey in 1991 outlined that 41 per cent of Romanians desired Roma should be unfavourably dealt with. In 1993, Helsinki Watch pointed out that 10 per cent of Hungarians wished to see Roma liquidated. In December 1994, the Center for Empirical Studies in the Czech Republic found that 46 per cent of Czechs countenanced cracking down on Roma with harsher laws. □

INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE SHOWCASES THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SINGAPORE'S SIKH COMMUNITY

A Story Untold is a unique initiative by the Indian Heritage Centre to showcase the heritage and culture of the Sikh community in Singapore. The exhibition provides insights into this small but prominent Singapore Indian community, from their history and culture, to their evolution and place in

modern Singapore. The different aspects of their identity were shared through artifacts, photographs, and the stories as well as via voices of the community. The exhibition also offered glimpses of the community's root culture and events that led to their diasporic movement to Southeast

Asia. The exhibition kicked off with a special event on March 18, featuring two cultural groups - the Singapore Khalsa Association and Sunehri Saheliyan - who highlighted folk music and various traditional crafts respectively. □

OCI CARD HOLDERS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO CARRY OLD PASSPORTS FOR INDIA TRAVEL; DIASPORA WELCOMES MOVE

People of Indian origin and Indian diaspora having overseas citizens of India (OCI) card are now not required to carry their old, expired passports for travel to India, as required earlier. In a March 26 press release, the Indian missions in the US stated "The requirement of carrying old and new

passports, along with the OCI card, has been done away with," referring to a notification issued in this regard by the Centre, addressing one of the major concerns of overseas Indians. The Overseas Citizens of India or OCI card is issued to people of Indian

origin globally which gives them almost all the privileges of an Indian national except for the right to vote, government service and buying agricultural land. The OCI card gives them a visa free travel to India. □

कृत्रिम बुद्धि के विविध आयाम

क्या कोई मशीन समझदारी से सोचकर हल निकाल प्रवेश कर सकता है।

सकती है, जैसे कि इंसान सोचता है ? क्या मशीन में

चेतना और महसूस करने की क्षमता हो सकती है?

इस प्रश्न में कुछ तो चेतना और बुद्धि की परिभाषा पर निर्भर करता है। बच्चा जोड़, बाकी, गुणा, भाग

कर ले तो वह होशियार कहा जाता है, पर कैलकुलेटर को कोई होशियार नहीं कहेगा। मशीन

इंसान को शतरंज में हरा दे तो शतरंज की अल्गोरिथम लिखने वाला इंसान ही बुद्धिमान कहा

जायेगा।

आइये, देखते हैं कृत्रिम बुद्धि (कृबु) क्या है और यह किस तरह हमारी जीवन शैली बदल सकती है।

कृत्रिम बुद्धि या एआई दो प्रकार की होती है : संकीर्ण या कमजोर एआई (कृबु) लक्ष्य-उन्मुखी होती है

और किसी एक ही कार्य में दक्षता हासिल कर लेती है। जैसे वाक पहचान या चेहरा पहचान, खेल

सिद्धांत, सामरिक योजना आदि या फिर हस्तलिपि अभिज्ञान, कृत्रिम रचनात्मकता, आभासी

वास्तविकता, छवि प्रसंस्करण, फोटो और वीडियो में हेरफेर आदि। कृबु द्वारा बीमारी का निदान हो

सकता है। चौटबोट और अनुवाद सामान्य बात है। नॉन-लिनियर नियंत्रण और रोबोटिक्स का क्षेत्र

काफी बड़ा है।

सोचिये क्या कुछ हो सकता है एआई से। क्या वेब पेजों में डेटा इस तरह से संरचित करके टैग किया

जा सकता है कि इसे सीधे कंप्यूटर द्वारा खुद ही पढ़ लिया जा सके? प्रश्न उचित है कि इंसान के लिये

किताब खरीद कर रखने में और किताब को समझ लेने में बड़ा फर्क है उसी प्रकार कम्प्यूटर में आँकड़े

सहेजना तो बड़ी सरल बात है पर लिखी बात के मर्म को जान कर उपयोग कर पाना कितनी अलग बात

होगी! किन्तु यह सिमेंटिक वेब पर हो सकता है। वर्ल्ड वाइड वेब का यह एक प्रस्तावित विकास है

जिससे सिमेंटिक वेब अब सूचना के सुनहरे युग में

इसी प्रकार जीव विज्ञान के मॉडल का उपयोग करके

कंप्यूटर-विज्ञान कई समस्याओं को हल कर पायेगा। यह सब संबंधवाद, सामाजिक व्यवहार और

उसके उद्भव से संबंधित है। इसे जैव प्रेरित कंप्यूटिंग कहा जाता है। कोशिकाएं कैसे व्यवहार

करती हैं, इसे जानने के लिये अलेक्जेंडर ग्रीन ने एक जैविक कंप्यूटर विकसित किया है।

डार्विन ने हमें बताया कि प्राकृतिक विकास में चयन कैसे होता है? आनुवांशिक भिन्नता कैसे और किन

नियमों से पनपती हैं? तो क्या हम आनुवंशिकता के सिद्धांतों को रोबोट के डिजाइन के लिये लागू करके

विकासवादी रोबोटिक्स का श्रीगणेश कर सकते हैं, कि जिससे मजबूत और अनुकूली रोबोट बन पाएँ ?

हमारे व्यवहार और वातावरण में कैसे बदलाव हों जो जीन के काम करने के तरीके को प्रभावित कर सकें?

इस प्रकार डीएनए नहीं बदलेंगे पर डीएनए पढ़ने के अनुक्रम को बदलकर आनुवांशिक परिवर्तन लाये

जा सकते हैं। एपिजेनेटिक्स में इसका अध्ययन होता है। इसका शाब्दिक अर्थ है : जीनोम से ऊपर ऊपर।

ऐसे तो कंप्यूटर स्वयं ही दुनिया की उन सूचनाओं को पकड़ लेगा जो जटिल समस्याओं को हल करने में

उपयोगी हों। डिजाइन में ही ज्ञान का अभ्यावेदन (रिप्रेजेंटेशन) करके ज्ञान-प्रतिनिधित्व को एआई के

क्षेत्र में रखा गया है जिसमें तर्क करता हुआ एक अनुमान-इंजिन होता है। इसी प्रकार व्यवहार

आधारित रोबोटिक्स (बीबीआर) में जटिल दिखने वाले व्यवहार को प्रदर्शित किया जाता है। फिर

वातावरण का मॉडल बनाकर संवेदी-मोटर लिंक की मदद से धीरे-धीरे अपने कार्यों को ठीक कर

लेता है।

डेटा माइनिंग और मशीन लर्निंग ने एआई के क्षेत्र में



हरिहर झा
ऑस्ट्रेलिया

क्रांति ला दी है। पर दोनों में फर्क क्या है? डेटा माइनिंग में बड़ी मात्रा के आँकड़ों से नियमों को निकाला जाता है जबकि मशीन-लर्निंग कम्प्यूटर को ही सिखाता है कि दिए गए मापदंडों को कैसे सीखना और समझना है। आगे आती है विषय खनन की एक तकनीक का संकल्पना निष्कर्षण। ई-कॉमर्स के संदर्भ में, खरीदारी से संबंधित वेब पेज के बारे में अवधारणा निष्कर्षण का उपयोग किया जाता है। यह खोज प्रासंगिकता और उत्पाद मिलान जैसे अनुप्रयोगों में व्यावहारिक रूप से उपयोगी है।

अदालत की तरफ रुख करें तो लंबे मामलों और परिणामों की भविष्यवाणी करने के लिये भी मशीन लर्निंग-मॉडल का निर्माण करती है। जैसे-जैसे ये भविष्यवाणियाँ और अधिक सटीक होती जाती हैं, कानून के अभ्यास पर इनका व्यापक प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

एआई की दौड़ कहाँ रुकेगी? कृत्रिम बुद्धि की कार्यवाही को सक्षम बनाने के लिये बुद्धिमान एजेंट होते हैं जो पर्यावरण के प्रति संवेदनशील हो कर संचालन करते हैं। ये एजेंट चार प्रकार के होते हैं : मॉडल आधारित एजेंट उसी प्रकार लक्ष्य आधारित, उपयोगिता आधारित तथा लर्निंग एजेंट।

प्राकृतिक भाषा प्रसंस्करण (एनएलपी) या





न्यूरोलिंगविस्टिक प्रोग्रामिंग) द्वारा पाठ सारांश के अलावा भावनाओं का विश्लेषण, पहलू खनन तथा टॉपिक मॉडलिंग भी किया जा सकता है। ये शब्द विषय को बताने के लिये पर्याप्त हैं : सचित्र डेटा माइनिंग, टेक्स्ट माइनिंग, सोशल मीडिया माइनिंग, वेब माइनिंग और वीडियो माइनिंग आगे कहाँ तक जिक्र किया जाए!

कृत्रिम बुद्धि मानव की महत्वपूर्ण शक्तियों का अनुसरण करती है, जैसे सीखना, निर्णय लेना, तर्क करना, गहरी सीख और योजनाएं बनाना। यह कलन विधि (अलगोरिथम) द्वारा मानव बुद्धि का अनुसरण करती है। आजकल मशीन-प्रशिक्षण, नियम और गहरे प्रशिक्षण (डीप लर्निंग) में अनुसंधान हुये हैं, उसकी बदौलत उपयोगी औजार बन गये हैं। जब विशेष स्थितियों को सुलझाने का निर्देश न भी मिला हो उस स्थिति में भी यह अच्छा कार्य करने लगे हैं।

जिस दिन गूगल सर्च अपने सूचना भंडार को स्वयं समझ लेगी उस दिन सूचना स्वयं ज्ञान हो जाएगी। मानव मस्तिष्क को सहायता देगी या फिर मनुष्य को हटाकर स्वयं काम कर लेगी।

कमजोर कृबु ने भी कैंसर जैसी भयानक बीमारियों को मानव की तरह संज्ञान में लेकर तर्क और आँकड़ों का विवेचन कर के अच्छा उपचार किया है। कमजोर कृबु की मेमोरी सीमित होती है फिर भी चेहरे पहचान लेती है, व्यर्थ के ईमेल को अलग कर देती है, बीमारी की भविष्यवाणी के औजार बनाती है। आपके द्वारा टीवी पर देखे गये प्रोग्राम के आधार पर सुझाव देती है या खरीदे गये सामान के रिकॉर्ड के आधार पर सुझाव देती है। कार स्वयं चला सकती है। बाकी सिरी, कोरटोना और आईबीएम के वॉट्सन को कौन नहीं जानता?

इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग्स (आईओटी) में उपकरणों में

इंटरनेट की प्रकृति प्रदान की जाती है : जैसे जुड़े हुये उपकरण, कारखानों में स्मार्ट उपकरण, पहनने योग्य स्वास्थ्य मॉनिटर, स्वायत्त कृषि उपकरण आदि। इसके अलावा स्मार्ट गृह सुरक्षा के सिस्टम भी बाजार में हैं आप दुनिया के किसी भी देश में घूम रहे हों, अपने घर की वर्तमान फोटो देख कर जान सकते हैं कि इस समय आपका घर सुरक्षित तो है, कहीं चोरी का शिकार तो नहीं हुआ। बेतार के इन्वेन्ट्री ट्रैकर्स, अति-उच्च गति के वायरलेस इंटरनेट, बायोमेट्रिक साइबर सिक््योरिटी स्कैनर आदि भी आईओटी में शामिल हैं। मजबूत कृबु में बुद्धि के सभी आयामों को मशीन में डाला जाता है। सोफिया बात करने वाली मशीन ऐसा ही प्रयत्न है। सोफिया के कुछ जवाब मुख्ततापूर्ण निकले पर कुछ उत्तरों ने चकित कर दिया।

प्रायः हम सोचते हैं कि इंसान की तुलना में कंप्यूटर बहुत तेज होते हैं पर हर जगह पर ऐसा नहीं है जैसे कि हमारी तंत्रिका-गतिविधि को लिया जाय। मान लो हमारी एक सैकेंड की तंत्रिका (न्यूरो) गतिविधि का अनुकरण मशीन को करवाना है। इस एक सैकेंड की गतिविधि को करने में फुजुत्सु निर्मित के (ख) को 4.0 मिनट लगे। याने तंत्रिका-गतिविधि के सामने अभी सुपर कंप्यूटर भी बहुत सुस्त हैं!

फिर भी अगर कृत्रिम बुद्धि से मानव की हीन ग्रंथि सजग होती है तब तो कैलकुलेटर की गति से भी होनी चाहिये। वास्तव में इंसान कृत्रिम बुद्धि को जन्म देता है पर इसका उल्टा हो ऐसा दूर दूर तक नजर नहीं आता। आखिर .कृत्रिम बुद्धि भी पैदा कैसे होती है? इंसान अपनी ही बुद्धि का विश्लेषण करता है। इसकी कार्यप्रणाली के नियम का अध्ययन करता है फिर वही नियम कंप्यूटर को उसकी भाषा में समझाता है यह सब करते करते आश्चर्य होता है कि अगर ईश्वर नहीं है तो ऐसा चमत्कारी कंप्यूटर अपने आप कैसे बन गया? सवाल यह भी है कि क्या हम कभी कृत्रिम मूर्खता बना सकते हैं? इंसान धोखा देने

के लिये कृत्रिम रूप से मूर्ख बन सकता है। क्या इंसान कम्प्यूटर को धूर्तता सिखला सकते हैं? कुछ भी हो कंप्यूटर इंसान की प्राकृतिक मूर्खताओं पर तो प्रकाश डालेंगे ही।

सोच लीजिये किसी ने एआई सुसज्जित कार को कहा : मुझे जल्दी से जल्दी मंजिल पर ले जाओ और कार यातायात के नियमों का उल्लंघन कर बीच में आई झोपड़ियों को तोड़ कर इंसानों को कुचलती हुई मंजिल तक पहुँच गई तो क्या होगा?

एक तीसरे तरह की कृत्रिम बुद्धि अभी परिकल्पना में है जिसमें रोबोट मानव से ज्यादा बुद्धिमान होंगे। शककी लोगों का कहना है रोबोट मानव को अपना दास बना लेंगे। वे स्वयं जीवित रहने के लिये मानवता को नष्ट कर देंगे। कुत्ते से मानव अधिक बुद्धिमान हैं और इतना फासला मानव और रोबोट में हो जायगा। मनुष्य महामारी से मरता है तो अपने लिये टीके का आविष्कार करता है पर सुअर महामारी के शिकार होते हैं तो सब की हत्या कर देते हैं। कल रोबोट हमारे साथ सुअर जैसा व्यवहार करेंगे क्योंकि रोबोट गहरी चेतना और अपनी इच्छा शक्ति वाले होंगे। घबराइये नहीं, ऐसे रोबोट अभी उपन्यास के क्षेत्र में विचरण करते हैं। स्वचालित हथियार आज भी हैं उनका निराकरण भी हो रहा है उसी प्रकार एआई से सुसज्जित हो कर वे ज्यादा भयंकर हो जायेंगे तब उनका तोड़ निकाला जायगा। बोस्ट्रोम का कहना है कि यह चिड़ियों द्वारा पालतु उल्लू को रखने जैसा है। चिड़ियों ने भी सोच लिया है कि जिस दिन उल्लू खतरनाक हो जायगा तब इस समस्या के बारे में सोचा जाएगा। फिर भी विश्वास किया जाता है कि कृत्रिम बुद्धि मानव के विरोध में न होकर मानव बुद्धि को अधिक सशक्त करेगी। □