

# II PU ENGLISH NOTES (SUMMARY)

## COURSE BOOK- SPRINGS

### 1. ROMEO AND JULIET

- William Shakespeare

#### 1. Between Romeo and Juliet, whose love, do you think, is more passionate and intense?

When the point of intensity and passion regarding TRUE LOVE among Romeo and Juliet arrives means, it is difficult to give right conclusions. Because both are committed to the extent of sacrificing their precious lives. But some critics inclined towards Juliet because she was just sixteen years old and displayed the maturity beyond her age. But the contribution of Romeo is no less when the point of contribution was arrived as Romeo is the person who took risk by attending the supper party of the Capulet's in disguise. This speaks that both are intensely carried away by True Love as Shakespeare cited example in his SONNET – 116. Here, True Love stood for SACRIFICE but not for any selfish claims. Unfortunately, both met with pre-matured death in the hands of cruel fate as both should have lived long for many years as SYMBOL FOR TRUE LOVE that was mentioned by the poet on many occasions. Even the role of Friar Lawrence in this part was no less as he played the chief character of protagonist as TRUE MESSIAH.

Finally, one can conclude that both Romeo and Juliet are passionate and intense lovers. One is not less and one is not more.

OR

It is difficult to say exactly between Romeo and Juliet, whose love falls to intensity and vigour. Both were prepared for sacrifices even to the extent of giving up respective lives. Though the rivalry continued between Montagues and Capulets since many generations, both Romeo and Juliet were not bothered. Even Friar Lawrence, the father as well as noble man, supported their LOVE selflessly by thinking that Rival Families will be united. Even in the view point of some

critics, though they have taken the side of Juliet, Romeo's contribution towards passionate love cannot be easily overthrown. It is Romeo, bearing risk, attended the Dinner party of Capulets and he who spoke with Juliet at first. Of course, in the course of time, Juliet too ensured and supported Romeo despite family hostility by taking support from Friar Lawrence. It is unfortunate that both of them met with Tragic Doom as both should have led long life to live and finding remedial measures between two rival families to attain peace in Verona.

**2. Comment on the IMAGERY of 'night-day, black-white' in the poem. What purpose do they serve in highlighting 'the intensity of love'?**

The imagery in the poem speaks through expressions i.e., 'night-day', 'black-white' in the given lines of poetic Drama, play Metaphoric and Metonymical roles. The compound words are definitely highlighting the intensity of love by standing as powerful symbols.

'Night-day' as in expression from the point of view of Juliet. Usually, 'night' stands for "hardship" as well as to "the darker side of life", even to the extent of "Death"; 'the night' was compared in parallel manner.

If 'Day' was taken for Metaphoric Comparison, 'Day' stands for "Happiness" as well as for "Bright Optimism". But in Juliet's case, 'Night', has become 'Day' and vice versa as she cannot meet Romeo in day time. For her, 'Night' brings "the joy of Festivity".

Same was the case with 'Black-White' combination when the expression was depicted. It speaks about Juliet's "unparalleled Beauty" as she was compared to "White dove" and "New Snow". Other beautiful women were compared metaphorically with "black ravens". Here, antithetical as well as paradoxical expressions are literally carried-over for justifying comparison. Here, far-fetched Metaphysical conceits too expressed "the Beauty of Juliet" in thriving manner that adds PROFOUNDNESS. The hyperbolic expression in the form of exaggeration definitely reminds us about John Donne and other Metaphysical Poets.

## 2. TOO DEAR !

- Leo Tolstoy (1828 – 1910)

### 1. Though the trial and imprisonment of the criminal is depicted in a comic mode in this story, it does give rise to serious questions. What are they?

Leo Tolstoy's "TOO DEAR!" is a satirical masterpiece regarding judiciary system. Here, the Russian writer gives an example of a tiny country called Monaco on the shore of Mediterranean sea with neighboring countries France and Italy. But for Monaco, the major part of revenue to Government exchequer comes from gaming houses where gambling like Roulette take common and chief role. As other European nations have banned gambling by thinking that it will spoil the Moral Discipline in Society as well as in country, people from these nations used to come to Monaco where gambling, drink and tobacco are available at will as no restrictions were imposed. Monaco, the tiny nation as well as toy kingdom where about seven thousand population with only sixty army men with Prince heading the State / nation with Courtiers, Ministers, Generals and with a Bishop.

The nation Monaco is known for peace and grace from long time. But unfortunately a murder has taken place to disturb the peace. Law took the right direction and capital punishment was sentenced on the criminal. Unfortunately in Monaco, no Executioner as well as guillotine were available to carry the punishment. Neighboring country France charged 16000 Francs and Italy charged 12000 Francs by giving concession of 4000 Francs. But the Government of Monaco is not able to spend that much of money on beheading the convict. Henceforth the death sentence was converted to life imprisonment. For life imprisonment also there is no strong jail in Monaco. The convict was kept in small Lock-up and food on regular basis was supplied from palace kitchen. The expenses went more than 600 Francs per year. Later, the guard for prison was removed. But the convict did not run away; rather he himself used to go to kitchen and used to bring food. But did not run away from the lock-up cell as the convict was getting royal food from the palace without 'labour and sweat'. Finally the convict was given Pension of 600 Francs. He received 1/3<sup>rd</sup> i.e., 200 Francs in advance and led his life peaceably well. But the victim and his family did not receive anything. Here, the question arises whether really law supported the victim. As the victim and his family did not get support rather the convict got every privilege and comfort. This is real irony and what is happening in the world around us. This is really a satire on Judiciary System where Tolstoy ridicules the lapses and mal functioning of administration and judiciary system.

### **3. ON CHILDREN**

- Khalil Gibran

- 1. “The poem ‘ On Children’ does not focus merely on the lives of children, but also talks about the responsibility of parents.” Discuss.**

‘On Children’ is a powerful poem speaking about contemporary materialistic theme where children do not perform their duties and responsibilities towards their elders and parents from Lebanese American artist and poet, Khalil Gibran in ironic tone. The poem ‘On Children’ is an excerpt as well as selection from the famous “The Prophet”.

The poet, in the tone of narrator in Prophetic Tune, speaks by cautioning parents not to depend on children though the children are born and brought up with agonies and pains. The tone of the poem is sarcastic when comes to the sense of belonging when children cannot be treated as their own part as children do have their own thoughts. Sometimes, the thoughts of children are far more advanced and the thoughts of parents fall lagging behind. Here, the tone of Prophet often warns people especially parents to go with time and get reprieved. Otherwise, parents should suffer anguish in their in their Last Days. Though it appears that the narrator who is in the form of Prophet, supporting children, actually expresses pain of the parents when they are not given required respect along with gratitude as the time and world are getting changed by becoming more materialistic and the parents are left alone forcibly at old age. Here, the tone of sarcasm appears as if it is taking the side of the children by reminding the duties and responsibilities of parents should be selfless and free from want of desire like expecting children that they will take care of adults and parents of ensuing future. The narrator, with one stroke, says that the expectations about children become futile in this materialistic world.

### **4. EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN THE FOREST**

- Vandana Shiva (Born in 1952)

- 1.” Conservation of Diversity is crucial for the sustenance of both nature and human society” discuss.**

It is a factual saying regarding sustenance of both Nature and Human society completely lies on Forests! Here, the narrator expresses grave concern as well as displeasure over the loss of forests in the wake of the development of infrastructure. Also the narrator condemns our exploitation of nature that brings the doom for not only human beings but also for entire Flora and Fauna. The saying of the narrator necessitates the protection of nature where already the mother earth was burdened by over exploitation of natural resources. Here, to protect our planet earth, our narrator is citing the examples of CHIPKO MOVEMENT that has been led by tribals in the Himalayan village of ADWANI in 1977, when a village woman named Bachni Devi led resistance against her own husband, who had obtained a contract to cut trees taking predominant role. The narrator then suggested that through CHIPKO MOVEMENT, she has learnt about BIO-DIVERSITY and BiO-diversity based living economies. She formed NAVDHANYA FARM in 1994, in the Doon Valley, located in the lower elevation Himalayan Region of Uttarakhand province where 630 varieties of Rice, 150 varieties of wheat and hundreds of other species were effortlessly grown to answer food and nutrition crisis. Later this led to 100 community seed banks across India. Also the NAVADHANYA Farm saved more than 3000, rice varieties. Further the narrator says that these movements will show as well as demonstrate practical things regarding the protection of natural resources and mother earth. She reminds through Tagore's sayings that "CONSERVATION" only prevails our planet from natural calamities like earthquakes, deforestation, global warming, soil erosion. Increasing the burden on our planet in the name of infrastructural development and other negative elements cause more devastation further, rather than providing convenience and comforts. Finally the narrator quotes by saying that Indian cultural epoch does have its base on forests as THE RAMAYANA and THE MAHABHARATA took their forms from forests only.

## **5. A SUNNY MORNING**

**- Serafin (1871 – 1938, ) &**

**Jouquin Alvarez Quintero (1873 – 1944 )**

**1. Trace how the IRONY is built in the PLAY? Did you guess the characters past even before they did so? (revealed)**

The play, "A SUNNY MORNING", written by serafin and Jouquin Alvarez Quintero who are known as "**GOLDEN BOYS OF MADRID THEATRE**", have taken a contemporary theme on aged people regarding how they are going to spend their ripe age that has poetically termed as AUTUMN as well as WINTER. The play is filled with both ROMANCE and IRONY. Even medieval theme

CHIVALRY too depicted in picturesque manner. Here, the speeches between Don Gonzalo who served as a captain in Spanish army and Dona Laura, who was known as Laura Llorente in her prime youth were loaded with IRONY and HUMOUR. Both are glorifying their YOUTH(Young days)by magnifying their characters and deeds. Laura says that she was the most beautiful among maidens available in Maricela. Gonzalo boasts that he has taken many risks without caring his precious life. Though both belong to the same place, they were reluctant to reveal their respective identity directly to each other. They pretended and acted as if they are other characters. This is the amusing irony displayed skillfully by the playwrights with great efficiency to great pinnacle. The plots are craftily knitted. The reading of love as well as amorous poems by Gonzalo at Ripe age is an art of humour by bringing laughter among audience. Thus, there is no second thought by calling the play that exhibits IRONY at maximum heights by displaying SARCASM as well as humour.

## **6. WHEN YOU ARE OLD**

**- William Butler Yeats (1865 – 1939)**

- 1. ‘ WHEN YOU ARE OLD’ is a poem of CONTRASTS. What contrasts do you find in the poem? What purpose do they serve?**

This is a poem of TWELVE LINES that can be called as LYRICAL – BALLAD in SHORT and PITHY(SMALL) written by the famous Nobel Laureate, W B Yeats. Yeats is the one of the greatest love poets of English literature as he is deservingly placed with John Donne, Richard Lovelace, Andrew Marvel, John Keats, Robert Burns, William Shakespeare and Lord Tennyson. Also yeats, the great Irish poet was termed as the greatest twentieth century poet.

Here, yeats speaks about love in strange and typical manner by making love as a tool or a weapon that stands for QUEERNESS. Here the poet, who is also happened to be narrator, imagines about his beloved that she will read his love poems after she grows old and cherishes a lot. This is really a peculiar way of thought that reminds us about SCHOOL OF METAPHYSICAL THOUGHT. In this poem, the beloved had the moments of glad grace when she was young, that attracted and enchanted many youth around her. But none of them are following the path of true love as their love is filled by lust, desire and infatuation rather than soulful benevolence. This also reminds us about Shakespeare’s SONNET-116 where true love is reflection of soul where DIVINITY stands

forever without any claim. But the youth failed to display Selfless Love. Only ONE MAN has displayed selfless love that reflects SOUL and DIVINITY. Here, the poet delivers the moral message that physical love is perishable and the love that was delivered by the soul is constant and selfless.

## **7. THE GARDENER**

**- P Lankesh (1935 – 2000)**

### **1. The rivalry between Tammanna and Basavaiah keeps moving from the visible domain to the invisible. Comment.**

THE GARDNER is a short narrative written by P Lankesh, and is translated into English by H S Raghavendra Rao. Here, the writer speaks clearly about the transformation of COMPETITION into RIVALRY, where healthy competition was replaced by unbearable vengefulness. This reminds about the cold-war situation of 1970s and 1980s that was prevailing between then USSR and United States of America. But a nation is able withstand and then overcome on Vengeful Activity without any surprise. This happens because of our ambition and intolerable jealousy over a neighbour that has been clearly cited between Tammanna and Basavaiah (Sangoji). But Tammanna displays great amount of endurance and remains stoic till last by taking self-inflicted punishment in walking way more than ONE HUNDRED miles: Though he was a landlord and owner to ONE THOUSAND acres of land, he left everything in the form of renunciation though he was not held responsible for Basavaiah's- uneventful death. Here, Rivalry was bitterly displayed by Basavaiah than that of Tammanna. The rivalry has grown to such an extent where Basavaiah expected the death of Tammanna when Tammanna fell sick. Here, the element of humanity was completely superceded where rivalry has been given priority. When comes to the point of view of rivalry that is moving from visible domain to invisible region, the element reminds us about the cold war situation that took between United States and USSR that prevailed between 1970 to 1991. Here, Tammanna found solution in writing Ballads and plays. The writer says that the problem between country to country can be changed in perceptive manner, but between individuals, it will not be changed. Finally, the delightful old man is none other than Tammanna himself.

## **8. TO THE FOOT FROM ITS CHILD**

- Pablo Neruda (1904 – 1973)

### **1. How do you testify the poem, TO THE FOOT FROM ITS CHILD as philosophy of Life?**

The poem TO THE FOOT FROM ITS CHILD was written by Pablo Neruda, the Nobel Laureate of 1971, belongs to Chile in South American Continent, remarks FOOT as an important particle from BIRTH to DEATH. These expressions remind us about great poet Dylan Thomas who was termed as John Keats of Twentieth Century. Here, at the outset, CHILD is unaware of the FOOT and its walk. The tiny foot of the child is compared to the sensitive and delicate BUTTERFLY as well as APPLE. Once the child grows, the foot will become hard and coarse by walking on the path that is full of stones, glass, ladders, (ladders do speak about ups-and-downs of life) that teaches that the foot cannot 'fly' as well as cannot become a fruit bulging on the branch of a tree. Along with time, the foot grows and experiences all sorts of life i.e., sufferings and happiness. "The foot will be imprisoned in the SHOE" is nothing but stands for the expression that "FOOT is restricted from Happiness". Finally the FOOT, has ceased and faced burial where the dreams could not get materialized fully and with perfection. Here, in this poem, the FOOT appreciably stands as SYMBOL for PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE where the element of Birth to Death has been clearly discussed. Here, the hard toil that stands for the path on earth where one has to treat by laboring pains or toiling pangs. Here it clearly says that the FOOT will stand only for WALK but not for FLY. Same was the case where ONE should not be over-ambitious that which will bring DOWNFALL rather than leading the LIFE constantly. "FOOT is therefore TOILING, but not for sitting LUXURIOUSLY."

## **9. I BELIEVE THAT BOOKS WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR**

- Interview with JORGE LUIS BORGES (1899 – 1986)

### **10. WHAT VALUE DOES BORGES SEE IN LITERATURE? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND?**

Jorge Luis Borges is an Argentine short-story writer, Essayist, Poet and Translator, was born in Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. Borges gives lot of value to LITERATURE. Especially while quoting Goethe, the 16<sup>th</sup> century writer-cum-philosopher of Germany, who quotes by



saying—“Alles Nahe Werd Fern” which means “All that is near becomes far.” Here JON VON GOETHE refers not only to the sunset, but also to life that speaks of old age with one-and-same EXPRESSION. That is the real power of LITERATURE which speaks of thoughts and perceptions. Also George Bernard Shaw’s quote says -- “Every book worth being re-read has been written by the spirit” speaks the value of the book that can be full of errors, we can reject its author’s opinions, disagree with him or her, but the book always retains something sacred, something mortal, something magical which brings happiness always. POETRY, which is part of LITERATURE, is something so intimate and so essential. POETRY also stands in finding the PRECISE WORDS.

Among the INVENTIONS of man, the books, without doubt, is the most astounding. Only the book is an extension of our imagination and memory. LITERATURE is a Dream and can also become a controlled Dream. Our PAST is nothing but a sequence of dreams. BOOKS ARE THE GREAT MEMORY OF ALL CENTURIES. THEIR HISTORY would disappear, and surely man as well as mankind will not survive anymore and FUTURE will not be existed. This is difficult to imagine.

## **10. HEAVEN, IF YOU ARE NOT HERE ON EARTH**

**- K V PUTTAPPA / KUVEMPU (1904 – 1994)**

### **1. How does the poet break the myth of HEAVEN in this poem?**

The poem HEAVEN, IF YOU ARE NOT HERE ON EARTH is an Aphostrophical Address to the BEAUTY OF NATURE by famous Kannada poet, Kuvempu. He says the presence of nature on this planet earth creates HEAVENLY PARADISE by adding joy to BEAUTY. The Joy and BEAUTY become perennial by remaining permanently dwelling on this earth. If nature is not existed, Living beings might not have arisen. Here the poet calls the BEAUTY OF THE NATURE as “BRINGER OF HEAVENLY JOY TO EARTH”. Later on, the JOY that makes ourselves as GODS. That means JOY purifies as well as purgates and makes human being as pious as god. The poet says that if GODS are not here, where would they exist, is a RHETORIC QUESTION. Even the BEAUTY and JOY make maidens as NYMPHS. Likewise, when GODS and NYMPHS existed here, there is no need to think about OTHER WORLD rather than our MOTHER EARTH. Later the poet depicts about roaring stream and rolling surf that add beauty as well as music of melody to the scenario. Even the morning sunshine that delicately falling on rich vegeted forests shine with Divine Beauty. Here, the morning sun that is rising brings Splendour and Grace to the NATURE. Even the moonlight on

harvesting season of Autumn, spills as well as scatters, by becoming the white moonlight at every place by making EARTH as HEAVEN. Through these picturesque description, the poet delineates by creating EARTH as TRUE PARADISE by adding BEAUTY OF NATURE with melodious music persistently.

## **11. JAPAN AND BRAZIL THROUGH A TRAVELLER'S EYE**

**- GEORGE MIKES (1912 – 1987)**

### **1. WHAT ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIAL LIFE, DO YOU THINK, WOULD APPEAR QUIANT AND ODD TO A FOREIGN TOURIST?**

According to George Mikes, who is a writer from Hungary, speaks about the importance of TRAVELLING that gives first-hand Knowledge and enriches Experience in direct manner. 'JAPAN and BRAZIL through A Traveller's Eye' which is an extract from two famous VOLUMES viz., "THE RISING OF THE YEN' And "HOW TO TANGO" narrates the cultural experiences of both JAPAN and BRAZIL that are quite contradictory.

In Japan, showing respect through bowing is a common factor among people. The narrator quotes by saying it is better than Western Culture where emotions were reflected without touching others comparatively to shaking hands and hugging that are from Middle East and West. The narrator says that though there is no telephone booth, the red phones that were used by the public, do not create any problem and one can maintain privacy all along. Here, the 'refinement of culture' in the social life of Japanese was thoroughly appreciated. Even in transport usage whether bus or railways, the custom of bowing takes place. In shops and other places, the bowing girls are there to welcome people. Even in parks, museums and other public places including Departmental Stores the professional bowing girls welcome people in humble manner.

When comes to the view of Brazil, the South American nation, it is quite contradictory as time punctuality was not at all considered. The discipline of Japan is totally absent in the mannerism of Brazilian public life. Rather commotion leads from fore-front as motor vehicle users are not concerned about pedestrians. When they happened to see a pedestrian crossing road, it is a stiff challenge to a vehicle driver to confront with. They come with maximum speed, as if they are going to knock down the pedestrian. Later they will give a friendly smile.

Likewise, George Mikes describes quaint and odd experiences of a foreign tourist in Humorous and delightful manner.

## **12. THE VOTER**

**- CHINUA ACHEBE (1930 – 2013)**

### **1. “DEMOCRACY IS MORE THAN NOTHING BUT HOLDING ELECTIONS REGULARLY.” DO YOU THINK THE STORY SUPPORTS THIS STATEMENT?**

It is very obvious that DEMOCRACY has turned today “A Mockery” where earlier principles got diluted completely. At present, people are prioritized factor in the name of ‘Election’. Corruption as well as bribery have taken leading roles. People do not get any ‘justice’. Common man’s life has become stagnated with meaninglessness. This is what Chinua Achebe ironically picturized in “THE VOTER” where the values are getting deteriorated day-by-day. Earlier, after 1789 AD i.e., to the fag and of 18<sup>th</sup> Century, where French revolution yielded Democracy, people anticipated that DEMOCRACY would lead people in righteous way where at present it went in opposite manner.

Even African countries were in dream that DEMOCRACY would save people by giving good governance have become ‘a futile dream’. Here, Achebe projects a small but powerful incident about a village in Nigeria which is also the remotest. Here, only ONE BUNGALOW has electricity and rest of the said village does not have power. The bungalow belongs to Marcus Ibe, who was minister of culture. Earlier, Marcus Ibe was working as a teacher in a local school and was in a position to lose his job as he was complained by a lady teacher for his impolite and embarrassing behavior. Later, he resigned and joined politics and of late gained popularity. He was ably supported by one Rufus Okeke was popularly known as Mr. Roof, who was an expert in reading the pulses of people. Later, Roof was taken to the comp of Maduka , and was bribed five pound note. Here Mr. Roof, who represents common man, loses principles. At the time of voting, Roof was carried by dilemma and was undecided till last moment whom to vote. Later he tears the ballot sheet and puts both halves in two respective Ballot boxes of Maduka and Ibe. Here, we can notice that the system of DEMOCRACY is completely failed and democracy has given way to corruption to settle issues in favour of administrators than that of people.

## **13. WHERE THERE IS A WHEEL**

**- PALAGUMMI SAINATH**

### **1. HOW DOES P. SAINATH SHOW THAT CYCLING BRINGS ABOUT 'CHANGES BEYOND ECONOMIC GAINS'?**

Here P. Sainath, the writer – narrator stresses note of social change than that of economic gains. WHERE THERE IS A WHEEL is an excerpt from Sainath's famous book viz., EVERYBODY LOVES A GOOD DROUGHT. PUDUKKOTTAI, which is a place as well as district in southern Tamil Nadu was termed as one of the poorest as well as backward districts of India where poverty and backwardness remain as salient features. Till 1991, there was no change, and remained impenetrable. But the change came as 'a sweeping wave' when Sheela Rani Chunkath took the in charge of the district in 1991 and implemented ' Literacy Drive'. To cover-up remote villages where transportation is poor, the district collector insisted CYCLING which later became a big movement. The district collector of PUDUKKOTTAI, Sheela Rani Chunkath also compelled banks to provide LOANS for women to buy bicycles. Later on, Arivoli Iyyakkam ( which is also known as Light of knowledge movement) came to existence led by N. Kannammal who happened to be central co-ordinator for Arivoli movement. She is also one of the pioneers and given yeomen service for both literacy drive and cycling. The movement brought a revolutionary change in the Pudukkottai district by gaining momentum both in education and economic tidings (causes). Also a social change took over on war-footing manner as women are able to gain social status by becoming independent and self-reliant. Here, rather than economic gains, self-independence plays CHIFFTAIN ROLE. Women are completely involved in both domestic and commercial Tidings. To drop children to school, to fetch water from distant places, to do vendoring, women are not depending on their male counterpart. Even to inspire the movement, Muthu Bhaskaran wrote cycling anthem. Slogans like "Every woman should learn cycling" and "ALL WOMEN OUGHT TO LEARN CYCLING" took sweeping change and at present, PUDUKKOTTAI district is fastly marching towards DEVELOPMENT.

**OR**

Palagummi Sainath very clearly described about CYCLING that brought a Revolutionary change in the lives of people in PUDUKKOTTAI and surrounding of Tamilnadu state. PUDUKKOTTAI district one of the most backward and poverty- stricken districts of not only Tamilnadu, but also of India. Since so many years, the Pudukkottai region remained poor and backward.

Though people are working hard, still they remain poor without many changes. In 1991, it is Sheela Rani Chunkath, the newly appointed district collector introduced and encouraged CYCLING

to make LITERACY DRIVE in the district as a successful event. It is the brainchild of Chunkath to have 'mobility' as a part of Literacy Drive. This brought lot of changes in the lives of people especially lives of women. Later Arivoli Iyakkam (Light of Knowledge Movement) was formed and took later initiatives further. N Kannammal happened to be central co-ordinator and one of the pioneers of the cycling movement throttled the movement and gave confidence by leading from front. Here, the movement stood both for new-literate and learned and termed as 'neo-cyclist'. Fatima is a secondary school teacher, Jameela Bibi and their friend Avakkanni, who are all in their early twenties, have trained scores of other young girls regarding the art of CYCLING. N. Kannammal, the central co-ordinator, a science graduate, had inspired many young girls regarding CYCLING by standing forefront. Even exhibition-cum-contests happened to be organized to rise spirits among girls and women. Over 70, 000 women, as a part of display, proudly exhibited their skills. This happened to be one of the largest rallies of PUDUKKOTTAI district. Here, women agricultural workers, quarry labourers, village health nurses as well as all other women became part of CYCLING that stood after women's personal independence.

At present, one can clearly observe that a woman doing a four kilometer stretch on her cycle to collect water, to take children to their schools, taking provisions from other places and other tasks without depending on their male-counterpart. Participating in Kilaikukruchi village for cycling training camp is an unusual experience. Even men too joined their hands. Muthu Bhaskaran has written the so-called famous line – "Oh! Sister, come learn CYCLING, move with with the WHEEL OF TIME..." has become ANTHEM OF CYCLING MOVEMENT.

Likewise, P.Sainath brought the unique experience of revolutionary change in the lives of women beyond ECONOMIC GAINS of PUDUKKOTTAI region of Southern TAMIL NADU.

## **14. WATER**

**- CHALLAPALLI SWAROOPA RANI (BORN IN 1968)**

- 1. HOW DOES THE POEM DEMONSTRATE THE DISPARITY AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR SOCIETY USING 'WATER' AS "SYMBOL"?**

**OR**

**TRACE 'THE JOURNEY OF WATER' FROM ANCIENT TIMES AS A SYMBOL OF PURITY TO THE AGE OF MULTINATIONAL MARKET WHERE IT IS A COMMODITY.**

WATER is a powerful poem of struggle and strife written by famous Telugu Poetess, Challappalli Swaropa Rani in her Vernacular which was later translated into English by Uma Bhrugubanda.

The POEM speaks about the necessity of water to one and all. Through water only one can quench the thirst. Water can become both constructive (productive) and destructive FORCE. It can save life, from one point, and at the same time, it can demolish with devastating force through tsunami or cyclonic storm. The poetess says that the struggle for water is not new as it has been happening since so many ages and centuries.

Earlier, water was to be utilized even in traditional ceremonies for PURIFICATION, BAPTIZING and other RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES. But at present age, the same water has become COMMERCIAL COMMODITY rather than DOMESTIC TIDING.

The poetess also shows serious concern by taking the incident Karamchedu village in Chirala taluk in Prakasham district of Andhra Pradesh where SIX PEOPLE had sacrificed (actually SIX PEOPLE were massacred) their precious lives for the sake of a pot of water on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1985. The poetess uses simple irony by humorously quoting that water has been restricted in Bisleri Bottle where rich class use in the manner of fancy.

Likewise, regarding water, the poetess adds numerous factors from religious aspects to commercial aspects, with aplomb. She calls the water as a mute spectator for CENTUREIES OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE where UNTOUCHABILITY never disappears from SOCIETY. While fetching water women folk faced a lot of humiliation.

Even while quoting certain historical events where water stood as witness we can memorize a couple of incidents :

- i) The war between Porus and Alexander, the great, at the banks of Jhelum (RAAVI, BEAS, CHENAB, JHELUM and SUTLEJ are five sub-rivers of SINDHU MAHA RIVER)
- ii) The war between Harshavardhan and Pulakeshi – ii on the banks of Narmada, INDUS-VALLEY civilization, EGYPTIAN civilization, and GREEK civilization to speak about the importance of water where world's GREAT CIVILIZATIONS based on water only.

Thus the Role of Water in the lives of human beings is very important since time immemorial whether it is in HISTORY or in MYTHOLOGY. The great sacrificial death of SHRAVAN KUMAR has taken place on the banks of RIVER SARAYAU near Ayodhya as river SARAYU stands as witness in VALMIKI RAMAYANA, the Aadi Kavya, too reveals the important role of water that stands after SERVICE TO PARENTS and SACRIFICE.