



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
संस्कृति संबंधितालय
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India, Calcutta

Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre

FEBRUARY 2022

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Glimpses of 73rd Republic Day Celebrations, Colombo

Highlights of the flag hoisting ceremony at India House



Special Reception in the evening

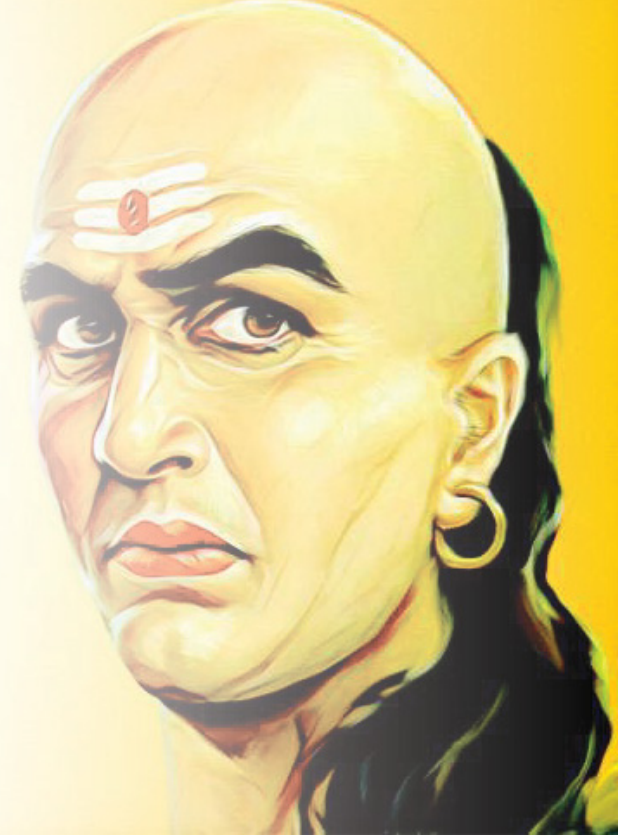


Glimpses of 73rd Republic Day Celebrations, Colombo

'Divyanubhuti' – An Evening of Oddisi Dance



THE FATHER OF ANCIENT ECONOMY & POLITICAL SCIENCE



ORIGIN:

Chanakya was from Takshashila (now in Pakistan). He was well-versed in three Vedas and politics. He had canine teeth, which were believed to be a mark of royalty. His mother feared that he would neglect her after becoming a king. To pacify her, Chanakya broke his teeth. Chanakya was said to be ugly, accentuated by his broken teeth and crooked feet.

REVENGE:

One day, the king Dhana Nanda organized an alms-giving ceremony for Brahmins. Chanakya went to Pupphapura (Pushpapura) to attend this ceremony. Disgusted by his appearance, the king ordered him to be thrown out of the assembly. Chanakya broke

his sacred thread in anger and cursed the king. The king ordered his arrest, but Chanakya escaped in the disguise of an Ajivika.

He befriended Dhananada's son Pabbata, and instigated him to seize the throne. With help of a signet ring given by the prince, Chanakya fled the palace through a secret door.

Chanakya escaped to the Vinjha forest. There, he made 800 million gold coins, using a secret technique that allowed him to turn 1 coin into 8 coins. After hiding this money, he started searching for a person worthy of replacing Dhana Nanda. One day, he saw a group of children playing: the young Chandragupt played the role of a king, while other boys pretended to be

vassals, ministers, or robbers. The "robbers" were brought before Chandragupt, who ordered their limbs to be cut off, but then miraculously re-attached them. Chandragupt had been born in a royal family but was brought up by a hunter after his father was killed by a usurper, and the devatas caused his mother to abandon him. Astonished by the boy's miraculous powers, Chanakya paid 1000 gold coins to his foster-father, and took Chandragupt away, promising to teach him a trade.

Chanakya had two potential successors to Dhana Nanda: Pabbata and Chandragupt. He

gave each of them an amulet to be worn around the neck with a woolen thread. One day, he decided to test them. While Chandragupt was asleep, he asked Pabbata to remove Chandragupt's woolen thread without breaking it and without waking up Chandragupt. Pabbata failed to accomplish this task. Sometime later, when Pabbata was sleeping, Chanakya challenged Chandragupt to complete the same task. Chandragupt retrieved the woolen thread by cutting off Pabbata's head. For the next seven years, Chanakya trained Chandragupt for royal duties. When Chandragupt became



an adult, Chanakya dug up his hidden treasure of gold coins, and assembled an army.

The army of Chandragupt and Chanakya invaded Dhana Nanda's kingdom, but disbanded after facing a severe defeat. While wandering in disguise, the two men once listened to the conversation between a woman and her son. The child had eaten the middle of a cake, and thrown away the edges. The woman scolded him, saying that he was eating food like Chandragupt, who attacked the central part of the kingdom instead of conquering the border villages first.

Chanakya and Chandragupt realized their mistake. They assembled a new army, and started conquering the border villages. Gradually, they advanced to the kingdom's capital Pataliputra, where they killed the king Dhana Nanda. Chanakya ordered a fisherman to find the place where Dhana Nanda had hidden his treasure. As soon as the fishermen informed Chanakya about its location, Chanakya had him killed. Chanakya anointed Chandragupt as the new king, and tasked a man named Paniyatappa with eliminating rebels and robbers from the kingdom.

Chanakya started mixing small doses of poison in the new king's food to make him immune to poisoning attempts by the enemies. Chandragupt, who was not aware of this, once shared the food with his pregnant queen, who was seven days away from delivery. Chanakya arrived just as the queen ate the poisoned morsel. Realizing that she was going to die, Chanakya decided to save the unborn child.

He cut off the queen's head and cut open her belly with a sword to take out the fetus. Over the next seven days, he placed the fetus in the belly of a goat freshly

killed each day. After seven days, Chandragupt's son was "born". He was named Bindusara, because his body was spotted with drops of goat's blood.

Books & Quotes

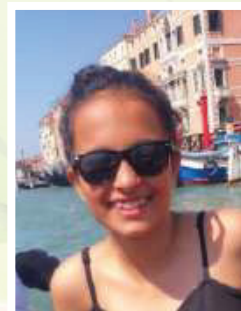
Chanakya's most famous writing is the Arthashastra. The Arthashastra is an ancient Sanskrit book on the statecraft, economic policy and military strategy. This book was lost for many years until it was rediscovered in the 1905 by R. Shamasastri who published it in 1909 and the first English translation was published in 1915.

"As soon as fear approaches near, attack and destroy it" "Even if the destination or the desired object be far away or difficult to achieve, one can reach it or get it if one is determined. Nothing is impossible for a determined person"

– Chanakya
a worldwide legend.

By

Shivangi Mishra



1 Tuesday	Inauguration of a photo exhibition of 'Buddhist sites in India' at Vidyalkar Pirivena	Monthly Lecture Series - 44,45,47,48 Online Yoga lecture / workshop sessions for Param Dhamma Chaitya Pirivena, Ratmalana by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India	6 to 27 Every Sundays 4.00 pm
2 Wednesday	An event to felicitate winners of the 'International Buddhism quiz'	Sanskriti Sandhya Series – 16 An evening of Flute Recital by Shasthrapathi Daminda Rangana Athauda, Banaras Hindu University, India & Lecturer -SLTC	7 Monday
3 Thursday	Installation of Rabindranath Tagore bust at Sri Palee campus, University of Colombo	Poya day celebration - 19 Navam Full Moon Poya Day	16 Wednesday
4 Friday	An Event to announce Hindi Sevi Samman	Sanskriti Sandhya Series - 17 An evening of Tabla Recital by Sangit Nipun Isuru Perera, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura	18 Friday
5 Saturday 7.30pm	Monthly Lecture Series - 43 Online Yoga : Science and Therapy of Surya Namaskar by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India	Lecture Series - 46 Online Yoga – Upasana Yoga of Swami Dayanand Saraswati by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India	19 Saturday 7.30pm
		Sanskriti Sandhya Series- 18 Lecture cum Devotional dance 'Sivamayam' Lord Shiva worship in Sri Lanka By Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan (Outstanding scholar & Renowned Bhartha Natya artiste)	28 Monday 6.00pm

For details in regard to online classes on Bharatha Natyam, Kathak, Sitar, Violin, Tabla, Carnatic vocal, Yoga and Hindi please call on tell no. +94 77 672 6143 or email to iccrcolombo3@gmail.com.
For upcoming facebook live events, visit www.facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka

Free Events. All are cordially invited.