In the News

17th Lok Sabha Election

POWER PUNCH

Modi vs Mithun

It is not Nalin, Mithun is fighting against. It is against Modi’s ‘Hindutva’ agenda.

Feature

‘Bellyfit’ rage Grips Mangaluru
Respected Voters,

Elections to the Lok Sabha are due again. You have placed your faith in me in the last two elections and I have the confidence that I have lived up to your faith by working for the development of my constituency.

Much developmental work has been carried on in the last two terms. More than Rupees 16,000 crores of grants have flown into the constituency and these have been utilised for various developmental projects.

I have been working tirelessly, almost 17 hours every day, to meet party workers, connect with the electorate and review projects. I'm proud to state that I have not been involved in scandals nor accused of corruption or favouring any particular community or caste in the discharge of my duties as a representative of the people.

The party has chosen me to be its candidate once again and I express gratitude to all for the trust reposed in me.

If India is to be a world leader we need to bring BJP to power once again. We need to have Modiji as Prime Minister once again. We need to come together to support his efforts to strengthen the nation by electing BJP candidates.

This is my appeal to you to elect me as your Lok Sabha representative once again. The symbol of the lotus is symbolic of a resurgent India under Modiji and hence I request you to cast your vote in its favour.

I hope to have the benefit of your blessings and goodwill through your vote for the BJP.

Regards,

Nalin Kumar Kateel
“Legal knowledge is not the exclusive domain of lawyers and judges. It is the duty of people from all walks of life to have basic knowledge of the law”
Principal District and Sessions Judge Kadluru Satyanarayanacharya after flagging off legal awareness chariot.

“There is a need for parental intervention in making children culturally productive. But it is sadly missing these days”
former cricketer Syed Kirmani in a programme at Mangalore University.

“A real achievement is the one that motivates others to have a noble life”
Karnataka Bank Managing Director and CEO Mahabaleshwara M S at the foundation laying ceremony of the Karnataka Bank sponsored open-air theatre at University College in Mangaluru.

“Despite more than 250 films being released every year, Kannada films are yet to draw good audience”
eminent film director P Seshadri at the inaugural of Nitte International Film Festival.

“It is possible to revive crafts as a living tradition. Only then it can become a substantial sector providing livelihood and not just a market for souvenirs”
Prasanna, theatre director and social activist at the inaugural of Kamala Gallery at Heritage Village, Manipal.
Voting for a PM, not MP

It is not jobs, economy or farmer issues that voters in Dakshina Kannada are worried about. The Hindutva hotbed, has largely bought into the idea of nationalism and national security in this election. From Mangaluru city to the interior villages of Belthangady, people are barely familiar with Rafale deal but are aware of the Pulwama attack and the ensuing Balakot air strikes. They have forgotten the de-monetisation and other mis-adventures of the Modi government.

This is the 3rd general election after the re-bifurcation of Parliamentary constituencies in 2009. When the first Lok Sabha polls were held in 1951 this constituency was known as South Kanara. Later in 1957, named as Mangalore Lok Sabha constituency, comprising parts of Kodagu was formed. In the re-bifurcation of constituencies in 2009 Kodagu was dropped and the whole of Dakshina Kannada came under DK constituency.

In the past 16 Lok Sabha elections, Congress had won 9 times and BJP 7 times from here. From 1951 to 1989 it was a sweep by the Congress while from 1991 to 2014 the BJP had won the Mangalore constituency continuously.

For the third time in a row, BJP has fielded Nalin Kumar Kateel, who has represented the constituency since 2009. The Congress, in its grand plans of appealing to the Hindutva narrative, has fielded Mithun Rai, a popular youth leader and a debutante. However, voters of the constituency seem to be keen on voting for a Prime Minister directly and not an MP. The MP, for most voters is just a means of ensuring that their favourite party comes back to power. In the 2018 assembly elections, the BJP had swept seven out of the eight seats, with the only exception of Mangaluru, where Congress’ UT Khader won.

An interesting battle line has been drawn up with incumbent BJP MP Nalin Kumar Kateel against Mithun Rai of the Congress. The DK constituency which has seen continuous victory of BJP candidates since 1991, now has a promising contender in Mithun Rai, a dashing young Congress upstart who has shown an amazing proclivity to take on the Hindutva juggernaut head on. So who will the electorate choose as their next MP? Nalin Kumar Kateel, who is facing severe anti-incumbency or Mithun Rai who is projecting himself to an energetic youth dynamo?

Will Dakshina Kannada once again elect a BJP candidate helping the party claim that it continues to be a saffron bastion or will the Congress be able to make inroads in this constituency which was once its stronghold? Will the electorate vote for change? Let us wait for the final day.
WILL DK VOTE FOR CHANGE?

NALIN KUMAR KATEEL
VS
MITHUN RAI

FACE OFF!

It’s a straight contest between the BJP’s incumbent MP Nalin Kumar Kateel and Congress upstart Mithun Rai for capture of the Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha constituency. Who will the voter favour this time?

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INDIA’S GENERAL ELECTION
Dance of Democracy or Time to worry about Leadership Crisis

Through this election voters should send a strong message to all the political parties to uphold India’s civilizational values of “simple living and high thinking” and the constitutional mandate of secularism, writes Bhamy V. Shenoy.

TRIBUTE 36

Adieu Nikhil Pai

Popular Mangalorean food blogger Nikhil Pai is no more. He was one of the founders of The 3 Hungry Men, a food review group. He was also an amateur cartoonist. Our city has indeed lost a creative soul. KUDPI RAJANIKANTH SHENOY, a fellow foodie, pays to tribute to his young friend.
I remember visiting the Shreemanthi Bai Memorial Museum during my childhood days a couple of times and was awed by the large collection of stuffed animals and birds there. Sad to know that this collection has been moved to Mysore. Thanks to Mangalore Today and Dr Anil Shetty for enlightening us about the history of this museum and about Col. Vaman Raghunath Mirajkar who donated the bungalow to be used as a museum in memory of his mother.

K.G. SHENOY, Mumbai

The write-up "Importance of Good Memory for Students" was very educative. Thanks to Dr Anantha Prabhu G for this informative article which is a must read for students. It is often a common complaint of students that they easily forget what they have learnt. Many students even lack concentration in studies owing to various factors.

IRIS LOBO, Mangaluru

It is said that Consumer is the King. But in modern times, consumer is often taken for a ride, if he fails to be alert and aware. A consumer should be aware of his rights and also about the precautions that he needs to take before purchasing any product. Also he should know the measures that he can opt in case he finds the product he purchased substandard in nature. The article 'Time to reinvent India's consumer movement' by Bhamy V Shenoy is an eye opener.

LALITH KUMAR, Mangaluru

"Challenges aplenty for Ayodhya mediators" by Flavia Agnes was thought provoking. While there is an ardent hope that this long standing dispute would be settled once for all, there are also questions if the mediators would be able to solve the impasse.

DENNIS D'SOUZA, Mangaluru

The Ayodhya dispute has been haunting India since decades. The BJP on its part had tried to use the Ram Mandir construction issue for its political gains. Now, probably as a last resort, the Supreme Court has decided to go in for mediation through a three member panel. But, will this yield any result is the big question.

SUDHIR BHANDARY, Mangaluru

Students need good memory power if they have to excel in academics. Forgetfulness is something that is not only affecting seniors but also youngsters. Too many distractions have been hampering the concentration power of the students. Contrary to the past, children are now exposed to too many electronic gadgets.

SUKUMAR NAIK, Mangaluru

- Sand is a vital resource for the construction industry as also for various other infrastructural development. Of late sand mining has become a contentious issue mainly due to the presence of mafia which is resorting to indiscriminate sand mining by flouting all rules. Mangalore Today Cover Story gave us an insight into the sand issue.

DENZIL FERNANDEZ, Mangaluru

- Newspaper reports daily mention of raids on illegal sand mining areas and seizing of sand, equipment and vehicles. The authorities are on their toes no doubt. But sand has turned out to be gold reaping huge profits for the sand miners who prefer to smuggle sand to other places in order to sell them at exorbitant prices.

K.S. KAMATH, Mangaluru

- It is a welcome sign that the district administrations of DK and Udupi have tightened the noose on sand mining ensuring CRZ areas are safe. It is true that sand mining is mainly carried by persons having political patronage. Many a time sand is extracted so indiscriminately that there are chances of it doing harm to the river bed as well as the ecosystem of the rivers.

VIJAY KUMAR, Mangaluru

- Though of late sand mining issue continues to be in troubled waters, the need of the hour is for the government to chalk out a clear cut policy and strict measures to check indiscriminate sand mining by appointing officers to oversee the sand extraction activities.

VIJITH ACHARYA, Mangaluru

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VIJITH ACHARYA, Mangaluru
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Much to the worry of Mangalureans, the city as well as the twin districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are on the brink of another water crisis. With water level at Thumby vented dam reducing the District Administration has implemented water rationing in Mangaluru city.

As of now water inflow into the dam has completely stopped. For the second time in the past 15 days water has been released from the AMR Dam at Shambur to the Thumby dam helping it maintain a water level of just above five meters.

The water level at AMR dam presently is just above half a meter. Last year, around this time this dam had 5.5 meter water. This year the administration has also ensured disconnection of electricity to pumpsets as farmers have been using 1000 HP pumpsets to draw water from Nettavathi.

Every day 160 MLD of water is supplied to the city from the Thumby vented dam and given the existing situation and the fact that the recent rains in Subrahmanya and many other places in the district has not aided in water inflow, the situation at present looks bleak, lest there is plenty of rainfall in the next few days. The Deputy Commissioner has already advised people to use water judiciously.

Though water problem is nothing new for Mangaluru in the recent few years, there was a ray of hope that the problem may not crop up this year. The erstwhile Mayor Bhasker K had in January stated that as water was stored at six meters height at Thumby vented dam and there was around 14.25 million cubic meters of water at the AMR dam, it was suffice for next 150 days and therefore there was no possibility of water shortage this time. However, that does not seem to be the case given the present situation.

It was in 2016 that Mangaluru had faced the worst water crisis. The summer that year turned out to be too gruelling for the city residents as well as people in various parts of the district. The administration as well as elected representatives on their part while sympathising with the hardships of the people, had vowed that the city would not face such water crisis in the coming years and assured all would be well in the coming years, when water is stored in the new vented dam.

There was much talk about making rain water harvesting compulsory and many more measures and the citizens were rest assured that there will be no water problem next year.

The next year too though there was a hints of water crisis, timely rains saved Mangaluru. But, why is it that a region that receives pretty good rainfall is facing water problem. To be precise the city as well as the district has failed in water management, point out experts. Destruction of forests and wetlands and poor management of water resources are also responsible for the problem to some extent.

Even failure to rejuvenate lakes has added to the problem. Though Mangaluru and its surroundings have 15 lakes, except Gujjarakere nothing much is made towards rejuvenation of other lakes.

The only hope now is that there would be plenty of rain in the Nettavathi catchment areas so that the water woes of the region would end soon. ■
In dilemma

Udupi-Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha Constituency for the first time is witnessing an election in the absence of a Congress candidate. Thanks to the seat sharing agreement between Congress and JD(S), this time it is a direct fight between the BJP and the JD(S). No matter what, the Congress is in a real piquant situation. It has to campaign for the former party MLA who has switched sides and is in the JD(S) and is fighting on a JD(S) ticket. The JD(S) which literally has no existence in the district had quickly extended its hands to Pramod Madhwaraj when he met the leaders. Will Pramod remain in the JD(S) in case he wins, is also a question. That’s not all, this is the first time in the history of Udupi Lok Sabha constituency that the Congress is not contesting for a seat where it had won a maximum ten times. Indeed a pitiable situation for the national party. Why the Congress decided to let this constituency for the JD(S) is also a question mark.

‘What else do we need?’

“We have an airport and we have a port. What else do we need here now?”

Imagining what’s this? It is an answer given by a former Congressman who is now in the BJP and is also its spokesperson.

The BJP man, none other than Harikrishna Bantwal was visibly fumbling and searching for words when he was asked to list at least one achievement of sitting MP and BJP candidate Nalin Kumar Kateel in the past ten years, during a press meet in the city.

Harikrishna also had no answer when asked about the utilisation of funds brought to the constituency by Nalin. Instead of answering, he preferred to play the Modi card eventually failed to give a reasonable reply to the direct questions.

A lesson forever

Speed kills. However in this particular accident that happened near Ladyhill circle, the speeding young car driver had a miraculous escape. The car had hit the median and a lamp post before overturning. Though the vehicle was badly mangled, the driver was lucky to survive. Speed did not kill him, probably the young man who might have had a near death experience, may never resort to speeding and may also advise others against speeding.
Cyanide Mohan gets lifer in two more murder cases

Serial killer Cyanide Mohan alias Mohan Kumar has been sentenced to life in two more cases of murder of women. The sixth Additional District and Sessions Court passed the judgement recently. With this Mohan has been convicted in nine out of the 20 cases against him.

On Wednesday, the court convicted him in connection with the case of murder of a 34 year old beedi worker in Bantwal. The murder took place on January 23, 2009 at the KSRTC bus stand in Madikeri where the woman was found dead. The other case pertains to a 32 year old woman from Peraje in Madikeri taluk. She was found dead at the KSRTC bus stand at Mysuru on March 10, 2009.

In all the cases, the modus operandi of Mohan was the same. He used to first befriend the women, take them to a lodge, rape them on the promise of marrying them and then give them cyanide pills after making them believe that it was a contraceptive.

In both cases, Mohan has been given lifer without any remission. A fine of Rs 3000 each has been imposed under different sections of IPC for five of his offences including robbery, destroying evidence, rape, administering stupefying drugs and cheating.

Automative learning Factory opens at NMAMIT

The Automotive Learning Factory (ALF) under the department of Mechanical Engineering at NMAM Institute of Technology, Nitte was inaugurated recently by N Vinay Hegde, Chancellor, Nitte (Deemed to be University) and President of Nitte Education Trust. The main objective of this Learning Factory is to provide hands-on training and skill development to the students such as project-based learning in order to meet the requirements of outcome-based education and current trends in Automotive Engineering. Currently, this factory houses an operational Ashok Leyland chassis (222 Viking BS4 – Selective Catalytic Reactor (SCR)) and a variety of automotive components. Another attractive feature is a BMW Twin Power Turbo Engine with 8 Speed Steptronic transmission sponsored by BMW India under BMW SkillNxt programme for student training purpose.

In his inaugural speech, Vinay Hegde expressed his desire for more collaboration between institute and industry such that students can get better industry exposure which will lead to producing industry-ready engineers during the time of their graduation.

Vishal Hegde, Pro-chancellor, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Dr M S Moodithaya, pro vice-chancellor, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Rajendra (director, Finance & Planning, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Harikrishna Bhat (former president, HCL Ltd, Japan), Dr Niranjan N Chipulkar, principal, vice principals Dr I R Mithanthaya and Dr Shrinivasa Rao B R, Dr. Parameswaran, director, Institute Industry Interaction and professors of the department were present during this ceremony.

As a part of Active Learning, a mini project exhibition was also organised during this occasion where students fabricated and presented the working models of automobile subsystems.

Kamala Gallery inaugurated in Manipal

Kamala Gallery opened in memory of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaaya, a national leader who also strived to protect the handlooms and handicraft sector, was inaugurated by Prasanna, eminent theatre director and social activist at the Heritage Village in Manipal. The Vijaynath Shenoy Memorial Hall was inaugurated by Gita Ram, Chairperson, Crafts Council of India, Chennai. The gallery has 40 photographs related to Kamaladevi.

In his address, Prasanna said handloom and handicrafts sector provide ample job opportunities for rural folk.
Finally, Vijaya Bank has faded into history with its formal merger with Bank of Baroda along with Dena Bank. The several protests held to retain the identity of the Bank eventually proved a futile exercise. There was particularly anger as Vijaya Bank which was founded in the district was a profit making bank and was considered the pride of the district.

Founded in the year 1931, the Bank had 2,129 branches across the nation with around 15,874 employees and had registered a business of Rs 2.79 lakh crores. Another distinct feature of the Bank was that 60% of its branches were in rural areas. It expanded during the late Sunder Ram Shetty’s tenure in the 1960s. The Bank was nationalised in 1980.

April 1, the day of merger of Vijaya Bank was observed a ‘Black Day’ by Congress workers in the district. Congress workers wearing black badges also staged a protest in front of the Vijaya Bank Mallikatte branch. They alleged that the MP has failed to fulfil his promise of saving Vijaya Bank.

Meanwhile, addressing press persons in the city Vijaya Bank Retired Officers’ Association Convenor Balappa Shetty the merger issue was used for political gains. He also claimed that the merger process was initiated during UPA government tenure and that Congress leaders like Oscar Fernandes and M. Veerappa Moily did nothing to stop it.

In another development, former director of the bank Subbayya Shetty said that the merger of profit-making Vijaya bank with loss-making banks is a 'dictatorial' decision and that the move was not intended to strengthen the banking system.

The electrification of the Konkan Railway route is presently underway as per the instructions of the Indian Railway. The electrification process of the 320 km long track from Thokur near Mangaluru upto Varna in Goa is underway at a cost of Rs 800 crores and is expected to be completed by 2020.

The project had commenced in September 2017 and the work from Thokur to Bijur is in the final phase while work is underway from Bijoor to Verna and from Verna to Roha and Veer.

As usage of diesel for trains was also expensive but also time consuming. The electrification of the line is expected to be of great help in this direction.

Presently, the Matsyagandha train that leaves Mangaluru Central at 2.35 pm reaches the Lokamanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai at 6.35 am the next day. The train takes 16 hours to cover a distance of 835 kms. During rainy season the train takes another additional two and a half hours to reach its destination.

Once the line is electrified the train will travel at a speed of 85 to 105 kmph.

Chocolate lovers had a fantastic time, thanks to the second edition of NICO’s Chocolate Street, a two-day chocolate festival organised at the Forum Fiza Mall in Mangaluru by the final year students of Nitte Institute of Communication (NICO).

The Festival provided a platform not only for entrepreneurs but also home bakers to present their products before the public. Everything from chocolate cupcakes, to puddings, pastries, smoothies, ice creams was on display and sale at the festival. The Festival was inaugurated by Chef Sinu Vijayan, executive chef at The Taj Gateway by symbolically cutting a cake.
To be or not to be (political)

The artists, rationalists, authors, dramatists and many more who have been persecuted by this regime have the feeling that its return to power will be the end of secularism, democracy and dissent in this nation, writes Prof. Narendra Nayak.

This question of this typical Hamletian dilemma posed to the section of the who are supposed to be apolitical is now to be answered. It was previously a question of govt's come and go but the laws remain and the basic structure of the constitution based on which the country came into existence remains unchanged! The fundamental rights of the citizens would remain unchaged and the artists, academicians would retain their freedom of expression. The first time this came under challenge was during the years of the infamous emergency of Indira Gandhi. This dark period in the history of nation was brought to an end when she declared elections and got defeated. The regime change that followed gave the message to the nation that no individual was indispensable to the nation.

Though the subsequent rule of her party was turning to be disastrous and with issues like Operation Blue Star clouded her rule, her subsequent assassination and aftermath of that assured of a huge victory to her party and the Prime Minister’s role being thrust upon her son Rajiv Gandhi. Though the subsequent years resulted in defeat of the Congress party the power came back into their hands after his assassination. That was again followed by another govt which could be truly called as a coalition one followed by the usual scandals and non Congress dispensations till the rule of the UPA for two successive terms. One has to add that though the state was not very liberal with the usual sedition act and the blasphemy act on the statute books, the situation worsened after the takeover by the present dispensation.

The present ruling combination though technically is a coalition govt called as the NDA is under thumb of the major partner the BJP with the party being under the control of two individuals- the rest being mere pawns in their scheme of things. While this would be a matter of importance and relevance to the parties, their elected representatives and the opposition- the present situation does not indicate so. The intolerance to dissent, the systematic degradation of the constitution and the fundamental rights has made all opposition to the ruling dispensation as anti-national activity. Going back to the days of Indira Gandhi when the slogan Indira is India and India is Indira was coined by a joker sycophant who was also the president of the Congress party during the days of the infamous emergency, history seems to be repeating itself now. The previous such period had lasted for some months while the present phase seems to be a process which has been going on since long probably going back to the heady days of post emergency non Congress govt from which time itself the systematic infiltration of the govt. machinery had been taking place and also the recruitment of those already in service.

With the power in their hands the same
forces have now taken over all the arms of the state and have established a monopoly over them. The media seems to be eating out of their hands or rather licking their boots. The academic institutions have lost their independence with all of them being ruled over by their minions. This has pervaded institutions from the Pune film institute to JNU, IITs to ICHR!. Without the need to bother about any followed norms or the due processes for selection of candidates infiltration or rather take over has been the strategy. Even those who display independent spirit have been displaced or sidelined. This has led to resistance from various sections of the society.

In the meanwhile the bogey of the enemy outside the country and scare of their supported groups has been used to create an impression of a strong leadership at the helm of affairs. While the intelligence and security failure behind the Phulwama massacre has been glossed over, the supposed surgical air strike at Balakot has been hyped about despite of no evidence being made available for its claimed success or rather independent evidence being to the contrary. On one hand the allegedly decisive strong brave action being credited to the leadership, the failures being glossed over and any questions about it being deemed as anti-national and against the armed forces! The seething anger of the farmers, the workers, students and all sections of society is visible and resistance coming up from these have seem to have no effect on the ruling party or rather the individual.

The worst affected by this regime are the sections who are derisively labeled as intellectuals, sickulars, prostitutes and such. The machinations of the ruling cliques can be exposed by those with courage and clarity of expression. The artists, rationalists, research workers, authors, dramatists who have been all persecuted by this regime have the feeling that the return to power will be the end of secularism, democracy and dissent in this nation.

The artists, rationalists, research workers, authors, dramatists who have been all persecuted by this regime have the feeling that the return to power will be the end of secularism, democracy and dissent in this nation. Some even apprehend that this will be a step in bringing about autocratic or theocratic rule.

With the rights of individuals to eat the food of their choice, have a relationship with the one of their liking, to purchase property or stay in the area of their choice or even follow a system or worship of their choice being curtailed, the constitution being undermined it looks like dark days are ahead. During those days of emergency the slogan was that even a electric pole could win an election with Indira Gandhi’s name - after nearly four decades the same situation is being mentioned but with a different name and a different party. However the situation at present seems to be worsening due to the support of the religious fundamentalists. During Indira Gandhi’s time though she had her pet gurus and religious places but their influence was limited. But, with the present regime theocracy seems to be playing a major role! It is time to take stands like we did during the emergency and just like of that time- it is anti ruling party! The way things are it looks like a now or never situation!

Prof. NARENDRA NAYAK is a consumer activist and a rationalist. This is a regular column and we invite readers’ response. The writer can be reached at: narenyen@gmail.com

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It’s a straight contest between the BJP’s incumbent MP Nalin Kumar Kateel and Congress upstart Mithun Rai for capture of the Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha constituency. Who will the voter favour this time?

A T LONG LAST DAKSHINA Kannada Lok Sabha constituency is witnessing a plausible challenge to the decades-long saffron hegemony in its political landscape. The constituency which has seen continuous victory of BJP candidates since 1991 now has a promising contender in Mithun Rai, a dashing young Congress upstart who has shown an amazing proclivity to take on the Hindutva juggernaut head on. So who will the electorate choose as it’s next MP? The sitting MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, who is facing severe anti-incumbency or Mithun Rai who is projecting himself to an energetic youth dynamo?

As Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha constituency was gearing up to face the 17th Lok Sabha elections this month, all eyes were on the Congress. The question foremost on everyone’s mind was who would the party pit against Nalin Kumar Kateel, who has been becoming increasingly unpopular in the last few years. The choice would be crucial. Though the octogenarian senior Congress leader who has been repeating failing at the polls was busy projecting himself as the likely candidate, public sentiment has been against his wish. Not only was he getting old, he was also in the habit of making outrageous statements and gradually become the laughing stock.

Janardhan Poojary is a lone wolf among the region’s party leaders and relies mainly on his proximity to the Indira Gandhi family and partly on his former glory of having been elected four times earlier and served a momentous, if controversial, innings as a union minister. A change was badly called for, and it has finally come in the form of Mithun Rai, whom the party high command chose as its official candidate. Though Ivan D’souza, an MLC and party whip in the
state assembly had tried to put himself in the fray, the regional leaders had rallied behind Mithun Rai and made his choice almost unanimous. No one seems to have been surprised more than Rai himself, who promptly acknowledged the support of his party elders. “I have been given this opportunity by God’s grace and the confidence reposed in me by all the local party leaders,” he had said. “I now appeal to the voters to support me.”

Nalin Kumar’s situation was altogether different. Having served two terms as the MP, he has nothing much to show for by way of achievement, though he routinely claims to have infused investment of Rs. 16,500 crores into the region. On finishing the first year of his second term, his supporters has infamously dubbed him as the ‘No. 1 MP’ based on a newspaper survey and a claim to have utilized his ‘MP Fund’ to the optimum. The celebration of this feat organized by his supporters reeked of typical BJP braggadocio. Nalin Kumar is known to be hot headed and his own party workers despise him. They accuse him of being rude and unsympathetic to their cause. A bigger complaint against him is his lack of proficiency in both Hindi and English, which is seen as his key handicap and the reason why he is unable to project his case for this constituency in central politics. Added to this is his inability to solve the much lamented Pumpwell Flyover issue. This flyover project on the National Highway traversing Pumpwell locality of the city has been lying incomplete for several years now Nalin Kumar has been unable to fulfill his own oft repeated deadlines to complete it.

He is also notorious for issuing an outrageous threat to set his own constituency ‘on fire’ following the murder of Karthik Raj, whom his party had dubiously claimed to be a party worker. Police investigations later revealed this to be a bogus claim. The murdered man was neither a BJP member nor was the motive for his murder political. These two issues, among other things, have made him into

Udupi-Chikmagalur Constituency is seeing a weird contest of sorts and should surely be the place having the most number of disgruntled politicians on earth. The sitting BJP MP Shobha Karandlaje is facing an anti-incumbency which is far more powerful than her Mangalore counterpart Nalin Kumar Kateel. The main charge against Shobha is her absenteeism as she is known to visit her constituency only very rarely. In fact she so much reviled that she even inspired a ‘Go Back Shobha’ campaign on social media from BJP party workers who were demanding a change of face in the constituency. The rank and file of the party are completely frustrated with her neglect of the constituency despite being a ruling party MP. Yet the party has decided to go ahead with the sitting MP, thereby acknowledging its overreliance on the Modi factor. This frustrated the party workers even more and a few were seen making overtures to the Congress in desperation.

Meanwhile on the Congress front too things are not as rosy. Upstart Amrith Shenoy had been nursing an ambition to contest on Congress ticket this time and had been steadily posturing himself for the role. To his chagrin, the party had completely disregarded him and had instead decided to elevate Pramod Madhwaraj to national politics. An upset Amrith Shenoy filed his nomination as an independent candidate and promptly got sacked from the Congress for six years. Pramod Madhwaraj is foisted as a joint candidate of Congress-JDS coalition and was seen flaunting the elections symbols of both Congress and JDS. That this could confuse voters does not seem to bother him. Though Madhwaraj is a Congress member he is officially a JDS candidate and will show up with the JDS symbol on the EVM. Surely, things can’t get more confusing than this!
Senior Congress leader B Janardhan Poojary has the credit of contesting for the maximum nine times from this constituency. He however won only four times in 1977, 1980, 1984 and 1989. Meanwhile, V. Dhananjay Kumar of the BJP contested five times and won four times. M. Veerappa Moily from the Congress has contested twice in 1999 and 2004 but failed both times. Interestingly for almost four decades the constituency saw only two candidates from the Congress - B Janardhan Poojary and Veerappa Moily. In the past two Lok Sabha elections, BJP’s Nalin Kumar was elected from this constituency.

A remarkable aspect of elections this time is the decision of Left Parties against contesting in order to put up a united fight against the BJP. However, the SDPI is contesting elections this time and has chosen Ilyas Mohammad Thumbay as its candidate. The party had fielded its candidate in the 2014 elections too and could garner 27,254 votes.

The JD(S) which has not fielded its candidate this time from Mangalore as part of its seat sharing agreement with the Congress, had contested in the 1989, 1996 and 2004 elections. In 2009 and 2014, the party had not fielded candidates from here.

Since 1984, the constituency has seen a direct fight between the Congress and the BJP. Only in 1996, the JD(S) had played a decisive role leading to the defeat of Congress candidate. G V Jeevijaya who had then contested had succeeded in garnering 1,80,889 votes. But the party failed to put up similar impressive shows in the successive elections. As far as the CPM is concerned, the party has contested from this constituency six times while it has backed independent candidates during the rest of the elections.

The constituency has a total of 16,97,417 voters with a number of first time voters enthusiastic to cast their votes. As part of SVEEP (Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation), the district administration is leaving no stone unturned in sensitizing voters on the importance of exercising their franchise thereby trying to ensure maximum voter participation.
where Congress’ UT Khader won. Last year’s fervour seems to be continuing this year also. The MP, for most voters is just a means of ensuring that the party they prefer, comes back to power.

Now the field is open for a direct fight between Nalin Kumar and Mithun Rai. This is the 3rd general election after the re-bifurcation of Parliamentary constituencies in 2009. This constituency which earlier also included Kodagu was known as Mangalore Constituency. When the first Lok Sabha polls were held in 1951 this constituency was known as South Kanara. Later in 1957, the Mangalore Lok Sabha constituency comprising parts of Kodagu was formed. It was in 2009 during the re-bifurcation of constituencies that Kodagu was dropped and the whole of Dakshina Kannada came under Dakshina Kannada constituency.

In the past 16 Lok Sabha elections, Congress had won nine times and BJP seven times from here. From 1951 to 1989 it was a sweep by the Congress while from 1991 to 2004 the BJP had won the Mangalore constituency continuously.

An interesting battle line has been drawn up with incumbent BJP MP Nalin Kumar Kateel who is seeking a re-election for the third time, against Mithun Rai of the Congress. Curiously, both are from the prominent Bunt community and Rai who is also the District Youth Congress President is expected to give a tough fight to Nalin who is facing an anti-incumbency wave. Nalin’s only ray of hope is to ride high on the Modi factor. “Don’t look at the local candidate, look at Modi and cast your vote,” is the constant refrain of BJP campaigners and supporters. This over confidence in foisting weak candidates assuming the Modi One man Army construct will work could however prove to be the BJP’s most vulnerable undoing, as the opposition parties have adopted a carefully planned strategy of fielding

Of Poojary’s Antics and Pointless Politics

Even as the race for the Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha Constituency surged forth, it was up to veteran Congress leader Janardhan Poojary to provide comical relief. As soon as it was announced that Nalin Kumar Kateel was the BJP’s chosen one, an excited Nalin rushed to Shree Gokarnanatheshwara Temple to seek divine blessings. With Poojary virtually posturing himself as the Congress would-be candidate, Nalin was perhaps in a hurry to be the beat him at wooing the overwhelming number of Billawa community votes.

While at it, he also decided to seek the blessings of Janardhan Poojary who operates from his office within the temple premises. Poojary who was clearly swayed by Nalin’s show of reverence, not only blessed him but also showered him profuse with praises. Going the extra mile, Poojary then sang to the glory of Nalin’s top boss and Congress arch enemy Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “Nalin Kumar will surely win this election due to a larger Modi wave,” he predicted, “Modi will return to power in India. That is the current mood across the nation.” This only served to send shock waves in the local populace and severely embarrass the Congress, leading some to conclude that the old man had surely lost his mental balance.

Subsequently when Mithun Rai was announced as the successor to Poojary for the local MP seat, the grand old man rose above the deep pain of his own dethroning and blessed Mithun too. Now singing praises for Mithun Rai, he even went on to declare that he would stop visiting Kudroli Shree Gokarnanatheshwara Temple if Mithun Rai lost the election. It is to be seen if Poojary’s blackmail cum ultimatum to God Almighty will work. It rarely has in the past. Poojary’s flip flops, though now common, once again managed to hog the limelight much to the amusement of the local people. One only hopes that he will forego his last threat to God and continue to serve his revered deity of Kudroli temple.
handpicked candidates who can make a difference to upset the existing electoral equations.

Apart from the alleged ‘Modi Wave’ which Nalin Kumar is left to piggy back on if he has to win this election, the other factor is the Hindutva base. For the last three decades, the BJP has carefully cultivated its electorate on Hindutva politics, by inflaming communal passions, cattle politics and its infamous ‘moral policing’ (a derogatory term standing in for obscenely violent vigilante attacks on the private citizens, mainly minorities, by goons belonging to Hindutva groups for alleged immoral offences). The district had been reeling under such aggressive tactics of inducing fear in the populace to gain votes on the basis of religion and hatred directed against targeted minorities.

In Mithun Rai, there seems to be a real challenger to such politics of hate. The Congress had been typically lethargic and in fact clueless on dealing with such threats to civil society. Mithun Rai is bringing in a whiff of fresh air. Having continuously put himself in the forefront as a student leader since childhood, he is a self made leader who seems to understand the dynamics of the political game. He hails from an educated family of doctors and is well versed in expressing himself in different languages. He is insightful in his thinking and energetic in his approach. Most important of all, he seems keen on shaking up the Hindutva plank and persuasively wooing the youth from aggressive faith based political loyalty. He sports a tilak on his forehead (a typical Hindutva symbolism) and religiously visits temples as well as mosques and churches. “The Hindutva I learned in my home is very respectful of all faiths,” he says. A typical Mithun Rai youth rally is inundated
with saffron – the colour of Hindutva. He seems bent on diffusing the political significance of the colour and taking the venomous sting out of Hindutva’s appeal. Many a youngster who was once a foot soldier for the Hindutva cause is now a Mithun Rai fan. Frankly, he is giving the Hindutva lobby a run for its vote.

Mithun Rai is a Congress leader like none have ever been. Ask him if he is soft peddling Hindutva, and he says no. “I am a Hindu and the Hinduism I have learned from home is the real Hinduism. I respect Nalinanna as a person, but people know what he has done for his constituency. Ours is an educated district. Voters here are intelligent enough not to be fooled twice and they know they want change,” he says. Then he adds: “The main issue is employment. If we create good employment opportunities, what you call as moral policing won’t happen. People will reject such things on their own.”

Despite his popular appeal, Mithun Rai has a long way to go. With the Modi wave imminent and the BJP party machinery too well organized to ignore, Mithun’s is an uphill battle against all odds. Though Nalin Kumar claims to win by an increased margin of over two lakh votes, Mithun has a strong chance to disprove him.

He understands the local political scenario, but the odds at the national level seem to be against him. It won’t be his fault. He has done his home work. In this lack luster election, which no one seems to be particularly interested in, Mithun Rai is trying to make his mark. Who will the discerning voters of Dakshina Kannada elect this time? Will Dakshina Kannada once again elect a BJP candidate helping the party claim that it continues to be a saffron bastion or will the Congress be able to make inroads in this constituency which was once its stronghold? Will the electorate vote for change?

If Nalin Kumar Kateel wins, he will be under increased pressure both from within and without. This will most likely be his last chance to prove himself. As for Mithun rai, whether he wins or loses this election, we can be quite certain that he is no loser in the long run. We can only wait and watch.
DK’s Parliamentarians so far

**Benegal Shiva Rao:**
1952 - Congress
A journalist who was based in Austria, he belonged to the illustrious Benegal family of Saraswaths. When he won against the formidable K. Ramakrishna Karanth of the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (KMPP), he was reportedly sorry to have defeated a stalwart like him (Achar).

**K R Achar:**
1957 – Congress
Hailing from Alamkaru Village of Puttur Taluk he won from Mangalore constituency on a Congress ticket in the 1957 elections. In 1928, he took the initiative to salvage the nationalist Kannada weekly Rashta Bandhu and built it up till 1968.

**A Shankar Alva:**
1962-Congress
One of the leading lawyers of Mangalore, Shankar Alva was a Congress member from a long time. He became the DK District Congress Committee (Indira) President after the Congress split in 1969.

**C. M. Poonacha:**
1967-Congress
A coffee planter from Gonikoppa, Cheppudira Muthanna Poonacha was the only Kodava to be victorious as an MP from Mangalore so far. During his tenure, he served as union railway minister. In 1971, he contested on a Congress (O) ticket, but lost to K. K. Shetty of the Congress (I).

**K.K. Shetty:**
1971-Congress
Hailing from Korangrapady in Udupi taluk, Katapady Kanthappa Shetty was inspired by the Theosophical Society and Home Rule Movement. During Gandhiji’s non-cooperation movement of 1920, K K Shetty boycotted school.

**B. Janardhana Poojary:**
1977, 80, 84 & 89 – Congress
A lawyer by profession, he was the party loyalist and rose on to become the Union Deputy Minister. He is famous for his loan melas where he disbursed crores of rupees worth small loans to the poor. He is now hopeful of making a comeback after four defeats.

**V. Dhananjaya Kumar:**
1991, 96, 98 & 99 – BJP
Established the BJP foothold in Mangalore defeating B. Janardhana Poojary. He was cabinet minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism in 1996, Union Minister of State for Finance from 1999–2000 and Union Minister of State for Textiles from 2000–2003. Later he quit the BJP and has contested from the Udupi-Chikmagalur Constituency on a JDS ticket and lost the election.

**D. V. Sadananda Gowda:**
2004 – BJP
A lawyer by profession, he was the party loyalist and rose on to become the Chief Minister of Karnataka. He earned National prominence being the President of Karnataka unit of Bharatiya Janata Party when the BJP won an assembly election for the first time in South India in May 2008. In 2009 he changed his constituency to Udupi. In 2014 elections he won from Bangalore North and become a cabinet minister in PM Narendra Modi govt.

**Nalin Kumar Kateel:**
2009, 2014 - BJP
In 2009 when the BJP had the fear of losing Mangalore Constituency, they fielded an ordinary BJP worker as candidate against Congress veteran B Janardana Poojary. Surprisingly Nalin Kumar Kateel won the election with a huge margin. He was re-elected as MP in the 2014 elections for the second term.
Ullal Srinivas Mallya
1952, 57 & 62 – Congress
Better known as “Malliah” outside DK, he is considered to be largely responsible for all developmental works of the district – KREC, National Highway, All weather harbour, Airport, Bridges etc. An active freedom fighter, he joined the freedom movement at the age of 18 when Gandhiji visited Mangalore for the first time. Following Independence, he was a member of the Interim Parliament between 1950 and 1952.

J.M.Lobo Prabhu
1976 – Swatantra Party
J M Lobo Prabhu hailed from a prominent Mangalorean family with a long and distinguished record in government service. An ICS officer and a student of Harold Laski and Lionel Robbins at the London School of Economics. He won in 1976 on a Swatantra Party Ticket.

Ranganath Shenoy
1971 – Congress
He was leading lawyer and remained a Congress loyalist throughout his political career. He was the Chairman of Udupi Municipal Council in 1962-66. Elected in 1971 on a Congress (I) ticket defeating J.M.Lobo Prabhu.

Tonse Ananth Pai
1977 – Congress
Hailing from the reputed Manipal Pai family, he was close to Indira Gandhi. Had successful tenures as the chairman of LIC and Food Corporation of India. Following his election to the Rajya Sabha in 1972, he served as union railway minister. Introduced Jayanti Janatha Express train from Delhi to Mangalore and Cochin.

Oscar Fernandes
1980, 84, 89, 91 and 96 – Congress
A general secretary of the Congress, he was introduced to politics as secretary to TA Pai. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1998 and 2004. He was a Union Minister from 2004–2009, holding a number of portfolios such as Statistics and Programme Implementation, NRI Affairs, Youth & Sports Affairs, Labour & Employment and Road Transport & Highways in UPA govt.

I. M. Jayaram Shetty
1996 & 98 – BJP
Established BJP in Udupi Constituency for the first time by defeating five time Congress MP Oscar Fernandes.

Vinay Kumar Sorake
1999 – Congress
Defeated BJP sitting MP Jayaram Shetty with clear margin and helped Congress regain its bastion. He has represented twice as MLA from Puttur and won the previous assembly election from Kaup. He is now the state minister of Urban development.

Manorama Madwaraj
2004 – BJP
Manorama Madhwaraj is a popular Mogaveera leader who won three times from Udupi assembly constituency on a Congress ticket. In 2009 LS election she joined BJP and defeated Vinay Kumar Sorake. In developments later on she quit BJP after voting in favour of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

D. V. Sadananda Gowda
2009 – BJP
In 2004 election he won from DK Constituency and in 2009 he changed his constituency to Udupi and won the election again. He has contested from Bangalore North this election.

K. Jayaprakash Hegde
2012 – Congress
Jayaprakash is a practicing advocate and entered politics very early in his life. He has been elected thrice to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from the Brahmavara constituency and served as Minister holding various portfolios. Hegde has been elected to Lok Sabha from Udupi constituency following a by-election in 2012.

Shobha Karandlaje
2014 – BJP
Shobha Karandlaje served the BJP in various capacities before being elected as an MLC in 2004. She was elected as MLA from Yeswanthpur, Bangalore in May, 2008 and appointed as the minister in the first ever BJP government in Karnataka. During the 16th Lok Sabha election in 2014 she represented the Udupi-Chickmagalur constituency.
THE ATMOSPHERE ALL OVER here is transfigured, heat and dust is very visible, not only due to the season, but a vital factor the impending 'Indian Parliamentary elections 2019', has ignited the people, the politicians and officials, unimaginably. The stress levels are running high, everyone is in a flux with the whole nation at the cusp of nationwide parliamentary election and this rising chaos will continue well till the time the SW monsoons are well entrenched in this land of India and here particularly in Coastal Karnataka, till month of June, and till the new Govt is well into it's seat - the flash point is awesome. The people young and aged, in all walks of life are rapidly adapting to the hi-tech ways of the world, second to none. This is a crucial election in our 70 year history - that need not be stressed as it is in the air and palpable. This Dakshina Kannada (DK) district has 37,063 young voters in the age group of 18 to 19. The young voters are enthusiastic on exercising their franchise. At least 900 million Indians - more than the population of all the countries of Europe combined, will cast their votes to select a new federal government.

India’s elections have been notorious in that the result is impossible to predict because of the endless possibilities. It will be no walk in the park for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to retain power - after five years in office his popularity is receding over concerns about his government’s failure to create the promised millions of jobs and as well as a lag in economic development. It’s also no cakewalk either for the opposition Rahul Gandhi’s Congress party and its allies to snatch power as they have yet to gain momentum with the electorate.

India’s election 2019 represents the world’s largest democratic exercise. Voters are electing lawmakers for the 543-member lower house of parliament, or Lok Sabha. Divided into 29 states and seven federally-administered territories, and with a population of more than 1.3 billion, India’s poll will take place in seven phases between April 11 and May 19, with results announced on May 23. This time, the commission will mobilize 11 million officials to conduct the election at 1.04 million polling stations which will use over 2 million electronic voting machines. Candidates have traditionally used posters, banners and campaign songs and travelled in purpose-built vehicles that look like chariots to win over voters.

A survey found, the common voter, the mature person, has his/her mind set well in advance and decides for whom to cast the vote and has weighed the pros and cons......Rarely a seasoned voter changes his mind influenced by external information and so on. There are good possibilities that gratification and freebies may influence. Even a possibility that close kith and kin may influence a mature voter. There are high chances of the new 18-20

“IT WILL BE NO WALK IN THE PARK FOR PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TO RETAIN POWER - AFTER FIVE YEARS IN OFFICE HIS POPULARITY IS RECEDING OVER CONCERNS ABOUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO CREATE THE PROMISED MILLIONS OF JOBS AND AS WELL AS A LAG IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”
year college student voter to be influenced by social media, advertisements, speeches, and so on…….It follows that most expenditure on advertisements, meetings and speeches are futile. The time and effort too is a waste very often in a wider perspective.

Karnataka has more than 5.1 crore voters; 5,579 are aged above 100 years. 1.47 lakh at least are between 99 and 90 years old. 32 lakh are in the 90 to 70 years age bracket. How many of these are fit in mind and body to cast their vote independently is a serious question; how their vote will be handled is a totally dark area, hopefully it will not be exploited illegally by powerful vested interests.

But now 430 million Indians own a smart phone, half a billion use the Internet, 300 million use Facebook, 200 million send messages on WhatsApp and 30 million are on Twitter. It means political parties and candidates are going aggressively using new technology and social media to win the hearts and minds of young voters. The possible misuse of these platforms remains a significant concern for the election commission. There will be 15 million voters aged 18-19 years voting in this year’s poll and millions more first time voters. As they’re better informed, more educated and willing to take a different direction from their family’s established political journey they could topple the outcome.

A poll revolution now:

Which way the Indian voter’s mind works and what would drive their choices? In recent years, the Indian voter has confounded pollsters, journalists, and even the most seasoned political observers. Gone are simple set types and stereotypes about voters who only care about their individual identities (by caste, region and religion) and exchanged their votes for some cash and alcohol. This election projects the voters exhibit careful reasoned political preferences, weighing complex issues of jobs, inflation, and agriculture. Thus, it would be prudent to assess what we have learned about the Indian voter after this latest round of elections and what this means for the future of Indian politics and people.

Basically, Indian voters are turning out to vote in larger numbers than ever before. Not only has the gender gap in turnout declined, there is enough evidence to suggest that most social groups are turning out in equal proportions. The turnout gap between reserved and unreserved constituencies has become virtually zero. Lower turnout in metropolitan areas still remains a concern, but compared to most democracies around the world, voter turnout in India remains fairly good. The concerted effort of the Election Commission of India in this regard through various voter awareness programmes is enormous. Look at the scenario in Coastal Karnataka.

More specifically, it is now becoming increasingly evident that voters are holding their leaders accountable for economic performance. Despite some facts that the Indian voter as largely driven by identity issues, field reports consistently showed that voters were most concerned about agricultural prices, delivery of public goods, jobs, and corruption - all issues that can be associated with incumbent government performance. Emerging research in
this area has not only demonstrated a positive relationship between the incumbent government’s electoral outcomes and economic growth at the state level, but also a positive correlation between voters’ assessment of their own economic condition as well as the health of the national economy. This trend is likely to become more apparent as the size of urban and middle-class population expands in all directions.

At the present point in time, the Indian voter is more intelligent and informed than at any other time. As campaigns are becoming increasingly sophisticated in reaching the voter - through WhatsApp and Facebook for instance - so too has the Indian voter diversified his/her sources of political information. When there is a political goof-up, or a fiery comment, the voter is sure to find out. The great dynamics of political information also allows voters to make sense of their personal situations. Take, a citizen concerned about local corruption or poor job creation in her village will look at it as a more general phenomenon upon which to hold the local incumbents accountable in any constituency or state.

A clear stand point indicates, emerging trends that women voters are displaying independent political preferences that defy basic stereotypes and may shift electoral outcomes. Politicians across the board are making great efforts to woo women voters. For example, the Modi government has aggressively advertised its performance on certain central schemes, like the Ujjwala scheme guaranteeing LPG cylinders to homes, specifically targeting the women voters. Survey details and results shows that women voters are increasingly making independent preferences at the polling booth and are potentially likely to participate in the electoral process as lead canvassers.

While identity issues are important predictions of who an individual will support politically, is not a conclusion. In the past few years, both India and its voters have undergone serious changes. The rapid changes in India’s political economy and information base is being manifested through significant electoral impacts, thus necessitating an analysis of the “changing” Indian voter. The scale of the BJP’s victory in the 2014 election came as a surprise to many observers of Indian politics. As the campaign for the 2019 election makes rapid progress, researchers and observers of Indian politics face the difficult task of interpreting and analyzing the verdict of 2019 elections. Understanding India’s evolving aware voter is likely to point the country and its democratic path and direction in the long term.

Indeed fathoming the Indian voter, who are encountered in all colours, shapes and sizes, is an impossible task. Compounded by modern technology now, it is more than a complex matter to consider projecting serious outcomes in the final tally. There is also an evident changing scenario in the arena which could sway some segments of the fresh young electorate, which can and may influence the result with small margins. A great thinker of yesteryear said that in elections, the choice is between two ‘evils’. All said and done how much really has the common man, the ‘Aam Aadmi’ benefitted in the last half a century of home democratic rule? Will the young GenNext voter this time around stand up and get MAD -Make a Difference? Then there are all sorts of suspicions and allegations that can totally change the outcomes of the 2019 poll results expected, May 23, 2019. The only way visible is to keep our hands joined and await the Supreme wish hopefully for our future good.

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ANY ELECTION IN INDIA IS A festive and exciting time for the poor, the middle class and the rich - for the poor to earn easy money, for the middle class to pontificate and rationalize why no good will come out of voting and for the rich to get maximum value by supporting the right candidates. Despite these obvious drawbacks, it is a miracle that the largest democracy in the world has managed to elect some good candidates from a set of mostly undeserving, corrupt and incompetent politicians to lead India all these years.

In 1977, Indian voters punished the Congress Party for the emergency. In 1980 they brought back the Congress since the opposition could not give a stable government. In 2014 against all predictions, Indian voters gave a majority to BJP after suffering from corrupt rule of UPA-I and II.

The current general election to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha is often mentioned as the most important one as though there will be some dramatic changes depending on which Tweedledees and Tweedledums are elected. We have heard such things before also. However this time some argue that there is greater compulsion to vote wisely since the future of India depends on the outcome of the election. Is it true? In the long history of India - pre and after independence, it has faced many crisis and survived. It is not likely to be any different this time.

After the loss of NDA last December in three major states and also as a result of different political parties making plans to form coalitions with the single objective of defeating NDA, it looked as though Modi did not have any chance of becoming the PM again. Once the mini Mahagathbandan of Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party in UP was formed, probability of his victory looked even less. But later there has not been any such Mahagathbandan of any consequence at the national level.

However some polls (Times Now-VMR, India TV-CNIX) taken during the middle of March have shown that though BJP may lose some seats and majority, NDA may succeed in securing enough seats to form the next government. In Indian context where caste, religion, money and muscle power, regional affinity, dynasty oriented politics, celebrity status, etc often seem to decide the election results polls have not been reliable.

Indian psephologists could have done a better job. They could develop a better mathematical model based on factor

In Indian context where caste, religion, money and muscle power, regional affinity, dynasty oriented politics, celebrity status, etc often seem to decide the election results polls have not been reliable.
power to point out the glaring failures of BJP. According to an analysis by home ministry, there has been 28% rise in communal incidents under NDA watch as reported by The Telegraph. As a result of sustained attack on the autonomy of the institutions like education, courts and investigating agency and even RBI, they have not been able to carry out their functions properly.

On the other hand, NDA supporters have not been successful in highlighting several good things the government has done. Without a doubt, Swatch Bharath though has not been a great success, has made millions aware of the need to keep our cities and towns clean. Need to keep our environment clean is definitely on the national agenda now. Open defecation has come down with the construction of millions of toilets. Thanks to the greater application of aadhaar platform and direct benefit of subsidies, corruption in residential LPG has been more or less completely eliminated and beginning has been made to do the same in PDS villages. Thanks to Ujjwala scheme LPG coverage has increased from 45% to 90% in five years under NDA. This was possible because of the policy to give free connection of LPG to the poor.

NDA has been able to tame inflation (consumer price index was 5% during NDA versus 8.1% during UPA rule) much better than the UPA and also the management of fiscal deficit is better under NDA. Thanks to a new law to deal with bankruptcy, banks are able to improve their financial position considerably. Of course non performing assets of banks are still precarious. But this was mostly because of the corrupt banking practices under UPA.

With much fanfare, Rahul Gandhi, the President of Congress Party has announced minimum income plan and assured an annual payment of Rs. 72000 to each poor family benefiting 50 million families. It is tempting to think that such a grandiose income distribution should help UPA. After all it has been endorsed by former RBI Governor, Raghuram Rajan though with many qualifications. But will it be a game changer?

If we compare the overall contribution of NDA against UPA in India’s economic sector, NDA will score higher. However it is in the treatment of minority where NDA has failed miserably. They should have controlled cow vigilantism and mob lynching better and not given any scope for criticism. On the other hand, opposition has not been all that lily white. They have also been guilty in exploiting communal issues to create their vote banks.

Just about every political party with the exception of communist and Aam

India’s “Chalta he” attitude forces us to manage with what is feasible with least cost though the results may not be accurate. Therefore we can easily ignore all the poll results.
Admi Party have tried to develop vote banks based on caste and communalism. Just to give two illustrative examples. Despite the well known corrupt practices of Mayawati and Deve Gowda family, both leaders have been successful in creating vote banks of dalits and vokkaligas to gain political influence purely based on caste consideration.

The surgical strike by the government to destroy the training ground in Balakot after a terrorist attack in Pulwama has certainly helped NDA. This has clearly showed that where national security is concerned, NDA will take bolder and calculated steps than UPA. India’s successful conduct of anti-missile test and joining the four member league global powers may also marginally help NDA.

All the talks and discussion of how NDA has been promoting Hindutva, and how it will affect the secular character of India by some section though valid may not have much impact on voters. Opposition has tried to highlight this failure on the part of NDA while most have been also guilty of using divisive forces of caste and communalism themselves.

How will voters decide which is the critical factor for India’s national interest while casting their votes? Is it a need for stable government as the voters realized in 1980 or is it other important factors like inclusion, pluralism, secularism, freedom, equality and tolerance as argued by most thinkers and writers? Do they find tall leaders who have the competence and vision to uphold all these values? If all the pluses and negatives of NDA are weighed against the opposition, voters are likely to elect Modi though with less majority to give a stable government.

Let me hasten to state that my prediction is not any more reliable than revealed by the recent poll surveys. It is my hope that voters will send a strong message to all the political parties to uphold India’s civilizational values of “simple living and high thinking” and the constitutional mandate of secularism. Then the time of election will be truly the dance of democracy to celebrate.

DR. BHAMY V. SHENOY has been a senior advisor to Center For Energy Economics, at UT, Austin and a board member and was an advisor of the National Oil Company of Georgia. Dr. Shenoy is an Advisor to Pratham Mysore an NGO involved in slum education and Board member of SVS College, Bantwal.

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YOUR VOTE
A visit to the Kadri Rocks Art Gallery where a solo exhibition on Mandala Art by Gayatri Nayak was underway for a week, was a memorable experience. A techie turned artist Gayathri Nayak has honed her artistic skills to near perfection as was evident with the display of her unique works of art.

Gayathri Nayak, an engineer, who worked for Infosys for nearly ten years, learned art quite by chance. Upon marriage she had migrated to the United States to join her husband. There she adopted various hobbies to usefully spend her time in the new country. “Sitting home I started connecting more with my inner self. It was while putting my skills to test on paper, paints, art and design, that I realised my hidden talent and niche skills,” she says.

MESMERIZING Mandala Art works

Gayathri Nayak says she took to dot painting style after being inspired by artist Brandy Youland in an Facebook group last year. “I started doing dot art in September 2017. It has been a wonderful journey so far. This art in particular is a form of meditation that gives me inner peace and happiness. Several dots of different size are added in different patterns to form an image. As of now, I do this art on canvas, wooden jewelry box, CDs, Mandala jewelry etc. I conduct Mandala classes as well,” she explains.

Her works on display included “Om and 7 chakras”, Beautiful Solar Eclipse, Mandala of Inner View, Beautiful Flower of Mandala, Divine Flower of Life, Devasena Mandala and The Majestic Blue, her biggest painting yet. “Mandalas are a representation of philosophy and energy,” she says.

Apart from Mandala, the exhibition included other art works too, such as Eagle Eye Ocean World, Madhubani art and Warli dot art fusion.

Dr. Gopalkrishna Nayak, an Ayurvedic Physician, inaugurated the exhibition, while Dr. Suryakanth M. Pai, dental surgeon of DenSure Multispecialty Clinic, Mangaluru was the Chief Guest.
Here is an organisation with a unique and noble vision. “Bridging Divides through responsive participation of societies using art as its medium of communication” is an its objective.

This developing organisation named Talents on Display seriously aims to create a platform for display of artistic talents, especially of those artists who find it difficult to find an equitable place in the world of art. A strong hope comes into play in the art and social scenario opening up in Mangaluru and surroundings too now.

‘Talents On Display’ was conceived as an idea in 2010 by Dr Alexander Martin, a Psychiatrist and his wife Shantha Martin (of Mangaluru), to create a showcasing platform for artistic talent, whereupon artist and art lovers can derive synergy from one another. The idea took formal shape on January 22, 2017, as a registered company in the pristine city of Navi Mumbai.

The gallery Of Talents on Display has also served as a venue for group exhibitions of art students from Sir J.J. School of Art Mumbai, Raheja School and Shantiniketan, West Bengal.

Talents on Display has also been instrumental in promoting tribal art, handicraft, cottage industry, performing art and entrepreneurship.

The artists associated with Talents on Display have also served as a teaching resource, especially for children and enthusiasts of art and music. The organisation plans to explore the aspiring talents in painting, singing, instruments, performing arts to name a few.
Close your eyes...
Flirt your mind...
Have fun...

Wake up to the echoes of a thousand temple bells, mingled with the delicate fragrance of the Mangalore Mallige. Feel the flamboyant sea lashing out passionately, challenging the very virginity of bewitching beaches. Wander in the rain drenched lush green paddy fields, in the back drop of the mighty Western Ghats. Visit a temple, church, mosque of your preference. Most of them are over a century old.

Wake up! You are just at the threshold of the enticing Dakshina Kannada.

Whether you are on business or holiday or even a weekend get away, you are bound to fall in love with this land of beauty and bliss!
Heart Transplant Clinic.
I open doors, discover
Delight or despair.

A middle-aged man,
His shell-shocked teenaged son, both
Surprised he’s alive.

Slim young man, paler
Than I recall, and losing
Weight; I think: cancer.

A yellow-haired sprite
Cries, grateful for the bright
Red scar on her chest.

The next man cries, too
He is scared to live, waiting
To get sick again.

Thirty years with a
New heart, riddled with cancer,
Yet glad to grow old.

She talked nonstop, but
Not since the stroke. Now she grunts,
Eyes wide and fists clenched.

He is medically
Perfect but angry about waiting
Ten minutes for me.

Freckles and a grin,
Loves Star Trek and me, because
I okayed (one) beer.

5-month-old baby
In tow, her only question:
Are tattoos okay?

I explain, berate,
Cajole, and remember all
Those I didn’t save.

The unlucky ones,
Where were their miracles?
I wish they were here.

Dr. Michelle Pinto Kittleson MD, PhD. is part of a family of physicians in USA,
hailing from Mangaluru. She is Director of Post Graduate Medical Education in
Heart Failure and Transplantation at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute and Assistant
Clinical Professor of Medicine/Cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine
at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), board certified in internal
medicine and cardiology.

MANGALORE TODAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. One who lives on (8)
2. Unrivalled (6)
3. Rats and mice (6)
4. Boulder (4)
5. Kitbag (4)
6. Epoch (3)
7. Farm vehicle (4)
8. Momentous (8)
9. Unarmed combat (6)
10.  Muffler (6)
11. Land measure (4)
12. Fearful (5)
13. Fleshy fruit (4)
14. Condone (4)
15. Sinner (7)
16. Sign of the Zodiac (6)
17. Clairvoyant (6)
18. Loathe (5)
19. Large globular fruit (7)
20. Garden door (4)
21. Beverage (3)
22. Callous (6)
23. Absurd (7)
24. Measure of capacity (6)
25. Egret-plume (6)
26. Garden tool (4)
27. Price reduction (4)
28. Marsh plant (4)
29. Tall story (4)
30. Garden tool (4)
31. Forgather (8)
32. Be-prone (3)
33. Proceed (4)
34. Feeding (8)

DOWN
1. Who lives on (8)
2. Unrivalled (6)
3. Rats and mice (6)
4. Boulder (4)
5. Fleshy fruit (4)
6. Rustic house of Atlanta (7)
7. Farm vehicle (4)
8. Momentous (8)
9. Unarmed combat (6)
10. Muffler (6)
11. Land measure (4)
12. Fearful (5)
13. Fleshy fruit (4)
14. Condone (4)
15. Sinner (7)
16. Sign of the Zodiac (6)
17. Clairvoyant (6)
18. Loathe (5)
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23. Absurd (7)
24. Measure of capacity (6)
25. Egret-plume (6)
26. Garden tool (4)
27. Price reduction (4)
28. Marsh plant (4)
29. Tall story (4)

Solutions on page no. 48
‘BELLYFIT’ rage Grips Mangaluru

ELECTIONS APART, Mangaluru is in the grip of the hot hot..... 'Bellyfit' rage too. Mangaluru based very popular young Sharlaine Sequeira, is making waves around India now. She has plunged into her dream plans with a splash, A dolphin taking to water - Launching out into a new, latest and promising concept; 'Bellyfit' is a trademarked Standardized Holistic Fitness System for women. A combination of stress reducing Dance aerobics, mindful body toning core exercises and relaxing stretches. Hips, Belly, Uterus and Pelvic floor are all primarily strengthened to top form. Learning to embrace your body, especially your belly and treat it with kindness, respect and love is the focus - making for a body that is healthy, fit and free. Sharlaine is already a certified instructor in Aerobics, Spinning, Pilates, Yoga, Prenatal and post natal exercises. Also South India’s first 'Bellyfit' instructor and has conducted countless demos all over the coastal city of Mangalore and beyond and reached out to hundreds of women.

Ms. Sharlaine, conducted a demo to a large group of participants, women of ages ranging from 10 to 50 years. She has conducted workshops in Bangalore, Deralakatte and Pondicherry too and aims to spread Belly Fit to other states by the end of this year. Coached in belly dance by Vaishnavi T N, founder of Ira Belly dance School, Bangalore, she also conducts weekly belly dance classes at Hakuna Matata Club House, Mangalore.

Back Drop: Sharlaine, a few years ago took the journalism scene in Mangaluru, with top articles she contributed and stormed the media to rise high, she was much appreciated. Now, she has gone to make her dreams of long time, a reality and has launched out with a bang. Here, is a fair view of 'The road less taken' and she is using it to break free into the highways of the world in a unique way. Her current objective in her own words is to, "Continuously enhance my knowledge, skills and experience by getting involved in challenging work and utilize all for personal and organizational growth to the best of my abilities." Surely this is the stuff that the great are made of, and she is headed the right way, and out to spread good for all humans.

Sharlaine pursued her schooling at Lourdes CBSE Central School and then
went on to pursue her PUC and BA and MSc (Psychology) at St Aloysius College.

'Sharlaine' speaks: Sharlaine Sequeira's, life and mission now: "I always wanted to start something in fitness and motivate and inspire people. I knew that it was not only my need but a need of most women. Even though I love Zumba, I wanted to start something different and one day, by chance, I came across 'Bellyfit' I plunged into it seriously and completed training. Belly dancing is one of the oldest forms of dance, having its roots in all ancient cultures from the orient, the Eastern hemisphere. Probably the greatest misconception about 'Belly Dancing' is that it is intended to entertain men from a sexual standpoint, it actually has numerous benefits. 'Bellyfit', on the other hand, is a modern trademarked, standardized, Holistic Fitness System for women which is a workout designed by Alice Bracegirdle who is the CEO and Co-Founder of 'Bellyfit Enterprises'. Within 60 minutes the movements activate, heal and empower the uniqueness of the female body. A participant, a female, can be anywhere from round age 12 years to age 60 plus. Beyond that there is something called as 'Bellyfit Flow' for senior citizen women.

"It's about being connected to who we are - strong, sexy and sacred, with or without flat abs! I have successfully conducted several demos so far and reached out to around one thousand women all around Mangaluru city and further on. Soon it will be taken to many more places."

So, here is your big break girls and ladies......our own Mangalorean pioneer expert and hero is committed to set you on a great path to health, wellness and beauty - 'Bellyfit' is the key. So, no more waiting wherever you may be!

By IVAN SALDANHA SHET

NOTE: Regarding workshops or collaboration in your gym/studio/apartment/school or college, please contact Ms. Sharlaine Sequeira @ +91 8197982183
WITH IMMENSE SHOCK I came to know about the sad news of Nikhil M. Pai of The 3 Hungry Men fame passing away on April 14. He decided to end his life by committing suicide, which does not suit his happy-go-lucky nature and was hard to believe, but news reports and feedback from common friends confirmed the news. I lost a good foodie friend as well as a creative cartoonist.

My last conversation with Nikhil was on March 23 2019, when he needed info about healthy ingredient alternatives in making cutlets. He was already into a health food movement inspired by his friend Colin Vernon D’Souza, and both had reduced weight considerably through strict regimen.

Here is the conversation between Nikhil and me:

Nikhil: “Maam any recipe for mix veg cutlets without potato. Healthy diet friendly. Plz suggest. Or best binding agent to bind them together egg whites or in veg any option. These will be airfryed.”

Me: “Air frying means baking. Cutlets better be shallow fried than air fried. Binding agent is mainly soaked squeezed bread.”

Nikhil: “Sure”

Popular Mangalorean food blogger Nikhil Pai is no more. He was one of the founders of The 3 Hungry Men, a food review group. He was also an amateur cartoonist. Our city has indeed lost a creative soul. KUDPI RAJANIKANTH SHENOY, a fellow foodie, pays to tribute to his young friend.

I first came to know Nikhil as a member of our Orkut group ‘Amchigele Bindaas Community’ and later on Facebook, another group by name ‘Broad Minded Konkanis’. He was very close to me since year 2009 when I first met him in person during Mangaluru Rathotsava in Car Street.

He was almost in final year of his studies at St. Aloysius College, more into cartooning those days. He had opened a graphics office in Car Street for some time. After I became Tata Nano Brand Ambassador in year 2010, he drew a cartoon of me, then in year 2013 he drew a caricature for my father’s drama CD cover which also became the cover picture of the drama book published by Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy.

He was a talented cartoonist, but had varied interests. He used to train kids in cartooning and held workshops in schools and charitable organisations. He was event manager for some time in partnership with RJ Sudeep Shenoy. I had given them a business reference when the 5th birthday
of my neighbourhood twins Pratham and Aadish was celebrated some years ago. They had done a good job with it.

He started food and restaurant review collaborating with Colin and Rajat Rao under the name ‘The 3 Hungry Men’. 3 Hungry Men became talk of the town soon and their reviews attracted people. This inspired Nikhil to come out with their own website and also host eating competitions they called ‘Hogathon’. Rajat quit the team and for some months 3 Hungry Men were reduced to 2. Chef Vikas Khanna had passed a witty remark in the video about the two hungry men eating the third one!

Colin was mainly responsible for my indulgence in Twist of Taste with Vikas Khanna. Nikhil approached me and made connection with the creative team. He also facilitated video shoot at Gyp Gyp Gy Kori Rotti factory in Baikampady. Returning the favour, I spoke to Shailesh Bhat and arranged for the 3 Hungry Men Buns Eating Competition featured in Twist of Taste with Vikas Khanna at Shailesh’s Kusum Lunch Home, Car Street.

Enter Sanjay J. Kamath, and the 3 Hungry Men went full steam ahead. They expanded their activities and started reviewing food in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and other metros, also reviewed quite a few restaurants abroad. So at global level they cast their own identity as honest reviewers.

Nikhil was the main person who had the touch of art and maintained the website well, though in recent past The 3 Hungry Men was not as active as it used to be, perhaps two of them going on crash weight reduction regimen and also that Nikhil settled down with marriage and he was already helping his father run their petrol pump Deepak Sales and Service Station in Baikampady Industrial Area, Mangalore.

I remember Nikhil telling me that at local level restaurant review is not very encouraging, as some restaurants would pressure them for positive reviews in spite of sub standard food and bad service. He also complained about poor reimbursement of expenses they incur during food review. They just did not review food, but also presented a framed or laminated certificate for the restaurants to display!

Last year Nikhil lost his father, he was sounding a bit depressed soon after that. However he recovered from the shock soon, and managed to run their petrol pump alone, also indulged in other activities. It is still a mystery what made him take such a drastic step and end his life within three decades of being active in this world. There won’t be another Nikhil to do justice for The 3 Hungry Men. May he rest in peace. May his family members have the strength to bear the loss.
Rani Abbakka Force comes into being in Udupi

Rani Abbakka Force has come into being in Udupi with an objective of ensuring the safety and security of women. The Rani Abbakka Force Vehicle was flagged off by Udupi District Superintendent of Police Nisha James at the Chandu Maidan in the town on the occasion of Police Flag Day.

The vehicle will operate in Udupi City Municipal Council visits and will patrol areas near the KSRTC bus stands, railway stations, shopping malls, schools and colleges. The SP also urged the women to bring any case of harassment to the notice of the police.

The Rani Abbakka Force will use a ‘Toyota Qualis’ SUV in pink colour. Helpline numbers are mentioned on three sides of the vehicle.

Karnataka Bank targets Rs. 1,44,000 crore business turnover for 2019-20

Karnataka Bank has planned to achieve a business turnover of Rs 1,44,000 crore with a growth rate of 16% during the financial year 2019-20, informed Mahabaleshwar M S, Managing Director and CEO of Karnataka Bank.

He was addressing the staff of the Bank in his maiden address of the current financial year.

As per the provisional figures for the financial year ended March 2019, Bank has achieved a business turnover of Rs. 1,23,300 crore registering a growth rate of 12% on year-on-year basis. The Advances of the Bank increased from Rs. 47,252 Crores to Rs. 54,883 Crores in the FY 2018-19 registering a growth of 16.1% [provisional] over the corresponding period of the previous year. The deposits of the Bank also grew from Rs. 62,871 Crores to Rs. 68,459 Crores in the FY 2018-19 registering a growth of 8.9% over the corresponding period of the previous year. The Bank has also posted a robust CD ratio of around 80.00% for the FY 2018-19. As on March 31, 2019, the Bank has 836 branches, spread across 22 states and 2 Union Territories and plans to add another 24 new branches and 70 new e-lobbies to take the total to 860 branches and 400 e-Lobbies respectively.

Bharath Group, ELC-CFAL to start city's first student-centric school - Bharath Academy

ELC-CFAL and Bharath Group join hands to open the first student-centric school in Mangalore. The Bharath Academy is all set to change the way of Learning and Educating. The school will be starting its academic year with Lower Primary Classes (Grade 1-3). While the academic syllabus is centered on the ICSE and IGCSE curriculum, the overall curriculum takes inspiration from Early Learning Centre (ELC), Center for Advanced Learning (CFAL) and many other successful learning approaches. The Bharath Academy empowers students to take their learning beyond textbooks. With a 1:15 student-teacher ratio, the school boasts of collaborative classrooms with small group learning. The school will be the first to have a Learning Lab in Mangalore- where the best professionals are invited to be part of faculty and teach students various skills. The Bharath Academy’s Learning Lab currently includes Swim Speed Program, Badminton Training, Chess Classes, Classical Dance, Music Classes and an extensive Library. Everyone at The Bharath Academy is committed to creating a vibrant, stimulating and caring environment that celebrates the individual and creative spirit of our students”, said Ananth G. Pai from Bharath group.

The Bharath Academy is a contemporary school which aims at preparing young curious minds to face real world challenges; not with a standardized grading system, but with experiential learning techniques.
'Law graduates must aim at excellence'

Mock courts play a very important role in assisting young advocates to enrich their knowledge as well as experience in the field, said Prof T R Subrahmanya, Dean of School of Legal Studies of CMR University, Bengaluru.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 4th national level mock court competition organised in memory of Udupi's popular advocate P Shivaji Shetty under the aegis of the Vaikunta Baliga Law College and Old Students Association.

Stating that law graduates also have scope to get job opportunities in foreign legal firms, he exhorted law students to enrich their learning experience and excel in the field. C M Joshi, Principal District and Sessions Judge presided over the function. Principal Dr Prakash Kanive and others were present.

Basic knowledge of law - a must: Principal Sessions Judge

There is a need for every citizen to have some basic knowledge of law, said Principal District and Sessions Judge Kadluru Satyanarayanacharya.

Speaking after flagging off a Legal Awareness Chariot and Mobile Janatha Court in Mangaluru recently, he said students also play a very important role in creating an awareness in society on legal issues. The programme was organised by the District Legal Services Authority, District Administration, SVEEP Committee, City Police Commissionerate and SDM Law College.

Regretting the fact that it has now become inevitable to have laws making it mandatory for children to look after their old parents, he also stressed the need to implement traffic rules strictly in the wake of increasing violations.

DCP (Crime and Traffic) Uma Prashanth, University Evening College Principal Ramakrishna B N, Regional Transport Officer G S Hegade, Mangaluru Bar Association President M R Ballal and others were present. A demonstration of EVM and VVPAT was held on the occasion, for the benefit of students.

Sand issue: HC upholds district administration decision

The DK District Administration’s efforts to curb indiscriminate sand extraction got a boost with the High Court upholding the decision to restrict the permits in Coastal Regulation Zone to those who were extracting sand prior to 2011-12. The order came in response to a petition filed by Kannur residents Abdul Majid and Abdul Gafur seeking to set aside the District Sand Task Force Committee’s decision of October 20, 2018. Their argument was that though they have been engaged in sand mining in CRZ areas from 2012 to 2017 the new rule does not entitle them for permit.

The District Administration argued that its decision aimed at protecting the traditional sand miners and environment.

However, sadly illegal sand extraction continues despite the curbs.

Australia's story writer cycling enthusiast visits city

Sixty seven year Ken Gray from Melbourne in Australia who is a passionate children’s story writer and a cycling enthusiast was in the city recently as part of his 37 day Kathmandu- Kochi cycling expedition.

Age is just a number for Ken Gray. To him whom cycling is something most enjoyable. In Mangaluru he also had a chat with Sarina Bhandary and Dheeraj Hejamady from Mangaluru Cycling Club. Grey who writes stories on his portal majormynah.fun had earlier completed a Srilanka expedition.
Mangaluru-Bandra summer special train

Konkan Railway and the Western Railway will run a summer special train between Mangaluru and Bandra in view of heavy rush of passengers during summer holidays.

The special fare train will leave Bandra for Mangaluru every Tuesday from April 16 to June 4. The train will leave Mangaluru Junction station every Wednesday from April 17 to June 5.

Contaminated ice candy lands many in hospital

Consumption of contaminated ice candy landed as many as 81 people in at least four villages near Kundapur in hospital recently. Those hospitalised also included children.

People of Belve, Hengavalli, Thombatu and Bidkalkatte were affected. Almost all of them had complained of diarrhoea and vomiting. The doctors said contaminated water used in making the ice candy was the reason for the illness.

A demonstration on building a bio-digester tank that helps in degrading human faecal matter and convert it into reusable water and biogas was held at the premises of the Nirmiti Kendra at Suratkal.

This biodigester technology is expected to be a boon to those who face problems due to contamination of open wells.

The technology has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which has transferred the technology to some companies including the MM Industrial Controls Pvt Ltd. Dharward.

Sudhir Mande, Managing Director of the Company who was present at the programme said the anaerobic microbail inoculum was used by Biodigester. This unique technology can also be put to use in houses, schools, hostels and other institutions as they have low maintenance and installation costs.

Rajendra Kalbavi, Project Director, Nirmiti Kendra and others were present.

4-day Orchid Exhibition at Kadri Park

A four-day orchid exhibition cum sale was inaugurated at the Kadri Park here recently by Dr Leo D’Souza, Professor, Laboratory of Applied Biology and former principal of St Aloysius College.

Orchid hybrids and species that can be grown locally are displayed at the exhibition. There will also be an informative session on growing orchids from April 14 to 16. Training on growing anthuriums and adeniums will also be held during the exhibition.

Different varieties of orchids, multi-petal rosy adeniums and dwarf anthuriums are also on sale at reasonable prices.

Queeni Lasrado, Proprietor of Alia Orchid Care was present among others. A peacock model using over 1200 orchids is also on display at the venue.

Feasibility of Yettinahole Project still questionable: Dinesh Holla

Noted environmentalist and artist Dinesh Holla has expressed his concern over the increasing man-animal conflict due to destruction of forests.

Delivering the B.N. Shankaranarayana Memorial Lecture on ‘River diversions and river-linking’ at the Dr. T.M.A. Pai College of Education, he while referring to the Yettinahole project, said its feasibility is still questioned. He also opposed the proposal to inter-link prominent rivers of the country.

Expressing his concern over the decline in rainfall in river catchment areas, he attributed the same to environmental degradation.

He also regretted the inordinate delay in the completion of the Varahi Irrigation Project and said it took almost 36 years for the completion of the first phase of the project the cost of which increased to Rs 700 crore from the originally estimated cost of Rs 19 crores.
**Tulu movie "Katapadi Kattappa" released**

Tulu movie "Katapadi Kattappa" brought out under the banner of J P Tuminad has hit the silver screens on March 29, Friday. The film was released at a ceremony held at Jyothi Theatre.

This is the debut movie of Biruver Kudla Founder President Uday Poojary who is playing the lead role in the film. Charishma Amin Farangipete is the heroine.

The movie is set to be screened in over 200 theatres in India and abroad. The audio of the movie was released by sandalwood star Sudeep in April last year.

Singer Prakash Mahadevan, Director J P Tuminad, Lead actors Uday Poojary, Charishma Amin, Vijaykumar Kodialbail and others were present at the function.

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**Nitte University ranked 70th amongst Indian Universities**

Nitte University has been ranked 70th amongst the 900+ Universities in India in the National Institutional Ranking Framework which was released on April 8, 2019 by the Ministry for Human Resources Development, Govt. of India. The University has climbed seven places from last year and this is the third successive year it finds itself in the Top 100 Universities of the nation.

The rankings consider parameters like teaching-learning resources, research productivity, student outcomes, outreach, inclusivity and peer perception. Nitte University is in the Top 25 in the teaching-learning resources parameter and in Top 15 in the outreach and inclusivity parameter.

Nitte Gulabi Shetty Memorial Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (NGMIPS), one of the constituent colleges of Nitte University is ranked 33rd in the discipline of Pharmacy among 301 participating Institutions. This is the third successive year in which NGMIPS has been ranked among the Top 35 Pharmacy colleges of the country.

NMAM Institute of Technology, Nitte (NMAMIT) is ranked 128 in the discipline of Engineering and Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Yelahanka, Bengaluru is ranked 142 by NIRF among 969 participating Institutions.

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**Lobo Prabhu Mansion gutted in major fire**

Lobo Prabhu mansion, the former residence of Late J. M. Lobo Prabhu, a distinguished ICS officer and former MP and his wife Late Dr Louella Lobo Prabhu was completely gutted in a major fire that erupted recently. The house which is situated on Light House Hill (behind City Centre Mall) is a famous heritage home, said to be over eighty years old.

The house had been uninhabited for many years. It contained many artefacts, memorabilia and personal items belonging to the family of the owners. Once a stately mansion flaunting a unique circular balcony, it was the cynosure of all eyes on Light House Hill. However, in the recent years it had drifted into oblivion and stood boxed-in between concrete high rises, with hardly any breathing space.


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**A Stem Cell drive for a cause**

A special drive was organised at the Canara High School, Dongkerkeri recently to find a stem cell match for the Canara CBSE School Physical Education Teacher, 37 year old Prashanth who is diagnosed with Leukaemia. A total of 193 persons registered as Stem Cell Donors with the Stem Cell Registry India during the drive.

The drive was inaugurated by athlete Varsha Rohith. Canara High School Association President Prabhakar Shenoy, Secretary M Ranganath and others were present.

A total of 714 persons had participated in the Stem Cell Donors Registration drive conducted for a week at Canara College of Engineering, Benjanapadavu, Canara College and Yenepoya Deemed To Be University.
National Award winning director P Sheshadri inaugurated the third edition of Nitte International Film Festival at Bharath Cinemas recently.

In his address, Sheshadri appreciated the efforts put in by the organisers in conducting the event. Pointing out that only five to six are good films from among the over 250 movies brought out every year, he said good films will have a positive impact on the audience.

He also recalled that his debut movie Munnudi was shot in the city. Sheshadri also had a word of praise for Mangalureans when he said they always encourage good movies.

Pro-Chancellor of Nitte (Deemed-to-be University Dr Shantharam Shetty was present as a chief guest. Raviraj, Convenor of the Film Festival was present among others.

Over 70 movies of different languages will be screened during the Festival. Mookajijiya Kanasugalu was screened on the inaugural day. Various other movies including Paddayi (Tulu), October (Hindi), Tumbbad (Hindi), Redu (Marathi), Dithee (Marathi), Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shale - Kasargod (Kannada), Abyakto (Bengali) will be staged on different days of the Fest.

An interactive session with the film makers have been arranged after screening of the film.

“Karnataka Bank has successfully completed its first year of transformational journey and the new approach towards business is driven by technology and is reaping the benefits on a sustainable basis. The new business model is guided by highest standards of corporate governance, effective risk management and by adhering to compliance parameters” said Mahabaleshwara M.S, MD & CEO, of the Bank while addressing the Regional Heads of the Bank in their annual review meet at Mangaluru recently.

He further said, “The blue print of Bank’s new business approach anchoring on the Regional Sales Executive (RSE) concept is already rolled out. RSEs along with their dedicated sales team will act as the new business facilitators/enablers to supplement the branch heads and the concept will be expanded to all the major business centres across India for different verticals both under the asset and liability side.” “The Bank will further strengthen this new credit delivery model by effective use of technology under the Bank’s recently opened Digital Centre of Excellence (DCOE) concept,” he added.

Raghavendra Bhat M, Chief Operating Officer, delivered the introductory address. Mahalingeshwara K, General Manager, made a presentation on business performance of the Bank during the period ended 31st March 2019.

All the Regional Heads from across the country, Departmental Heads and other executives at the Bank participated in the conference.
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By Dr. G. SHREEKUMAR MENON

IN MY SERVICE CAREER spanning 37 long years, I had the unique opportunity of serving as Election Expenditure Observer, at different times, in the constituencies of Chamoli (Uttarakhand), Satara, Jaipur and Palakkad. However the most memorable was the first assignment at Chamoli. When I was asked to report to the Hotel Ashoka at New Delhi for the meeting convened by the Election Commission of India, I was excited and tense. Excited thinking about how lucky I would be to get an exotic tourist destination and tense thinking what would it be like if I am sent to a remote and under developed place. The meeting was a huge mela of IAS and IRS officers (Customs & Excise, and the Income Tax). The IAS officers were the General Observers and the IRS were the Expenditure Observers. After the address by the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commission officials, we were asked to stand in queue to collect our Constituency Appointment Orders. I opened it to see that my allotted destination was Chamoli in present day Uttarakhand. The officer at the counter remarked to me “Sir you are very lucky, Chamoli is a much sought after destination after Nainital, in view of the abundant pilgrimage centres there”.

The journey to Chamoli was very lengthy, from New Delhi by overnight train to Dehra Dun, then on to Haridwar, and from there through the awe inspiring Himalayan terrain. The route is dotted with holy places connected to Hinduism, namely Auli, Joshimath, Gopeshwar, Hemkund Sahib, Valley of Flowers, and further up Badrinath and Kedarnath. Uttarakhand is famously known as Dev Bhoomi or the Land of the Gods. Most of Uttarakhand holy sites are set at an altitude of some 10,000 ft above sea level.

My accommodation was arranged at the State Guest House at Gopeshwar, the District headquarters. It was a very modest place, the VIP area had just two rooms, my neighbour on the first day happened to be BJP stalwart Shri. L.K.Advani.

My first visit scheduled was to meet the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police, which were very revealing about the state of affairs of the administration. From the Roll of Honour displayed on the wall in their respective rooms, it was apparent that, the average tenure of an officer was just about 09 months! The District Collector was confiding that he had just one suitcase containing his belongings, as the threat of transfer was always looming above their heads like the Sword of Damocles. This continues to be the scenario in different parts of India – scheming politicians, disinterested bureaucrats and the hapless public.

The drama of elections got over, and later in my service career I got to do a few more assignments as Expenditure Observer. When the 2019 elections were announced, memories of past elections came surging into the mind. Elections in India are characterized by the acerbic mood of the political class and their active partners, - the print and visual media. The air is thick with intemperate language, foes turned friends and friends turned foes are busy indulging in vicious personal attacks, vitriolic comments, sharp rebukes, and scathing attacks on everyone and everybody. Promises, manifestos, agendas
are released with much fanfare and hyperbole. If somebody promises the moon, his rival will promise the Solar System itself, if someone promises the stars, the rival promises the universe itself! This is the state of affairs of our politics. What needs to be done to change this sorry scheme of things entire?

The most striking feature of Indian elections is that there are no rules of engagement for the contestants. The Election Commission needs to put in place a SOP for adherence by all players. The Election Manifesto of every political party needs to be published within 07 days of announcement of elections. The Manifesto should contain separate sections for political, social, economic, educational, industrial and defence sectors. Whatever reforms that are being contemplated should be spelt out including manner of resource mobilization, timelines for achievement, and manner of implementation. Parties and candidates and visual & print media can discuss and deliberate only on the proposed manifesto. There should be express injunction against personal vilification and innuendo.

I had an occasion to be present in Japan when elections were happening there. A few designated places are earmarked for giving public speeches. Fixed time is allotted to the parties and their candidates for putting forth their agenda. There are no processions, road shows or any show of strength whatsoever. The election expenditure is thus very minimal, unlike in India, where recently one candidate was disclosing that a parliamentary election for each candidate costs around twenty crores approximately. Candidates should be given an opportunity to go to colleges and clubs to express their views and discuss their agenda. Instead of public show of numerical strength, which entails massive expenditure for transport and food of the participants, stress should be on small meetings.

Another factor worth debating would be that instead of reserving seats for women, why can’t we have a system, where, from every constituency, there would be separate Male and Female MP’s and MLA’s. This would promote equality and more broad based representation. Since democracy has become a game of numbers, why only 543 MP’s to determine the fate of millions of people? At least double that number and equal representation to the fair sex can be a game changer.

Another point worth considering is giving equal representation to all the States in the Parliament, regardless of their population. Thus whether it is U.P., Karnataka, Assam or Kerala, every State would have an equal number of representatives, and both sexes would have equal representation. This would put to an end the unnecessary clamour for women’s reservation and acrimonious debates on this matter. Further it would put to an end many divisive and pernicious tendencies that have crept into the system.

We need to strengthen the democratic process and make it vibrant, and a concrete example for other nations to emulate.

Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon PhD (Narcotics), IRS (Rtd). Former Director General, National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics and Former Director General, Multi-Disciplinary School of Economic Intelligence.
OUR NEIGHBOURS HAD A CAROM BOARD during my school days in Udupi. Hence the chance to play was totally dependent on the convenience and whims and fancies of their children. Yet, such was my passion for this game, I was prepared to put up with any and all sort of humiliation with just one goal in mind-mastery over carom!

As time passed, my game improved. I became the preferred partner to win the game. Then the day came when my partnership was decided by the toss of a coin! In school, there was hardly any chance to play, as the number of players outnumbered the slots available.

On reaching Bombay in 1951, the Almighty provided me a year-long opportunity to play carom. Being unemployed, I was given the job of giving company to a neighbour’s 3-year-old-boy who would spend long hours at a carom board. This provided me great scope to try out new shots, such as deep cuts, brushing shots, rebounds and third pocket shots. I could easily pocket 6-7 coins with the break itself.

During my 14-year stint in the Eastern Bank, I stayed unbeaten and unbeatable champion for five years successively till Mr. Rao gave me tough fights for a couple of years. Even in the inter-bank carom tournament, our team reached the finals, where we lost to the RBI team, which boasted of national level players. Being sports secretary, I had then arranged exhibition matches of national/State level players like Nandu Haldipur (BOI) and Ivan Marquis (BEST).

In those days, the Parsi colleagues in my Bank started betting on my shots without my being aware of it! When the canteen manager told me about this, I had to request them to put an end to it.

However, to my utter surprise as well as disappointment, during one of the internal tournaments, I lost miserably to an unseeded player, that too in the first round itself! Since everyone was cocksure that I would win, none waited to see our match. There was no referee also!

The next day, the earth-shaking news broke out, but none would believe it! All said I must have given away the game. But, honestly, I must confess this: that day lady luck did not favour me at all. That was the end to my playing carom.

It was in the early’ 50s that I first watched a game of table tennis and was quite fascinated with it. The backhand movements of returns as well as hits impressed me better than spins and drops. But I never had an occasion to try my hand at TT till I joined the Eastern Bank in 1956.

Since I was a greenhorn still wet behind the ears, initially none wanted to play with me. I had to plead with my colleagues to give me company. One day Mr. Naik, who was then the champion, reluctantly obliged me, but following it up with the proclamation that he would beat me hollow with nil score!

This went on for a few months, but gradually my game improved. Slowly, but steadily, I started scoring more points, particularly against Mr. Naik. His weakness was that he could not counter spin. Hence I concentrated in that direction with encouraging results! Within a year I almost rose to his standard, though Naik still had the upper hand.

They say practice maketh the man perfect. So I roped in my friend Rao to give me practice to counter-hit Naik’s shots, thus improving my backhand strokes. With the newly acquired skills, I was now confident of taking on the champion.

During one of our annual tournaments, I was pitted against Mr. Naik in the semi-final round. Though many expected a tough fight, the scales were in Mr. Naik’s favour. The Parsi
lobby (with its passion for betting) was solidly behind Mr. Naik, the uncrowned king for successive four years. But, as he was unaware of my new skills, my confidence was quite high.

On the D-day, out of best-of-five games, he won the first game at 20-14. The Parsi lobby was virtually jumping. In the second game, again, I went up three notches—to 17. By then the spectators, having predicted my doom, were on their toes to leave the table. But they retraced their step when I won the third game at 22-20. With that Naik’s spirits seemed to droop; but not those of the Parsi lobby—though down, not yet out.

It was a real tough fight and I had to strain myself to win the fourth game at 20-18. The final game went on for over 20 minutes, with both avoiding shots. The tension ended with my triumph at 20-19!

The next day many congratulated me over my performance, and a few, significantly expressed their regret over leaving the match venue early. Mr. Naik, whose rating in the Parsi betting circle came down sharply, took it very hard, unable to digest having lost to a novice. Hence his ego, hurt beyond repair, bit the bait when many of his fans convinced him that his loss to me was a fluke and he could beat me hands down.

This ultimately resulted in a challenge match one Saturday. This time, there was full quorum, coupled with pin drop silence. Mr. Naik had the advantage of height and was aware that my left hand shots were comparatively weak. I was, however, confident of my spin and smashing returns to which Mr. Naik had no answer.

Finally, the game began with the referee announcing "Love all"! The best-of-three game; however, started whimpering when Mr. Naik lost the first at 20-9. His dejection became apparent when he began to miss most of the time and stand stranded and helpless against my spinning returns. Ultimately, the tussle ended in an anticlimax-Mr. Naik losing the second game too at 20-9.

That was a real ‘Golden Day’ for the one-time novice humiliated with NIL games! Though later, due to commercial art freelance work, I had to drastically cut down on my sportive passions, my regret is over my rival: it seems Mr. Naik hardly played TT after our showdown!

His dejection became apparent when he began to miss most of the time and stand stranded and helpless against my spinning returns.
Ultimately, the tussle ended in an anticlimax—Mr. Naik losing the second game too at 20-9.
Random Thoughts

Concrete walls are easier to raze than these, in which we imprison the freedom of souls; behind which we ostracize ‘others’ or ourselves and degrade humanity.

There are also those, who patiently hack away at such walls, brick by brick, creating assailable avenues of friendship in place of barred private gardens with Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted sign boards. They tirelessly seek to create open spaces between hearts and minds. Spaces, wherein they grow evergreen trees of love, tolerance, kindness, truth and understanding. We need to strengthen this silent army sowing unity and peace. By joining their ranks, for every brick we topple from a disuniting rampart, we will imbed a seed of oneness and mutual love, thus repaying some of our dues to humanity at large.

Walls

By SHERNAZ WADIA

‘Walls have ears’. If they had tongues, wow!! Their stories would revolutionize history with their molding secrets.

The marble walls of the Taj Mahal resonate with the song of immortal love, but would they not shed a tear for their unhallowed artisans? Old forts would weep out legends of bloody battles; palace walls would wickedly whisper tales of treasons and intrigues. We would also hear epics extolling noble deeds. On the flip side, if Othello could have verified his lovely Desdemona’s fidelity from the walls of her room, he would not have strangled her in a fit of jealous rage and then stabbed himself in remorse.

Walls, often the only witnesses to gory acts, would help exonerate many an innocent victim of law. They could delight by their melodies of romance and selfless love; move hearts by sagas of great courage or sad accounts of infidelity, broken marriages and wrecked homes. Tongue-wagging walls would wreak havoc and be bulldozed in turn.

Walls are erected not only to protect and safe-guard, but also to barricade and divide; particularly, metaphorical ones. Such walls are deeply entrenched in everyone’s life – individual, social and international. Commerce and industry, the World Wide Web, international collaborations evolving almost daily, create a mythical oneness. There are constant, invisible, polarizing structures between us and others. We even incarcerate god within stone edifices and mental blocks, ridiculously trying to own and ‘protect’ Him!! And then there are those of us who adeptly entomb our lives, individuality, dreams and all, inside walls of fear and frustration. For some their dreams die a whimpering death, for a few luckier ones they return as ghosts seeking release. Fear, insecurity, basic mistrust, self interest, memories of past hurts and deceits...there are a hundred valid and not so valid reasons why we put up these partitions, unfortunately, even within the confines of one’s own family and community.

Concrete walls are easier to raze than these, in which we imprison the freedom of souls; behind which we ostracize ‘others’ or ourselves and degrade humanity.

Solution to Mangalore Today Crossword

(From page No.35)

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Welcome to

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Updated every hour. Every day.
The heat of the battle of the ballot is finally here...........often aged, helpless, sick and vulnerable are illegally exploited on polling day, their value is recalled only on this day. Those who have control over these unfortunate souls living in a limbo, are inhumanely abused on polling day. It’s a matter of total manipulation and exploitation. In this election the "cVIGIL" App, provides ability to prevent and take action on the unscrupulous elements - citizens of good-will need to watch and act.

Politicos, touts, hand in hand with 'responsible people' in the social strata, kith & kin, care takers in institutions, are all hand in glove in this atrocity. The aged, sick and vulnerable people advanced in age, senile, unconscious to reality, are dragged to the polling booths, in vehicles provided by agents of candidates, to cast votes favouring a party/candidate. This is commonly seen in homes/houses, institutions/ashrams, and so on. This is illegal and not in keeping with dignity and moral humane norms too. Much fuss is made by media.

As for many seriously sick in hospitals, of which DK and Udupi have many may not be able to go to the polling booths and exercise their franchise. Most of them may be competent in mind but are not ambulatory to go to the booths. Many in ICUs and so on just can’t move out and are incompetent mentally to understand the voting procedure and not be able to know the candidates/party as such. It will be unjust for some others who may accompany them to vote, which may not be as per the sick persons desire, it is better no vote is cast. There is a high chance of misusing the persons identity and vigilance is needed.

Karnataka has more than 5-1 crore voters; 5,579 are aged above 100 years. 1.47 lakh at least are between 99 and 90 years old. 32 lakh are in the 90 to 70 years age bracket. How many of these are fit in mind and body to cast their vote independently is unknown; hopefully they will not be exploited illegally by powerful vested interests.

Only authorized Govt officials have the mandate to arrange for physically age disabled persons and not others - particularly people with vested party interests. It also poses a risk, to be taken to the polling booth to cast votes without consent and only qualified persons should be allowed for this. Polling by such disabled persons is also often not in a free and fair manner, manipulations, fear and coercion rule. No, forced transport or coercion by politicos and their agents must be allowed; as invariably there are gratifications/considerations like money and material changing hands behind the scenes - a blatant criminal, illegal and immoral crime. So, who casts the vote? For whom? Whose choice? The authorities concerned must seriously with care monitor and prevent such exploitation that have been rampant in past polls in the name of sacredness of free franchise. ■

I J SALDANHA SHET

Japan Fast But India Very Very Fast

There was a Japanese who went to India for sightseeing. On the last day, he hired a cab and told the driver to drive to the Airport. During the journey, a Honda drove past the taxi. Thereupon, the man leaned out of the window excitedly and yelled, “Honda, very fast! Made in Japan !!!.

After a while, a Toyota sped past the taxi and again the Japanese man leaned out of the window and yelled, “Toyota, very fast! Made in Japan!”

And then a Mitsubishi sped past the taxi. For the third time, the Japanese leaned out of the window excitedly and yelled, “Mitsubishi, very fast! Made in Japan!”

The driver was a little angry, but he kept quiet. And this went on for quite a number of cars.

Finally, the taxi came to the airport. The fare was 800 rupees. !!!!

The Japanese exclaimed, “What??... so expensive!” Thereupon, the driver yelled back, “Meter, Made in India VERY VERY FAST !!!!!
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<td><strong>ARIES</strong> (March 21 - April 20)</td>
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<td>The month ahead is an important one for new beginnings, dear Aries. While the Sun in your sign is your yearly power period and the first three weeks of April are no exception, you get off to a bit of a slow start on emotional levels. Around the 19th, imbalances in your life become glaring.</td>
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<td><strong>TAURUS</strong> (April 21 - May 20)</td>
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<td>April is about renewing your energy and clearing out the deadwood in your life, dear Taurus, as you ready yourself for new beginnings. You’re likely to enjoy yourself along the way—it’s not all psychological work, in other words—with Mercury and Venus working their magic on your social life until the 17th to 20th, respectively.</td>
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<td><strong>GEMINI</strong> (May 22 - June 21)</td>
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<td>There can be quite a bit of activity in your social life this month, dear Gemini, and ups and downs are likely, with the chances for major improvements from the 20th on. At the same time, career or reputation matters get a nice boost in April.</td>
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<td><strong>CANCER</strong> (June 22 - July 23)</td>
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<td>April brings a sharper, more focused, and easier decisions, dear Cancer, but also a general need to carve out special time for rest and detox. Both your career and adventure sectors are quite active this month, and you’ll have several prompts to take care of business, update your skills, and answer to calls to refresh your spirit.</td>
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<td><strong>LEO</strong> (July 24 - Aug 23)</td>
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<td>April brings lively energy to your life as Mars works in harmony with your sign all month, dear Leo, as well as a strong showing in your sector of adventure and spirit. You are being pulled up and out of yourself, more willing to take on a challenge, to reach out to others, and to invest in your belief in yourself. Ideally, you’ll come to a nice balance between doing and observing.</td>
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<td><strong>VIRGO</strong> (Aug 24 - Sept. 22)</td>
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<td>You’re in a fantastic position, having increased clarity in April, dear Virgo, after playing waiting games in March. As well, the month is a potential power period for your career or role as leader/caregiver. You are ready and willing to perform, more ambitious than usual, and energized about pursuing your goals.</td>
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<td><strong>LIBRA</strong> (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</td>
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<td>While wellness and work continue to hold your attention this month, dear Libra, there are growing social themes emerging. April is a month in which the focus shifts considerably away from your personal concerns and towards the needs of your close relationships and partnerships. Cooperating more than innovating seems the best option in terms of overall happiness and success.</td>
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<td><strong>SCORPIO</strong> (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</td>
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<td>April helps lift blocks as creativity and romance flow more freely, dear Scorpio, and it also strengthens work and health themes for you. There is a pretty much equal focus on work and play in April, and while the potential for reaching an ideal balance is certainly with you, there can be times when you feel quite divided.</td>
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<td><strong>SAGITTARIUS</strong> (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</td>
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<td>There is a strong focus on your creative or romantic life in April, dear Sagittarius, with an emphasis on your solar fifth house. This is the house of joy and heartfelt pursuits, and whatever these things are to you at this point in your life, they’re sure to take a front seat in your life this month.</td>
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<td><strong>CAPRICORN</strong> (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</td>
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<td>There continues to be a strong focus on your home and family life, as well as your support system this month, dear Capricorn. Work and health matters rev up, and communication problems that seemed to be a way of life in March now clear up. Decision-making, in general, is sharper and more straightforward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AQUARIUS</strong> (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)</td>
<td></td>
<td>This can be a busy, communicative, and connected month for you, dear Aquarius, but also one of important shifts that enrich your inner and emotional world. Throughout the month, there can be varied tasks, jobs, and errands to manage, and perhaps there is little in the form of rest or predictability at times. Avoid stress by making lists and plans rather than taking a scattered or haphazard approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PISCES</strong> (Feb. 19 - March 20)</td>
<td></td>
<td>You begin the month in many ways in the spotlight, dear Pisces, although there is a distinct theme working its way through April that focuses on you building and developing your resources and talents. April is a good month for taking care of business, attending to practical affairs, and devoting some time to finances. New interests or channels for communicating are opening up for you.</td>
</tr>
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**Believe it or not, we are definitely not responsible for your fate!**
Humans have always been fascinated by the solar system and the planets. Here are some interesting facts about Saturn, the second largest planet in our solar system.

Saturn has been named after the Roman God of farming who was also the father of another Roman God, Jupiter. It was first recorded in the 8th century by Assyrians.

Saturn is simply a ball of gases and its density is lower than water. So, there is no solid place where you can place your foot. Saturn is mainly composed of the Helium gas.

Rings of Saturn make it a unique planet in the Solar System. While looking at it, one might feel that these rings are solid, but it is not so. There are 30+ rings in 7 groups. These picturesque rings are made up of bits of dust, rocks, and ice revolving around the planet.

In the year 1610, when Galileo first observed the rings of Saturn, he thought there were two large moons, which were struck on two opposite sides of Saturn. It was not until 1655 when it was discovered that they were actually the rings and not moons.

Just like Earth, Saturn’s axis is tilted. So, when it goes around the Sun, sometimes its rings can be viewed perfectly and in full glory under Sun’s radiation. But, at other times, these rings disappear completely from our view. It happens only once in every 14-15 years. When the rings disappear, one can clearly see Saturn’s moons.

After Jupiter, Saturn has the fastest spin on its axis among all the other planets in the Solar System. Saturn spins so fast that its one day ends in just 10 hours 34 minutes. The speed with which Saturn rotates on its axis is 6,200 miles per hour.

Just like Jupiter, Saturn spins very fast on its axis, but it is extremely slow when it comes to revolving around the Sun. One complete revolution around the Sun by Saturn takes approximately 29.7 years.

One can see Saturn through binoculars or a small telescope as it’s the 5th brightest planet in the Solar System.
Kids Story

My brother and I were playing a game of tag in the house. ‘Tag! You’re it!’ shouted Alim and ran as fast as his 5-year-old legs could carry him. I chased closely behind. In my mind I was thinking this boy is fast even as I watched him jump over the settee and trip as he landed, falling sideways to hit our Mom’s favourite vase, the one late Grandpa gave her on her wedding day, off the side table. SMASH!!

Alim burst into tears almost at the same time the vase broke. I was equally alarmed but also happy that it was not me. I laughed fearfully and said ‘Ha! Alim, you are in trouble.’ This made Alim cry more, ‘Mummy is going to beat me!’

He was crying so much I felt sorry for him. Just then Mom came into the house. I rushed over to Alim’s side. ‘What is this? Who broke my vase?’ My Mom shouted. Her eyes were wide open and bright with surprise and terrible anger. Alim tried to say something through his tears but I started to clean his wet face with my hand and I said, ‘I am so sorry Mom. I broke the vase and told Alim that I would say it was him.’ My Mom pulled me by my left ear and dragged me to our room. Alim followed quietly behind. My Mom said, ‘That’s it. You are grounded for the rest of the holiday. No TV, no playing, no going outside. Next time you will think twice about breaking something and then blaming it on your little brother.’ As she closed the room door on me, I saw Alim’s face in the corner, his eyes very big, looking straight at me.

The door slammed shut and I felt very alone in the room as I nursed my painful ear. Why did I do that? I thought. Alim should be the one taking the punishment not me. I laughed fearfully and said ‘Ha! Alim, you are in trouble.’ This made Alim cry more, ‘Mummy is going to beat me!’

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Without a word, Mom held up the vase like a trophy. Mom said nothing more about the incident, she forgot about the punishment and she put the vase back on its shelf. My brother and I wore tired smiles.

Unbreakable” by Yahaya Abdullahi, is the Third Prize winning story in the sub-junior category of the first biannual Short Story Contest 2019 organised by Kids World Fun.

HOCUS - FOCUS

Check out how sharp your eyes are. Find out at least 5 differences between the pictures below.
**AIR TIMINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANGALORE</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Departures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IndiGo</td>
<td>6:35, 8:05, 8:50</td>
<td>15:50, 20.25, 07:05, 16:20, 21.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet Airways</td>
<td>00:35</td>
<td>22:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpiceJet</td>
<td>08:30, 14:40</td>
<td>8:00, 14:40</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUMBAI</th>
<th>Arr.</th>
<th>Dep.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IndiGo</td>
<td>11:20, 17.30</td>
<td>12.10, 18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air India</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>12.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etihad Airways</td>
<td>15:40, 20.10</td>
<td>16.10, 20.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| DELHI | Jet Airways | 14:25 | 14:55 |

| HYDERABAD | IndiGo | 9:05, 13.35 | 14.05, 19.05 |

| BAHRAIN | Air India Express | - | 06.35 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUBAI</th>
<th>Jet Airways</th>
<th>00:35</th>
<th>01.55,08.10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SpiceJet</td>
<td>18:15</td>
<td>00:45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air India Express</td>
<td>04:45, 17.35</td>
<td>09.10, 20.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| KUWAIT | Air India Express | 18:25 |

| ABU DHABI | Air India Express | 5:45 | - |

| DOHA | Air India Express | 15.35 | 17.35 |

| DAMMAM | Air India Express | 18.10 | 19.25 |

**BUS TIMINGS**

**TO BANGALORE**
- Anand Travels: 2448737, 22.20, 23.30
- Durgamba Motors: 2497277, 21.55, 22.45
- Ganesh Travels: 2441277, 21.20, 22.15
- SRS Travels: 4256680, 14.45, 22.15, 23.00
- Sugama Tourist: 4279555, 21.45, 22.10, 2230
- VRL Travels: 2493536, 22.00, 23.00

**TO MUMBAI**
- Anand Travels: 2448737, 11.00, 13.45
- Canara Pinto: 2422646, 12.00, 13.30, 16.00
- Vishal Travels: 2423917, 12.15, 13.15, 14.00
- Mahabaleshwar: 2424322, 14.00
- VRL Travels: 2489536, 13.45, 16.00, 17.00
- Neetha Travels: 2427099, 15.30
- SRS Travels: 4255680, 13.45, 16.00, 17.15

**TO BELGAUM**
- Ganesh Travels: 2441277, 20.40, 21.00, 22.00
- Sri Durgamba: 2420303, 20.00
- VRL Travels: 2493536, 16.10, 18.00, 22.00

**TO HUBLI**
- VRL Travels: 2493536, 15.30, 22.00
- Ganesh Travels: 2441277, 19.00, 21.45, 22.30

**TO MYSORE**
- Durgamba Motors: 2497225, 23.25

**TO GOA**
- Ganesh Travels: 2441277, 21.15

**TO KOCHIN/ERNAKULAM/KOTTAYAM**
- Ganesh Travels: 2441277, 20.30
- Durgamba: 2420303, 20.00

**TO HYDERABAD**
- SRS Travels: 4255680, 14.45
- VRL Travels: 2493536, 14.00

**CINEMA**
- Big Cenema, Bharath Mall, Bejai: 3989545
- Cinepolis Cinema, City Centre Mall: 4261315
- Central, Maidan Road: 2423108
- Jyoti, Balmatta Road: 2424660
- New Chitra, Car Street: 2496337
- Platinum, Falnir: 2427126
- PVR Cinemas, Forum Mall: 8800900009
- Ramakanti, Market Road: 2423484
- Roopavani, Central Market: 2423199
- Suchitra / Prabhat, KS Rao Road: 2440467

**BEACH RESORTS**
- Mangalore Holiday Village, Someshwar: 2281061
- Red Rock Residency, Mukka: 2477190
- Paradise Isle, Malpe: 8020, 2537791
- Summer Sands, Ullal: 2467690

**MUSEUMS**
- Shreemanthibai Memorial Museum, Bejai: 2211106
- Aloysium, St. Aloysius College, LHR Road: 2426143
- Manjusha Museum, Dharmanthala: 08256, 277121

**TEMPLES & TOURIST SPOTS**
- Dharmasthan Manjunath Swami Temple: 75
- Kukke Subramanya Temple: 104
- 1000 Pillars Basadi, Moodbidri: 38
- Gomateshwara, Karkala: 52
- Krishna Temple, Udupi: 60
- St. Lawrence Church, Karkala: 56
- Mookambika Temple, Kollur: 128
- Sharadamba Temple, Sringeri: 165
- Sayyed Madani Dargah, Ullal: 12
- Durgaparameshwari Temple: 27
- St. Aloysius Chapel, Mangalore: 1
- Gokarnatheshwara Temple, Mangalore: 2
- Sri Gopal Krishna Temple, Shaktinagar: 6

**HOSPITALS**
- AJ Hospital, Kuntikana: 2225533
- Athena Hospital, Falnir Road: 2442835
- City Hospital, Mallikatta: 2217901
- Colaco Hospital, Lower Bendore: 2434444
- Fr. Muller’s Hospital, Kankanady: 2238000
- Indiana Hospital, Pumpwell: 2880880
- K.M.C. Hospital, Attavar: 2445858
- K.S. Hegde Hospital, Deralakatte: 2204471
- Lady Goschen Hospital: 2445611
- Mangala Hospital, Kadri Road: 2444441
- Mangalore Nursing Home, Bendore: 2218617
- Omega Hospital, Pumpwell: 2430000
- SCS Hospital, Upper Bendore: 2225201
- Tejasvini Hospital, Kadri Temple Road: 2225995
- Unity Health Complex, Falnir: 4245555
- Vinaya Clinic, Karangalipady: 4941590
- Wenlock Hospital, Hampankatta (Govt): 2442744

**BOARDING / LODGING**
- Abhiman, Bunts Hostel Road: 4266304
- Ayodhya, Kodialbail: 2493681
- BMS Hotel, Kuntikana: 2988777
- Deepa Comforts, MG Road: 2497101
- Ganesh Mahal, KS Rao Road: 2440632
- Ganesh Prasad, KS Rao Road: 2440418
- Goldfinch, Bunts Hostel Road: 4254578
- Mangalore Intl, KS Rao Road: 244860
- Maya International, Bendoorwell: 2435111
- Nalapad Residency, LHH Road: 2424757
- Ocean Pearl, Kodialbail: 2413800
- Panchmahal, Kodialbail: 2495574
- Prestige, Bendoor, Collector’s Gate: 2410601
- Poona Intl., KS Rao Road: 2440171
- Roopa Hotel, Balmatta Road: 2421271
- Safron, GHS Road: 4255542
- Srinivas Hotel, GHS Road: 2440061
- Taj Mahal, Hampankatta: 2421751
- The Gateway Hotel, Old Port Road: 2420420
- Woodlands, BuntsHostel Road: 2443751

**VEHICLE BREAKDOWN SERVICES**
- Auto Matrix (Tata): 9845374788 / 6539237
- Bharath Auto Cars (Maruthi): 98865 43030 / 2223030
- Caufery Ford (Ford): 9845059961 / 2450083
- Frontline (Chevrolet): 9845119112 / 9845388961
- Karnataka Agencis/Mahindra: 9845339004
- Kanchan Automobiles (Hyundai): 984404407/2430618
- Peninsular Honda (Honda): 9845977000
- Mandovi Motors (Maruthi): 9845724385
- United Toyota (Toyota): 9845088611
- Volkswagen: 97423 03030 / 2433930
Arrested
Police have arrested notorious criminal and rowdy sheeter Akashbhavan Sharan alias Charan in connection with the case of alleged rape of a minor who had come for tiger dance training. A POCSO case was earlier registered against Sharan in this regard on January 7.

Bagged
NMAMIT, Nitte and AJ Institute of Management Studies, Mangaluru bagged the overall championship in the engineering and management studies categories respectively at the 12th edition of the Annual State level Intercollegiate Cultural, Technical and Management Fest of Mangalore Institute of Technology and Engineering (MITE)- Sentia 2019 recently.

Anjali V Raj has bagged the first rank with a gold medal in the M.Sc (Environment Science) examination conducted by Mysore University. She hails from Perampalli in Udupi and is presently a resident of Wayanad in Kerala.

Celebrated
The 112th birth anniversary of Dalit icon and former deputy prime minister Babu Jagajeevan Ram was celebrated at the Netravathi Auditorium of the Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat recently. Deputy Commissioner Sasikanth Senthil presided over the function.

Conducted
Nitte Institute of Architecture (NIA) conducted a two-day power workshop for students interested in cracking the NATA (National Aptitude Test in Architecture) examinations. The workshop was organised in association with DQ Labs who have excelled in NATA training.

Elected
Aikala Harish Shetty has been elected unopposed as the President of Jagathika Buntara Sanghagala Okkoota. The new office bearers were elected at the meeting held at Mumbai Buntara Sangha Hall.

Felicitated
Dr M N Rajendra Kumar who was re-elected President of SCDC Bank for the sixth term was felicitated by Dr D Veerendra Hegde, Dharmadhikari of Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala, at Dharmasthala recently. SCDC Bank Vice President Vinay Kumar Soorinje and others were present.

Organised
The Mangaluru Odia Cultural Association (MOCA) organised Utkal Divas Celebration the Sujir C V Nayak Hall to commemorate the formation of the Odisha state as a separate province on 1st April 1936. Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, Managing Director and CEO of Syndicate Bank, Birupaksha Mishra, Executive Director, Corporation Bank, Dr.K.Mohan Pai, Cardiologist and President, GSB Seva Sangh were present among others.

Promoted
Karnataka Bank, has promoted eleven of its Chief Managers to the cadre of Assistant General Managers, as part of its annual promotion exercise. The newly promoted Assistant General Managers are Chandrashekar B, Basavaraj Desalli, Mahesh Shetty, Rakesh B, Jagadeesha D G, Raghuram H S, Vinay Kulkarni, Srinivas S Dandapur, Prasanna Patil, Srinivas Deshpande and Ponnappa K S.

Presented
The Vidyadhiraja Award for the year 2018 given by the Shree Samsthana Gokarna Parthagali Jeevottam Mutt was presented to T V Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education. He received the Award from Sri Vidyadhiraja Theertha Swamiji of the Mutt at its Goa branch recently.

Presented
Veteran scholar Amrith Someshwar was presented the Rashtrakavi Manjeswara Govinda Pai Award at his residence in Someshwar recently. The award was given jointly by the Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Samshodhana Kendra and Manipal Academy of Higher Education.
**Re-elected**

Yashpal A Suvarna has been re-elected the President of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District Co-operative Fish Marketing Federation for the fourth term. Purushottam Amin Ullal was elected the Vice President.

**Released**

Tulu movie "Katapadi Kattappa" brought out under the banner of J P Tuminad was released recently at Jyothi Theatre. This is the debut movie of Biruver Kudla Founder President Uday Poojary who is playing the lead role in the film. Charishma Amin Farangipete is the heroine of the movie which also has well-known names like Vijaykumar Kodialbail, Barke Yajnesh and Bhojraj Vamanjoor in other roles.

The movie is set to be screened in over 200 theatres in India and abroad. The audio of the movie was released by sandalwood star Sudeep in April last year.

**Staged**

Women under the aegis of Women’s Anti-Atrocities Forum staged a unique protest by wearing black head bands and black attire demanding 33% reservation for women in politics. The women in black staged the protest by standing on the footpath in front of Wenlock holding posters in support of their demands.

President of Federation of Women’s Organisations Chanchalakshi, Women’s association leaders Chandrakala Nandavar, Merlyn Marits, B M Rohini, Vani Periyody and others were present.

**Takes charge**

Dr. A.P. Bhat has taken charge as the Principal of Poorna Prajna College, Udupi. Dr Bhat has been serving as Lecturer in Physics since 33 years.

**Transferred**

Uma Prashanth who was the DCP (Traffic and Crime) has been transferred and Lakshmi Ganesh has been appointed in her place. Uma has been transferred as SP of Western Range (Mangaluru) Anti- Corruption Bureau. Lakshmi Ganesh was earlier serving as Lokayukta SP in Bengaluru.

**Won**

Srividya from the Division of Molecular Genetics and Cancer at Nitte University Centre for Science Education & Research has won the second place in “Health Sciences & Allied Subjects” Category at ANVESHAN 2018-National Student Research Convention held at Ganpat University, Gujarat in March. She was the only winner from the South Zone Universities this year.
She is known to be a strict police officer for whom discharging duty with diligence is above everything else. While handling the tremendous responsibility on her shoulders with zeal, Nisha James who is now the SP of Udupi district, has also shown great concern for the well-being and safety of the women folk. Her concern is reflected in the form of the Rani Abbakka Force launched in Udupi recently with the objective of ensuring safety of women.

A 2013 batch IPS officer Nisha hails from Kerala. A graduate from the Sriram College of Delhi, she has also has a post graduate degree in English Literature. An intelligent young lady that she is, Nisha succeeded in the UPSC examination in her very first attempt with an All India rank of 179.

Dedicated IPS officer

Nisha who completed her probation in Chitradurga has later served as ASP of Sagar, SP of Raichur and Bengaluru Intelligence Division and as Commandant of Indian Reserve Battalion. While serving in Sagar and Chitradurga she had launched an Obavva Force similar to the Abbakka Force launched in Udupi.

Nisha James was working as Commandant of Fourth Battalion of Karnataka in Bengaluru before being posted in Udupi.

Happily married to IPS officer Dr Anoop A Shetty, Nisha James also has the credit of leading a 1,700 km long cyclathon from Belagavi to Bengaluru.

POWER MAN

Acharya was also adjudged the Second Best Lifter at the Asia Pacific Championship where he participated in the 74 kg category and lifted an overall weight of 652.5 kgs including 252.5 kg in Squat, 190 kg in Bench Press and 250 Kg in Deadlift. 

He has even won gold at Commonwealth games held at South Africa in 2017 and a silver at Asian Bench press championship, Dubai last year apart from medals in national events.

He is now gearing up for the World Championship to be held at Dubai in November this year.

Comics are plain fun, but they require a great deal of efforts for creation by skilful minds. Anand Shenoy Basti having his roots in Bantwal, and presently based in New Delhi is one such very talented Indian Comic artist who has made his home town proud.

Son of film maker Basti Dinesh Shenoy and Shobha Shenoy couple and grandson of Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy, Anand had a great interest in comics art right since a small age. When he was just 12 he had emerged the winner of Pogo Amazing Kids under Artists category in 2008.

His skills were fine tuned while studying at the College of Fine Arts at Chitrakala Parishat, Bengaluru from where he graduated in fine arts.

Later along with his classmate Mohit Mahanto he started a collective of talent of comic artists named Pagal Canvas which has published over 25 books in the last two years.

Anand has the credit of being one among the few Indian comic artists who have got a golden opportunity to attend the prestigious Fumetto International Comic Festival at Lucerne, Switzerland from April 4 to 16. The Festival is a global gathering of illustrators and comic artists from across the world.

He can rightly be described as a Power Man of Mangaluru. Pradeep Kumar Acharya, the coastal city’s most talented power lifter has proved himself when he won two gold at the Asia Pacific Equipped Power lifting Championship 2019 held at Gold Coast, Australia.

A fitness instructor by profession, Acharya who is from Urvastores in Mangaluru hails from a humble background and is being coached by Satish Kumar Kudroli at Balanjaneya Gymnasium. His hard work and determination to succeed and the zeal with which he competes with total concentration has yielded results.
Aim Higher
A step forward to your success with our
“KBL VIDYANIDHI” Educational Loan

KBL VIDYANIDHI

Words of precaution to the public

Governor, RBI or Bank or any such other organisation does not send mails or SMSs asking you to deposit money to transfer a larger sum of money to your account. Do not be a victim of such frauds.

Call toll free no. 1800 425 1444 or step into your nearest branch for details

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Big Happiness. Packed Small.
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