

MANGALORE TODAY

The only English monthly of D. K. & Udupi

In the News

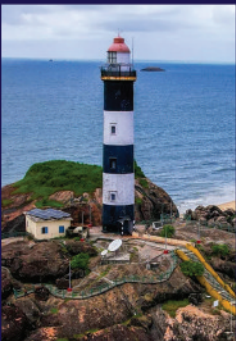


DR. PRASHANTH SHETTY
Distinguished Principal

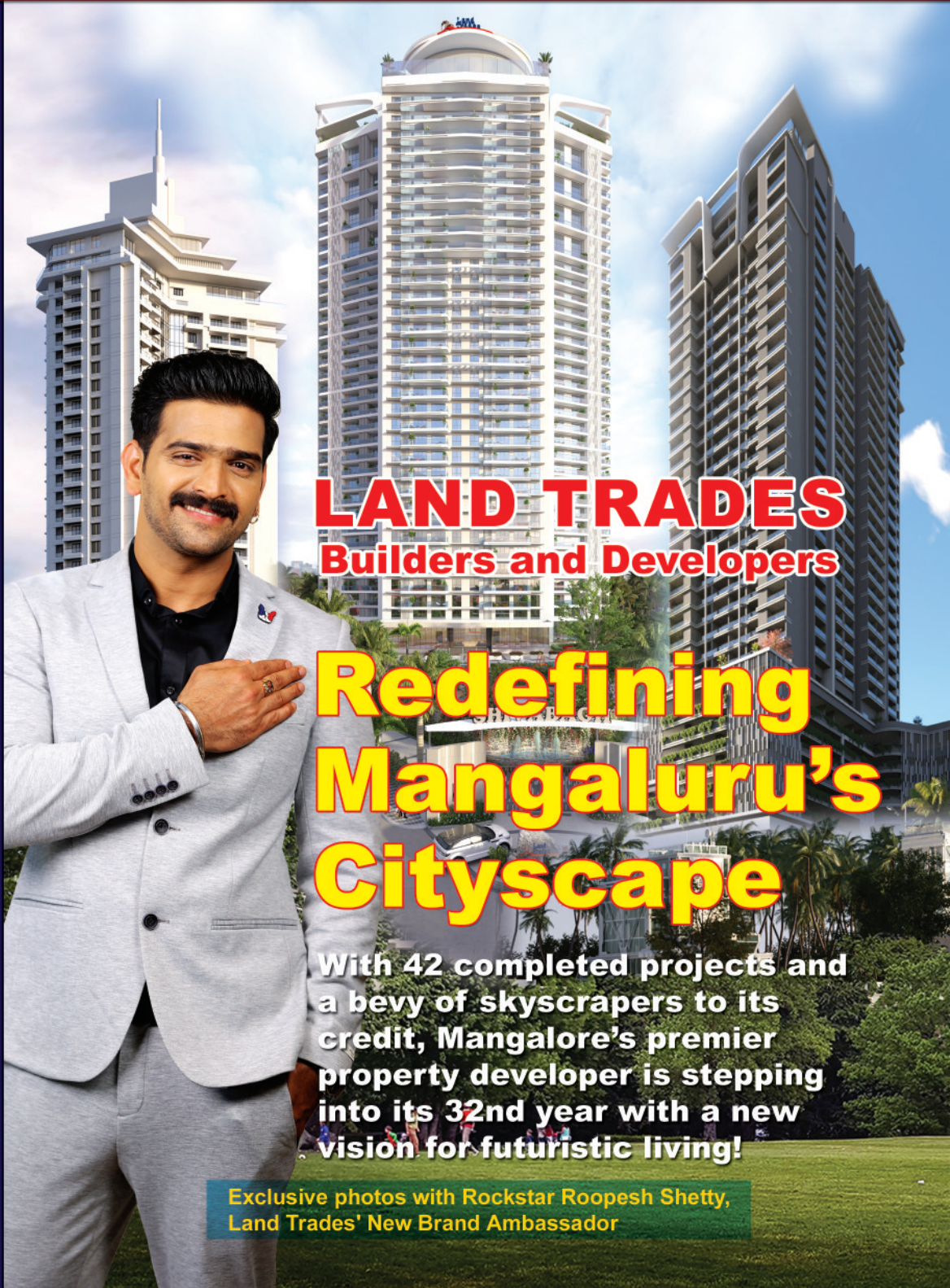


CAPTAIN. M.V. PRANJALI
Tribute

Feature



Lighthouses
A Beacon of Tourism



LAND TRADES

Builders and Developers

Redefining Mangaluru's Cityscape

With 42 completed projects and a bevy of skyscrapers to its credit, Mangalore's premier property developer is stepping into its 32nd year with a new vision for futuristic living!

Exclusive photos with Rockstar Roopesh Shetty,
Land Trades' New Brand Ambassador



IDEO

Ideally Yours



THE INTERNATIONAL RANGE OF ICE CREAMS



TULUNADA KAMBALA WOWS BENGALURU: The first ever Kambala event held at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru left the IT capital in awe and amazed thousands gathered to watch this spectacular two-day fanfare that showcased the unique sport of the coastal region.

““““““ WORDSWORTH ””””””””””

“Our soldiers who protect our nation by risking their own lives, are our real heroes.”

- SUMAN TALWAR, actor, at the inaugural of Celestia-2023 cultural festival at St Agnes College.

“Students must learn from history to visualize the future. They must not shy away from taking risks when going out of the protected environment.”

- RAJEEV SINGH RAGHUVANSHI, Drugs Controller General of India, at the 31st Convocation address of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE).



“It is vital for startups to remain steadfast and loyal to their original vision in the face of continuous challenges.”

- K. SHAM BHAT, senior chartered accountant on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Mangalore-based electronics startup Brevera Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

“Monopoly in ownership of media houses is a matter of concern. It leaves audience with no choice.”

- DR SINDHU MANJESH, writer and journalism lecturer from University of Maine (USA), during the P. P. Gomathi Memorial Annual Lecture

“Tulu culture is like wild jasmine that should be allowed to grow in its native and no attempts should be made to grow it elsewhere.”

- DINESH AMIN MATTU, senior journalist, speaking at the 'Sirithuppe' programme organised by Bannanje Babu Amin-80 Felicitation Committee at Udupi.

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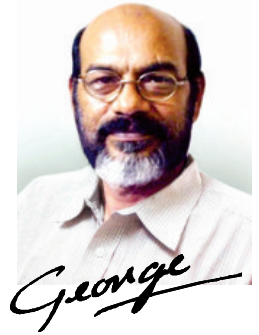
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'Land Trades' Leads

In an era defined by a smart city landscape and a technologically savvy generation, 'Land Trades' Builders and Developers stand out as resilient pioneers, adept at adapting to the changing times and addressing emerging societal needs through innovation.

Leadership in the real estate sector demands exceptional tenacity, adaptability, reliability, and a forward-looking growth vision. These qualities define Land Trades as one of Mangaluru's notable success stories. According to Sri. Shrinath Hebbar, the proprietor of Land Trades, "we live in exciting times where technology is revolutionizing the world. All our new projects integrate the most modern futuristic technologies, offering residents enhanced luxury, comfort, safety, and security."

Land Trades began as a consultancy firm for buying and selling properties in 1993. Later, as the city began to expand outwards, the firm was quick to spot an opportunity in developing housing layouts. It has so far successfully completed over 25 housing layouts. With the shift towards apartment living in the 21st century, Land Trades ventured into the luxury apartment market in 2008.

The apartment culture has become an integral part of our urban living, with diverse demands across market segments. During the last decade, Mangaloreans

have shown a distinct preference for a luxurious lifestyle, on par with the city's status as a smart city. Responding to the emerging trend, Land Trades began to develop high-concept lifestyle apartments that feature 5-star ambience within the safe confines of an apartment complex.

Acknowledging real estate as one of the most challenging sectors, Land Trades remains committed to bringing the best global lifestyle to its customers through futuristic technology-based smart features and facilities. The three new skyscraper projects—Altura at Bendoorwell, Shivabagh at Kadri, and Pristine at Chilimbi—promise dream facilities and luxuries on par with the world's best. Land Trades, an ISO 9001:2015 firm, holds a 'DA2' Real Estate Developer Rating from CRISIL.

Land Trades enjoys a wide spectrum of clients spread across the social spectrum. Apart from domestic buyers, the firm is especially patronised by NRI customers, professionals and corporate houses. The premium positioning of the firm and its good customer satisfaction track record ensures repeat purchases and good references from existing residents. The firm has maintained an impeccable tradition of perfect documentation, with all projects bearing clear title deeds and occupancy certificates on project completion, making home ownership a hassle-free experience for customers.



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LIGHTHOUSES

A Beacon of Tourism

The Lighthouse technical development is now rapidly gaining ground and overtaking even advanced countries, writes I J SALDANHA SHET

■ TRIBUTE

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BRAVEHEART

A Tribute to Captain. M.V. Pranjal who was martyred in an encounter with terrorists at Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on November 22.

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■ Mangalore Today Cover story on Dr Thumbay Moideen, a distinguished NRI entrepreneur who has made his hometown proud, was really nice. It was an enlightening write-up and we are all proud of Dr Thumbay Moideen's achievements.

GREGORY PAIS, Mangaluru

■ Dr Thumbay Moideen's inspirational journey and the phenomenal efforts he had put in behind establishing Gulf Medical University are truly noteworthy. The Gulf Karnataka Ratna Award conferred on him is another crowning glory and recognition to his achievements.

SHRIDHAR SHETTY, Mangaluru

■ Dr Thumbay Moideen's entrepreneurial

spirit and his achievements are an inspiration for the younger generation. The interview of Dr Thumbay Moideen published in Mangalore Today also made good reading. He has truly said that Innovation is the key driver of growth.

GRACE PINTO, Bengaluru

■ It is Dr Thumbay Moideen's visionary zeal that contributed to the success of the conglomerate in diverse spheres including education, healthcare and research. The cover story has provided an in-depth coverage of the evolution and growth of the Thumbay Group led by Dr. Moideen who has been instrumental in steering the group to great heights.

DAYANAND KUMAR, Mangaluru

■ The article on Nazareth Niwas, Home for the Elderly gave an insight into the noble cause with which this Home for the Elderly is functioning. The society must come forward and contribute to such causes in whichever way it is possible.

JOSEPH RODRIGUES, Mangaluru

■ Train Clicks by Ronak D'Sa are indeed wonderful. Really appreciate the talent of this youngster. The photos clicked by him are amazing and no doubt they caught the attention of the highest authorities. They are a joy for the eyes.

RAJESH RAO, Udupi

■ The write-up "What's in a Name" must be an eye-opener to many of our elected representatives who are more interested in changing names of circles, rather than real development. What is more important is that naming any place or circle should have a connect to the local culture, tradition, history and great men of the region.

HARISHCHANDRA, Mangaluru

■ Three Hoysala Era Mini Jewels near Mysuru by Bhamy Shenoy was very interesting. We would definitely visit these temples when we visit Belur, Halebeedu next time. They are our prized

possession and must be conserved at all cost. The wonderful architecture speaks volumes about the importance of these places.

GAURI PRABHU, Mangaluru

■ "Nazareth Niwas" at Bondel is a noble institution working for a noble cause -caring for the elderly citizens. Despite being a resident of Mangaluru, I did not know about the existence of this institution. Sincerest thanks to Mangalore Today and the author I J Saldanha Shet for an in-depth article on this institution and its functioning.

NIRMALA D'SILVA, Mangaluru

■ "Twin joy" was wonderful. To have five pairs of twins, all girls in a single classroom of a single school is nothing short of wonder. The Sajipamuda school where these girls are studying can be termed lucky in more ways than one. Let the twin girls spread joy and happiness

wherever they study and live.

PRAKASH MN, Mangaluru

■ Prof. Narendra Nayak's write-up 'Resolving Religious Conflicts' a Humanist Perspective was thought provoking. What we see in our times is prolonging conflicts with only temporary or no solution.

ADOLF PINTO, Mangaluru

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A Statue and a Controversy

The Parashurama Theme Park at Karkala has been mired in a huge controversy that triggered a political blame-game and protests alleging that people have been fooled in the name of this project.

The Parashurama Theme Park at Ummikil Hills at Bailur in Karkala had witnessed a grand inaugural with much fanfare, by the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on January 28, 2023, with just four months to go for the May Assembly elections. The gigantic 33 feet tall “bronze” statue of Parashurama who is considered the creator of Tulunad stood atop the hill as part of this nearly Rs 14 crore project. This project was the brainchild of the Karkala MLA, the then Minister for Energy, Kannada and Culture V Sunil Kumar. The Theme park was all set to be a major tourist attraction. But sadly less than a year after the inaugural, this theme park and the statue of Parashuram is mired in controversy.

While one issue is that the Park has been set up in a Gomala land, another major issue has been the allegations that the Parashurama statue was not a bronze statue, but was made of fibre glass. Yet another allegation is that the whole project was implemented with an eye on the Assembly election and was inaugurated in undue haste. This whole issue triggered a political slugfest and protests and the removal of the upper portion of the statue for “strengthening” further added fuel to fire amid the silence of most BJP leaders.

Just recently, came the news that the Chief Minister has ordered an investigation with regard to the controversy revolving around the Parashurama Theme Park. Though this news has almost ended the blame game, one needs to take a look back at the developments regarding this Theme Park.

It all began with a few social activists staging a protest alleging irregularities and claiming that the statue was not made of bronze. Soon the issue snowballed into a controversy with the Congress too jumping in and claiming that it was a fibre



glass statue and that there were huge irregularities in the implementation of the project.

Even Udupi district in-charge Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar visited the place. Meanwhile the missing of the top portion of the statue overnight gave wings to further rumours and news spread like wildfire. The administration has clarified that the portion of the statue was removed for strengthening purposes. As the issue raged, the CM finally has ordered a probe.

The Karkala MLA who was the then minister during the inaugural of the theme park had by and large remained silent regarding the allegation. However he spoke on the issue late in October and explained that he had chosen to remain silent to uphold the dignity and honour of the constituency and claimed that the allegations were politically motivated attempts of character assassination.

It may be recalled here that defeated Congress candidate in the Karkala Assembly constituency Muniyal Uday Kumar Shetty too had alleged corruption in the project and said the statue was not

fully made of bronze.

Public entry to the park has been banned with officials saying strengthening works, installation of lightning arrester and other work needs to be done.

Meanwhile several Congress leaders have pulled up Sunil Kumar over the statue issue. Party leader Mithun Rai said the people of Tulunadu are being fooled by falsehood and lies. Even Sunil Kumar's bitter opponent and former mentor Pramod Mutalik of Sri Rama Sene lashed out at the MLA.

As per official information, the Udupi District Nirmithi Kendra has shifted the top half portion of the statue for strengthening. A media report revealed that a technical report by Sri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology and Management had recommended strengthening of the statue after a thorough study. It is learnt the lower portion of the statue was weak and was not in a position to bear the heavy weight.

Now that the CM has ordered a probe, it is hoped that the truth would come out and would put a rest to all speculations.

A surprise hint!

The recent visit of the new State BJP Chief B Y Vijayendra to Mangaluru and his speech hinting that the incumbent Parliamentarian from Dakshina Kannada, Nalin Kumar Kateel himself was all likely to be the party candidate even for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, has created a buzz in political circles.

Earlier speculations were rife that the party may give chance this time to a fresh face in place of three-time MP Nalin with many even believing that his performance as an MP was a lackluster one and that the region needs a much more pro-active people's representative. However, the State BJP Chief has literally put in an end to all speculations asking party men to rally behind Nalin and strive for his success. It remains no secret that there has been discontentment brewing in certain sections of the party against Nalin and these sections would certainly not be happy with the State BJP Chief's remarks. It is now left to be seen how things would unfold in the days to come.



High drama

A progress review meet held under the chairmanship of State Urban Development Minister B S Suresh witnessed high drama and a sudden turn of events during discussions on the implementation of Jala Siri scheme recently. A senior official giving details of this scheme aimed at supplying 24x7 water supply to the city, said 63% of the works were complete and the remaining works will need four months but water sources need to be strengthened.

This infuriated the minister who questioned how the remaining works could be completed in four to five months when it took almost 4 years to complete 60% works. The official who was visibly upset offered to tender his resignation to which the minister reacted sharply with a "Get Out," and the official walked out with his files. Later the minister was heard asking senior officials to make a new appointment stating there is no scope for any lackadaisical approach.



OFF TRACK



Not so Smart City?

These days the city authorities seem hell bent on playing the game of 'digger' on the city roads, doing the time tested digging, filling and redigging routine. Despite large scale concretization of the entire city, one cannot fail to come across at least one pothole or a freshly dug trench on every road. As a result the roads are plastered with innumerable patchwork jobs. Peoples' dream of good roads continues to be an unfulfilled dream.

MIA to have an Airport Village



Mangaluru International Airport will soon have an airport village. The works for the same have already commenced and the airport village will be located on the lower ground floor of the terminal building.

This airport village would be a fun space not only for the passengers but also their family and friends who visit the airport to welcome or see off their near and dear ones.

The airport village will have dining and gaming zone and is expected to be a place that everyone would love to visit while also enhancing travel experience.

Mangaluru Blue identifies four start-ups for funding

The second edition of Mangaluru Blue organized by the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) held in Mangaluru with the objective of connecting start-ups in Mangaluru cluster with potential investors declared that four of the 15 start-ups



which participated in the event are fundable. These start-ups are Remiteazy Technologies LLP; Tiny Prism Labs Pvt. Ltd., Trachealth Technologies Pvt. Ltd and Bucolic Kailash Agritech & FMCG Pvt. Ltd.

While as many as 35 start-ups had registered, 15 were selected and they presented their ideas and projects before the jury members.

The Mangaluru Blue which is organized as part of the Beyond Bengaluru initiative aims at promoting the tech eco-system beyond Bengaluru.

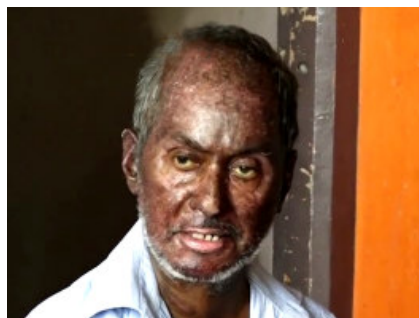
Mangaluru Blue event had Prashanth Shenoy Katpady, CTO and Co-Founder Unicourt, Shailaja Rao, General Manager at Ventana Ventures, Sandeep Aithal of Infosys and Manish Kumar, Assistant Vice President of Karnataka Information Technology Venture Capital Fund as its jury members.

COOKER BOMB EXPLOSION: A year on, injured auto driver still awaits compensation

It has been a year since the cooker bomb explosion took place in the city on November 19, 2022. The incident wherein a cooker bomb exploded in a moving autorickshaw near Nagori had resulted in grievous injuries to both the autorickshaw driver and the passenger, a terror suspect who is now in the custody of NIA

The injured autorickshaw driver Purushotham Poojary who had to remain in hospital for over 100 days is still unable to drive the autorickshaw and is on medication. He says he cannot lift heavy objects due to the burn injuries that he had suffered.

Though MLA Vedavyas Kamath has provided him an autorickshaw and an aid of Rs 3 lakhs, the government



compensation is yet to reach his hands. The only income for him now is by letting his autorickshaw for driving by another driver. The Guru Beladingalu Foundation had got his house renovated and Purushotham had got his daughter married off after his discharge from the hospital.

He feels he may need another year

to fully recuperate.

On the other hand the terror suspect Mohammad Shariq who too was seriously injured in the cooker bomb explosion, had prepared the cooker bomb at his house at Mysuru and reportedly had intended to execute his plans near the Kadri Temple.

On November 19, 2022 he had arrived by a bus and had alighted at Padil from where he had boarded Purushotham's autorickshaw asking to drop him at Pumpwell.

But the cooker bomb had exploded even before the auto reached Pumpwell.

After Shariq recovered he was taken by the NIA to Bengaluru. Meanwhile, Arafat Ali said to be the mastermind was arrested while he arrived from abroad.

Six achievers from undivided DK conferred Rajyotsava Awards



Six outstanding achievers and two institutions from undivided Dakshina Kannada district have received this year's Rajyotsava Awards.

The recipients of the Award are eminent Yakshagana Bhagavatha K Leelavathi Baipadithaya, social worker Charmady Hasanabba, Prashanth Shetty, Principal of SDM College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Dinesh Amin Mattu, former media advisor to CM Siddaramaiah, Yakshagana artist Argodu Mohan Das Shenoy and Haji Abdulla Parkala. The two institutions which received the Award are Maruti Janaseva Sangha and Muslim Educational Institutions' Federation.

MIA handles record passenger traffic on Nov 19

November 19, 2023 has emerged as a very important day in the history of the Mangaluru International Airport ever since it commissioned operations on October 31, 2020. On this day the airport handled a total of 7,399 passengers, the highest daily figure since its commencement of operations.



Of the 7,399 passengers as many as 3,527 arrived by 26 flights while 3,827 departed in 25 flights. During the current year, the airport has handled an average of 5,200 passengers per day. The earlier highest daily passenger traffic was 7,304 which was recorded on November 20, 2021. The same year, on November 6, the daily passenger count was 7,168 while it was 7,084 on November 27 that year.

Sowjanya case: CBI moves HC challenging Santosh Rao's acquittal

The CBI has approached the High Court challenging the Special Court orders acquitting Santosh Rao, the lone accused in the Sowjanya rape and murder case that took place in Dharmasthala 11 years ago. The Special Court had acquitted Santosh Rao in its verdict on July 16 this year on the grounds that there was lack of substantial evidence against him. The CBI Special Court of Bengaluru had provided a 60-day time to appeal against the acquittal. However the appeal has been filed almost four months after the judgment. It has been learnt that the CBI believes that Santosh Rao himself is the true culprit and was likely to furnish documents during the hearing.

It may be recalled here that the High Court had earlier dismissed a PIL seeking reinvestigation into the case. This PIL was filed by Girish Bharadwaj of Bengaluru.



Govt proposes hi-speed corridor between Mangaluru and Bengaluru

A proposal to develop a Mangaluru-Bengaluru Integrated Greenfield High-Speed Corridor was recently discussed by DK District in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundurao and Udupi in-charge Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar with officials of the European Business and Technology Centre in Bengaluru. The proposed project aims at the overall development of Mangaluru city and also the other cities on the stretch.

As part of the proposal there are plans to develop six or eight lane hi-speed corridor between Mangaluru and the state capital. The project if implemented would give a boost to the development of the city and would attract more investment.

The proposal which may require private partnership is still in initial stages of discussions.

City cops declare many no-horn zones



In a bid to prevent blaring horns near schools, colleges and hospitals, the city police have declared many places in the city as No Horn Zones.

Under the Section 194 (f) of the Indian Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019, those violating the rule will have to pay a penalty of Rs 1000 for first-time violation and Rs 2,000 for subsequent violations.

The No-Horn Zones are near Lady Goschen Hospital, Hampankatta Junction, Wenlock Hospital, near Ambedkar Circle, near KMC Hospital, Attavar and near K S Hegde Hospital and Yenepoya Hospital at Derlakatte.

IN BLACK & WHITE



Prof. NARENDRA NAYAK

I THINK IT WAS GBS WHO SAID this about cricket: "Cricket is a game played by 11 fools and watched by 11,000 fools." But in India now it has become a game played by a few dozen vested interests and watched by a billion fools. From what we see that has happened last week it has become a cult, a religion and may be a passion for some people. For people looking for some excuse to display their fanaticism in large numbers in a publicly acceptable form it has become an outlet to release their pent up passions. While this may sound like a rant against a public pastime, a cold rational look at what has happened and the reactions of the fanatics is frightening to say the least.

Well, where does cricket spring from? The passion shown by the crowds and the cries propitiating the Hindu gods in the stadia make it look as if it were a game played by the pantheons of the 3 crore gods of the Hindu mythology! But, facts state otherwise that it was a game introduced by the most hated videsis the angrez some time in the 18th century. As Wikipedia states, the first document instance of the game being played was by the Kolis in 1700 and the earliest records of Gujarat are dated to 1721 or so. Even if this date were to be disputed, history cannot be denied that the game is a foreign one! From something

Cricket as a religion or is it the other way round?

Prof. Narendra Nayak takes an impassionate look at the state of affairs revolving around the game of cricket in India



introduced by the firangs to a national game of a country obsessed with religion of its own geographical origin is certainly a huge step for a game!

Going back to my childhood I can recall the running commentaries on the radio sets which would be set up mainly in hotels with an external loud speaker on the outside with crowds thronging them! Then came the so called 'transistor radios' which were not the small one which fit into pockets as of now but contraptions to be carried around slung around the shoulder with a strap. There were also what were called as news reels to be shown before each movie and sometimes the newspapers would carry ads that such a movie would have 'news reel' showing this test match between India and X or Y country! Those showing the rare victories of India in those times would enjoy huge patronage and I knew people who would go to that particular cinema theater to watch the documentary



and walk out after that. Then came the TV. Though, Mangalore did not have a TV station it had a tower which was catering to the transmission of the microwave signals of the national network. The transmission of the live

cricket matches was through this network and to monitor the transmission a TV set was installed in the room, so when a test match was going on a line of people would be going past our residence which was at the bottom of the hill at the top of which the transmission tower was located. All those hundreds of people would be crowded into this small room and all would be standing. The crowd was such that people would be jumping in the aid to get a glimpse of the screen which they could manage at the top of the leap! As someone who used to go regularly said the room was sweaty, stinky and crowded but the enthusiasm



was such that all these did not matter! Some of the more affluent would travel to the metropolitan cities to ensconce themselves at the homes of their friends/relatives for the five days of the fixture! These also had a rest day which would drag on the duration for six days a full working week!

Then came the one day fixtures, the 20-20 leagues and what have you. The modern amenities came along with these and cricket packs were started by the cell service providers, cable TV networks and it became a huge business. Along with this came the gambling associated with any event which stirs passions and has an element of luck. The illegal business grew to thousands of crores and naturally the mafias stepped into the picture. Much has been written



about it and a number of scandals/crimes associated with. There are rumors of manipulation of the results of the final between India and Australia but to date they have not been substantiated. But, it is quite apparent that betting was lopsided and most of it would have in favor of India!

But, the recent events indicate that superstitions and religious rituals have infiltrated into it and the game has descended from its status of a gentleman's game to a devils workshop. The fixtures particularly of they are between us and the neighboring 'enemy' turn this game into war! The crowds with their blood thirsty cries and rants turn the ground into a war field! Hordes of pundits, pujaris, astrologers and what have you enter the picture and hold propitiatory rituals to please the supernatural entities into turning the results in favor of India! If the country team wins by some chance every one of them will claim credit for the success and as the popular saying goes while success has several fathers, failure is an orphan! While all these are to be expected from a nation of 130 plus crores, the vicious attacks on the families of the Australian players were totally unwarranted and are criminal acts.

We do not know whether they are

some fringe elements of crazed losers who had heavily bet on Indian winning, but the threats issued to the Australian captain and that of rape of his two year old daughter show the perverted nature of our people. Besides, exceptions were made about the casual treatment of the trophy by the winners and it was reacted to as if it was some religious object. The event was treated as an act bordering on blasphemy and attempts were made to file police complaints to get FIRs made! However, wider counsel prevailed and no such complaints were entertained which would have made laughing stock of us to the word.

The way things are going on in this land it looks like the time to change the old saw about love and war to all is fair in love, war and cricket. Is it not time for us to realize that cricket is only a game and probably a substitute for the great Roman circus which could be organized by the rulers to divert the minds of the ruled away from the real existing, burning problems of the day? May be writing about them would be the topic for another day!

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: narennyen@gmail.com

ALTURA
Bendoorwell



SHIVABAGH
Kadri



PRISTINE
Chilimbi



Redefining Mangaluru's Cityscape

With 42 completed projects and a bevy of skyscrapers to its credit, Mangaluru's premier property developer is stepping into its 32nd year with a new vision for futuristic living!

Actor Roopesh Shetty
Land Trades' new
brand ambassador

REAL ESTATE IS ONE OF THE most challenging sectors of the economy. Leadership in the real estate sector calls for extraordinary tenacity, adaptability, reliability and vision for growth. These are the qualities that have enabled Land Trades Builders and Developers to emerge as one of Mangalore's exemplary success stories. It was on October 28, 1992, that K. Shrinath Hebbar, a first generation entrepreneur stepped into the business horizon of Mangalore by establishing Land Trades. Hailing from the remote village of Kabbinala near Karkala, he arrived in Mangalore with a big dream



to realize his full potential in life. Fueled by this dream and relentless determination, he focused on achieving customer satisfaction through reliable service. Today, three decades later, the firm is stepping into its 32nd year with an exciting array of high class apartment projects that are destined to be the cynosure of all eyes.

Land Trades is presently the only property developer in Mangalore to promote three high rise luxury constructions concurrently - Shivabagh at Kadri, Altura at Bendoorwell, and Pristine at Chilimbi. It is also poised to launch BMK Sky Villa, a 24-story exclusive residential structure at Vas Lane with only one ultra-spacious apartment per floor.

The apartment culture has become

MANY 'FIRST'S' - UNIQUE AMONG PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

The steady rise of Land Trades is backed by a string of 'first's to its credit.

- The first and only property developer to simultaneously offer three premium quality skyscraper projects in the city – Altura at Bendoorwell and Shivabagh at Kadri with 32-storeys each and Pristine at Chilimbi with 37 floors.
- City's first and only property developer to enjoy DA2 grading from CRISIL.
- The first and only property developer in the city to voluntarily seek Star Ratings for its projects from CRISIL – Solitaire (7 Stars), Maurishka Palace (7 Stars), Sai Grandeur (7 Stars), Ourania (7 Stars) and Atlantis (6 Stars).
- One of the first firms to maintain complete transparency and deliver 100% clean title deeds. Buying a house from Land Trades is a hassle free experience as every home comes with a completion certificate and no legal issues.
- The first and only property developer to adopt test certification of all input materials as Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). All back-end systems aligned to meet the highest construction industry parameters.
- One of the first builders of the city to offer futuristic lifestyle apartments packed with opulent luxuries and modern smart technologies.

“Business is basically a process of meeting people’s needs. I look upon my journey with gratitude to all those who have contributed to my growth.”

• How do you reflect on your journey?

I look upon this journey with gratitude to God and to all those who have contributed to our growth all these years. I came to Mangalore from a very remote village called Kabbinala near Hebri. Those days we did not even have a road or a proper school. When I came to Mangalore in the late eighties I had no idea what I would do for my future. I only had a strong determination to succeed at whatever I would do. It was at that time that I got a sales job at Land Links, a real estate firm founded by Mr. Krishna Palemar, who later went on to become state minister. He gave me my first break and initial mentoring. Once I gained experience, I ventured out on my own and started Land Trades in 1992. Since then my customers, friends, well wishers and my own team members have helped me to grow continuously. I am grateful to each one of them.

• What is your vision for the future?

Today, we live amidst continuous change. IT, mainly artificial intelligence, is bringing about dramatic changes. The world is globalising fast, and there is a free flow of investment and technology. In this scenario, it is impossible to imagine the distant future. The best course of action is to keep pace with the revolutionary changes and remain up-to-date. This means understanding the change and cultivating an excellent team that is efficient and responsive to market conditions and that continues to deliver optimum customer satisfaction. I am sure we are on the right track and will be in a good position to serve our customers.

• How do you develop business ideas?

Business is basically a process of meeting people’s needs. If you are continuously connected with your customers, you will understand their needs and try to find solutions that meet them. I keep close track of the latest industry

INTERVIEW



K. SHRINATH HEBBAR
PROPRIETOR

Land Trades Builders and Developers

developments and try to conceptualise my own unique products. I take the advice of industry professionals to shape the idea into a practical and viable project. Having your finger on the pulse of the market is very important.

• What have been some of your biggest learning experiences?

I would say that my biggest learning experience has been the need to always be pragmatic and realistic. In youth, we feel all powerful and that we can take on the world. But real life experience gave me the realisation that the world runs on its own logic and we have the power only to change a limited number of things. The only power we really have is the ability to change ourselves. As Gandhiji said, “Be the change that you want to see in the world.” If we look inward, it opens up huge opportunities to improve ourselves in unimaginable ways, and if we pursue this task with discipline, then the world itself will begin to change in our eyes. We become pragmatic and tuned to reality. This propels your future growth.

• You always emphasise on clean track record. Why is it so important?

It is crucial for any business to have high legal and accounting standards. Failure to do so will cripple your growth and guarantee a disaster. When you do business, you deal with a growing number of customers, vendors and other stakeholders. Only a good legal and accounting framework can ensure smooth functioning and continuous growth.

• What motivates you to keep going?

Awareness of the huge responsibility on my shoulders and my personal passion to honour each of them is what keeps me going. All the stakeholders in my life, such as my customers, employees, vendors, business associates, my friends and relatives, and most importantly, my family and society as a whole, repose a lot of faith in me, and I find great joy in living up to their faith. I take it very seriously to set a good example. I am here today because of the nurturing provided to me by others and I should take their faith forward.

• What is your leadership style?

I am a hands-on leader and take full responsibility for the health of the organization. As we grow, it is important to delegate work and focus more on end goals and motivating your team to achieve these goals. This is a dynamic process that I try to understand every day. At the end of the day, I take full responsibility for the functioning of my organisation and consider myself answerable to everyone.

• How do you manage risk?

Life is full of risk. We should foresee the risks involved and minimise them. Here, one should be totally realistic and not leave anything to imagination. Every risk factor should be accepted at face value and mitigated through advance preparation and safeguards.

an integral part of urban living, with diverse demands across market segments. The firm is determined to bring home the best global lifestyle with futuristic technology based smart features and facilities. The three new skyscraper projects Altura at Bendoorwell, Shivabagh at Kadri and Pristine at Chilimbi offer dream facilities and luxuries on par with the best in the world. Says K. Shrinath Hebbar, the proprietor of Land Trades, “Today we live in exciting times when technology is revolutionizing the world. All our new projects are at the forefront in integrating the most modern futuristic technologies to enable the residents to enjoy more luxury, comfort, safety and security.”

Since venturing into apartment construction in 2008, the ISO 9001:2015 certified firm has completed 42 residential projects in various segments, such as superluxury skyscrapers, luxury apartments, and budget apartments. This adds up to 3,000+ homes having a combined built-up area of 42.52 lakh sq. ft. – an extraordinary achievement indeed. The firm’s prestigious project Solitaire, situated at Hat Hill, is one of the tallest buildings in the city with at 32 floors. Its other reputed residential projects are Maurishka Palace at Kadri Kambla, Sai Grandeur on Jail Road, Atlantis at Bendoorwell and Milestone25,

a commercial property at Collector’s Gate, Balmatta.

In an era defined by a smart city landscape and a technologically savvy generation, Land Trades continues to be resilient in changing with the times and meeting the emerging needs of society with innovation and enthusiasm.

From Layouts to Luxury Apartments

Land Trades began as a consultancy firm for buying and selling properties. Later, as the city began to expand outwards, the firm was quick to spot an opportunity in developing housing layouts. Beginning with its first project at Jeppu Bappal in 1993, it earned an impeccable reputation for developing full-fledged layouts with all the required facilities that perfectly met the needs of the middle class. Land Trades has so far successfully completed over 25 housing layouts, both large and small.

With the shift towards apartment living in the 21st century, Land Trades ventured into the luxury apartment market with the launch of its first project, Astoria, in 2008. This was followed by many premium residential projects offering excellent features and facilities. The successful projects include Danube at Balmatta, Insignia at Valencia, Lenhil Ferns at Kadri Mallikatta, Adonia at

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- **ASTORIA**, Balmatta
- **EESHA**, Lobo Lane
- **ORION**, Lobo Lane
- **OLIVE**, Bejai-Kapikad
- **MERCARA HEIGHTS**, Bendoorwell
- **ARIA**, Alavares Road
- **HATHILL** Crest, Hat Hill
- **VIJAYA**, Lobo Lane
- **AADHEE**, Lobo Lane
- **PUSHKAR**, Car Street
- **DANUBE**, Balmatta
- **SERENE**, Bejai
- **SAI GRANDEUR (BLOCKS A&B)**, Jail Road
- **OURANIA**, Kadri Toll Gate
- **MINERVA**, Bejai
- **HILLSIDE FERNS**, Shivabagh
- **ADONIA**, Kadri
- **BROOKSIDE**, Morgan’s Gate
- **REHOBOTH**, Bejai
- **SAI PREM**, Mannagudda
- **MAURISHKA PALACE (BLOCKS A&B)**, Kadri Kambla
- **AQUARIUS**, Mallikatta
- **VASUNDHARA**, Urwa
- **ROOPALI**, Bendoorwell
- **ATLANTIS**, Bendoorwell
- **AASHNA**, Yemmekere
- **SANSKRITI**, Mangaladevi
- **MELODY**, Bendoor
- **INDUS**, Kadri
- **AADHEESH**, M. G. Road
- **PARIN**, Balmatta
- **LENHILL FERNS**, Kadri
- **SOLITAIRE**, Hat Hill
- **INSIGNIA**, Valencia
- **MILESTONE 25**, Balmatta
- **ANANTESSH**, Car Street
- **HABITAT ONE54**, Derebail
- **EMERALD BAY**, Surathkal
- **NAKSHATRA**, Mannagudda
- **ADIRA**, Urwa Marigudi



Vikram - new commercial project under construction near PVS Junction

LAND TRADES' PROJECTS AT A GLANCE



ALTURA

Bendoorwell

A 32-storey skyscraper project, it comprises 114 3BHK and 4BHK apartments with high end amenities.



SHIVABAGH

Kadri

A 32-story high end skyscraper project with 142 3BHK, 4BHK, 5BHK apartments and 6BHK duplexes.



PRISTINE

Chilimbi

A 37-storey skyscraper project it comprises 102 3BHK and 4BHK apartments with luxurious facilities.

BMK SKY VILLA Vas Lane



NEW PROJECT - BMK SKY VILLA

Land Trades will continue its legacy of pioneering projects with the imminent launch of BMK Sky Villa. This 24-story exclusive residential structure at Vas Lane will have only one ultra-spacious apartment on each floor, thereby ensuring maximum exclusivity, privacy, and security. The project offers a wide variety of high end facilities for an ultra-luxurious lifestyle. Featuring extended ceiling heights, a clubhouse on the first floor and an infinity pool on the terrace, BMK Sky Villa promises to be one of the most prestigious developments in the city.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Land Trades is set to introduce yet another high-rise residential project in close proximity to Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple at Alake. This 33-story building, with 1.5 acres of prime land, will comprise 162 spacious 2BHK, 3BHK flats, and 4BHK duplex apartments. The project emphasizes a 60:40 ratio, dedicating 60% of the land to lush green landscaping and 40% for the built-up structure. Residents can enjoy amenities like a fully equipped gymnasium, a multipurpose playground, a jogging track, and an infinity pool on the terrace.



Alavres Road, Pushkar at Car Street and Sai Prem at Mannagudda. The firm has also employed its expertise to create budget-friendly flats like Habitat154 at Derebail, making better-quality living affordable to the urban middle class.

High Concept Lifestyle Apartments

During the last decade, Mangaloreans have shown a distinct preference for a luxurious lifestyle, on par with the city's status as a smart city. Responding to the emerging trend, Land Trades began to develop high-concept lifestyle apartments that feature 5-star ambience within the safe confines of an apartment complex. This gave birth to its ultra-modern skyscraper projects like Solitaire, Altura, Shivabagh and Pristine, which offer resort-like facilities with a club house, a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational and wellness facilities like an infinity swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna, and Jacuzzi, a yoga and meditation room, indoor games and outdoor sports, children's play areas, and more.

The utilities and common facilities of such projects include a plush entrance lobby, high-speed lifts, continuous water supply through adequate storage tanks, and heavy-duty generators with automatic switchover. Ample basement parking is provided with electrical charging points

and other facilities. With gated security along with multiple amenities like CCTV surveillance of common areas, video door phones, and sophisticated fire safety measures, the projects are a safe haven for the resident families. With facilities like these, customers can enjoy the lifestyle that they are accustomed to in foreign countries and in the metros.

Customer Delight

Land Trades enjoys a wide range of clients spread across the social spectrum. Apart from domestic buyers, the firm is especially patronised by NRI customers, professionals and corporate houses. The premium positioning of the firm and its good customer satisfaction track record ensures repeat purchases and favourable references from existing residents. The firm has maintained an impeccable tradition of perfect documentation, with all projects bearing clear title deeds and occupancy certificates on project completion, making home ownership a hassle-free experience for customers.

Green Policy

Land Trades projects provide excellent green cover, with 60% or more of the land area being demarcated for greenery and recreational facilities. This abundant landscape is thoughtfully utilised

for beautiful landscaping and for developing value-added common facilities, sports courts, jogging tracks, and a children's park. An eco-friendly lifestyle is ensured through rainwater harvesting, a dedicated sewage treatment plant, on-site waste segregation, and waste treatment units. The building designs also fully conform to Vastu.

Optimum Quality - CRISIL 'DA2' Real Estate Developer Rating

Land Trades is an ISO 9001:2015 firm enjoying a 'DA2' Real Estate Developer Rating from CRISIL. Known for the timely completion of its projects, the firm has a foolproof multilayered quality delivery process in place. The company assigns the construction work only to A-grade contractors such as MFar Constructions, who have the requisite experience and expertise in executing mega projects. Land Trades was the first and only property developer in Mangalore to seek third party quality authentication for its completed projects from reputed international bodies like CRISIL. ■

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Sakar Foundation Spreads its Wings in Coastal Karnataka with 'Beyond Schools' Project

The US-based non-profit invites partner institutions and resource persons

IN A QUEST TO REVOLUTIONISE education and prepare students for the challenges of tomorrow, the US-based non-profit Sakar Foundation has launched an innovative project called 'Beyond Schools'. This project is set to transform the learning experience for students by imparting practical knowledge beyond the confines of the traditional curriculum. It mainly focuses on hands-on training and essential life skills, igniting curiosity and passion for learning among students at partnering schools in coastal Karnataka.

Based in Simi Valley, California, the Sakar Foundation was founded by Keisha and Keithan Pai, two young Mangalore-origin siblings. Sakar, in Sanskrit, means "turning dreams into reality." The Sakar Foundation aims to restore hope in humanity by fulfilling dreams of goodness and welfare in society across all domains of life. The foundation has already undertaken several projects that touch the lives of disadvantaged schoolchildren in the USA, Uganda and India.

The "Beyond Schools" programme is the brainchild of the founders, Keisha Pai and Keithan Pai, along with the mentorship of Veeda Almeida, Nandakishore NM, B Rashmi Mallya, Ashel Castelino and Jeffry John. The formal education system is centred around academic excellence, with a heavy emphasis on theoretical learning. However, as the world rapidly evolves, there is an increasing demand for individuals who possess practical skills, critical thinking abilities and adaptability to navigate real-world situations. "Beyond Schools" aims to bridge this gap by incorporating a range of practical topics that extend beyond the classroom.

At the heart of "Beyond Schools" is the vision to empower young minds with



the necessary tools for success in both personal and professional spheres. The project offers workshops and training sessions that cover a diverse array of practical subjects, including financial literacy, problem-solving, communication skills, entrepreneurship, and more. These are planned, spanned across our calendar, and delivered in different partnered schools. By equipping students with these vital life skills, "Beyond Schools" seeks to foster confident and well-rounded individuals who are better prepared to face the challenges of the modern world.

"Beyond Schools" collaborates with schools to customise workshops based on the specific needs and interests of their students. By involving teachers and school administrators in the planning process, the project ensures that the content is aligned with the school's vision and objectives.

The project has garnered immense support from various educational institutions in the region. Sakar Foundation has already extended meaningful support to SVS School, Katapady; Asha Nilaya Special School, Udupi; St. Mary's PU College, Shirva; St. Lawrence PU College, High School

and Primary School at Moodubelle; and Manasa Special School at Pamboor, Shirva. So far, the programmes have included topics on psychoeducation, social skills, CPR and first aid skills, nutrition and wellness. There are further plans on a range of other topics.

As "Beyond Schools" continues to expand its reach, the project's founders and mentors envision a future where practical education becomes an integral part of the mainstream curriculum, empowering students to unlock their full potential and lead successful and fulfilling lives. With its focus on practical topics and experiential learning, the project is sowing the seeds for a generation of confident and capable individuals ready to tackle the challenges of the dynamic world they will inherit.

The Sakar Foundation invites partnerships with schools and other educational settings in Coastal Karnataka for its "Beyond Schools" project. Sakar Foundation provides its facilities and services entirely free of cost to the partnering institutions. ■

Sakar Foundation can be reached at beyondschoools@sakarfoundation.org

LIGHTHOUSES

A Beacon of Tourism

The Lighthouse technical development is now rapidly gaining ground and overtaking even advanced countries, writes I J SALDANHA SHET

RECENT YEARS HAVE SEEN A great and vast change in many spheres in India. The Indian Lighthouse Service, little known in the past, has been in the grip of popularisation and positive changes. In many parts of the world and emphatically in India these gentle giants called 'Lighthouses' which in the 1900s were largely ignored with a back seat, are now the darlings of the Government of India in stunning ways. The Lighthouse technical development is now rapidly gaining ground and overtaking even advanced countries, even more a wonder is how this unknown entity is now taking the lead in the tourism, travel and hospitality industry creating a state-of-the-art blessing of space and facility for people

to enlighten, relax and enjoy. These nature blessed monuments called 'Lighthouses' with history that can captivate a wide cross section of modern minds are used to expanding tourism to great potential and heights.

New Tourism Potential:

India is sailing with a novel initiative to develop lighthouses along its sprawling 7,517-km coastline as tourist attractions. In line with this, India's first Lighthouse Festival opened in the popular tourist destination of Fort Aguada in Goa a few weeks ago. Fort Aguada is one of 75 such lighthouses along India's coastline to be developed for tourism in the first phase of this initiative. India's Prime Minister



Narendra Modi said in his monthly interactive radio address ("Mann ki Baat" or "thoughts from the mind") that "in all these lighthouses – depending on their capacities – museums, amphi-theatres, open air stages, cafeterias, children's parks, eco-friendly cottages and landscapes will be built as centres of attraction for tourists." Making a case for developing tourism facilities around the light house complexes, Modi pointed out that the lighthouse in Chennai is one of the few lighthouses in the world which has elevators. "Such lighthouses are unique in terms of tourism."

Inaugurating the festival, India's Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said: "While ships continue to be guided for safe sailing by these lighthouses, they will now also offer opportunities to people to relish their magnificent beauty with nature." Goa's Chief Minister Pramod





Sawant said: “Goa has played an important role in India's maritime history. Lighthouses are beacons of hope and symbols of strength.” The festival is organised like a carnival with a variety of local artists and dance troupes, culinary and ethnic food stalls, music concerts and similar activities. Historians, archaeologists and cultural anthropologists participated in discussions on maritime history

Tourists will get big satisfaction levels with the old-world charm of lighthouses as attractive tourist hotspots. Moreover, the lighthouses will also get a world-class uplift due to their inclusion in India's tourist attractions list. The Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021, was in the Rajya Sabha. The bill aims to list heritage lighthouses in the country among the top tourist attractions of any place. The Lok Sabha (Lower House) of parliament already approved the proposed bill. The

Marine Aids to Navigation Bill replaces the earlier Lighthouse Act, 1927, which supervises and controls the lighthouses scattered across India.

The bill looks forward to converting the heritage lighthouses of the country into prospective tourism places. In the first phase, around 75 lighthouses will be renovated and then upgraded as tourist sites. Once it comes into practice, the positive initiative will boost the tourism of India to a significant extent and enable tourists from both within India and abroad to explore the old-world heritage charms.

The lighthouses: Efficiently designated as aids to navigation under the supervision and control of the central Government. The Government is also aiming to develop them in a cultural and educational viewpoint and promote them as tourist attractions. As per the master development plan, various vital attractions

such as museums, aquariums, children's play areas, gardens and water bodies will come up in and around lighthouses.

The lighthouses listed in the proposed Maritime Aids to Navigation bill are located across the country in different states. Thirteen lighthouses list from Gujarat; 11 in Tamil Nadu; 10 in Kerala; 9 in Andhra Pradesh; 5 in Odisha, Maharashtra, and Karnataka; 3 in West Bengal; 2 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and 1 in Goa. 1 in Lakshadweep and so on.

Lighthouse Services in India:

Lighthouses came into existence at a time when navigation technology was limited and restricted. Technological advancements in the form of the Global Positioning System (GPS), Radar beacons, nautical charts have diminished the value of lighthouses. However, the charming lighthouses are still in use in several parts of the world. Lighthouses are navigation guides to lost ships, vessels and boats. They help them, and anyone lost at sea to reach the shores safely with their light. With the proposed bill into effect and in practice, a lighthouse tour will soon feature your travel plans.

The unsung heroes of Lighthouses in India are largely unknown and looked destined to remain so forever. But, the present times have changed outlooks and modernized the entire concept to benefit different levels. It has broadened this service to include many electronic and computer aided engineering operations; Technology and tourism has taken over the Indian lighthouse scene and is worth a look at.

Modern Lighthouse service was first brought to Indian shores by the British nearly two centuries ago. Advanced marine navigation-aids, chiefly under the Government of India, Ministry of Shipping and Transport; Department of Lighthouses and Lightships, New Delhi, there are a whole range of navigational aids, integrated with hi-tech guidance and surveillance systems, to guide mariners



its vast coastline, the Andaman Nicobar Islands off the east coast and Lakshadweep off the west coast. In the past, many familiar Mangalorean names were connected to the lighthouse service, Keralites, in numbers are associated with this service too. Ex-service men are often co-opted for this service. Modern times have lost touch with nature and the fascination of such adventure, automation in this service has become a necessity world over. Today the qualifications are more stringent, and there are few takers as the position requires to serve in remote places at times and the work times are uncertain often. There is a full-fledged training & research center for advancement associated with the Indian Coast Guard, new concepts make the service a very modern and attractive one benefiting a wide cross section of modern mariners and common people living all over the land.

Light dispels darkness of all kinds. Mariners voyaging on dark high-seas experience inexplicable Joy and Hope when they sight land after days, weeks, months of sailing. Commonly the first signs of landfall to a sailor are a flashing light or a landmark on the distant horizon most often the lighthouse. It is calculated that due to the earth's curvature, a light 100 feet above the ground can be seen about a distance of 13 miles out at sea. Electronics, satellites, and radio-waves today may have changed the old order; but human spirit is indeed indomitable. In recent times technology has rapidly changed the concepts of "Pharology", the science of lighthouses (currently the broader term is 'navigational aids'), vis-a-vis the mariners' navigating prowess. Common man is rarely aware of these changes which may not visibly affect the mass majority. But, the proud cultural traditions of the human resource that were associated with the human side of Lighthouse Service appears to have continuously transformed with technology and the human element losing its importance. ■

on the high seas. The marine navigational aid stations of India are divided into regions mainly - Kolkata, Chennai, Port Blair, Cochin, Mumbai and Jamnagar. Generally the set-up has "Racon Control Stations" (RCS) that control four to six nearby slave stations; these in addition to high intensity light signals, have "Differential Global Position System" (DGPS)-a satellite based marine global position system indicator. Further to the RCS, the "Remote Terminal Unit"(RTU), which controls the electrified light signal equipment in all its slave stations. Thus the technology operating is of an advanced level with a high degree of automation.

There are basically two broad categories of Navigation Aids in India, the "General Aids" under the Govt. of India and the 'Local Aids' under the local Sea Port authority; with technical support provided by the Govt. of India's Lighthouse Service.

Recently the Indian Coast Guard has installed advanced surveillance radars to monitor terror attacks, and keep tabs on the traffic along the coast, since there is a well-developed net-work of out-posts all along the Indian coast and off-shore. In the USA these services come under the banner of the Coast Guard.

Each lighthouse structure is given a

unique pattern and colour. Usually the patterns range from wide horizontal bands or spiral bands. The general colour scheme is red and white or black and white. The capping dome is generally bright orange for high visibility; it is usually of copper or gun metal, and incorporates a lightning arrestor and often a wind vane with cardinal points. Most lights have a revolving or flashing arrangement to enable a unique characteristic if the light signal, which is shown on the marine charts and list of lights. The weather conditions in Asia are less harsh and with advanced radio beacons and so on the need for sound emitting fog horns and so on is rare. In the old times the keepers manning the lighthouses were a hardy breed and most often from certain traditional families. There are great tales associated with this service and the most unusual stories too. Also stories of ghosts have always done the rounds in these environments. Many old abandoned light stations along the Indian Coast have been restored in the last few decades. Today most stations are automated or merged and the human scenario is greatly different.

The Indian sub-continent, in modern times has over 169 major lighthouses and also lightships and tender vessels, along



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Unveiling Mangalore's Heritage

Time Travel through the Streets

As part of World Heritage Week, the INTACH Mangaluru Chapter hosted an illuminating talk titled 'Exploring Mangaluru's Streets & Place Names through Time' at the Kodialguthu Centre for Art and Culture. Presented by Niren Jain, Architect and Co-convener of INTACH Mangaluru Chapter, the talk on unveiled Mangalore's history using ancient maps, including a French map from 1778 and an undated German map juxtaposed with a current Google Map.

Jain, an avid cyclist, discussed his Smart City project, outlining a cycle route that retraced historical roads and bylanes. Uncovering layers of Mangalore's past, Jain explored ruins, rebuilt structures, and heritage sites, revealing a city shaped by Portuguese and British influences 300 years ago. He linked present-day names to historical events, providing a rich tapestry of Mangalore's history.

Beginning in Bunder, Mangalore's oldest district, Jain highlighted the Persian origin of the term 'Bunder,' emphasizing the city's historical exchange of influences with the West. Notable discoveries included the Kandaka, once a moat around a fort where the current DC office stands,



and prominent axis leading to the Jain Basadi and the main town center, now Car Street. Jain's talk offered a concise yet captivating exploration of Mangalore's evolution, showcasing its rich historical legacy and intricate connections between past and present.

The talk by Caroline D'Souza focused on "The heterogeneous layered urbanism of the Old Port of Mangaluru". The Cultural Landscape of Tulunadu, part of the Konkan Coast, is home to historic ports shaped by unique ecology. Mangaluru, a

key port in Karnataka, has facilitated trade for centuries, evolving into a diverse urban center. Influenced by continuous trade, Western Seafarers, and local Tulu communities, the city's port area reflects a complex history. Today, as part of the Smart Cities Mission, preserving its urban heritage and ecological balance through thoughtful policies is crucial," she said.

Subhas Basu, INTACH Convener, introduced the speakers and conducted the programme.

Sixty three year old Dasabettu **Mathayes D'Sa** is a nature lover in the truest sense with a great interest towards nurturing and protecting nature. The mini-forest that he has developed at Satwadi village in Kundapur in what was once a wasteland, stands testimony to his phenomenal efforts.

True Nature Lover

Popularly known as Desa, Mathayes had returned to Kundapur upon his retirement and had spent his savings in buying a wasteland which was once a red stone quarry. There he had planted wild trees which were on the verge of extinction. The result of his hard work is there for everyone to see, an area of rich greenery in a three-fourth acre



land. The single-minded vision with which Desa transformed the waste land is praiseworthy. Residing at Moodlakatte, Desa cycles his way to his mini forest. He also has a mini engine boat which he uses to take people around to explore nature. He also voluntarily plants saplings on roadsides of his village and nurtures them.

A member of Bombay Natural History Society, he has been part of various nature camps and has also helped many trekkers.



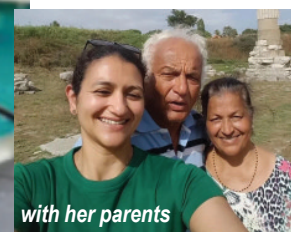
Recently when the Aussie team clinched the ICC World Cup Trophy 2023 by defeating hosts India in the finals at Ahmedabad, what caught the attention of many was the fact that the Team Manager of the World Champions is a woman of Indian origin, that too having her roots in our very own Mangaluru.

Aussie Team Manager **Urmila Rosario's** (34) parents Ivy and Valentine Rosario are from Kinnigoli. They worked in Doha, Qatar. Urmila who was born in Doha is a BBA graduate from the Carnegie Mellon University. She was a sports enthusiast since childhood and used to participate in various sports events. After moving to Australia she worked for Adelaide Cricket team

Victorious Team Manager



for some time before being appointed as the team manager of Australian Women's Cricket Team. During the Football World Cup she worked at Qatar and managed a football stadium and later again moved to Australia where she got a chance to be the Team Manager of Australian



with her parents

men's team for the Cricket World Cup. Her photo with the World Cup trophy after

the Aussie win also made much news. She is very likely to be back as the Women's Team Manager which will tour India in December.



Kashmir Bhavan in Bengaluru: A MUST VISIT PLACE

By **BHAMY V SHENOY**

IN RECENT MONTHS, when Armenians were forced to leave their home land of Nagorno Karabak, it is understandable only few Indians would have heard of such ethnic cleansing. However when such an ethnic cleansing preceded by a genocide of Hindus in Kashmir happened in early 90s in our own country, can we forgive ourselves?

Here I am talking of the mass exodus of Kashmir Pandits. While Kashmir Files has certainly succeeded in bringing this horrific tragedy of Kashmir Pandits to the national agenda, we have not done enough to help thousands of Pandits suffering from poverty in Jammu and other parts of India, including Bengaluru.

Having visited Kashmir recently when I heard about the shocking details of how Pandits were driven out, I was curious to see Kashmir Bhavan located in Bengaluru's Jayanagar T block. It is with sadness and heavy heart I read the names of Pandits martyred on the wall while entering the bhavan compound. Pain was even more unbearable when I read the shocking statement of how the well known terrorists freely roamed around threatening the peaceful residents.

The more I learnt about the short history of the construction of the bhavan, it was even more painful and tragic. From a web site I learnt that when the project of constructing the bhavan started, misinformed residents of Tilak Nagar where the bhavan was to come strongly objected. They were complaining that the pandits after fighting with the military have come to Bengaluru and they would take over. They filed a case in the High Court. Fortunately they failed and some sympathizers of Kashmiri Pandits convinced the doubting residents of Tilak Nagar and the Bhavan was inaugurated in October 2013 by former CM S M Krishna.

There is a small temple in the Bhavan premises which has Shivalinga to remind visitors of what Pandits have left behind in their home land. I was expecting that inside the Bhavan there will be attractive features and replicas along with audio/video to pay homage to narrate the story behind the mass exodus. Instead it is all about the renting of the place for meetings, parties, etc.

I hope the trustees of the Bhavan will hire an expert to develop a fitting tribute to make the Bhavan a sacred place for



visitors to pay their homage to all those who sacrificed their life. Also to remind the living how not to inflict such horror on any human beings for any purpose. It is Pandits of Kashmir who have contributed over several centuries to promote Sanatan Dharma. It was in Srinagar where Sankaracharya prayed to bring peace and harmony amongst different religious groups.

Kashmir Bhavan should become a sacred place to spread the message of Sanatan Dharma, the foundation of all religions which is "Love All and Serve All". If we are even more ambitious, we can follow the noble example of Jews to build memorials for the six million Jews killed by Hitler during the second World War. Indians should build memorials for Kashmir Pandits in large cities of India. ■

Solitude is Sublime

Poems by KULBIR BHALLA

Solitude is sublime,
At least for some time,
Especially at a pond
Of which you're fond,
Aware of your duty:
Beholding beauty
And nature's works of art,
Which enthrall your heart.

Solitude is sublime,
At least for some time
When nature is showing
A sky that's glowing
After the sun has set,
And you just let
Moments go by,
Leaving you high.

Solitude is sublime,
At least for some time
With the universe giving
Moments for living
That are filled with rapture,
Which words can't capture,
But your heart knows
When your joy overflows.



A Fresh Start

Yesterday is gone,
So better move on;
Just ask your mind
To put it behind
And focus on today
Coming your way--
A fresh start
For your heart!

Thanks To You

Thanks to You,
And what You do,
This moment of time
Is truly sublime.

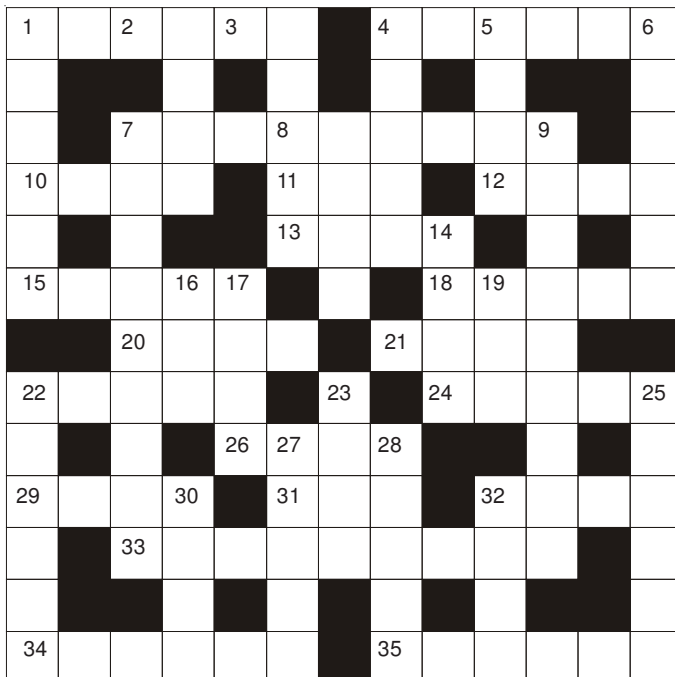
I celebrate my birth
On planet earth,
And get to see
What You do for me.

I do my duty:
I view Thy beauty,
And sing Thy song
All day long.

I see Thy show:
It continues to glow;
One of a kind,
It boggles my mind.

How do You do
What You do?
How do You command
The space, sea and land?

MANGALORE TODAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Against (6)
4. Open out (6)
7. Plentiful (9)
10. Clothed (4)
11. Drunkard (3)
12. Dexterous (4)
13. Always (4)
15. Stratum(5)
18. Clear sky (5)
20. Allurement (4)
21. Pod vegetables (4)
22. Narrow arm of sea (5)
24. Cutting tool (5)
26. Annotate (4)
29. Garden hut (4)
31. Age (3)
32. Release from goal (3)
33. Dejected (9)
34. Hardly ever (6)
35. Over there (6)

DOWN

1. Delete (6)
2. Clonk (4)
3. Entertain (5)
4. Animosity (5)
5. Outer layer (4)
6. Physician (6)
7. Shirker (9)
8. Wander (4)
9. Pertaining to science (9)
14. Stink (4)
16. Hearing organ (3)
17. Sit astride (4)
19. Become brown (3)
22. Nurture (6)
23. Ball-point pent (4)
25. Chocolate finger-cake (6)
27. Epsom race (5)
28. Brown owl (5)
30. Measured quantity (4)
32. Blaze (4)

Solutions on page no. 42

TWO DOMINIONS RECEIVED independence from British Imperial power in 1947. And both resulted in partition of historic lands. The one we know well is the division of the sub-continent into India and Pakistan. The second such rewriting of geography was Palestine, which was divided into Israel and Palestine.

Both divisions resulted in the creation of intractable enemies. India and Pakistan fought many battles and settled down to an uneasy peace to concentrate on the economic development of their respective countries. Not so the land of Palestine, which plunged headlong into war from day one and spiraled downward to chaos and unabated violence. While one of the promised states, Israel, was created, the other, Palestine never came into existence. Surrounded by hostile Arab nations which opposed the creation of a Jewish state in their midst and which launched persistent attacks against it, the state of Israel learnt early to defend itself and foster close ties with powerful nations in the West. Israel survived, growing from strength to strength, building up a modern nation based on science and technology and relying on its vast diaspora in the US and Europe to keep it well defended against the Arabs.

Palestine, meanwhile, never evolved into a state. Its Arab friends lost interest in an unwinnable cause and lacking resources and friends, Palestine was no match for muscular Israel. For a long period, Palestine was led by the redoubtable Yasir Arafat, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who promised his people that one day the state of Palestine would be a reality. Yasir Arafat was treated as a head of state by many nations and the UN and for a while it looked as though there would be a two-state solution to the Palestine issue. America and Europe tried to broker many peace talks to bring Israel and Palestine to an agreement on the issue but a final solution remained elusive.

The death of Yasir Arafat in 2004 dealt



a body blow to any dreams of an independent Palestine state. A new entity called Hamas, which though it had existed since 1987, pushed to the forefront of the Palestinian leadership driving away the successors of Yasir Arafat to the West Bank (one of the two enclaves of what was left of Palestinian land; the other enclave being Gaza). By 2007 the two Palestinian enclaves were ruled by two separate groups: Fatah in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza. Hamas believed, not in negotiating peace, but in an armed conflict with Israel to found an independent Palestine. Hamas also believed that Israel had no right to exist.

The incompatible ideologies of Israel and Hamas meant that the opportunity for peace was permanently lost. Hamas was founded on the principles of an Islamic State and it became increasingly hardline about the Israeli-Palestine conflict. It opposed any concession to Israel and ran Gaza as a de facto one-party state. Its charter mandates killing of Jews,

destruction of Israel and advocates for the establishment of an Islamic state in all of the territories currently controlled by Israel. This rhetoric gradually underwent some change with the passage of time. In 2017 it released a new charter that supported a transitional Palestinian State and advocating truce but without recognizing Israel. But the very fact that it advocates all this based on the 1967 borders are seen by many as being consistent with a two-state solution with an indirect recognition of Israel. But Hamas continued to retain its military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and this to many signaled its intent to continue its armed struggle against Israel.

Hamas and Israel have fought wars in 2008, 2012 and 2014. Each time the destruction wrought by Israel, the pre-eminent military power in the region, was colossal. The Palestine people have suffered greatly in these wars. Women and children were especially vulnerable to great harm as the Hamas was an urban



guerrilla force and its military assets were embedded in the residential areas of Gaza. The experience with Hamas hardened the attitude of Israel which quietly began dropping the idea of a separate Palestine state and pushed its own Jewish population to settle in the few Arab enclaves that were under the control of Fatah and Hamas. This further exacerbated the problem as Hamas used this as a sign that Israel had no interest in a solution and wanted no less than a complete elimination of Palestinians.

The events of Oct 7, 2023 must be seen with this history in mind. On the morning of that day, even as dawn was breaking over the ancient land, teams of armed Hamas cadres on motorbikes, hand gliders and pick-up trucks crossed the fenced Israel-Gaza border and attacked communities and military bases deep inside Israel. Shocked Israeli citizens who heard the news on the internet and mainstream media could not believe that the famed Israeli Intelligence apparatus

of Mossad and Shin Bet had not been able to predict and forestall the attack. Hamas struck hard killing at least 1400 Israelis, some in a Peace Festival that ironically had been meant to support the cause of a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian problem. By the time Israel scrambled its military and began countering the Hamas fighters on the streets, Hamas was already transporting nearly 200 hostages back across the border to Gaza. Though Israel managed to eliminate many of the Hamas intruders, its reputation as an impenetrable land guarded by some of the most advanced electronic warning systems was in tatters. Israel, in fact, deploys the most extensive spying system in the world, next only to the CIA. It has spies embedded among its enemies, it routinely tracks telephone and digital communication and it controls all access points into the country.

The pictures and videos of the attack



that trickled out one by one completely damaged the reputation of Hamas too and removed any sympathy it may have had among non-Arab populations. Though it is difficult to authenticate all the pictures and videos as true, since the internet is full of propaganda and fake news, the graphics of women stripped naked and stuffed onto pickup trucks, children

beheaded and old men and women butchered left no doubt as to the ferocity of the Hamas attack. Western nations immediately reiterated the "terrorist" tag that many of them had given Hamas and said in no uncertain terms that they would support Israel in completely eradicating the group. In a big show of support the US and its NATO allies moved many military assets including ships, missiles, drones and aircraft to the region. They also warned the traditional supporters of Hamas, namely Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon to keep away from the region until Israel finished its task of dismantling the Hamas.

Israel had much to prove. Its failure on the intelligence front had to be redeemed. Its frightened citizens had to be comforted and secured from future attacks. Its budding peace deals with Arab nations such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain etc had to be protected. Its fragile economy had to be stopped from going into tailspin. In short, Israel had a lot on its plate. But the West, which had always treated Israel as a frontier post of Western culture in Asia rushed to its aid.

Israel always has a trump card that no other nation is blessed with: it has a diaspora spread across a multitude of nations since ancient times that is rich and powerful. The Jewish lobby in the US is perhaps the most powerful business and political grouping in that country. Similar lobbies exist in the UK, Germany, Netherlands, France, Italy and other European countries. The Holocaust during World War 2 had created universal sympathy for the Jewish people. They were seen as having a right to a homeland, where they could live without being persecuted for their religion and race. This was seen as the least the world could do to right the wrongs of centuries of persecution of Jews. Israel, therefore, was not an ordinary nation and Hamas may have overplayed its hand.

By the evening of October 7, 2023 the Prime Minister of Israel Mr Benjamin Netanyahu came on television to declare

that Hamas could not be allowed to exist anymore and the vengeance of Israel would be total and devastating. The US and the EU states pledged billions of dollars in military and economic aid and many of its leaders landed in Tel Aviv to show solidarity with Israel. As the world waited with baited breath, Israel carefully planned its military answer to the Hamas attack.

The Hamas, being a political organization and lacking the bona fides of a sovereign state tried hard to bring its point of view to the world's attention. And, though many Muslims and liberals did not agree with the philosophy of Hamas, they were gravely afraid of the consequences the ordinary Palestinian population in the Gaza strip was about to face for the sins committed by Hamas. They anticipated a complete massacre of millions of innocent men, women and children as Israel hit hard in vengeance. The streets of London, Paris, New York, Istanbul and Berlin filled with Muslims and liberals marching and warning the world that a genocide was about to happen. Western nations struggled to contain the narrative, sometimes banning the use of words and phrases that they deemed anti-Semitic.

As the first Israeli bombs began to fall on Gaza the full extent of the destruction that was to unravel became apparent. Millions of Palestinians fled from North Gaza to the Southern border with Egypt, where they were stopped and prevented from crossing over. Those who stayed back in the North died in their thousands. Residential buildings, hospitals and whole streets were not spared from the fury of the Israeli attack as missiles rained down 24 hours a day. The Israeli military plan had to take into account the nature of the Hamas military defense. Operating primarily out of urban areas, the Hamas had built a vast network of tunnels to move men, material and food in safety, away from the eyes and firepower of the Israelis. These tunnels ran under homes, streets, hospitals and schools and the Israelis considered every building as a legitimate target in order



to destroy the tunnel network. As the world watched in horror, the bombs fell on major hospitals, places of worship and homes killing countless and leveling whole cities and towns to the ground. As pictures and videos of this destruction began circulating on the internet, the calls for a ceasefire became louder. But Israel, with the endorsement of the US and European allies, spurned all such talks for peace, declaring that the bombs would stop only when Hamas was completely destroyed.

It is almost certain that the two-nation theory is now dead, though the US pretends to endorse it. There will only be Israel in future and it may allow concessions to Palestinians within its boundary without giving them any political power.

As of going to print this war is still on and its outcome cannot be predicted with certainty. But the contours of a future Israel-Palestine is visible in the haze of the smoldering fires in Gaza. It is almost certain that the two-nation theory is now dead, though the US pretends to endorse it. There will only be Israel in future and it may allow concessions to Palestinians within its boundary without giving them any political power. The other Arab nations will look away as Israel and the West decide the final fate of Palestine. Many Palestinians may end up as refugees in Europe, the US and Canada. Iran and the Hezbollah in Lebanon may continue their tirades against Israel in the media but conflicts on Israel's border may reduce considerably. Anti-Semitism in Western nations may rise steeply and governments there may be hard put to contain hate crimes.

Many are wondering why the Hamas had chosen this course of action where its chances of success were zero and its likelihood of being completely destroyed were almost certain. That is a question that can only be answered in the future. ■

By SENNA

FACE TO FACE MEETING WITH A REVOLUTIONARY INSURGENT

By Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon

MEEETING A REVOLUTIONARY insurgent can be a spine-chilling experience. Opportunities are rare when they dare to walk into a government office, especially that of an enforcement agency, that too, to secure release of illegally imported arms and ammunition!

While working in Madras Custom House as Assistant Collector (Preventive Operations), during the year 1984, one day, around 11 AM, the Orderly informed me that there were three people waiting outside to see me. No visiting cards, no names on bits of paper, somebody wanting anonymity? Perhaps an informer? I told the Orderly to send them in.

Three men breezed into the room, the face of one of them appeared strikingly familiar. I had seen him somewhere. His outstretched hand for a handshake was firm, Velupillai Prabhakaran, he said. I instantly got it, he was the famous Prabhakaran, founder of the dreaded LTTE – Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The LTTE was a militant organization that sought to create an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka as a strong reaction to the suppression of the island nation's minority Tamil population by the Sri Lankan government. The LTTE has been designated as a terrorist organisation by 33 countries, including the European Union, Canada, the United States, and India. The other accompanying persons introduced themselves as Balasingham Nadesan and Selvarasa Pathmanathan. Balasingham Nadesan was the Police chief of LTTE, and Selvarasa Pathmanathan was the chief arms procurer for the LTTE. I instantly guessed the purpose of their visit. The Customs had made a secret seizure of



weapons and ammunition, at the Air Cargo Complex, imported by misdeclaration, from Germany. It was not disclosed to any media, only the Central and State agencies were appraised about the seizure. Newspaper reports often said that Prabhakaran used to move around with a very powerful semi-automatic handgun at all times. That gave a hidden tension and fear in me. His ruthlessness was well known. Would he whip out the gun and fire at me, for having seized his arms consignment?

Balasingham Nadesan broached the topic of the arms seizure, and requested for its clearance, in the interest of the ongoing liberation struggle in Sri Lanka. I explained to him the implications of a legally intercepted consignment of contraband arms and ammunition. The consignment itself was not in the name of the organization but of some unknown individual, who had not come forward to identify himself as the importer. They gave a patient hearing, without any interruption, and finally sought only

sympathetic consideration. I commiserated at the plight of the Tamil refugees and promised to do my best. After another round of firm handshakes, the LTTE supremo and his aides left.

Decades later, I read in the newspapers that Prabhakaran, was killed in a firefight with the Sri Lankan Army on May 18, 2009. His eldest son also got killed. Prabhakaran had boldly stated, "I would prefer to die in honour rather than being caught alive by the enemy". It is rumoured that his followers had buried his body along with his favourite weapon a M-16A2 with a grenade launcher, and a weapons cache of as many as 125 suicide kits, 50 mortar bombs, and 25 anti-aircraft guns. His entire family comprising wife and children also got killed in the mad frenzy that gripped Sri Lanka. The LTTE were allegedly involved in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi the ex-prime minister in 1991.

While reading about the ongoing conflict in Gaza, initiated by Hamas, what strikes me is the quality of leadership that the LTTE chief exhibited. He fought along with his men and perished like a hero, whereas the Hamas leaders are hiding in luxurious hide-outs, while their misguided people are bearing the brunt, for a miscalculated offensive. Dreams and fantasies of myopic leaders can land their people into profound misery and agony. Every nation needs to exercise caution while choosing their leaders. ■

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A Tribute to city's top Urologist Dr G.G. Laxman Prabhu

Dr. G. G. Laxman Prabhu had handled numerous complex medical cases and was known for attention to detail, accurate diagnosis, and treating patients with expertise and empathy.

Mangalore's renowned urologist and Professor at KMC Hospitals, Dr. G. G. Laxman Prabhu passed away on November 17 morning. He was 61 years old. Dr Prabhu had suffered a heart attack while he was on duty at the hospital a few days before. Later he was treated at the Intensive Care Unit where he breathed his last. Dr Prabhu possessed rich practice and experience in the field of medicine and specialized in urology for over three decades and at KMC Hospitals, was well reputed for handling many complex cases successfully.

Born in May 1963, he did his MBBS and MS at KMC, Mangaluru, in the years 1985 and 1989 respectively. After getting MCh degree in urology in 1992 and DNB in surgery in 1993, he was appointed as assistant professor at KMC Manipal. He was transferred to KMC, Mangaluru in 1995 and was promoted as associate professor in 1998 and professor in 2004. When KMC started a separate department of urology in 2012, he was appointed as its HOD. After superannuation in 2023, he continued to head the department as per the post-retirement engagement policy of KMC. In his 30 years' service at KMC, he was the head of the department of urology for 11 years.

Dr Prabhu had expertise in general urology, urolithiasis, andrology,



urodynamics, recon-urology, urogynecology, endourology and handled numerous complex medical cases and was known for attention to detail, accurate diagnosis, and treating patients with expertise and empathy. He was very popular for the talks he gave on Radio, many articles he has published on various subjects; he had a keen interest in Philately and Numismatics and was seen conducting meetings at Pandeshwar Head Post office. He is known for the many activities he supported in the districts. Dr Prabhu served as a council member

and president of Karnataka Urology Association, secretary of Urological Society of India (USI) and secretary of Association of Southern Urologists. He was also served in the erstwhile IMA DK branch (IMA Mangalore) as secretary.

He leaves behind his wife, two children and a host of admirers and well-wishers.

The "GG" prefix in his name, denoting "Gurpura Guni," holds historical significance, representing the family's origin in Gurpura, on the outskirts of Mangalore. The second "G" signifies a title bestowed upon the family by the Jangama Matta head, symbolizing individuals possessing 'Guna' (good qualities), a tradition upheld by all members of this Konkani Hindu family to

this day.

The outpouring of condolence messages, appreciation, and expressions of sadness from diverse circles underscores Dr. Prabhu's greatness and the deep impact he had on countless lives. A humane and kind soul, his humor and practical wisdom resonated with all who crossed his path. As we bid farewell, may his noble soul find eternal peace, and may the Almighty provide solace to his near and dear ones. Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

By I J SALDANHA SHET

BRAVEHEART

A Tribute to Captain. M.V. Pranjal who was martyred in an encounter with terrorists at Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on November 22.



CAPTAIN. M.V. PRANJAL IS NO MORE. It is hard to believe that this young man, bubbling with enthusiasm and an enormous zeal to serve with motherland, is no longer with us. Captain Pranjal who was born and brought up in Mangaluru was among the four valiant soldiers who lost their lives in an encounter between security forces and militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on November 22. He was a captain in 63 National Rifles.

Twenty nine year old Pranjal was the only son of B Venkatesh, the former Managing Director of MRPL and Anuradha. He was married to Aditi just two years ago. She is pursuing her PhD at IIT Chennai.

Pranjal studied at DPS MRPL School and later pursued PUC education at Mahesh PU College. He got a seat for a chemical engineering course at the RV Engineering College in Bengaluru. But, within four months of joining he was eventually selected to join the Armed Forces. As Pranjal had



nurtured a dream since childhood of serving this motherland, there was no second thoughts and he chose to join the Army in 2014.

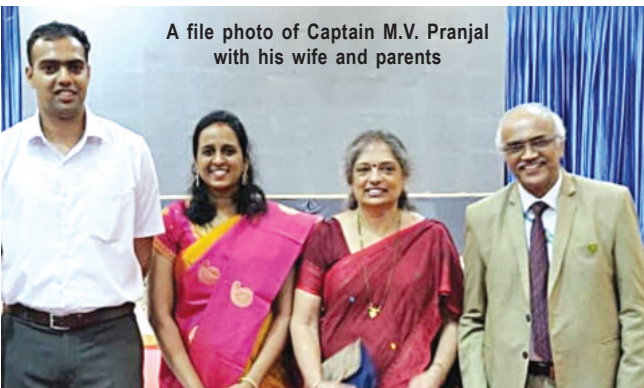
Pranjal was a brave and independent boy right since his childhood, his father recalls. During his school days he evinced interest in science and was an intelligent boy who was deft in science projects for which he won many prizes. His room was filled with photographs of the air force which he had wished to join but could not get selected due to his height issue.

His friends recall how he always wanted to remain in touch with them and had planned a reunion and for that purpose had even created a WhatsApp Group. However his dream remained unfulfilled.

Whenever he came down to Mangaluru he used to visit his school, recall his friends. When his father retired as MD of MRPL, Pranjal had attended the farewell function organised for his father and had even visited his alma mater, recall some of his teachers.

Capt. Pranjal was cremated with full state and military honours at the Somasundarapalya crematorium in the presence of thousands of mourners including family members friends and admirers.

Capt. Pranjal, a valiant young man, who was disciplined, dedicated, sincere, friendly and jovial is now just a memory. May his soul rest in peace. ■



A file photo of Captain M.V. Pranjal with his wife and parents

Mangalore diocese gears up to commemorate 'Jubilee 2025'

The Roman Catholic Diocese in Mangaluru set the stage for the upcoming Jubilee 2025, commemorating 2025 years since the birth of Jesus, with a ceremonious inauguration at the Our Lady of Holy Rosary Cathedral, Rosario, here on Sunday.

Bishop of Mangaluru Peter Paul Saldanha unveiled the jubilee logo marking the beginning of preparations for the jubilee themed 'Pilgrims of Hope.' He led a prayer dedicated to the jubilee, joined by priests and the congregation in recitation which was followed by the singing of jubilee song.

In his address, Bishop Saldanha expressed the intent of the upcoming Ordinary Jubilee in 2025, emphasizing the celebration of Jesus, the Church, and the faith. He outlined a two-year preparatory roadmap, designating 2023 as the Year of the Council (Year of



Learning) and 2024 as the Year of Prayer.

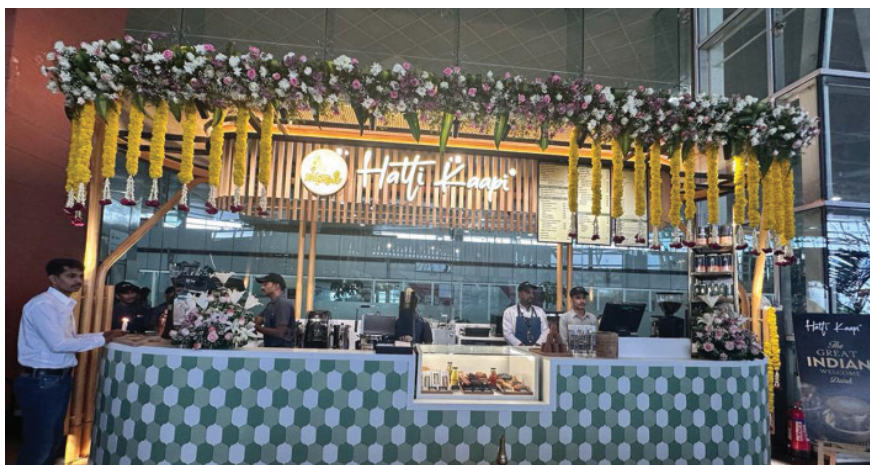
Emphasizing the importance of studying the Four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council, Bishop Saldanha announced the availability of 35 booklets providing insights into the Council and its constitutions. These materials are accessible in both English and electronic formats to facilitate learning.

Simultaneously, all churches within the Mangaluru diocese participated in the inauguration, unveiling the jubilee logo, reciting dedicated prayers, and singing the jubilee song. Parish priests in these churches elucidated the significance of the logo and its symbolism to their congregations, as per a release from the diocese.

Hatti Kaapi brings its rich coffee legacy to Mangaluru Airport

Hatti Kaapi, the celebrated name in South Indian coffee, has opened its latest store at Mangaluru International Airport. The store is located at the entrance to the departure lounge of the airport. This expansion marks a significant milestone for Hatti Kaapi, being the 155th store in India and the 7th store within airports across India. It already has a presence in Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi airports. It will soon enter Hyderabad International Airport too. "The new Hatti Kaapi store offers travellers and visitors a warm, aromatic experience. Customers will be greeted by the inviting aroma of freshly brewed coffee, creating an oasis of comfort and rejuvenation amidst the busy airport environment. Hatti Kaapi's seven bean coffee—seven exotic blends—brewed fresh and served in hot and cold versions will be a really new experience for Mangaloreans.

The store will be open 24x7 and not only passengers but any visitor to the



airport can drop by for a sip of refreshing Hatti Kaapi. "Our goal is to provide a taste of tradition and comfort to everyone who visits our store, whether they are locals or tourists exploring the vibrant culture of South India. Even if you are not flying, it will be worth a drive to relish Hatti Kaapi with your family and friends," says U.S. Mahendar, Founder,

Director and CEO of Hatti Kaapi. "We are excited to bring the authentic taste of South Indian filter coffee to the travellers passing through Mangaluru Airport," adds M. L. Gowda, Founder and Director. "Hatti Kaapi's has won the hearts of coffee lovers across South India, and this new store at Mangalore Airport is set to continue that tradition, he says."

Better future through corruption-free society: Justice Santosh Hegde

Former Karnataka Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde said good values and virtues that are inculcated in youngsters will go a long way in eradicating corruption in society.



He was participating in the valedictory function of the Vigilance Awareness Week organized by the New Mangalore Port Authority recently. Santosh Hegde said the nation can have a better future only when the society is free from corruption.

Subhash Chandra Khuntia, former chief secretary of Karnataka, NMPA Chairman A V Ramana, Chief Vigilance Officer of Mormugao Port Vijaya Dat Kagita and others were present.

New buildings of Mangaluru Rural, Bajpe police stations inaugurated



Home Minister G Parameshwara recently inaugurated the new buildings of Mangaluru Rural and Bajpe police stations.

In his address, the Minister said the state government accords top priority towards maintaining peace in the district. He also spoke on the importance of people-friendly policing.

On the Police Housing Scheme, the minister said the government has so far provided 13,000 houses to police personnel and added that the scheme aims to cover 80% of the police personnel within next five years.

13th Convocation of Nitte Deemed-to-be University held



Pressing issues facing the world can be solved through understanding and co-operation, said Omid Ansary, Executive Director for International Affairs, Pennsylvania State University. He was speaking at the 13th Convocation of Nitte Deemed-to-be University recently. Students must ensure betterment of the society through their knowledge, skills and talent, he said.

As many as 1,256 students received their degrees in various disciplines including Medicine, Dental Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Allied Health Sciences, Humanities, Biological Sciences and B. Arch courses. Former Lokayukta N. Santosh Hegde and Chairman of Allcargo Group Shashi Kiran Shetty were conferred with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa). Eighteen endowment gold medals and 13 Nitte (Deemed to be University) Gold medals were also presented.

Chancellor N. Vinay Hegde, Vice Chancellor M.S. Moodithaya, Pro-Chancellor (Hospital Management) M. Shantharam Shetty and Pro Chancellor (Administration) Vishal Hegde were present.

State Government has completely failed in drought management: State BJP Chief Vijayendra

State BJP President B Y Vijayendra who arrived in Mangaluru for the first time after taking charge of his new position, has alleged that the state government has completely failed in drought management.

He said the state government and ministers who need to discuss drought management are instead discussing about next Lok Sabha elections and appointments to boards and corporations. The government is not releasing funds for development, the BJP will take up these issues in next assembly session, he said.

He reiterated that no one will quit the BJP and added that efforts would be made to bring back those who deserted the party. Vijayendra said the BJP was not against caste census but against using it for political gains. He said the CM must seek the resignation of minister Zameer Ahmed Khan who he said has offended the post of Speaker. The BJP, he said aims at winning 28 seats in the state in the next LS elections.



Minister Priyank Kharge asks officials to be ready to tackle drought situation



State Minister for Rural Development and Panchayatraj Priyank Kharge has directed officials to be prepared to face an impending drought and get ready with remedial measures. The minister's directive came amid deficit rainfall in various parts of the state and in the district. He was addressing a progress review meet held at the ZP auditorium here recently.

He directed the officials at the taluk level to also take steps at the earliest to ensure mitigation of water problem.

ZP CEO Dr Anand informed that there was water problem in 16 villages of Mangaluru, Bantwal and Mulki taluks.

The Minister informed the meeting that an audit is being undertaken through third party as per the suggestion of the CM, to gauge the progress of Jala Jeevan Mission.

MLCs Harish Kumar, Manjunatha Bhandari, Panchayat Raj Department Commissioner Priyanka Mary Francis, Rural Drinking Water Supply Department Director Nagendra Prasad, Rural Development Department Commissioner Pavan Kumar and others were present.

'Co-operative movement must be a people's movement'



Co-operative movement must be developed as a people's movement with the participation of everyone, said State Minister for Co-operation K N Rajanna.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 70th All India Co-operative Week celebrations organised at the Urwa grounds recently under the aegis of the Karnataka State Co-operative Federation, Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation, SCDCC Bank, District Co-operative Union, Dakshina Kannada Milk Producers Union, Navodaya Grama Vikasa Charitable Trust, Department of Co-operation, Udupi District Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies and other co-operative societies.

Continuing, the minister said the nation can progress when the rural people are economically empowered. Co-operative sector has played a vital role in this regard, he added. New products from Nandini were released on the occasion.

Speaker U T Khader, MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, State Co-operative Federation President G T Devegowda, SCDCC Bank Chairman M N Rajendra Kumar, MLAs Vedavyas Kamath, Yashpal Suvarna, Mayor Sudhir Shetty Kannur and others were present.

Air India Express crew honor Harekala Hajabba



Air India Express crew have honoured Padma Shree Harekala Hajabba while he had boarded the Air India Express flight to Dammam recently to participate in a programme to be organized by the Jubail unit of Hidayat Foundation.

Air India Express crew who identified Hajabba immediately brought the matter to the notice of the flight captain who later introduced Hajabba to the passengers of the flight and then honoured him. He said they were immensely pleased to have Harekala Hajabba as a passenger and hailed his contributions to the educational field.

Mamama: A Guardian of Traditions, a Source of Wisdom

Vrinda Shenoy draws inspiration from her unique bond with her grandmother

MY GRANDMOTHER, Vijaya Kini, affectionately known as Mamama, is a treasure trove of warmth, kindness, and wisdom in my life. Hailing from a quaint village, Mamama carries with her the rich tapestry of our family's traditions and values.

One vivid memory that encapsulates Mamama's influence is her steadfast dedication to preserving our cultural roots. "Keep our culture close, my dear, no matter where life takes you," she'd say. Growing up near the temple circle, her words became my guiding light, instilling a profound reverence for God, particularly Ugra Narasimha.

During every exam season, I'd seek her blessings, nervousness palpable in my demeanor. With a reassuring smile, she'd say, "Don't worry, the exams easy astha." These words weren't just comfort; they were a testament to her unyielding faith in my abilities.

One sun-drenched afternoon, I'd wrap myself in her elegant sarees and parade around, eager for her approval. With a twinkle in her eye, she'd remind me to spread the coconuts properly for drying. "Otherwise, we won't be able to remove the shells," she'd advise, blending practicality with tradition seamlessly.

Mamama's teachings transcended textbooks. She transformed everyday tasks into invaluable life skills. Under her watchful eye, I learned the art of making pickles and the precision of arranging an Arathi thali. These seemingly mundane activities were, in fact, a bridge to our heritage, a



connection to generations past.

Our bond defies time and distance. Weekly visits stand as a testament to the enduring power of familial ties. In those moments, conversations flowed effortlessly, weaving memories with wisdom. "Life is a journey, my dear," she'd say, "and every step matters. Put your best foot forward."

Mamama's influence extends far beyond the tangible. She imparted life lessons that have shaped my character and outlook. From her, I learned the importance of kindness, the value of humility, and the strength of

perseverance. Her words, often laced with anecdotes from her own life, carried a weight of experience and wisdom that no textbook could match.

In an era marked by geographical dispersion and shifting family dynamics, it's essential to recognize the invaluable role that grandparents play in a child's life. Their love and care lay the foundation for becoming compassionate and well-rounded individuals. Mamama's story stands as a beacon, urging all to cherish and preserve this precious bond between generations.

As I reflect on Mamama's role, she emerges as the backbone of our family, providing stability and wisdom. She filled the void left by the loss of my beloved grandfather, shaping me into the person I am today. Her presence is a living testament to the enduring power of grandparental influence.

In Mamama, I found not just a grandmother but a guardian of tradition, a source of wisdom, and a wellspring of unconditional love. Her legacy lives on in the values she instilled in me, and I carry them forward with pride, knowing that I am a product of her immeasurable influence.

In a world where time seems to move faster than ever, it's easy to overlook the quiet yet profound impact that grandparents can have. Mamama's story reminds us that their love and wisdom are gifts that shape us into compassionate and well-rounded individuals. We must treasure and preserve this precious bond between generations, for it is a beacon of light in the fast-paced world in which we navigate. ■

“We are passing through a difficult phase in our lives wherein our youth, across all religions, have become victims of ‘Alcoholic drinks and drugs menace’. It is time we realise the danger to the lives of our vulnerable youth, whom we hail as the future of this world,” said Fr Mathew Vas, parish priest of Kinnigoli Church and vicar of Mulky-Kinnigoli deanery. He was speaking on after blessing ‘Ian Cares’ Foundation and its rehabilitation wing, ‘Sarva Dharma Sangama’ in memory of Ian Austin Mascarenhas, who succumbed to his injuries following a car accident in Mangaluru.

The programme was organised by the family of Ian Austin and ‘Ian Cares’ foundation on his second death anniversary at their ancestral place in Quila (Moorukaveri) near Kinnigoli. Fr Mathew Vas thanked the trustees for choosing Kinnigoli region to start such a noble humanitarian effort. He said the people should follow the message, ‘Sarva Dharma Sangama’ for peaceful co-existence and religious harmony.

Elizabeth Crasto, grandmother of Ian Austin, symbolically inaugurated the foundation accompanied by the members of the family. The family members and trustee jointly offered flower petals to the inaugural plaque cum memorial of Ian Austin. It was on the first death anniversary, when Ian’s friends, who came to visit his ailing mother, prevailed upon them to start a facility so that few youth in need could be rescued from danger to life.

Bhuvanabhirama Udupa, editor-in-chief of ‘Yugapurusha’ Kannada magazine and a well-known social activist in the region, launched the site layout of ‘Sarva Dharma Sangama’ and said, “When we are born in this world, we do not know which religion we are born into. It can be a Hindu, Christian or a Muslim family. Even when natural calamities hit us we all become victims of such calamity irrespective of which religion we belong to. So also when we are admitted into a

‘Ian Cares Foundation’ An Oasis in Distress



hospital, not our religion but our blood group is recognised before starting treatment. Hence we better stop fighting in the name of religion and do something which badly needed in our community.”

Bhuvanabhirama Udupa congratulated Hemacharya, the Managing Trustee and said, “Only a person like him, who identifies himself in all religions and respected by all in Kinnigoli, can think of initiating such a novel mission. He said all the people across the religions in the region are going to benefit from this facility as it is a common scene nowadays to find youth in large numbers becoming victims of alcoholic drinks and drugs addiction.”

Former regional advisor for leprosy at United Nations, WHO, East Asia Region, Dr Derek Lobo unveiled the logo of the foundation and said, “Today it is a common scene to witness youth among us committing suicide like never before and the most common root cause is their unwary life style and love for alcoholic drinks and drugs which leads them towards depression and culminates in suicide. The



formation of rehabilitation is the need of the day and such centres should be opened in all regions and not just in the cities.” He expressed his appreciation for choosing a small town like Kinnigoli for this service, which is in serenity of the nature.

Edward Crasto, an entrepreneur from Mumbai and a trustee, planted a sapling in memory of Ian Austin, who was his

godson. Walter Nandalike of Daijiworld Media, launched a unique personal ID card which contains name of person, contact number, blood group and the number of persons to be contacted during an emergency.

Stressing on the importance of such a unique card Walter Nandalike said, "When our reporters rush to the accident sites they are surprised to find the victim not carrying any card to identify him or her. Even when they are carried to the hospital, it takes hours to find their blood group before treatment, during which period many of the victims lose their life."

Displaying the card Walter said, "The information needed for a person is not available in any of the cards launched by the government such as Aadhar card, ration card etc." He also spoke about Ian Austin, whom he knew since childhood and said, "What others did not accomplished in a long life, Ian has done



principles. A series of sad incidents happened in his life. But he was never demotivated nor was caught by negative thoughts. Being a secular minded person, he tried to find a solution for all sorrows which dominated his life and tried to overcome them with his positive attitude.

Hemacharya shared the objectives of the foundation and said, "Our aim is to bring back to active life, those boys and girls, who are suffering from ill-effects of alcoholic drinks, drugs and depression. "I have personally experienced the agony, distress and the mental turmoil as a parent, as my own son was a drug addict. "We were away working in the Gulf and not aware what was going on with our son's life. "When we returned to India and came to know about his situation, we offered to rehabilitate him and he readily agreed as he himself was tired and fed up with his life and he wanted to bounce back."

Hemacharya explained how Dr Denzil Pinto, the then head of department of Psychiatry at Fr Muller College Hospital, helped them to get their son back to life through detoxification and a rigorous 15-day treatment in total seclusion.

"I am not only grateful to Dr Denzil Pinto, who saved my son from disaster, who has since joined the foundation as a trustee, but also to my best friends, Walter Nandalike, entrepreneur Rohan Monteiro, well-known chartered accountant Nitin J Shetty and lawyer Dinesh K B who have agreed to be part of the foundation."

Hemacharya presented saplings of

flower plants to the guests and in particular to brothers Richard and Jerry Rodrigues, who have offered to provide water connection through bore well and sprinkler facility. The priest from Kateel Shree Durga Parameshwari Temple Subramanya Hebbar performed Puja and led the prayers in the presence of distinguished people, friends, neighbours and family members of Ian Austin and trustees.

"As per the slogan of 'Say No to Drugs' should start from our families first. In the matter of consumption of alcohol and drugs, the family members themselves should become the counselors for each other. We, in our families itself, should create an atmosphere of zero drug and zero alcohol abuse. I wish the goal of 'Sarva Dharma Sangama' will be achieved and the facility which was inaugurated today will be used for the needy," Hemacharya said.

Those who seek further information may contact Hemacharya, the Managing Trustee (Mobile +91 9740296297) or by writing at the following address: 'Ian Cares' Foundation, Quila, Kinnigoly PO 574150.

Those who wish to support this humanitarian effort may send their contribution to the following bank account with information to iancaresfoundation@gmail.com.

*Account Name: Ian Cares Foundation
Bank: Karnataka Bank, Aikala Branch
Current Account No. 0122000100013901
IFSC code: KARB0000012*



within his 26 years of age. Hence his life is worth celebrating, which is done through the card. He urged each and every one to carry such a unique card on them." A brochure of the foundation was released by Chryston Machado, Ian's close friend who represents his friends worldwide.

Stephen Mascarenhas aka Hemacharya is known for ethical journalism and he never compromised his

Our Most Enigmatic Life

By G Swaminathan

It is claimed and believed that humans are the best creations of Nature, and they rule the whole world. They are blessed with a unique form and the most particular part 'brain' which keeps thinking and how to overcome nature, diseases and live happily with luxury.

But the same brain also creates as many problems as possible because of its power. There is always a thirst in humans to overtake the other be it in the profession or personal life. Everyone wants to show up that they are one step ahead of the other be it an intelligent man or a stupid one.

The major achievement in life is earning and stalking wealth seems to be a universal quality and condition. The more wealth one has the more comforts one gets; the more power one has higher will be the victories. There are no limits for these both, power, money, and also satisfaction.

When I recently heard a disturbing tale of a septuagenarian, to be honest, I was shocked and surprised. He seems to have earned and all his wealth deserves appreciation because he had the brain as well as talent for those achievements. He lives in a palatial house with any

comfort you name, and his religious faith is something outstanding. To put it in a nutshell, he is a man to be envied by one and all.

But he feels that he had failed. Where?

He has a son and a daughter who are well educated from foreign universities of repute. Nevertheless, both do not care for him or his wife. They live in the same place but as islands. Both are above forty and not married. They show least interest for their parents though they are nearby. The intelligent and industrious guy who had earned so much wealth couldn't find the exact reason for their indifference or being single?

What really surprises me when I hear this tale, that he is a very pious and God-fearing man and never misses the opportunity to do hefty donations for temples.

Now, is it not expected that the God should take care of him or his wards and for the cordial relationships as well the marriage and normal lives of the son and daughter.

If we ask a spiritual person, he may say that it is his 'karma' or 'sin'. If we go to a psychologist, he will accuse the parents either for not bringing them up in a proper way or not showing his care and affection in the right manner during growing stage.

Why for someone who is intelligent, pious, with loads of wealth has to suffer notwithstanding all the good deeds he had done and still doing? Expect any logical answer?

I don't think we will ever. ■

The Mills of God

By G Swaminathan

The saying "the mills of God grind slowly" conveys the notion of gradual divine retribution, cited by literary luminaries like Arthur Conan Doyle and leaders such as Winston Churchill. Despite these references, my own life experiences offer limited evidence of such divine intervention. An illustrative example involves a senior figure in my profession who, despite blatant arrogance and a lack of credentials, faded into obscurity without facing significant opposition-an anecdotal instance of seemingly delayed consequences.

In the public sphere, skepticism surrounds the honesty and validity of claims about divine retribution. Personally, I lean towards the belief that retribution is not universally applicable; instead, outcomes are shaped by destiny, as suggested by Hindu philosophy linking results to past actions. This perspective negates the need for extensive discussion on the matter.

The effectiveness of retribution, I argue, depends on individual acknowledgment. When a person faces the consequences of heinous acts without displaying remorse, it challenges the very concept of retribution. Whether there exists an established axiom for this phenomenon remains uncertain to me, adding another layer of complexity to the intricate relationship between actions, consequences, and divine justice.

Solution to MANGALORE TODAY Crossword

(From page No.29)

C	O	N	T	R	A		S	P	R	E	A	D
A			H		M		P		I			O
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Navigating the Challenges of Love



Let us learn to grow the seed of any relationship into a blooming flower by nurturing it with love

RELATIONSHIPS SEEM TO BE challenging when it's one sided or when the two, sailing through it, fail to understand the core values. Mutual respect, mutual love, forgiveness and honesty, the very essence of any relationship, go hand in hand. How one lives and how one regulates his/her emotions depend on how important these values are for an individual for a lasting relationship. An individual who fails to realise these values will fail miserably and ends up a loser. It has been said that "there must be a villain for every hero, a demon for every angel, a monster for every god". Love withers when ego has spread its wings ruling out one's ability to think wisely. A person who upholds ego has a very limited space for love in his or her life. Mother nature has always offered the best to her creation expecting nothing in return. Why can't we humans, being one of God's marvellous creations, inculcate these values to make this world a better place to live? We quote the words

of the legends and the saints but always fail to put it to practice. Ironically, we are proud in labelling ourselves as "Technosavy" and have stopped thinking beyond the reels we create. Trying to prove to the world how happy and complete we are through the platforms offered by social media, we have failed to realise how empty and unrealistic humans have become. Let's not be the living zombies void of emotions and values. Change is inevitable but let the change be for good. Love is the only cure for all the problems we have been facing in our lives.

A husband's act of forgiveness can be a saviour every time he finds a fault in his wife's actions. A wife who compromises shedding her ego will sail through much easily in the relation with her husband. Always remember that nothing comes easy. Any relationship for that matter needs a lot of time, effort, commitment and above all, faith that it's going to work. A mother's love and faith in her children remains unchanged with

the changing time. No matter how busy children get in life or argue, a mother will still have a smile on her face and love unconditionally. Let us not take people in our lives for granted. Learning to accept and love each other's imperfections should not make one feel insignificant. Each passing day one gets to learn and know the other person better. Just like how plants need water and sunlight to sustain, humans need to nurture their relationship by choosing the right words to communicate and spending some quality time. A beautiful blend of bittersweet moments in our relationship is all that makes everlasting memories for a life time. Together let us enjoy this eustressful roller coaster ride of life, laughing out loud at our hard times and spread the wings of love embracing everything it offers with an open heart and mind. Let us learn to grow the seed of any relationship into a blooming flower by nurturing it with pure love. ■

By **AKSHATHA BHAT**

TRUE LIES

Scary night

Sagar was extremely busy that day. An executive in a multi-national company, he had to attend to a foreign delegation that arrived that day. It was already eight and he rushed home. He had to leave hometown the same night as his wife and kids had asked him to be back home during weekend.

He packed his things and rushed to the bus stand. He felt a bit relaxed as he occupied his seat in the bus. He closed his eyes and felt as if sleep was dragging him towards it. He opened his eyes and realized it was time for the bus to start. Almost half of the seats of the bus had remained unoccupied. As the bus moved ahead, he drifted to sleep in no moment. All of a sudden he woke up by a sudden jerk. He opened his eyes and found that the bus had halted in the ghat section. He thought the driver had stopped the bus for a brief break. But that was not the case. There was some commotion inside the bus. The driver was shouting asking passengers not to get out of the bus and not to open the door. No one knew what happened. Everyone rushed to the driver's cabin. "What happened?" Sagar too joined several others who questioned the driver who was trembling. He was profusely sweating even in the chill weather conditions. "What happened?" They asked again; the driver only pointed fingers towards the road ahead. No one could understand. Someone gave some water to the driver. As he settled down, the driver

in his mid 30s slowly began to explain "I just saw a woman right on the middle of the road waving at the bus asking to stop. But when I stopped the bus, none could be seen." On hearing the driver, almost everyone shuddered. "Is it an evil spirit, a ghost, is the place haunted?" passengers began to question each other. Sagar told the driver. "Don't panic we are all here, you just start the bus" The driver agreed and the bus proceeded further. Even as everyone was gazing ahead, they saw a vague figure clad in white attire, a little further. This time it was the turn of everyone to tremble." What can we do now? Do not stop the bus just proceed," everyone told the driver. As the vague figure drew closer, everyone closed their eyes and the bus just zoomed forth. There was no scream, which ought to have been heard otherwise if at all the bus had knocked down that figure that was seen on the middle of the road in the dead of the night. As the bus proceeded further, the same figure was visible again, this time it was as if it was moaning with pain. The driver did not stop the bus and nothing happened even this time. As the Ghat section ended everyone heaved a sigh of relief. By then it was almost 2 in the morning and everyone went back to their seats. As the bus reached the station, every passenger of the bus including the driver were only speaking about the queer experience which they had in the night. Dreadful, many exclaimed. A boy selling



A linguistics professor was lecturing to his class one day. "In English," he said, "a double negative forms a positive. However, in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative remains a negative. But there isn't a single language, not one, in which a double positive can express a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps, "My friend is dead! What can I do?" The operator says, "Calm down. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There is a silence; then a gun shot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says, "OK, now what?"

A guy walks into the library and asks ... Do you have any books on suicide? The librarian replies ... We should do but the borrowers never bring them back.

I bought a dog from a blacksmith, and took it home. My wife said, how do you know it was from a blacksmith. Because as soon as I got it home, it made a bolt for the door.

newspapers passed that way and Sagar picked up a copy. As he glanced through the news, one report caught his attention. "Woman found murdered in Ghat section." The news read that an unidentified woman was killed and then the body dumped in the Ghat area. For a moment, Sagar recollected the happenings of the previous night. Was it the spirit of the dead woman? Or was it a mere imaginary figure? He began to wonder as he walked towards home. ■

ARIES



You're drawn to slightly different experiences and activities this month, dear Aries, with Mars in your spirit sector all month and the Sun there until the 21st. December tends to get a little more serious or business-oriented as it advances. It's a fine month for learning, breaking the routine, and reaching a little higher.

TAURUS



December brings a strong need for inner change, growth, transformation, and self-mastery, dear Taurus. Your conviction to rid yourself of bad habits is potent. Still, as the month advances, your focus turns outward. At the tail-end of the month, Jupiter turns direct in your sign, enhancing you further. But before then, the month slow-drips plenty of helpful boosts.

GEMINI



Relationship matters are lively in December, dear Gemini, and there's a strong focus on your social life or a significant relationship. At the same time, you find more joy in your daily life and self-care for much of the month. The potential for a well-balanced period is strong. The months ahead are golden for the culmination of projects and introspection as you prepare for a more visible and outgoing period.

CANCER



December brings strong energy for moving ahead with work, chores, and wellness routines, dear Cancer, and improvements are empowering. Getting organized and back on track is the focus, and you have plenty of energy, enthusiasm, and motivation to get things done. Fortunately, you're also rounding out your life with non-routine experiences, connections, and ideas.



LEO



December brings creative, romantic, and heartwarming themes to your life, dear Leo. You find it especially easy to pursue your desires, and your propositions are well-received. Your social life can improve significantly this month. Increasingly, as the month advances, your focus turns to work and practical matters.

VIRGO



December holds a strong domestic theme for you, dear Virgo. You're paying more attention and pouring more energy into family, living conditions, and nesting. Your instincts are strong in these areas! You might be surprised to discover an ally or a newfound faith in someone you already know.

LIBRA



December can be a mentally busy month, although as it advances, you pay more attention to rest, comfort, and quiet. As the month advances, things slowly but surely settle down for you as you gear up for a home-centered, back-to-roots time. It's not only about improving your life at home or with family; it's also about getting in touch with your needs and desires.

SCORPIO



December is strong for both settling in and enjoying yourself and building something important to you, dear Scorpio. You're more interested in security and long-term endeavors than you are in the excitement of the moment. As such, you have more patience to draw upon, and it's powerful. The desire to boost your income is with you.

SAGITTARIUS



December is strong for self-development, dear Sagittarius, and you can find yourself quite devoted to achieving your personal goals. Later in the month, you'll enjoy settling in, building, and planning. You have a lot of energy to pursue your interests, and you have the backing of others to motivate you further.

CAPRICORN



It's a great month to do something entirely new and pioneering—to go solo in some area of your life. This particular season of the year smiles on your personal endeavors. This is a time when you more easily get in touch with a true sense of your identity and purpose. The most enterprising side of your nature surfaces,

AQUARIUS



Your focus is often on your social life and happiness goals this month, dear Aquarius. These are areas of more activity and excitement. For much of December, others see you in a good light, and you enjoy your responsibilities, work, or reputation more than usual. With Jupiter's direct turn on the 30th, you find it easier to focus on the big picture and make peace with the past.

PISCES



December is one of the more ambitious periods of the year for you. You have Mars at the top of your solar chart all month and the Sun there until the 21st, and you're taking charge of your life! You're more noticeable and quite readily make your mark. At the same time, lovely Venus moves in harmony with your sign much of the month, boosting your appeal and enjoyment.

Believe it or not, we are definitely not responsible for your fate!

YOUNG ACHIEVER



TEJAS P. DEVADIGA

Shotput Star

Tejas Praveen Devadiga is a shotput champion in the making. An eighth standard student of Sri Ravishanker Vidya Mandir in the city,

Tejas has been selected to participate in the national level event after securing the second position in the state level under-14 shotput event as part of the CBSE Cluster level Athletic Meet held at Davangere last month. He also won the first place in the boys' category in the district Masters Athletic event held in Mangaluru.



I'M A BARBIE GIRL!

Barbie dolls are any little girl's favourite. Every little girl who owns a Barbie doll would try to identify herself with Barbie. This doll has completed half a century since its first appearance on March 9, 1959. Her 50th birthday celebrations included a runway show in New York for the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week.

American businesswoman named Ruth Handler is credited with the creation of Barbie inspired from a German doll called Bild Lilli. Barbie is named after Handler's daughter Barbara.

Barbie considered a fashion doll is manufactured by the American toy-company Mattel, Inc. Ruth Handler who used to watch her daughter Barbara at play with paper dolls, noticed that she often enjoyed giving them adult roles. At the time, most children's toy dolls were representations of infants.

During a trip to Europe in 1956 with her children Barbara and Kenneth, Ruth Handler came across a German toy doll called Bild Lilli. The adult-figured doll



was exactly what Handler had in mind. The Lilli doll was first sold in Germany in 1955, and although it was initially sold to adults, it became popular with children who enjoyed dressing her up in outfits that were available separately.

Upon her return to the United States, Handler reworked the design of the doll and the doll was given a new name, Barbie. The doll made its debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York on March 9, 1959. This date

is also used as Barbie's official birthday.

Mattel acquired the rights to the Bild Lilli doll in 1964 and production of Lilli was stopped. The first Barbie doll wore a black and white zebra striped swimsuit and signature topknot ponytail, and was available as either a blonde or brunette. The doll was marketed as a "Teen-age Fashion Model," with her clothes created by Mattel fashion designer Charlotte Johnson. The first Barbie dolls were manufactured in Japan, with their clothes hand-stitched by Japanese home workers. Around 350,000 Barbie dolls were sold during the first year of production. It is estimated that over a billion Barbie dolls have been sold worldwide in over 150 countries. Barbie has become a cultural icon and has been given honors that are rare in the toy world. In 1974 a section of Times Square in New York City was renamed Barbie Boulevard for a week. In 1985 the artist Andy Warhol created a painting of Barbie.

STORYLINE

Every child in the village was very much excited on account of the news that had come down from the castle on the hill. As it had been such a rich harvest, the King was going to keep a thanksgiving day and would ask some child from the village to come up the hill to the castle and eat dinner with the Prince and Princess. It was rumored too, that this child would be given good gifts by the King.

The village children remembered everything that had been told to them by their mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers about the castle kitchen. The fires there always glowed to roast the rich fowls. The cake bowls and the soup pots were never empty.

The day before this day of thanksgiving, the messenger of the King came down from the castle and went from door to door of the homes in the village. He went first to the house of the burgomaster. The burgomaster's child was dressed in silk, and her hair was curled, and the burgomaster had packed a great hamper with sweets as an offering for the King.

"Are you ready to keep the feast as the King would like you to?" asked the messenger.

"Oh, yes!" said the burgomaster's child. "I have on my best dress, and here

THE KING'S THANKSGIVING



are plenty of sweets to eat. Will you take me?" But the messenger shook his head, for the child was not ready

Then the King's messenger came to the house where the captain of the guards lived. The captain's little boy wore a uniform with silver braid and buttons, a sword hung at his side, and he wore a soldier's cap. "Are you ready to keep the Thanksgiving Day as the King would like you to?" asked the messenger. "Oh, yes!" said the child. "I have my sword here and I can fight any one who crosses our path on the way to the castle. Will you take me?"

But the messenger went on came to

the baker's shop. The baker's boy stood at the door, dressed in his best white suit, and holding an empty basket on his arm. His father's bake shop was an important place in the village. They very seldom had any crumbs left for the poor, but were selling a great deal of bread every day.

"Are you ready to keep the Thanksgiving Day as the King would like you to?" the messenger asked the boy. "Oh, yes!" the boy said. "I have this basket to gather up whatever remains of the King's feast and bring it home with me." But the messenger shook his head a third time.

Then he did not know which way to go. As he waited, he saw two children, a girl and a boy, coming towards him. They were poor children, and one was leading the other, for he was lame. The messenger looked at them. The little girl had eyes like stars and her hair, was like a cloud made golden by the sunset. The messenger stood in the road in front of her and spoke to her.

"Are you ready to keep the Thanksgiving Day as the King would like you to?" he asked. "No, I am not ready," she said, "but this child is. I am bringing him because he is lame, and because he is hungry. Will you take him?" she asked. "Yes," said the messenger, "and you, too. There is room at the King's table for both." ■

HOCUS - FOCUS

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



Appointed

Parameshwar Ananth Hegde, has been appointed the Additional Superintendent of Police for Udupi district. P A Hegde was earlier serving as the DySP of city crime branch (CCB) unit in Mangaluru. The appointment comes following a state government order to assign 2 Additional SP rank officers for each district.



Commissioned

Palakkad Division of Southern Railways recently commissioned a quick watering facility for train coaches at the Mangaluru Junction Railway Station (MAJN). This facility has enhanced train watering system thus reducing the need for trains to halt enroute at some stations to fill its tanks. The commissioning of the new facility will help coaches of a train rake to be filled within about 10 minutes as against 20 minutes taken earlier.

Conferred

Veteran Yakshagana Arthadhari K Mahabala Shetty Koodlu was conferred the Yakshagana Honorary Award 2022-23 during the valedictory function of the Yakshagana Thalamaddale Saptaha Nudi Habba held at the Ravindra Kala Bhavan of University College recently.



Elected

Advocate from Udupi Girish S P has been elected as the new Zonal President of Jaycees Zone 15 for the year 2024.



Felicitated

Young talents of Devadiga community in various fields were honoured at a function held at the Devadiga Samaja Bhavan at Mannagudda recently under

the aegis of Dr K V Devadiga Charitable Trust. Harish Sherigar, Trustee and businessman, Chairman of the Trust Dr K V Devadiga, Ramakrishna Co-operative Bank Chairman K Jairaj Rai and others were present.

Launched

The Vikasith Bharath Sankalp Yatra aimed at reaching out the ambitious programme of the Union Government to the rural people, was launched at Ulaibettu GP recently by MP Nalin Kumar Kateel. District Lead Bank Chief Manager Kavitha Shetty, Canara Bank General Manager Sudhaker Kottari, Union Bank DGM Mohammad Sayyed, Ulaibettu GP Chief Harikesh Shetty, GP Vice President Dinesh and others were present.

Nominated

The Government of Karnataka has nominated Dr. UT Iftikhar Ali for the third time as a Syndicate Member of Rajiv Gandhi



University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bangalore. Dr. Iftikhar Ali, is also a professor at Shetty College of Physiotherapy in Mangaluru.

Organised

MRPL organised HiQ Retail Outlet Dealer Meet as part of Vigilance Awareness Week at MRPL Employees Recreational Centre, Mangalore. All the 75 dealers on its roll from various parts of the States of Karnataka and Kerala attended the programme. Deepak Prabhakar GGM – Marketing, A Sivaram Krishnan, GM Retail and others were present.

Released

● “Namma Kaithota Namma Hemme” an informative handout brought out by Saroja Prakash, a member of Savayava Krishika Grahaka Balaga was released by ACP Geetha Kulkarni recently. The book was brought out by the Balaga. A training programme on organic farming was inaugurated on the occasion by progressive organic farmer Anitha Bettampady.



The Annual Police Sports Meet of the City Police Commissionerate was inaugurated by International athlete M R Poovamma at the Police Parade Grounds in the city recently. City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal, DCP Umesh P, ACP Geetha Kulkarni, retired DCP Dr Dharmiah and others were present.



Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has clinched awards in three categories - Social Media for PR & Branding, Best CSR Project for Childcare and Best Skill Development Program PSU, at the prestigious Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) national awards. The awards ceremony took place during the International Public Relations Festival 2023 at Dr B R Ambedkar International Convention Center in New Delhi. Dr Rudolph Noronha, GM (CC), accepted the awards on behalf of MRPL. The dignitaries present on the occasion included Bernd Andersson, Deputy Commissioner of the Austrian embassy, Prof Druba Jyothi Pati, Dean and Director of India Today media institute, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, senior energy consultant at the World Bank and Ajith Pathak, National President of PRSI.

● “Marana Khachitha- Mathyake Bhoomi” – a literary work by T S Hussain, recipient of the Rajyotsava District level Award and Beary Sahitya Academy Award, was released by Udupi DySP Dinaker P K at a function held at Kaup Government First Grade College Auditorium.

Takes-charge

Dr Ranjan R.K., the Professor in Anaesthesiology at Kasturba Medical College, Mangaluru took over as the President of the Indian Medical Association, Mangaluru branch for the year 2023-24 recently. Dr Avin BR Alva, Dept of Community Medicine, KSHEMA elected as Secretary, Dr Prashantha B, Dept of Hematologist, KMC, Mangaluru as Treasurer and Dr Mahabalesh Shetty, Head of Forensic Medicine, KSHEMA as Vice President.



Won

● A literary work “Kadalu Nodalu

Hodavalu” by Fathima Raliya Hejamady has won the P Lankesh Award given by the Shivamogga Karnataka Sangha. This is the first literary work of Fathima.



● Anand Amin has won a total of seven medals including four gold medals in the swimming competitions held at Dharwad as part of the Karnataka Open Seniors National Sports Meet at Dharwad. Amin is a swimming and wrestling coach and has over 450 medals to his credit.



● Riyana Dhruthi of Mangaluru who won three gold and one silver in the Karnataka State level inter-school swimming competition conducted by the Education, Department, has qualified to take part in the national event. She is a ninth standard student of Ladyhill Victoria English Medium School.



OBITUARY



Senior journalist **Shashidhar Hemmanna** (57) passed away on November 9 following a heart attack. Shashidhar started his career at Kundaprabha in 1991 and later started his own weekly named “Kshitija” and was its chief editor. He had also worked as a reporter for ETV and DD News and had contributed agriculture related articles for Prajavani and other dailies. Recently he had started Connect Media and had planned projects across the state. Shashidhar is survived by his parents, wife and son.

Vatsala Nayak (82), resident of Chilimbi, Mangalore passed away on 25 November, 2023 due to age related illness. She was the wife of Late Bovikan Vaman Nayak. She is survived by three children. Her eldest son had predeceased her. Her eyes were donated posthumously.



Sheikh Jaleel Saheb (54) from Kaup in Udupi district who played ‘Nadaswara’ during the fairs at Hosa Marigudi Temple in Kaup, passed away recently following a heart attack. He was known as the epitome of communal harmony in the coastal region as he played the music instrument at the Hindu temple and also at some Kola and Ashlesha Bali rituals. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.



Vadiraj K A (51), General Manager & Chief Compliance Officer of Karnataka Bank passed away on November 1. He had served the bank for nearly 33 years in various positions across the nation.

Woman Power



Dr. Afreen Mubeen Sheikh, a native of Mangaluru has made her hometown proud when she recently won the SHE Award in Dubai for her dedicated service to her profession and for contributing to the cause of women empowerment in UAE.

Dr Afreen is an alumnus of K S Hegde Medical Academy where she pursued her MBBS. She later did her Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Dr Afreen is a mentor and coach for foreign medical graduates seeking medical licensure in the UAE. She is a women's health consultant in Mamahood, Dubai. Her expertise and guidance have empowered countless mothers to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. She has also successfully founded a women's modest fashion brand by name 'Hayaa by Afreen' in Dubai and also has a popular blog page by name 'The Whitecoat Mama' on Instagram.

She uses the platform to raise awareness about women's health and Gulf medical exams. She's not only a respected medical professional and social media influencer but also a brand ambassador for several renowned brands in the UAE. Dr Afreen's inspiring journey and her achievements were featured in a popular Dubai magazine 'Xpatzhub' in October.

Dr Afreen is married to Dr Mohammad Mubeen who is a Paediatric Intensivist.

Dr. Prashanth Shetty is an outstanding academician and Naturopathy doctor who is known for his great calibre and accomplishments. Presently, serving as the Principal of SDM College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Dr Shetty is also a winner of the Rajyotsava Award.

Hailing from Hebri in Karkala taluk, he is an alumnus of the college where he is serving and one of the students of the first batch of BNYS at the institution.

Distinguished Principal



He has a post graduate degree in Yogic Sciences from the prestigious SVYASA Yoga University. Later he even secured his Ph.D from the same institution.

He has the honour of being a member of the Yoga and Naturopathy Development Board of the Ayush Ministry and also a Task Force Member of the ministry. He also is a member of the Academic Council of the Rajeev Gandhi University of Health Sciences and a member of the Naturopathy and Yoga Advisory Board of Karnataka Government.

He has received several awards including lifetime achievement award in Naturopathy and Yoga at the Ayuryog Expo 2023 held at Varanasi under the aegis of the Union Ayush Ministry.

He is also a winner of BC Roy Award and Vasishta Award among other awards.

Start-up Talent

SecureMyScholarship.com, an edtech platform which is a UAE based start-up aims at connecting students with scholarships from universities across the globe. The CEO and Co-Founder of this unique platform is 27 year old **Craig Fernandes**. Noteworthy is the fact that Craig, an NRI based in Dubai has his roots in Mangaluru.

While Craig's mother is from Bendore, his great grand uncle Victor Rosario Fernandes had served as Bishop of Mangalore Diocese from 1930 to 1950.

Hailing from a middle class family, Craig realizes how important is scholarships for children hailing from such families. True to the vision of the start-up valued at 6 million dollars, it has so far succeeded in getting 7.3 million dollar worth scholarships to hundreds of students. Craig inspires and motivates youngsters through his talks at various educational institutions in the UAE and elsewhere.

His first start-up Lock&Stock, was named Disruption of the Year at Gulf Capital Awards 2020. He has been featured in Forbes 30 under 30 2023 edition and has won accolades like Future Star award winner at Arabian Business awards in 2019 and Young CEO of the Year at CEO Excellence Awards in 2021.



ವಿಸ್‌ಸಿಡಿ‌ಸಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್



ಡಾ| ಎಂ.ಎನ್. ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರಕುಮಾರ್

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ದ.ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ.
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಮೆನೇಜಿಂಗ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ, ನವೋದಯ ಗ್ರಾಮ ವಿಕಾಸ ಚಾರಿಟಿಬಲ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ (ರಿ.), ಮಂಗಳೂರು



**109 ವರ್ಷಗಳ
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ಸೇವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ...**

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- ಕೃಷಿ ಹೈನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ● ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ
 - ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಗುಂಪುಗಳಿಗೆ ● ವೇತನಾಧಾರಿತ
 - ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವಾ ಘಟಕ ● ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಾಲ
- ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಬಡ್ಡಿದರದಲ್ಲಿ**



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ಶೇ.9% ಬಡ್ಡಿದರ**

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ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಬಡ್ಡಿದರದಲ್ಲಿ
ಚಿನ್ನಾಭರಣ ಸಾಲ



ಶ್ರೀ ವಿನಯ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸೂರಿಂಜಿ
ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಪ್ರಭಾರ)

ಹಾಗೂ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು



ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ.

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Hangyo®
ICE CREAM

A Scoopful of Happy Hangyo!

Have a Creamier, Merrier Christmas

Heart of every Celebration!

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The advertisement features a vibrant pink background with a subtle snowflake pattern. At the top left is the Hangyo logo in Kannada, and at the top right is the Hangyo Ice Cream logo. The central focus is a large, stylized text 'A Scoopful of Happy Hangyo!' in a playful, rounded font. Below this, a white-gloved hand wearing a Santa hat cuff holds a pink Hangyo ice cream cup filled with vanilla ice cream and topped with nuts. A curved banner around the cup reads 'Have a Creamier, Merrier Christmas'. At the bottom, a collection of Hangyo products is displayed, including a 'Triple Choco Bar', 'Berry & Cream' bar, 'Rasika' cone, 'Twisto' bar, and a large tub of 'Pink Guava' ice cream. The bottom right corner features the slogan 'Heart of every Celebration!' and the website 'hangyo.in'.