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Where there is a will... Kadri Kambla Corporator Manohar Shetty has literally proved the adage "Where there is a will there is a way" by himself choosing to enter a manhole in his ward to fix a problem, when workers whom he had deputed refused to enter citing danger to life.

“Safety of everyone including public and police personnel is our first priority considering the increasing cases of Covid-19 infection”
newly appointed City Police Commissioner Vikash Kumar.

“I have the immense satisfaction of raising voice on behalf of the people by attending all sessions of the Assembly from 2014 till date”
former MLC Ivan D’Souza on his last day in office.

“Of late it has been noticed that people are neglecting the Covid-19 guidelines. All rules have to be strictly followed in the wake of rising Covid cases in the district”
Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Sindhu Rupesh.

“Whatever I have achieved, I owe it to God’s grace, parents’ blessings and honest work of staff members”
Dr N Vinay Hegde, Chancellor, Nitte Deemed-to-be University after receiving Rotary Vandana Award.

“The poor are in deep trouble under the BJP rule, promises made by the party have been forgotten by its leaders now”
District Congress President Harish Kumar at a protest against fuel price hike.

“Wordsworth"
Everything in life has changed with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. Work from home has become the new normal. Like many other sectors, the education sector has been badly affected by the nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of the disease. Schools, colleges, and universities have been closed since March, 2020.

This is an unprecedented and unexpected situation and nobody still knows when the situation will be normal. The crisis forced institutions to find quick-fix solutions in the form of Zoom classes, WhatsApp-based learning etc. The online processes were made by the institutions within a short time did not even allow us to analyse and understand the barriers to disseminating education to all. The steps taken did provide a first-aid solution but remain insufficient to treat the completely disrupted structure of education in the wake of COVID-19.

There are indeed numerous digital empowerment initiatives being taken up by schools and colleges to help students during lockdown, including webinars and online classes. The first major challenge in digital empowerment is the digital divide. As incredible as digital learning transcends, many remote learners are constrained by financial, regional and psychological barriers. Students from marginalized social sectors are still deprived of reliable internet access for studies.

We need to make quality internet infrastructure available at affordable rates for these students along with a possible subsidy for purchase of laptops. Educational institutions need to address this issue and ensure equal access to the digital world, integrating technology with equity. We should also explore possibility for delivery of webinars through TV channels as almost all households have access to electricity and TV.

Students need to reassure themselves that until a vaccine is available; their campus life will not be as before. Many classes need to be switched over to the online mode. These steps will force students and faculty to re-innovate and redefine the teaching and learning process.

This lockdown may be viewed as an opportunity to transform the campuses into more effective learning centres. It is time to reorient and organize our talent, resource, technology and expertise to transform campuses into digital learning centres, building uninterrupted learning ecosystems immune to the worst pandemics of tomorrow.
The new face of EDUCATION

Time to reorient and organize our resource, technology and expertise to transform campuses into digital learning centres, building uninterrupted learning ecosystems immune to the worst pandemics of tomorrow.

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Nirupa Exciting Illustrator

Nirupa Rao’s painstakingly detailed illustrations are a combination of her fascination for nature and love for painting.

■ VIEWPOINT 23

Why Indian students are flocking to Foreign Universities bankrolled by Indian Public Sector Banks?

If we can give quality education in the country at reasonable fees, students need not make a beeline seeking admission in foreign varsities bankrolled by Indian Banks. writes Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon

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Covid-19 is the one thing that has been a perennial source of worry for the people since March. Mangalore Today Cover story on the Covid pandemic provided a good source of information particularly with reference to Dakshina Kannada district and also tried to bust the myths behind Covid. It was also nice to see Mangalore Today coming out with an online issue during the present times of pandemic.

ANDREW MARTIS, Mangaluru

Covid-19 times are no doubt tough times. It is the time for everyone to be alert and cautious. There should be no room for negligence. It is only then that we can collectively defeat Coronavirus, lest it will continue to spread its tentacles exposing us to more danger in the days to come.

ROBERT SEQUIRA, Mangaluru

Author S G Vombatkere has rightly said that the Covid crisis is a Tsunami for the poor in India. True that the poor are the worst hit in this crisis. Ever since lockdown was enforced, the poor, the labourers were the ones who reeled under problems. These people depending upon daily wages and with no job security are the ones who are hit hard. The government has announced free ration, but how far it would reach the target group is something to watch out for.

VIJITH ACHARYA, Mangaluru

Mangalore Today cover story on the Covid pandemic provided a bird’s eye view of various aspects pertaining to Coronavirus and how Dakshina Kannada too slowly came under the grips of this virus that is proving to be deadly at times.

ALAN RESQUINHA, Mangaluru

The Corona pandemic also threw open a migrant crisis with migrant workers left high and dry for almost two months until some of them chose to walk all the way to their far off homes. The government finally woke up, though a bit too late to arrange for Shramik Special trains for them. Dakshina Kannada district too has had its share of woes as far as migrant workers is concerned.

UMESH KAMATH, Mangaluru

The Covid-19 pandemic as pointed out by author Prem Chandavarkar in his article, has taught us some lessons. It now depends on us as to whether we learn from the problems which this pandemic has created or would forget it sooner. The latter may not be possible as experts have already pointed out that this pandemic is here to stay for a long time.

EVEREST RODRIGUES, Mangaluru

It was nice to read about two young pilots Michael Saldanha and Sarfaraz Zakir and their zeal to serve their motherland in the present pandemic times. One needs a lot of courage and determination to discharge one’s duties at such critical times knowing the risks involved.

ASHA MATHIAS, Mangaluru

Covid-19 times has inspired many innovative minds to develop new devices that are of help in the present circumstances. Be it the Zero-Cov the cost effective disinfectant chamber, a Covid-19 helmet for patients and the Vanora, anti-Covid disinfecting robot, everything is unique and we have to praise the innovative minds behind these devices.

MANOHAR SHETTY, Mangaluru

It was really heart-warming to read about Joseph and Coassess Pais who have completed 80 years of married life. They are really a blessed couple as not many are so fortunate to be together for almost eight decades. Thanks to I J Saldanha Shet for the write-up.

PRAKASH AMIN, Mangaluru

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 year old 1125sft 2 BHK Luxury Apartment for sale at Konachdy</td>
<td>37 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 BHK Apartment for sale in Mauriska Park, PVS Circle, Mangalore</td>
<td>67 Lakhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 cents land (Residential) for sale in Barebail, Behind AJ Hospital, Mangaluru</td>
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In the clutches of Covid-19

With a steady increase in Covid-19 cases, Dakshina Kannada district is staring at a major health crisis in the days to come unless each and everyone is cautious, alert and abides by the Covid-19 guidelines dutifully.

Dakshina Kannada district which did not see much Covid-19 cases in the initial days of lockdown, has seen a spurt in the cases in the recent past ever since government announced Unlock, sending waves of panic. Many are even wondering if there is a community spread of the infection. Initially if it were the Gulf returnees as well as Maharashtra returnees who formed a major chunk of the Corona cases reported from the district, of late it has not been the case.

As on July 1, Dakshina Kannada district has recorded 16 deaths due to Covid-19, something which is a cause of major concern. As per the latest information, a total of 13,756 samples have been sent for tests of which 12,682 are negative and 749 positive. Presently, there are 292 active cases while 443 people have recovered and have been discharged from hospital.

However more alarming is the fact that there has been an almost five fold increase in the cases since the beginning of June. The number of cases which stood at 127 on June 1 now stands at 749. The district had recorded lowest number of Corona cases (2) on June 3 and 11 while the maximum 97 cases were reported on June 28.

Deputy Commissioner Sindhu Rupesh who had recently released a video message through the Information Department in the backdrop of the rising Covid-19 cases, has indirectly warned of a grave situation unless people shun their mindless attitude despite rise in cases. Unless people realise the seriousness of the situation, the administration may be forced to initiate stern measures, she has warned.

As cases see a steady rise in Dakshina Kannada district as well as Udupi, the health workers and the medical staff, particularly those in Covid-19 hospitals are feeling the pressure. Already 10 doctors serving at Wenlock as well as 5 post graduate doctors who were serving in three hospitals have tested positive.

Meanwhile, there have also been allegations of lack of services at the Wenlock Hospital after some video clippings went viral. However, Wenlock authorities have denied the allegations and have said that many who have been discharged have called them back to thank them for their good service.

Particularly this being monsoon time, common cold, cough, fever and associated symptoms are quite common and people indeed dread even to think about it as physicians do not treat such cases and patients are referred to the fever clinic at Wenlock. Many even complain of a long wait there for treatment. As this is also a matter of more importance there is a need for more fever clinics which would be a boon during this time of the year.

In another matter of concern, particularly for SSLC students, three girl students who have appeared for exams in different centres in Udupi district, have tested positive for Covid-19 and are under treatment. However, undeterred the authorities by ensuring strict social distancing and by strictly adhering to other norms are going ahead with the exams.

Amid the Corona pandemic, MLA UT Khader drew the ire of many when he lent a helping hand in digging the grave for a Covid-19 patient at the Bolar burial ground without wearing a PPE Kit. Following criticisms Khader convened a press meet to clarify that it has not been proved anywhere that one would be infected by Corona merely by taking part in the last rites of a victim. He also clarified that he had taken part in the last rites with due precautions.

Amid the Covid-19 crisis, the district is also forced to battle even Dengue cases. As many as 84 Dengue cases have been reported in the district this year upto June 1. That as many as 21 cases were detected in a particular area of Puttur taluk in a span of one month too is a cause of worry.

All said and done with a steady rise in Covid-19 cases the district is staring at a major health crisis in the days to come unless and until everyone strictly adheres to the Covid-19 guidelines.
A veiled warning

MLA and former minister U T Khader who recently participated in the burial of a 70 year old Covid-19 victim at the burial ground of the mosque at Bolar in Mangaluru, has got a veiled warning.

At a recent official meeting, local MP Nalin Kumar Kateel has warned of stern action against anyone participating the last rites of Covid-19 victims without wearing PPE Kit. He also said only the staff concerned are supposed to participate as per the protocol and others are not permitted. Many see this statement of Kateel as an indirect warning to the opposition party MLA who attended the last rites of a victim.

As photos of the MLA participating in the burial without an PPE kit made rounds in social media, as expected Khader was in for criticism. Many said he has not only risked himself of possible exposure to virus but has also risked others, by not wearing PPE kit. However the MLA claimed he took part after being pained to know that the Covid-19 victims do not get a decent burial as their relatives are not able to attend. He also claimed that he has followed all precautions and said there is no instance of one getting exposed to the virus by participating in last rites.

All is not well?

The BJP, the party with a difference has been always claiming that there are no differences within the party and that it is the Congress party which has a lot of dissidence within itself. Well, hard to believe that any part can be free of differences.

Recently, it was evident that all is not well within the party when reports indicated of several MLAs including two from Mangaluru were part of a group of legislators who had met the local MP and State BJP Chief Nalin Kumar Kateel during a closed door meeting to lodge their protest against unsatisfactory fund allocation from the Urban Development Department to the city corporations in their constituencies.

The grouse was that the first time MLAs had to face the brunt and it is worth mentioning that both BJP MLAs from Mangaluru are first timers. The anger of the MLAs was justifiable as it was their own party’s government that was reportedly resorting to discrimination.

HEIGHTS OF APATHY

The large hole that had appeared right on the middle of the underpass at Padil a few weeks ago, is in an "As is where is" condition, thanks to the apathy of the administration as well as the agency undertaking the works. It is believed that an underground drainage beneath the underpass had led to the formation of this nearly three feet deep hole. But something has to be done to solve the problem. Is it enough to merely place some stones and a plant around the hole?
New Gurupur Bridge inaugurated

The newly constructed Gurupur bridge across river Phalguni was inaugurated by Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel recently along with DK District in-charge Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary and Mangaluru North MLA Dr Y Bharath Shetty. The bridge has been completed in a record time well ahead of schedule.

In his address, Srinivas Poojary expressed his happiness over the fact that the bridge has been completed within 16 months.

The foundation stone for the bridge was laid in February 2019 and it was supposed to be completed by February 2021. The bridge constructed at a cost of Rs 39.42 crores is 16 meters wide and 175 meters long.

It may be mentioned here that the old Gurupur bridge was built way back in 1923.

Engineering student creates longest Tulu poem

Pranesh, an engineering student from Mangaluru has created a world record for the longest poem in Tulu language. He has been awarded a certificate in this regard by the World Book of Records, United Kingdom which states that he has been included for innovative creation as one of the Longest Poem in Tulu language. Pranesh, a resident of Kulshekhar in Mangaluru is a student of Sahyadri Engineering College and is pursuing second year mechanical engineering.

His record making Tulu poem “Tulunada Aisiri” has 2241 Tulu words and 108 stanzas. He has used over 30 A4 sheets for this poem. In all, the poem is 21 feet long.

The 423 line poem deals with Tulunad, its festivals, celebrations, Daiva worship, Nagaradhane, holy places, traditional games and so on and he has given a literary touch to the appeal to include Tulu in the 8th Schedule of the Indian constitution.

Cyanide Mohan gets lifer in 20th and final case

Cyanide Mohan, the serial killer and rapist has been sentenced to life imprisonment in the last and 20th case that was filed against him. The Sixth Additional District and Sessions Judge issued the judgement.

The case pertained to the murder of a 25 year old teacher from Kasargod in 2009. Mohan had promised the woman of marriage. The woman who had left home to visit a temple in Sullia on July 8, 2009 had not returned. When her family called her it was Mohan who received the phone to tell them that they had married and would soon return.

Mohan, as his usual modus operandi had given the woman cyanide pills after making her believe it was contraceptive and had taken her to a toilet at a Bengaluru bus stand on July 15 that year. After confirming she had died he had escaped with her jewels. The jewels were later recovered from his second wife’s house.

Many more women had fallen prey to serial killer? According to Nanjunda Gowda, the present DySP of Anekal who was the one who arrested Cyanide Mohan, while serving as inspector in Bantwal station, Mohan might have eliminated more than 20 women. He points out how the police during course of investigation had found more jewellery pledged with money lenders which remained unidentified. The number of victims grew each year: one in 2004, three in 2005, four in 2006, three in 2007, two in 2008 and nine in 2009.

He, it is learnt used to take the women lured by him to different hotels where he checked-in using different names. However he used to sign in the hotel registers in a similar manner. It has also been gathered that he had not destroyed the cell phones of two of his victims, but instead gave it to his brother-in-law and brother’s son.
Namana’s life saving effort hailed

Fifteen year old Namana, a tenth standard student of Little Rock School, Brahmavar has won applause all over for her efforts in saving the life of a young woman who was in a critical state after the car in which she was travelling had plunged into the Chaulikere in Barkur recently. A 40 year old entrepreneur who was driving the car however has breathed his last.

The 23 year old woman who was rescued from the car which had turned upside down was immediately made to lie down after which Namana with the help of others gave her first aid by doing resuscitation, something she had learnt while in NCC.

The woman is now recovering and doctors say the first aid given to her had gone a long way in saving her life.

Namana is the daughter of Savitha Ermal and Kumar couple. Namana’s mother is also an NSS officer. The video of Namana’s efforts to resuscitate the young woman has gone viral on social media.

Young police officer’s humanitarian gesture wins hearts

A young police officer hailing from Kaniyoor in Keyyur village of Puttur taluk has won hearts through his humanitarian gesture of deciding to take care of an elderly couple who are totally shattered after losing all their money to a fraudster.

Pradeep Poojary who is presently serving as a sub-inspector in Vishwanathapur police station in Devanahalli taluk is the kind hearted police officer who has rushed to the help of the elderly couple.

Basavanapura residents Narasimhappa (85) and Gangamma (75) had lost all the money and jewellery after they fell trap to a fraudster who had visited their house claiming to be a bank staff. The couple who had come to the station to lodge their complaint had narrated their woes to Pradeep who was deeply moved and has decided to take care of the elderly couple just like their own son.

Pradeep Poojary has been serving the Police Department since the past ten years. He is an alumnus of Alva’s College, Moodbidri and was known as a good sportsman during his college days.

2 instances of attacks on cattle traders; victim demand justice

Bajrangdal activists have been accused of assaulting a cattle trader named Muhammad Haneef Guddemane of Jokatte after tying him to the vehicle near Kottara. The incident occurred when he was transporting four buffaloes from his house at Jokatte to the Kudroli slaughter house. The Bajrangdal men had reportedly stopped the vehicle near Kottara, tied Haneef to the vehicle and had assaulted him.

The victim Mohammad Haneef has demanded justice and stern action against the activists who attacked despite him possessing all valid documents regarding cattle transportation.

He has alleged that the police had secured his signature for an already prepared statement rather than securing his own statement.

"I have been booked in non-bailable false case of cattle theft. There are CCTV evidences regarding the attack on me by 15 people. Still only six were booked under weak clauses and have been released on bail," Haneef said adding he had personally visited the station to give his written statement and sought action on its basis.

In connection with another instance of intercepting a cattle transporter, police have arrested five persons. In this case, the accused was transporting beef to Kankanady Market from the Kudroli abattoir. The accused had waylaid the tempo carrying 200 kg beef and had attacked the driver Rashid. They also damaged the tempo and had reportedly poured kerosene on the beef but had to flee when people gathered around.
A fertile field for all sorts of quackery!

The way things are going on as of now leave us with little choice other than staying safe and incorporating best hygiene practices.

As usual as I expressed in my previous write up in the last issue, every quack loves a good pandemic because there is money to be made. These are joined by the astrologers who have got a bonus too- the solar eclipse. While the effects of the former can be ascribed to a virus though some would like us to believe it is a bacterium and others that it is an evil spirit to be prayed to and propitiated through appropriate offerings. We have seen pictures of coronamma temples at some rural areas where the images are worshipped to and a monotheistic place of worship in Kerala where the devotee and the object of worship are one each-the devotee also standing by as the priest and the object of worship the replica of an electron microscope picture of the virus!

As I have already said a viral disease without an appropriate treatment protocol and self limiting in more than 95% of the infected is a fertile field for all sorts of quackery. If the non randomized selection results in a closed group of young people in small enough numbers the cure can be even 100%! This was the case in a set of prisoners ‘treated’ by a Siddha concoction in Tamilnadu! Some 37 or so prisoners were treated by that and were ‘cured’ and now it is claimed the govt has recommended the same! But going to facts Chennai has a huge number of cases and is going into total shut down for trying to bring them down rather than feeding this to the people. In fact a Tamilnadu govt. official communication states that warm water prepared from a certain herbal powder is to be used for drinking as a protection against Covid 19 infections!

When the solar eclipse came around on the 21st June, the opinions were of two types. One was that of an ‘engineer’ who claimed that the last solar eclipse on 26th of December,2019 caused mutations in a virus in the stratosphere and this caused the disease conveniently forgetting that the first reported case was in the first week of December,2019 and the zoonotic jump would have happened much before that. Anyway this would be a interesting case of a mutation happening due to an event which happened later to the event! However, another ‘engineer’ proposed a solution that the disease would end on the
21st January, 2020 solar eclipse day because of the same reason - mutation by some mysterious rays emitted!

The sugar pill dispensers about whom I have already mentioned in my last write-up have come up with another addition this time. Though the hype used to be about arsenicum album so far, a new addition of some other concoction called camphoratum something has happened. But, they are careful enough to say that these are not curative or specific but only boost the immunity for which no evidence is needed. For reacting to it on a face book post I have been threatened by the president of IHMA of the district that I have mocked their ceremony of presenting sugar pills to boost the immunity of the members of the DK working journalists association! I have repeated my statement that if any one claims that their concoction boosts immunity to the Covid -19 causing virus is doing quackery and I repeat the same this time too because such claims have to be backed by evidence. With the development of a vaccine not yet near, such claims raise false hopes.

While the pills and concoction dispensers are having their time in the lime light, the breathing teachers and yoga masters are not far behind supported by the prime minister who claims to be practitioner of the same who claimed on the world yoga day that many Covid-19 patients had been benefited by yoga and pranayama, Jaggi the self proclaimed Sadguru has claimed that he has conducted classes for the doctors associated with Covid-19 treatment. The contortionist who dispenses gaumutra has also come up with his own brand of hyperventilation while his associate has come up with a concoction which is allegedly undergoing ‘scientific testing’.

When such things are going on can evidence based medicine be far behind? First came the claim that HCQ about which I have already discussed in the previous issue. WhatsApp university has its share of ‘scientific knowledge’ to contribute! One post started doing the rounds that Italians have discovered that Covid 19 is not caused by a virus but by a bacterium! It also went on to describe how patients were cured by them. But, like everything else it turned to be of the same as other gyaan of this university! But, this university never gives up! We have posts of how drinking hot water, inhaling steam, eating ginger and turmeric cured people in X, Y or Z locations!

While claims are being made with clever riders like improving immunity and increasing resistance power, some are using science to sell their ware. Recently in this list came Glenmark whose shares jumped up when they got approval for their product flavipiravir to be used for mild and moderate cases of Covid- 9. While there is some scientific evidence to support their claim, the crux of the matter lies in its price and its usefulness! While Covid - 19 illness passes off asymptotically for a large number in fact at one time in Karnataka 96% of the admitted cases were asymptomatic and were being just held in isolation and not really for treatment, what is important are the 15% of the cases who need care and 5% ICU care. If any line of treatment could be made for them that would have been really path breaking. But most or almost everyone is concentrating on the other 95%! This is because there is money to me made there- easy money in fact and no fear of any lawsuits because only a very rare fatality would occur that too almost of every one of them had co morbidities!

As I am going to press the bearded winking contortionist and his business partner have started shouting from the roof tops about ‘scientific evidence’ for cure of mild and moderate cases having been found based on so called research using a group of 50 patients that too of the age group between 16 and 59 and with no co morbidities they have shown that there is an improvement in the time taken for the patients to test negative mind all whom who would have recovered any way and they all did! This was being touted as a Nobel prize winning research work! As soon as he hit the headlines and the product hit the market the govt finally woke up and banned it.

But certain protocols have been devised to save lives and improve recovery rates. The quest for vaccines is on the way and the recovery rate has improved thanks to these. However, those are not for discussion here as the choice of these is to the treating physician. But, one thing is for certain and that is that this virus is there for the long haul and as of now the immune mechanisms of the body are the only protection may it be through an infection or getting vaccinated after one is developed.

The way things are going on as of now leave us with no choices as none has immunity to this infection. As of now the govt policy seems to be that people are to be left to their own devices! My appeal to you is to stay safe, avoid infected, use a mask and wash your hands with the good old fashioned soap and water.

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

Time to reorient and organize our resource, technology and expertise to transform campuses into digital learning centres, building uninterrupted learning ecosystems immune to the worst pandemics of tomorrow.
THE WORLD HAS GONE through unprecedented changes with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. The economy has crashed to the lowest level ever, putting every sector in doldrums. People have started working from home and trying not to leave home as much as possible, to maintain social distancing and preventive precautions. Everything has been changed including education system. The education sector is probably the worst hit, facing a storm of challenges. The whole sector seems to have come to standstill in the past few months due to Coronavirus pandemic.

The educational institutions are most vulnerable for the spread of the disease due to the mass gathering in the classrooms. Therefore until effective treatment invented and the infection is totally eradicated, it is difficult to bring back the students to the schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions. Resuming normal classes in classrooms therefore seems a distant dream.

Over billion students across the globe, are limited to home during the crucial months of February to May - which generally see annual examinations, a flurry of curricular and assessment activities. Institutions and students alike are under pressure to not lose academic time and re-invent their teaching-learning process.

Even before the lockdown was enforced by central government, the state governments in their individual capacities declared the schools and colleges and the other educational institutions closed from the middle of March. Lockdowns to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have posed many challenges for education globally and India is no exception. With the full lockdown being imposed in the country, the education sector came to a standstill. This is an unprecedented and unexpected situation and nobody still knows when the situation will be normal.

The crisis forced us to find solutions to the challenge of continuing the teaching and the learning process. This resulted in the quick-fix solutions in form of ZOOM classes, WhatsApp-based learning etc. With internet being exhaustively used as it serves to be the only possible medium of reaching learners during the lockdown. The online processes were made by the institutions within a short time did not even allow us to analyse and understand the barriers to disseminating education to all. The steps taken did provide a first aid solution but remain insufficient to treat the completely disrupted structure of education in the wake of COVID-19.

Many Educational institutions in Karnataka are going through digital transformation and have even started
online classes. Some of them have fully safe IT systems with facilities for online examinations. There are indeed numerous digital empowerment initiatives being taken up by schools and colleges to help students during lockdown, including webinars and online classes. The first major challenge in digital empowerment is the digital divide. As incredible as digital learning transcends, many remote learners are constrained by financial, regional and psychological barriers. Students from marginalized social sectors are still deprived of reliable internet access for studies.

It is undeniable fact that Education is the single most powerful tool that has the potential to improve the standard of living of every individual in any strata of the society. With the foreseeable suspension of conventional classroom teaching for a large chunk of this academic year, and the backlog from the last academic year, the Centre and the states will quickly need to ensure that the current academic year isn’t lost across all levels of education.

As such, Education today is treading towards a new normal. In the absence of physical classrooms and proper digital infrastructure, both teachers and students are facing unprecedented challenges. It is evident from the current scenario that there is massive shift from the ever-used chalk-talk method and socio-behavioural learning in the school education system. The new system design will have to cater to psychological, social, and intellectual need of people. It may not just be enough to deliver engaging online-learning experiences to the children.

Educational institutions need to address this issue and ensure equal access to the digital world, integrating technology with equity. We need to make quality internet infrastructure available at affordable rates for these students along with a possible subsidy for purchase of laptops. We should also explore possibility for delivery of webinars through TV channels as almost all households have access to electricity and TV.

The second challenge is the availability of reliable IT systems. We need to give priority to design and develop indigenous software systems for our digital transformation. At the moment, we do not even have an indigenous, safe and reliable ‘made in India’ videoconferencing system. Institute of Human Resources Development (IHRD) has developed a complete assessment and evaluation software for examinations. This software can be further developed and used by universities and institutions.

The third challenge is the inadequacy of IT infrastructure in colleges. The IT infrastructure, especially computer laboratories, in all institutions need to be upgraded immediately. It is felt that IT audit and compliance may be made stringent for granting of affiliations and accreditations. Above all, we need complete support from teachers to implement this digital transformation. Digital transformation will have advantages like ensuring continuity of teaching-learning process at all times, efficient utilization of IT infrastructure of institutions, bringing down the cost of education, early completion of examination and evaluation process, full compliance with the published academic syllabus etc.

On the higher education front, the government did well to allow the top 100 universities to start online courses from May 30 onwards, but without the requisite infrastructure, this might just not take off. Moreover there is the problem of assessment via online exams, but these can be tackled by deploying appropriate technological solutions, including AI. The bigger problem for the education sector at the moment is current-year admissions that are already delayed.

Students need to reassure themselves that until a vaccine is available; their campus life will not be as before. Many classes need to be switched over to the online mode. These steps will force students and faculty to re-innovate and
redefine the teaching and learning process. This lockdown may be viewed as an opportunity to transform the campuses into more effective learning centres. Our onus now is to reorient and organize our talent, resource, technology and expertise to transform campuses into digital learning centres, building uninterrupted learning ecosystems immune to the worst pandemics of tomorrow.

COVID-19 marks a rare inflection point, where the entire education system is being forced to recalibrate its actions and delivery channels. We will need to redesign of the curriculum to ensure the quality of education that accelerates the efficiency of learning under the new constraints. The delivery and grouping of the content are some of the finer considerations that will help in covering up the losses incurred and preparing the children towards becoming stronger self-learners. The need will be to modulate the methods and have new inclusions in the same. The new normal in education

Major changes expected in education sector post covid-19

Post covid-19, the world will be a different place. Understandably, the impact of the pandemic has already been felt on education sector too. It is also an event that has given rise to push to digitalization of businesses, especially in the education sector.

We have to prepare ourselves to bring the best of online education into the classrooms - a blended learning approach - and in the process, offer the students a powerful learning experience, who lacked good education or quality resource access.

Some important ways in which education will change in the post covid-19 time:

Blended learning will become a reality: The classroom will be supplemented by online coursework. This way, students may be required to physically attend classes on fewer days and will be free to study at their own pace. This will also give them adequate time to assimilate information.

Training of teachers will be qualitatively different: All the teachers will have to be trained for online teaching as well. This will go a long way to ensure that they are comfortable with technology and will be able to seamlessly switch between online and offline modes of teaching the curriculum. And above all, teachers will feel empowered to deliver a more impactful lecture than before.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will help personalize the learning experience for every child: Soon, educators will have to discard the 'one-size-fits-all' approach that is mostly followed in traditional classrooms and use technology to offer a learning experience that is uniquely suited to a child’s learning needs. The blended approach to learning, in turn will help all types of students, since they will have the opportunity to engage with different types of content such as video, audio, presentations, thereby increasing the ability to personalize learning.

Role of teachers will need to be redefined: With information readily available just a click away, the role of a teacher from that of a 'knowledge-giver' will gradually move to one of a ‘facilitator’ in the development of learners and helping them to become life-long learners.

Technology will be used effectively to reduce the time spent by teachers on tasks such as paper-setting, evaluating and grading: This will help the teachers focus more effectively on teaching and course improvement.

Interactivity and engagement in a physical classroom will have to be built into the online learning programs to keep students engaged: Physical classrooms offer a high degree of interactivity with the teacher and also among students. Educators will have to bring in a lot of innovations to bring in the element of interactivity and collaboration in their e-learning modules.

Social Distancing principles will have to be incorporated: As and when schools, coaching centers and other educational institutions open up after Covid-19, the new social distancing rules will necessarily change the existing ways of imparting education. Schools might consider working in shifts, classrooms will follow strict sanitization processes and social distancing will become a norm for all activities.

It must also be pointed out that amidst the social distancing, self-isolation and online studies in the current quarantinetimes, it is but natural that children are facing unprecedented levels of anxiety. Unable to hang out with their friends, peers and classmates like they used to, and not being able to expend their energy on sports, must not be easy on them. It is important that as educators, we take the responsibility to equip them with suitable coping mechanisms and help them to build and strengthen their connections with supportive adults, including their teachers.
will be a blend of digital and physical teaching.

When the digital solutions are implemented, mostly dictated by local circumstances, a different world of education will slowly unfold. Some experiments will undoubtedly fail, while others will be immensely successful. When the dust settles, we are bound to see a brand-new educational landscape, impacted and reshaped at all levels. Schools for younger children will have smaller classes with a high level of attention being paid to hygiene and the introduction of innovative approaches to keeping children at safe distances. High schools and universities will undoubtedly see a huge move towards the induction of technology in every aspect of the teaching-learning experience. We can expect to see an immense improvement in the quality of materials available at all class levels as the move away from face-to-face classes gain momentum.

As the current situation will have lasting impact on the economic condition of people, the change needs to have objective not to overburden the parents so that the education of children does not become optional or burden. The transition to new system must be contextually appropriate and frictionless for the easy adoption. Stakeholders should not just be satisfied with finding quick-fix solutions to the current situation, but need to have far sighted vision so that we can create agile, resilient and sustainable long term solutions that can adapt to any dire situation that the world might face in future.

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

1. Monitor your child’s health and keep them home from school if they are ill.
2. Teach and model good hygiene practices for your children
   - Wash your hands with soap and safe water frequently. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water, if hands are visibly dirty
   - Ensure that safe drinking water is available and toilets or latrines are clean and available at home
   - Ensure waste is safely collected, stored and disposed of
   - Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow and avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, nose
3. Encourage your children to ask questions and express their feelings with you and their teachers. Remember that your child may have different reactions to stress; be patient and understanding.
4. Prevent stigma by using facts and reminding students to be considerate of one another
5. Coordinate with the school to receive information and ask how you can support school safety efforts (through parent-teacher committees, etc.)

STUDENTS AND CHILDREN

Children and young people should understand basic, age-appropriate information about coronavirus disease, including its symptoms, complications, how it is transmitted and how to prevent transmission. Stay informed about COVID-19 through reputable sources such as UNICEF, WHO and national health ministry advisories. Be aware of fake information/myths that may circulate by word-of-mouth or online.

CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN

1. In a situation like this it is normal to feel sad, worried, confused, scared or angry.
   - Know that you are not alone and talk to someone you trust, like your parent or teacher so that you can help keep yourself and your school safe and healthy.
   - Ask questions, educate yourself and get information from reliable sources
2. Protect yourself and others
   - Wash your hands with soap and safe water frequently. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water, if hands are visibly dirty
   - Ensure that safe drinking water is available and toilets or latrines are clean and available at home
   - Ensure waste is safely collected, stored and disposed of
   - Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow and avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, nose
3. Be a leader in keeping yourself, your school, family and community healthy.
   - Share what you learn about preventing disease with your family and friends, especially with younger children
   - Model good practices such as sneezing or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands, especially for younger family members
4. Don’t stigmatize your peers or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn’t follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age or ability or gender.
5. Tell your parents, another family member, or a caregiver if you feel sick, and ask to stay home.
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Nirupa

Exciting Illustrator

Nirupa Rao’s painstakingly detailed illustrations are a combination of her fascination for nature and love for painting.

In the midst of the fast creeping Corona Pandemic, it is natural to ask why? Is it partly due to serious neglect and abuse of Mother Nature and the environment the world over - the answer is without doubt, positive. Take our abused Western Ghats, one of eight ‘hotspots’ of biodiversity in the world; the region is estimated to have over 7,402 species of flowering plants, 1,814 species of non-flowering plants, 139 mammal species, 508 bird species, 179 amphibian species, 6000 insects species and 290 freshwater fish species. It is likely that many undiscovered species live in the Western Ghats. It’s home to 325 globally threatened species.

Kanara is renowned for exciting pioneers dedicated to rare fields and who have contributed their expertise immensely in a wide range of known and unknown fields of achievement, contributing to science and human life. Here, Nirupa Rao, a young lady of deep knowledge and skills takes the place of honour for her contribution to ‘Nature and environment’ in amazingly scientific ways. One can not fail to find glowing tributes to her work in different facets which have drawn attention from many quarters. ‘Mangalore Today’, is fortunate to here highlight her work, for it’s esteemed readers; her family’s connection to Mangalore and the western ghats elicits interest here and now.

Profile & Work:

Nirupa Rao - the young Bengaluru based nature illustrator captures in fine detail the beauty of flora of the Western Ghats in the form of precision specialised illustrations. At least 85 of Nirupa Rao’s illustrations are part of a book ‘Pillars of Life’ by two renowned botanists Divya Mudappa and TR Shankar Raman. Nirupa was named as the ‘National Geographic Young Explorer in the year 2017’ which itself is a huge achievement to be proud of. But Nirupa did not study to become an artist, least of all a botanical illustrator. She earned a degree in Sociology from Warwick University in the United Kingdom, Nirupa only signed up for a short online course in botanical illustrations to learn the nuances of the art.

Her work is inspired by regular field visits into the wild, and informed by close collaboration with natural scientists to achieve a high degree of accuracy. She
works primarily on depicting plants from India, with a specific interest in species from the Western Ghats. In 2017, Nirupa was named a 'National Geographic Young Explorer', and received a grant to create her book 'Hidden Kingdom—Fantastical Plants of the Western Ghats' (published in 2019). Hidden Kingdom is an illustrated book that aims to open the minds of Indian children (and adults!) to the magical world of plants that exists in our own 'backyard', the Western Ghats in southern India. Featuring the weird and amazing world of nature, even the carnivorous and the parasitic, the poisonous, the stinky and the unimaginably valuable, this book aims to be the atlas of the Plant Kingdom of the region. It was made in collaboration with: her sister Suniti Rao (a writer who runs her own creative agency, Lighter), her cousin Siddarth Machado (who is a botanical researcher at University of Florida), and her friend Prasenjeet Yadav (a National Geographic photographer).

She has also published 'Pillars of Life-Magnificent Trees of the Western Ghats' (2018), a debut project in collaboration. The book features illustrations of trees native to the region, including images of their identifying parts like fruit, flowers, seeds and leaves. To draw these trees, Nirupa had to work closely with Mudappa and Shankar Raman, as the trees are often up to 140ft and shrouded in surrounding foliage, making them very difficult to photograph. Nirupa would study the unique form of each tree up close, and then ascend a neighbouring hill to see its crown rising above the canopy, piecing them together in her final amazing virtual illustration. She has also illustrated the cover of Amitav Ghosh’s latest novel, Gun Island, and re-jacketed four of his older novels for Penguin-Random House. In 2019, she
participated in a Plant Humanities program at Harvard University’s Dumbarton Oaks Research Centre, and has exhibited her work at their museum.

She recently collaborated with the ‘Centre for Wildlife Studies’ on ‘Wild Shaale’ (‘Wild School’ in Kannada), an environmental and conservation-education program designed for rural school-going children, aimed at nurturing interest and empathy toward India’s wildlife and wild places. She has also been named an INK Fellow, one to ‘watch out for’ in Forbes India’s annual 30 Under 30 issue, and one of Harper’s Bazaar India’s ‘Indian Women to be Proud of’.

Early motivation:

As a child, she spent most of her summer holidays and family vacations in the Western Ghats and developed an interest in botanical matters because of the memory of her grand-uncle, Rev Cecil Saldanha SJ, PhD, who led an expedition and documented the flora of Karnataka in the 1970s, and even documented the flora of Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep; He headed the well known Botany department at was at St Joseph’s college, Bangalore. A small annual carnivorous plant that belongs to the genus Utricularia, Utricularia cecilii - This species is named in honor of Fr Cecil Saldanha S.J., who had shown this species in 1981. Rev Fr Cecil passed away in April 2002, but time spent with this renowned botanist and the keen observation of a childish interest about his work, made an indelible impression on this young mind. Fr Saldanha, conducted his survey of the flora of Karnataka in the 1960s and 1970s, with Nirupa’s grandfather grandfather’s house in Hassan as his base. Consequently memories of watching this expedition unfold, has given root to a strong love for plants.

Fr Cecil is Nirupa’s maternal grandmother’s (Vera Machado nee Monteiro) first cousin, their mothers were sisters. Nirupa’s mother is Carol, daughter of Harry and Vera Machado, and father is Venugopal Rao, an Udupi native whose family settled in Kerala a few generations ago. Nirupa is born and brought up in Bangalore, with two older sisters Nandini and Suniti.

Impressions - Nirupa the Illustrator:

Every summer holiday Nirupa’s extended family spent in different locations around the Western Ghats. This close intense intimacy with nature rustled up a number of botany enthusiasts in her family, her cousin Siddarth Machado with whom she has collaborated on a project.

After a great deal of coaxing, Nirupa chirped mildly and said, "People like to refer to my work as hyper realism, but I don't think so, the art world, may be enchanted because of my minute amazing illustration on Amitav Ghosh’s new novel, "Gun Island". The book cover, which has a swirling snake, adorned with flowers from the Sundarbans - where the book is set - has a photographic quality. I don’t see my style as photo realistic. I would rather describe it as surreal or lambent [growing]. And isn’t that true of nature as well?, asks this young artist from Bengaluru.

Nirupa Rao chose to become a painter of trees practically. As a child, she was intrigued by social sciences. For her childhood wasn’t strictly speaking ‘artistic’, but it was definitely creative she mentioned. Nirupa’s mother, whose Konkani "Classic old soul” she says she inherited, instilled a love for music and arts. Her Mother Carol rounded up the local children to perform on All India Radio and made them drum up a skit for the residents of the local old age homes and institutions and wholesome interaction was the banner. She and her two sisters thrived singing and writing and pottering around the kitchen making sweets with their grandmother. Her take is “I just enjoyed making things, and eventually that led to art.”

“I strongly associate botany with adventure and exploration. Plants are so intricate and diverse, like an inexhaustible resource for artistic inspiration,” Nirupa goes on, but still views herself as an outsider. “My approach to botany is as a lay person, and attempt to translate the scientific subject matter into something that society can appreciate,” she says.

She took art as a subject during her senior years in school and studied under botanical painter Elaine Searle. “Botanical illustration is a pretty well developed field in the West, but not so in India, so I learned all the foundation techniques from Elaine. Of course, I’ve had to adapt the process to Indian conditions.” One day, she hopes to dip her brush of paint and dabble in the world of insects, birds and other animals. “My measure for success is to create something that is bigger than myself, bigger than Art.” Indeed motivation and example can be the amazing culture for learning over time immemorial.
Why Indian students are flocking to Foreign Universities bankrolled by Indian Public Sector Banks?

If we can give quality education in the country at reasonable fees, students need not make a beeline seeking admission in foreign varsities bankrolled by Indian Banks, writes Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon

Recently my driver came to me with the happy news that his son has gone abroad for doing his MBA. Upon querying as to which university he went, the answer was a country in Europe called Malta. When I further asked him as to why he preferred to go to some unknown university in a relatively unknown country, rather than do in any Indian university, he replied that his son and his friends want to avoid going to any Indian university. To my further query as to the reason for avoidance, his candid reply was that private universities and institutions in India are all money making establishments without any ethics, cheating the government and Income Tax department, and setting a bad example to the future generation. He also added that government should be really concerned as to why lakhs of students are flocking to foreign countries and their institutions?

The outburst of this man is understandable. It is estimated that over three lakh Indian students are studying
abroad. The top ten countries that whisked away Indian students to their universities are: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, China, Singapore, Ireland and UAE.

Very small countries like Malta, Georgia, Ukraine also managed to attract our students. Even a small country like Moldova, which is ranked as the least happy nation on the planet managed to attract a good chunk of Indian students. Our students just want to get out of this country. India thus became the world’s second-largest source of international students and one of the fastest-growing sending markets. Nothing to be proud about.

Students from the upper strata of society, middle income groups and lower middle income groups just want to go to any country be it Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia or Malta. Once I had met a Customs official of Georgia at an international seminar and she was telling me about the huge number of Kerala students in Georgia studying Medicine. She was fair enough to admit that the Medical colleges in Georgia were not up to the mark. The government needs to be concerned about this exodus that is going on every year with rhythmic regularity. This is because of the deep disenchantment caused due to corrupt practices thriving in our universities. It had recently come to light that a few Deemed-to-be-Universities were resorting to open fraud in the NEET examinations for medical seats. Such frauds are being committed by people occupying high posts like the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Controller of Examinations, and Registrar. The conduct of such senior persons occupying exalted positions does not inspire any confidence for the young generation; rather they are being encouraged to become morally debased professionals of the future.

Another Deemed-To-Be-University was in the dock for accepting a bribe of Rs.20 lakhs for permitting an MBBS student for appearing in the fourth semester exam. This issue went right up to the Supreme Court and vide its landmark judgement in Cr.Appl.No.989 of 2018 State of Gujarat Vs Mansukhbhai Kanjibhai Shah; it has held that ‘Deemed Universities’ will now be covered under the ambit of Prevention of Corruption Act. No distinction has been carved out between a ‘University’ and ‘Deemed to be University’ so far as it relates to the term ‘Public Servant’ as defined under Section 2(C) (xi) of the Act 1988. It has also widened the scope of the definition of ‘Public Servant’ and has held in other words, foreign institutions are thriving on educational loans given by Indian banks. The fiscal year 2019, the amount of educational loan disbursed by Indian banks touched a record level of Rupees twenty two thousand five hundred and fifty crores. This includes loans disbursed for education in India also. In fact many universities in foreign countries are surviving because of the influx of Indian students funded by Indian banks.

However many of the institutions abroad do not even figure in the top 500 universities of the world, forget about top 100 universities. It implies that substandard education in many foreign universities is being funded by Indian banks,
bans. This is the reason for the aggressive marketing of foreign universities in India. A lot of education fairs by foreign universities are quite common in every major town of India to attract Indian students.

Should the government of India not restrict bank loans to only those universities figuring in the Top 100 Universities of the world?

It is also to be borne in mind that many foreign universities are also embroiled in admission scandals, fake degree rackets and even being universities on paper. The latest scandal to hit the headlines in USA is that of Full House Actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband Mossimo Giannulli who were caught in an admission bribery case involving University of Southern California.

The charge against them was that they paid $500,000 in bribes to get their two daughters into the University of Southern California.

There is a strong need for big bang reforms in the education sector. Primary task is to reform the universities in India and upgrade them to international standards. UGC, NAAC and other bodies should fix the benchmarks needed for award of grading of universities. Such a step only will result in upgradation of the infrastructure and educational facilities.

There is a need to adopt the Star Rating system of Hotels which is linked to the facilities available. A Two Star Hotel can never masquerade as a 5 Star Hotel as both the Hotel and the clients know the facilities that are to be provided and what is physically available on the premises. Such a system is not prevalent in UGC recognition, NAAC and AICTE assessment of Universities and institutions. Hence if a comparison of two NAAC Grade A++ universities/institutions is done both will not be offering identical facilities and having infrastructure of comparable quality. Such a situation will never arise if two five star hotels are compared because it is written in black and white as to what infrastructure and facilities have to be provided to get a five star rating. This is what needs to be done for universities/institutions so that the government is aware as to which university/institution is lacking in what facility.

The existing system is riddled with all kinds of loopholes resulting in proliferation of undesirable practices like creating excessive dummy Memorandum of Understandings and specialized Centres on paper to mislead UGC and NAAC. Such unscrupulous activities take place because managements of Deemed to be Universities, and private universities enjoy unfettered rights to appoint a person of their choice as Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Controller of Examinations, Registrar and Finance Officer. To break this nexus all these posts should be made transferrable among the Deemed to be Universities and private universities by the UGC. An annual transfer policy with fixed tenure should be chalked out so that there is rotation of staff among the Deemed-to-be-Universities. Since UGC has fixed the pay scales for all these posts such transfer arrangements will facilitate upgradation of Universities placed at the lower end and bring about an end to unsavoury practices that are happening now. Similar transfer arrangements should be made for teaching staff, at least within the State, so that teaching methodologies in different Universities get uniformly standardized.

Another alarming feature is the mushrooming of para medical courses like B.Sc. Dialysis, B.Sc. Operation Theatre Technology and dozens of other similar courses by both medical universities and non-medical universities just to extract capitation fees from gullible parents and students.
students. The government needs to intervene to prevent such exploitation of our students by unscrupulous sellers of worthless education degrees.

Another critical area of intervention by Government is the auditing of University funds. Though there is a provision of auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Deemed-to-be-Universities, this provision is hardly exercised, thereby giving room for lots of unethical financial jugglery. The CAG should pick up at random a dozen Deemed-to-be-Universities and those sporting Institution of Eminence tag for surprise auditing. Similarly, independent auditing firms should be entrusted to audit the other remaining Deemed-to-be-Universities, and reports submitted directly to the UGC.

Another fundamental change that is needed is to make the Governor of each State, the Chancellor for the Deemed-to-be-Universities of that State. Presently, the Governor is the Chancellor only for all Government Universities within that State. If all Deemed-to-be Universities and Government Universities are brought under the Governor, many malpractices in the field of education will disappear.

Another malaise afflicting the Deemed-to-be-Universities is the creation of post of Pro Chancellor which is invariably held by a blood relation of the family administering the Trust which controls the Deemed-to-be-University. Though the UGC regulations do not permit the post of Pro Chancellor, this rule is flouted with impunity. By simply making the Governor of the State as Chancellor and by removing the post of Pro Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and other statutory officers of the Deemed-to-be-Universities become fully accountable.

The Indian constitution in its original enactment defined education as a state subject. Under Article 42 of the constitution, an amendment was added in 1976 and education became a concurrent list subject which enables the Central government to legislate it in the manner suited to it. Thus it becomes simple for the UGC to reform the set-up of Deemed-to-be-Universities and thereby make them answerable and accountable.

Another factor that can be used to control deviant Deemed-to-be-Universities is to instantly suspend as an interim measure their UGC Recognition and NAAC Grading, and Institution of Eminence (IOE) tag upon detection of any malpractice like taking Capitation fees, creating paper MOU’s and Centres, not granting UGC pay scales for the teaching staff, recruiting teaching staff not duly qualified, and giving misleading advertisements. Many reforms are still lingering, like the Prohibition of Unfair Practices Bill, and Foreign Educational Institutions Bill.

As online education is getting popular all over the world including India, there is great cost benefit for the Deemed-to-be-Universities. There is tremendous amount of savings on electricity, water, human resources, hostel facilities and transport. The UGC must ensure that these benefits in cost reduction should be passed on to the students by way of reduction in fees which is presently very exorbitant.

Within the framework of the existing regulations itself, both UGC and NAAC can do wonders to streamline university education in India. Just by straightening a few deviant institutions and making an example of them the situation can be remedied. If we can give quality education in the country at reasonable fees, students need not make a beeline seeking admission in foreign varsities bankrolled by public sector Indian Banks.

Within the framework of the existing regulations itself, both UGC and NAAC can do wonders to streamline university education in India.

Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon IRS (Rtd)
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Greatest Threat to Man on earth in recent memory - the COVID-19 pandemic is raging. In every corner of the world from top leaders to man in the street it is common knowledge and recognized - the fact that Medical Doctors and health care providers and institutions of all kinds are heroes, respected for their contribution day to day and long term. Now, medical doctors in Mangalore are in the forefront of the war with this Pandemic in 2020. A brief peak at a self effacing, sincere and humane medic in the city, Dr Kuldeep Moras, HOD in the E N T department of Fr.Muller’s Medical college Hospital Kankanady, Mangalore. He has attracted admiration and trust from far and wide over a long time.

On-line, he explained, "ENT and Dentistry are the most dangerous branches to practice at this time…. because we have to sit right in front of the patient and examine the oral cavity, throat and the nose….from where the maximum aerosols are generated….3 feet or one meter distance cannot be maintained while examining, a fully loaded Personal Protection Kit (PPE), which includes a gown, N95 mask, a hood with a face shield, goggles and 2 pairs of gloves is basic. We have to take precautions for all the patients irrespective of whether they are Covid positive or not. Moreover 80 percent of the patients with Covid infection are asymptomatic. Therefore we examine patients only if it is really necessary or if it is an acute emergency like a throat abscess, fish or chicken bone stuck in the throat, breathing difficulty because of throat cancer and so on. In case we see a patient without proper protection unknowingly that he was Covid positive, then we have to quarantine ourselves and get admitted if we develop symptoms. Doctors who have diabetes, hypertension and those above the age of 50 are more susceptible to catch the infection. For our own safety and the safety of our family members. Times are tough and very uncertain…. only God is the refuge."

Early times: Dr Kuldeep Moras’ grew up in Bajpe, known for our airport and a historic area, a sleepy village back then. He is eldest of four, he has 3 younger sisters. His Dad Mr. John Moras, worked for State Bank of India and Mom a Teacher at Little Flower School, Bajpe. After schooling at Bajpe, he went to St.Aloysius College, Mangalore. It was always observed he was a studious and serious lad and applied himself to improve consistently. In those times it was a struggle, to travel 2 hours at least every day and also walk to get to college. His hard work and sincerity was rewarded, in the final exams he came out with flying colours and with 100% in Chemistry. His penchant always to be a Marine Engineer, and see the wide world sailing on the oceans. But, his parents did not want their only son to be far away, specially his mother’s one aim was that he should be a Medic as there was no doctor in the family. Thus he put all his desires away and took up studying Medicine, he was rewarded by being selected to the then prestigious Mysuru Medical College. After doing well and earning the MB.BS degrees, he decided to go iin for PG entrance and managed to bag a seat in MS-ENT at Fr Muller’s Medical college, Mangaluru, He
was keen to take up orthopedics, but, the seats were already filled-up when his turn to choose came, they say "Nothing happens by chance, all is the design of God."

**Into the mainstream of Medicine:** After the MS - Post graduation he had the unusual surprise experience of unexpectedly landing an assignment with prestigious CMC - Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, considered one of the best hospitals in the world. As a general duty doctor and then in the ENT very fortunately. In a few years he took over as a permanent consultant and Assistant Professor in the ENT department. Dreams fulfilled, he set himself to absorb and practice all that CMC had to offer and trained under the best practitioners in the profession and handled a large number of cases on a daily basis. He left CMC Vellore after 5 years, it was the irresistible call of home, and he could not refuse a good offer from Fr. Muller’s Mangalore, his first love and joined in 2009. Right now Dr. Kuldeep is the respected and loved HOD of the ENT department, with a prime clinic at Kadri above KFC.

To an express question Dr. Moras says, “In the next ten years, I see myself as a better human being, a good husband to my wife, a hero to my baby daughter, and equally one of the leading Doctors in this field of ENT.” By all indications he has every blessing to achieve all and more.

**The FAMILY Man:** Dr. Kuldeep Moras, married in 2010, Dr. Veena Pinto, a consultant physician at Fr Muller’s hospital too - you can guess how all this happens - sure a design of the Almighty! And more, they are blessed with a lovely daughter Kiara. The loving family always likes to spend lots of time, quality time, together - "Eat, Play and Pray Together" he says. Going for drives as a '3-some' late evenings is a happy experience for them. They keep alert for calls from patients and hospital with the phone on silent - personal time is dedicated to the family by both these great doctors with "Prayers, Hobbies, and Sleep.” Relaxed good sleep will allow good health to work in top form, specially Perform surgery meticulously; that’s WHY quality time with family and self is a need.

**Unique wood work hobby:** There is a rare special interest, he said, "When I came home for a break from CMC Vellore the first time, a deep fascination overcame me, I went on to refurbish and restore an old wooden case or ornamental chest, used to keep knick knacks in old times, it belonged to my dear grandmother and was lying in the attic (Maallo) of parents’ house. I remembered it since childhood. It was of super rose wood and brass decorative work; imagining if it was polished it would be a super treasure in the home, I washed all the dirt off, scraped the old varnish using..."
sand paper and gave it a fresh coat of varnish and polished the wood and brass and did a few adjustments and it became an attractive antique family heirloom and the final result was amazing to all. Seriously my thoughts often went to the carpenters who visualized and produced such things; in those days there were no machines and the entire case was made by hand. It slowly created a deep interest in me for wood work, I restored many little things after acquiring tools and gadgets; many restored wood works can now be seen on display. There was always a project going in woodworking and it kept me alert and joyful. Over the years, after over a hundred or more projects - from a wine rack to a dining table, all for use in the home or gifts to close folks. I did learn a lot by watching YouTube videos and web sites like 'skill share' on woodworking and so on. One needs to make time and be motivated by interest, imagination and admiration.” He adds, “A hobby not only keeps one occupied and fit, but it adds a lot of flavour to life and brings tons of satisfaction, that other things do not give. Working feverishly and making piles of money has little meaning and value in my life as I see it.” He mentioned that this lockdown time in March to June 2020, has given a deeper understanding. Future life is going to be a bit different not only for him, but for most people who have realized a lot of things due to this Coronavirus crises, he adds may be it is another of God’s plans for humans and the vast universe - a design of the Supreme powers.

Genealogical Back ground

A very senior, respected and popular priest of Mangalore, immediate past VG of Mangalore V Rev Mgr Denis Moras Prabhu is known for his knowledge and insight of Kanara and local church historicity. Dr.Kuldeep Moras is the grandnephew of Fr.Denis Moras

This Moras Prabhu family hails from Shambettu, Kolambe village, near Bajpe, was renowned probably even before the advent of Tipu Sultan’s captivity of the Konkani Catholics of Kanara starting in 1784. There are many records on this and other families associated with them long ago, they were seemingly allowed to continue their work of cultivating betel which was precious for Tipu Sultan as is known. Later years after the captivity it came to be recorded within present memory, Fr.Denis’s parents - Francis Moras Prabhu (1885-1968) & Juvan (1899-1984, was of a Periera Shet family of the same area), a well known landed agriculturist of the area, within St. Joseph’s Parish Bajpe - they were married on May 30, 1916; the focus here is on their descendants. Fr.Denis (1940) was the youngest of the children of Moras Prabhu elders Francis and Juvan, Dr.Kuldeep’s great grandparents. The fourth son of this fruitful pioneer couple was Leo (born 1921) and he married in 1945 Juliana Alvares from a well known family of Bondel. Their eldest son, John Baptist Moras (Born 1947) is Dr. Kuldeep’s father and the lineage is very admirable on all sides. John Baptist, married in May 1976, Marcelline Pinto of Bondel, who is Dr. Kuldeep’s mother. They have 4 children, Dr. Kuldeep is the eldest born in 1977, followed by 3 girls : Carrol, Dr.Cristal, and Deepa, all the 4 children are married and well settled. It is noteworthy to recall that Fr.Denis Moras has always maintained that this Prabhu clan has many more females than males on the rolls. There are many close connections now spread the world over and are an evergreen family with branches so wide that a genealogical tome will be very large. It is often recorded that this popular family owned over 24 acres in the area and cultivated many valuable crops and had often won awards, they also had 'Kambala' racing bulls and so on… making them famous. We are fortunate that Fr.Denis a historian and scholar priest of renown in Mangalore has taken great interest in documenting the family and it is always a pleasure to chat with him and as Dr.Kuldee’s father Mr. John Baptist says “My Fr.Denis Bappu is a walking encyclopedia.” Indeed we all need to know and appreciate our roots and ancestors who have nurtured our lives to service.
**Keep Account**

One-day Man met God,  
He requested God,  
If he could ask some questions,  
“You may!” replied God,  
And Man began to ask...  
“Dear God,  
You made Man,  
But you gave him pain.  
You gave him joy,  
And with it you gave sorrows in vain.  
Lord, I cannot fathom why?  
We cannot move aloft when there’s no end to the sky.  
Why did you make some people to envy others?  
Why do they wear out, those splendid flowers?  
Lord, I cannot comprehend all this,  
Will you try and explain it to me please?”  
God kept silent for a minute or two,  
And then he answered calmly and smiling,  
“Man oh Man...  
I made Man,  
And I gave him pain.  
I gave him joy and I gave him sorrows.  
But everything had a reason; nothing was vain.  
What you do is what you get dear Man.  

I believe this is not that obscure to understand.  
There’s no end to the sky that’s true,  
But to move aloft you need to outdo.  
I didn’t make some people to envy others,  
They abhor you because you abhor them.  
If you give them love they will besiege you with the same.  
Every living thing is meant to die some day.  
Flowers bloom, so they have to wear out.  
When the time comes even you will wear out.  
It’s only that flowers spread their beauty,  
Hence you awe its death.  
If like flowers even you spread your inner beauty,  
There will be people who will lament your last breath.  
Dear Man, if you’ve been appropriately answered,  
Then, by now, you must have understood that,  
What you give,  
Is what you receive.  
Keep account of everything you do,  
And anything you fail to do.  
Cause its your deeds that count,  
Whether in less or great amount.  
Next time if you need any such answers,  
Before you accuse me for anything that happens to you,  
Just go through your own accounts.”  

by KHUSHBU NANAVATI

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**MANGALORE TODAY CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

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

**DOWN**

1. One who lives on (8)  
2. Unrivalled (6)  
3. Rats and mice (6)  
4. Boulder (4)  
5. Fleshy fruit (4)  
6. Rustic house of Atlanta (7)  
7. Farm vehicle (4)  
8. Epoch (3)  
9.  Land measure (4)  
10.  8. Epoch (3)  
11. Mediaeval (4)  
12. Fearful (5)  
13.  Fasten (3)  
14. Condone (4)  
15. Sinner (7)  
16. Sign of the Zodiac (6)  
17. Clairvoyant (6)  
18. Large globular fruit (7)  
19. Fasten (3)  
20. Garden door (4)  
21. Beverage (3)  
22. Callous (6)  
23. Measure of capacity (6)  
24. Pamper (6)  
25. Absurd (7)  
26. Egret-plume (6)  
27. Price reduction (4)  
28. Marsh plant (4)  
29. Tall story (4)

**Solutions on page no. 44**
The brawl initiated by PLA against Indian troops in Ladakh’s Galwan valley has assumed serious proportions. Its escalation will be to the detriment of both India and China. Even while addressing the immediate Galwan valley incursion, other PLA intrusions all along the Himalayan border must remain in view.

It is vital to second-guess China’s intentions, which may be one or more of the following:
1. To humiliate Indian political and military leadership as in 1962. This could be linked with #4 below.
2. To establish political hegemony in South Asia by militarily asserting superiority over India, its most powerful neighbour and competitor.
3. To capture/control area in Ladakh and link-up PLA with Pakistan’s military in Baltistan-Gilgit POK, so as to improve the CPEC to Gwadar on the Arabian Sea.
4. To punish India for forging civil-military links with USA, Australia & Japan, and for supporting international moves holding China responsible for Covid.
5. To divert Chinese domestic public attention from their internal inconsistencies and problems (now including Covid and its mismanagement) and also divert international focus away from its clampdown on Hongkong.
6. To isolate India politically and economically in pursuit of its “string of pearls” doctrine, by alienating India’s smaller neighbours from India.

The confrontation at Galwan valley is because China has intruded in order to dominate the D-S-DBO (Durbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi) Road. The place where the physical face-off is happening is not on the heights above Galwan River but in the valley. The question is, whether or not PLA has occupied the heights above the Galwan River, and if so, when. This can be easily known from satellite pictures.

If IA holds the Galwan heights, the PLA’s present position of intrusion would not be tenable for long. If however, PLA has occupied the Galwan heights unnoticed, then evicting PLA from the Galwan valley would take decisive military action, going well beyond talks, stone-pelting (a sad term for India in another context) and physical fighting.

It is unutterably sad that a CO and many unarmed soldiers of IA were injured by an unprovoked, murderous attack by PLA soldiers with rods and spiked clubs, and have succumbed to injuries. It is also sad that our soldiers are constrained (by
orders from Delhi?) to restrict their response to going unarmed, instead of being allowed to conduct operations to evict PLA intrusions.

The PLA intrusion on the northern shore of Pangong Tso is connected with the intrusion in the Galwan valley. Durbuk, where the D-S-DBO road starts, is about three hours run from Lukung at the western tip of Pangong Tso.

Pakistani forces pushing eastwards from Skardo upstream along Shyok river, to link with PLA simultaneously pushing westwards from Pangong Tso, Galwan valley and Chang Chenmo valley going downstream along Shyok river, can cut off all of Ladakh north of the Ladakh mountain range from the rest of India and create a totally new LAC both with China and Pakistan.

This possible link-up is clearly a very serious threat to the whole of Ladakh, and India’s territorial integrity, besides putting paid to India’s legitimate claim on Baltistan-Gilgit part of POK. India holding the Siachen glacier and constructing the D-S-DBO road is precisely to keep Ladakh safe from both China and Pakistan.

With PLA’s probable present ground-position superiority at Galwan, the possibility of PLA enlarging intrusions on the D-S-DBO axis cannot be discounted. But surely this would have been foreseen and pre-emptive action taken accordingly. It involves induction and commitment of IA and IAF resources both for logistics and operations, and this cannot but be at the cost of reductions elsewhere.

It is apposite to note that Kashmir, being in a state of political lockdown following abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, calls for substantial IA presence in its IS/CI role, preventing infiltration from POK and dealing with Pakistan’s military adventures. IA’s commitment in the IS/CI role also extends to India’s northeastern states, where also there is responsibility on the border with China. Altogether, a significant proportion of IA resources are deployed in the IS/CI role. Bravado that we can fight on two-and-a-half fronts may be called into question.

Nepal’s serious objections following construction of the Dharchula-Lipulekh Road and its claim of the Lampiyadhura-Kalapani-Lipulekh (L-K-L) area will doubtless be used by China to exacerbate the alienation felt in Nepal following India’s first-rate diplomatic blunder of the 2015 months-long blockade. Substantial Chinese civilian presence in Nepal is evidence of well-established and growing Chinese political and economic influence. If the L-K-L spat is not resolved and India-Nepal relations are allowed to deteriorate further, it could result in PLA presence close to Bihar’s northern border with Nepal.

“What to do” indicates decision, whereas “What to do?” is helpless wringing of hands.

The Ladakh face-off has India on the backfoot, reactively handling a tangle of political-diplomatic-military situations vis-à-vis China and Pakistan, besides contending internally with a staggering economy, military commitment on IS/CI duties, and attempting to handle Covid and the migrant workers issues.

The issues with China have to be considered along with their Pakistan connections. Whatever brave front government chooses to show the Indian public, there is need to accept that China has an economic, military and cyber capability edge over India at this point in time. The question arises: What should India do now?

This question is best answered by quoting Lt Gen P.C.Katoch: “It is often heard India cannot react “at this point of time” because China is militarily and economically stronger. Will this equation change in the foreseeable future? The answer is no. If we can’t stand up for our strategic interests, we will be pushed more”. [Lt Gen P.C.Katoch; “China Tests India’s Redlines, Military Response Required”; The Citizen; June 17, 2020]. This is a statement of reality.

China’s game is of incremental, stealthy capture of territory simultaneously in widely separated areas. PLA comes forward X-km and when a face-off happens followed by talks, agrees to withdraw X/2-km and then justifies building up military infrastructure to “prevent India from occupying Chinese territory”. The incursion/intrusion becomes an encroachment, giving fresh meaning to the “A” in LAC.

In Ladakh, this has happened east of Depsangla, east of Burtse, and now at Galwan and Pangong Tso. All are directed at interdiction of India’s D-S-DBO road and eventually Siachen glacier, by gaining valuable tactical advantage over territory. China’s “creeping capture” by small tactical gains, steadily enhances its strategy of linking up with Pakistani forces in Baltistan-Gilgit POK along Shyok river. This will continue unless political policy permits IA to stand firm, fight back incursions/intrusions and evict encroachments.
China is much too embroiled in its internal issues (as though India is not!) to engage in a war, howsoever short and intense, and Pakistan can be neutralized at least temporarily by international pressure to prevent opening a second front. If this is a correct strategic assessment, India’s political leadership may show the same spirit that it showed against Pakistan following the Uri attack.

But going further, what, if any, is India’s proactive strategy? Have we learned any lessons from the past? Failing to make available the Henderson-Brooks Bhagat Report on India’s 1962 debacle, and scuttling the raising of a Mountain Strike Corps is evidence of strategic inadequacy of political leadership, and a regrettable subservience of military leadership.

China is clearly superior to India in the economic and cyber areas. PLA’s military superiority in size/jointness, deployment and firepower in areas along India’s border is also undoubted. It’s a big dog – or dragon – which India faces. But this underestimates the fighting capability of the Indian soldier, the man-behind-the-gun. As Mark Twain said, what matters on-the-ground is “not the size of the dog in the fight, [but] the size of the fight in the dog.”

The fighting capability of India’s soldier is legendary, but can be effective only if he has the backing of the nation in the larger context (which he has always had) and more immediately and importantly, of the political decision-makers (which he did not have in 1962, but did in 1965 and 1971).

Continuing with divisive domestic policies affects national integrity and internal strength, and battles of perception regarding the Ladakh face-off for electoral gains will spell disaster. Nothing less than facing up to ground realities and securing our territorial integrity and political sovereignty by opposing Chinese aggression, will do at this juncture, to prevent a repeat of 1962.

The ball is squarely in the court of India’s political leadership, since India’s soldier stands ready as always, to protect the safety, honour and welfare of his country “even to the peril of [his] life”.

Major General S.G.Vombatkere (Retd) has over 5-years experience in Ladakh and has boots-on-ground knowledge of terrain realities.

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A TRUE ICONIC SYMBOL OF human compassion, her death in Mangaluru on May 31, plunged the city into deep grief. The sad news that Sr. Dr. Rita Olinda Pereira, had passed on from this earth where for 95 years she was loved, admired and looked up to by countless people from all walks of life for countless reasons in all seasons. Thousands of people of all classes, naturally give accounts of close encounter/association with this great but simple person for humane social action, she gave a place to all humans in a motherly embrace that brought harmony and peace deep in heart, mind and body. Now, an angel among angels, her memory will be deeply etched in thousands of minds.

In several pockets of India and overseas, she will always be seen as a pioneering social work educator, innovator, inspirer, mentor and more. Sr Olinda Pereira, a member of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary (DHM) congregation, was the key founder of the landmark School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya, Mangaluru, and served as founder principal from 1961 to 1982. Her services in Delhi, Manila, Canada, Nairobi and so on gave her extensive knowledge; She made Kanara a cradle of social work and learning, half a century ago. She was singularly an instrument motivating thousands of volunteers through social action and education. Her simple last farewell was a landmark in the times of "Lockdown", funeral rituals, held in the afternoon of June 1, 2020, at Roshni Nilaya, followed by burial at nearby St. Vincent Ferrer Cemetery, Valencia amidst strict regulations in force, since early morning that day hundreds of admirers filed past her remains laid in state in a refrigerated casket.

Life's journey:
Sister Olinda, as all knew her, was born on August 15, 1925, the third of three children of Martin and Lily Pereira, in Mangalore, in a renowned family of Falnir.

(1925 - 2020)
She completed her bachelor’s course from Mangalore’s St Agnes College, master’s in psychology from Banaras Hindu University and doctorate from Mysore University.

Dr Pereira played a unique role in developing professional social work as a dignified mission, highlighting social justice and equality; her initiatives prodded and motivated the Church to renew its traditional concepts on social reform. A former master’s student of Roshini Nilaya, said Dr. Pereira was “fondly remembered as the mother of social work by several of her students and the general public in Mangalore and many other places.”

Sr. Pereira’s involvement in many civil organizations was a benchmark, right from women’s education to social upliftment of the rag pickers and drug addicts. Sr Olinda was instrumental in organizing the Council of Catholic Women of India.

“Love Made fruitful in Service” was the motto of one of many institutions/organisations she spearheaded and the words deeply set forth her sentiments and desires as a foundation of all her actions and service. She started several grassroots institutes such as Working Women’s Hostel and Women’s Development Centre in New Delhi, Vishwas home care for the elderly, community development centers, family welfare organizations, and many other organisations in Mangaluru. Her work for welfare and care of elderly is iconic in the region and she was well known in Govt / official circles. It was her sole effort that 20 years ago the “Elders HelpLine -1090” was set up in the city police premises. Later when she was physically weak and was not able to hold her grip; several others took over, sincere effort was absent. She was often worried that finance from official sources was not regular, fair and sufficient.

Her awards and appreciations are countless, among the several awards she won are Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award from McMaster University, Hamilton in 1979, Women Achiever Award from St Agnes College in 1997, Sandesha Award for Social Service in 2002; Rachana Woman of the Year in 2008, Karavali Honorary Award 2015-16.

Last chapter in Mangaluru:

The Mangaluru community has expressed its appreciation to Dr. Pereira’s long and valued services, by conferring her the prestigious Abbakka award by the Veerarani Abbakka Utsava Samiti in January 2011. The International Institute for Public Policy (IIPP) recognized her as the Outstanding Community Leader for the year 2013-14. Dr. Pereira was also honoured with the privilege of inaugurating the International Day Against Drug Abuse on June 26, 2014.

As a result of her tireless work she set up a number of community outreach service agencies such as the Urban Community Development Centre, the Fibre Centre, School for the Blind, Home Science Institute, Family Service Agency, and Anganwadi Training Centres around Mangaluru. Golden Age Eco Village, a comprehensive community-based care for the elderly was her dream; Dr. Pereira said, “there should be a law which enables Right to Dignified Death on the lines of the Right to Education and Right to Information”.

Olinda Periera has been a tremendous source of inspiration to hundreds of young men and women. Olinda Periera is synonymous with selfless service to humanity that will live in memory for long. By I. J. SALDANHA SHET
Justice Hosbet Suresh
A champion of human rights

JUSTICE HOSBET SURESH

former-judge of Bombay high
court and a tireless human rights
advocate since his retirement in 1991,
passed away on June 11 in Mumbai.

Justice Suresh Hosabettu hailed from
Hosabettu near Suratkal. After his
graduation in Government College,
Mangaluru he had completed his MA in
Belgaum and LLM from Bombay
University. While serving as a part-time
professor at Government Law College in
Mumbai he practiced in the Bombay City
Civil Court too. He then became a
government pleader at the BCCC and in
1968 he appointed as a judge there. A
decade later he was promoted to Second
Additional Principal Judge of the Bombay
City Civil & Sessions Court. In 1980 he
chose to go back to his practice as an
advocate but six years later returned to
the judiciary as Additional Judge of the
Bombay High Court, where, in 1987, he
was appointed a permanent Judge of the
Bombay High Court. He retired from the
High Court in 1991.

One of his most notable judgements
was in 1991 when he set aside the election
of a Member of the Legislative Assembly
on the grounds that he had misused religion
for political reasons. Subhash Desai of the
Shiv Sena and Sharad Rao of the Janata
Dal were both contesting the Goregaon
seat in Mumbai. Sharad Rao contested the
victory. Justice Suresh in his judgment
upheld this and wrote, “The moment he
canvasses and appeals to the voter on the
basis of his religion and thereby springs
religion into politics, and politics being a
concern involving masses of people, any
such attempt on the part of the citizen is
bound to come in conflict with an equally
large number of persons on the other side
who hold contrary beliefs, as regards their
conscience, religion, beliefs, rights and
tenets of their religion, the charge stands
indicate. Therefore, section 123 (3) or
section 123 (3-A) of 1951, (so also section
153-A of the Indian Penal Code), all are
reasonable restrictions as against any such
indulgence on the part of any citizen, if
such a citizen wants to propagate religion
through politics.”

But it was after his retirement that he
really shone. He was regularly appointed
to various commissions and tribunals to
investigate injustices across the country.
One of his first and most notable
investigations was when the Indian
People’s Human Rights Commission
asked him to probe the Mumbai riots of
December 1992 and January 1993. The
findings published in a report called “The
People’s Verdict” indicted the police and
the government. Justice Suresh also
testified in front of the Justice Srikrishna
Commission that was appointed by the
government to probe the riots.

Three years down the line he wrote
another report commissioned by the Indian
People’s Tribunal on the eviction of slum
people. His report “Forced Evictions—
An Indian People’s Tribunal Enquiry into
the Brutal Demolitions of Pavement and
Slum Dwellers’ Homes” documented the
use of brutal and indiscriminate force
against slum dwellers in Mumbai.

Justice Suresh, along with retired
Justice P.B. Sawant, was a part of the
Indian People’s Tribunal fact-finding team
headed by retired Supreme Court judge
retired Justice Krishna Iyer that examined
the riots in Gujarat after the train was burnt
at Godhra. Their report revealed that
former State Home Minister Haren Pandya
had told them that the then Chief Minister
Narendra Modi had reined in the police
during the riots thereby giving the rioters
a free hand to burn, pillage, murder and rape victims who were primarily Muslims. Pandya was murdered the following year.

After the riots Justice Suresh was one of the drafters of a proposed law “The Prevention of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity Act 2004”. This was a proposed law on the principles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948, to which India is a signatory. The law aimed to make Ministers and government officials criminally responsible if they failed to control mass violence against any group of citizens.

He was also a part of inquiries that looked at the public food distribution system, human rights violations in the Kashmir Valley, Cauvery Waters Dispute, the disastrous effects on the environment of prawn farming on the eastern coast (this led to a ban on prawn cultivation by the Supreme Court), the death by shooting of Adivasis in Devas, Madhya Pradesh, and even an international tribunal that scrutinised food scarcity in Myanmar when it was under military rule.

A forthright critic of the judicial system, he would often tell reporters to criticise it openly but with respect and with all facts verified. Deeply disturbed after the Gujarat riots, which he plainly called a genocide, he was saddened that there was no justice. He also said that the 1984 riots in Delhi after the assassination of Indira Gandhi were a genocide on Sikhs and again expressed his sorrow at justice being delayed.

It is examples like this that leads Teesta Setalvad to say, “Ever since he retired, he has mentored thousands of human rights activists. And he has inspired judges all over the country.”

In his 60 years of public life, Justice Suresh has always been vocal against draconian laws, state repression and judicial corruption.

Many would say it was life well led. Justice Suresh, known for his quiet ways, would just have said his voice is his conscience.

He was 91 when he died very peacefully at his home in Andheri in Mumbai with his daughters by his side.
Satisfied with my work as MLC: Ivan D’Souza

Ivan D’Souza who convened a press meet at his office in MCC Building on his last working day as a Member of Legislative Council, has said that henceforth he would be serving the public from his home office.

Ivan said he has immense satisfaction of raising voice on behalf of the people by attending all sessions of the Assembly from 2014 till date. He said even in the future he will allocate more time towards strengthening the party and to serve the people. He also added that he would continue his profession of law.

He said he has ensured setting up of solar units in 25 aided and government schools with help from MLC Funds.

Listing out his achievements, he said he has helped secure a total grant of Rs 46 crores to the beneficiaries under various schemes and that over 1600 people have been distributed a total of Rs 6.62 crore aid under CM’s Welfare Fund. He said he has the satisfaction of conducting 63 free medical camps and over 350 surgeries free of cost with the help of his wife Dr Kavitha D’Souza. Free spectacles have been distributed to over 3,500 people, he added.

Master of Hospital Administration course at KSHEMA

To meet the prevailing and growing healthcare needs, K S Hegde Medical Academy, a constituent college of Nitte (Deemed to be University), Mangalore has introduced a 2-year Master of Hospital Administration & Health Systems Management (MHAHSM) program, for those seeking to lead the hospital and health systems of the future. MHAHSM is a 2-year (4 semester), full-time program offered by KSHEMA. Applications are currently being accepted for 2020-21 batch.

Karnataka Bank posts Rs 431.78 cr net profit in 2019-20

Karnataka Bank posted an annual net profit of Rs. 431.78 crores for the financial year 2019-20, and Rs. 27.31 crores for the fourth quarter ended March 2020.

In the Meeting of the Board of Directors held in Mangaluru recently, the Board has approved the Annual financial results for the period ended March 31, 2020.

The business turnover of the Bank has touched Rs. 1,28,749.42 crore as on 31-03-2020, registering a growth rate of 4.44% on year-on-year basis. The deposits of the Bank grew from Rs. 68,452 crore to Rs. 71,785.15 crore and advances grew from Rs. 54,828 crore to Rs. 56,964.27 crore. The CASA deposits reached a level of 28.91% of total deposits as on 31-03-2020, as against 28.06% as on 31.03.2019.

The operating profit grew by 14.27% to Rs. 1,656.77 crore and the PCR (Provision Coverage Ratio) improved to 64.70% from 58.45% as on 31-03-2019.

The GNPA [Gross Non Performing Assets] of the Bank declined to 4.82% as of 31-03-2020 from 4.99% as on 31-12-2019. Similarly, the NNPA [Net Non Performing Assets] also moderated to 3.08% from 3.75% [as on 31-12-2019].

The priority sector advances of the Bank stood at 43.89% of total advances as against the minimum stipulated target of 40%.

Rotary Vandana Award conferred on N. V. Hegde

Eminent educationist and industrialist Dr N Vinay Hegde was conferred the prestigious annual state-level Vandana Award by the Rotary Club at a function held at Ocean Pearl Hotel recently.

The award is jointly instituted by Rotary Club of Mangalore Central and Rotaract Club of Mangalore City. District in-charge Minister and State minister for Port and Fisheries Kota Srinivas Poojary graced the occasion as chief guest and conferred the Award on Vinay Hegde. In his address, he said Dr Hegde’s contributions and achievements in the field of education is invaluable and commendable.

Responding to the felicitation Dr Hegde said that whatever he has achieved, he owes it to God’s grace, parents’ blessings and honest work of his staff members. He also expressed his gratitude to Rotary for honouring him.

Rotary District Assistant Governor Geethanand Pai graced the occasion as guest of honour. President elect Prakashchandra presided over the function.

Happenings
Minister visits sea erosion hit areas of Uchila Someshwara

DK District in-charge Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary visited the sea erosion affected places in Uchila Someshwara Sunday and reviewed the situation there.

The Minister’s visit followed appeal by locals to take immediate measures to mitigate the problem. The minister said he has already consulted the Chief Minister and added that the CM has assured to dump boulders in places which are severely affected. He said the task would begin at the earliest and that measures would be taken to see that fishermen are not inconvenienced.

NMAMIT, Nitte ranked 133rd in NIRF

NMAM Institute of Technology, Nitte has been ranked 133rd in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2020, rankings announced by the Ministry for Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India.

This is the third year in succession that the institute has been ranked among the top 200 Engineering institutes. This year, NMAMIT is also successful in acquiring a place in the 151-200 rank band in the category of Overall ranking.

The NIRF rankings consider performance in the areas of Teaching-Learning, research productivity, graduate outcomes, outreach, inclusivity and peer perception. The ranking was launched by the MHRD to promote quality in education, to encourage competition between higher education institutes and to set new benchmarks of performance.

Karnataka Bank launches health insurance to cover COVID-19 pandemic

Karnataka Bank as part of its social commitment to protect the health of common man has launched a special health insurance policy to cover the uncertainties posed by COVID-19 pandemic. The Bank in association with Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Ltd has launched this health policy. At a nominal premium of Rs 399/- inclusive of all taxes, one can avail health cover for COVID-19 under this policy. This policy will cover in-patient hospital expenses up to Rs 3.00 lakh, outpatient treatment expenses of Rs 3000/- and will also provide a sum of Rs 1000/- per day towards expenses incurred towards 14 days of quarantine at a government or military hospital. The validity of this policy is for a period of 120 days. The policy is available to all the customers of the Bank in the age group of 18-65 years. General public who are not existing customers of the bank will also be eligible to buy this policy immediately after establishing a banking relationship with Karnataka Bank.

Yoga Day goes virtual amid Covid-19 pandemic

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, International Yoga Day was observed through Digital Media Platforms in the city.

Noted yoga exponent Gopalakrishna Delampady observed Yoga Day at his residence at Yeyyadi and he was joined by students and staff from SDM and Aloysius College via Facebook Live and Google Meet.

This year, considering the Covid-19 pandemic, AYUSH ministry has launched Yoga Day campaign with the theme “Yoga at home, Yoga with Family.”

In a novel initiative, a 12 hour virtual live lecture on Yoga by different experts was organised by Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) in association with Avishkar Yoga on International Yoga Day.

At Sharada Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital, Yoga Day was observed through a live session. A Yoga Challenge was also organised. Yoga Day was also observed at SDM College of Yoga and Naturopathy in Ujire.
Unaccounted assets case: ACB raids former KIADB officer’s residence

ACB sleuths have raided the Mangaluru, Bengaluru and Mandya residences of KIADB’s former Special Land Acquisition Officer Dasegowda in connection with unaccounted assets case.

This particular officer had once in December 2019 was caught while securing commission in the compensation amount for land acquisition. Presently, he is under suspension over graft charges.

Dasegowda was earlier once arrested by ACB and was later released on bail. He is facing charges of owning illegal assets in several places of the state.

Dasegowda reportedly owns three to four houses in the city and 11 sites at various places including Bengaluru. The raid in Mangaluru was conducted under the leadership of ACB SP Uma Prashanth, DySP Manjunath and Yogish Naik.

When a corporator himself stepped into a manhole

Kadri Kambala Ward’s BJP Corporator Manohar Shetty is hailed as a model elected representative, someone who can go to any extent to solve the problems of people of his ward. Recently, when the image of Shetty coming out of a manhole went viral, he won plaudits. When the flow in the drainage in his ward was interrupted due to rain water, it was the corporator himself who had to step inside the manhole to fix the problem.

Though the corporator had summoned some labourers none of them were ready to enter stating there was danger to enter the manhole during monsoons. But that did not deter Shetty for whom the interests of people of his ward was uppermost in his mind. He entered the manhole and managed to clear the clogged pipe with the help of other workers.

Shetty later clarified that he did not do the work merely for publicity but with a genuine concern for people of his ward.

Stray dogs kill 10 barking deer at Pilikula

In a tragic incident, as many as ten barking deer of Pilikula Biological Park lost their lives after stray dogs attacked them recently. Five deer were injured in the attack.

According to the Pilikula authorities, five stray dogs had entered the enclosure as a nearby compound wall had collapsed due to rains. The dogs had then pounced on the barking deer. The five injured animals have been provided treatment. The five stray dogs that attacked the barking deer have been caught.

There were as many as 40 barking deer at Pilikula and the authorities were planning to release many of them to the forests after retaining ten of them.

Solar eclipse partially seen in Mangaluru, Udupi

The first annual solar eclipse of the year was partially visible in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi district amid the hide and seek of the clouds on June 21, Sunday.

The eclipse started at 10.04 am and peaked at 11.27 am when the Moon covered 40.38% of the sun. This was clearly visible from the skies in Udupi. The Poorna Prajna Amateur Astronomers Club also live streamed the eclipse for those interested. The footage was streamed through the website of the Club using the Youtube channel of the Club.

At Poorna Prajna College, Udupi, the Club members watched the eclipse using telescope filter and welding glass. Dr A P Bhat, Atul Bhat of the Club, Dr A Raghavendra, Principal, Physics Department Head Pratibha Acharya and others were present.

In Mangaluru, the peak eclipse was visible at 11.36 am when 40% of the sun was covered by moon’s shadow. In Mangaluru arrangements were made to watch the eclipse at Akashbhanav under the leadership of science teacher Aravind Kudla under the aegis of Chintana Sanskritika Balaga.
EVERYONE IN KANARA today is facing the unexpected, unplanned chaos and crashing of the familiar and friendly norms they have been used to for decades, in fact the 21st century development in all facets of life are now uncertain - the fast transport, instant communication, and several types of organised comfort services and more are just now in limbo. No one is sure which way this CORONA Pandemic caused by the "COVID 19" virus will attack in the coming months of July, August. Since mid March till today in June the lockdowns and fearraging have caused panic which is shapeless and directionless.

July 1, each year is marked by Karnataka Media Academy as ‘Press Day’. Like your esteemed Monthly magazine 'Mangalore Today' that has served the cause for over two decades, has been appearing online only. Media houses all over India and the world are unable to bring out hard issues in print. The few local ones have just been making uncertain appearances due to postal suspension and so on. The future is yet to be gauged and you all are aware that educational institutions and all such essential services too are in "Trishanku Swarga" and causing serious anxiety and crippling impact everywhere. Though electronic IT communication has come to the rescue in a big way it does not meet all requirements of ordinary people. Older folks above 60 years and so on are facing serious consequences, the online publications are not their cup of tea for now and they are handicapped badly, efforts are on to smoothen matters. The print media for long has been developed in a big way, literature and reading has played a major part in the lives of people. Many electronic media houses are in the forefront and people too are getting comfortable with this. Gadgets developed in the last few years, simplifies and brings to the reach of the common man the electronic mode of communication for education and commerce. This will surely change the future of print media. Going back in history and dwelling on the past will give us better insights.

The first Kannada News Paper:
The very first Kannada News paper, surprisingly originated from Mangalore, South Canara, during British rule. Hermann Friedrich Moegling, (1811-1871) a Basel missionary from Germany settled in Mangalore, his dream was a Kannada news paper to enable people to be educated and understand the happenings around them and in the wider world. The German Evangelical Mission Press was set up at Balmatta in Mangaluru in 1841. Moegling, who evinced great interest in Kannada literature and education, was of the view that only rumours get circulated and not the genuine news among locals - fake and fabricated news results in such circumstances. This first tabloid offered authentic news. On July 1, 1843, the
fortnightly publication ‘Mangalura Samachara’ using litho printing technology heralded a new era in the history of journalism. Its contributions to journalism are remarkable.

Tuluva region which was under the Madras Presidency made rapid progress in education, industry, business, agriculture and cultural matters. In 1862, when the missionaries started a Tulu medium school, it was the local residents who protested that they did not want it and wanted western education. If not for the protests of the local residents, today Tulu would be an important language here, which is in present times gaining demand. The first publication in Kannada had a professional touch as it’s learned editor Moegling had good exposure to European publications. He had a mastery over several European languages. As soon as he landed in Mangaluru in 1840, he learnt Tulu, Konkani and Kannada. Though he was a missionary, he evinced fervent interest in local literature and education, his genuine concern for the land was the catalyst.

Mangalura Samachara made a remarkable impression, this four-page publication priced at one ‘dudru’ aimed at presenting authentic news and with high integrity. The newspaper or letter as it was termed contained eight different aspects that included ‘voora varthamana’ (local news), ‘sarakarada niroopagalu’ (East India Company and its laws and regulations), ‘sarva rajya varthamanagalu’ (state news), ‘nuthanavadu ashcharya saddigalu’ (unusual news), ‘anyara nadathegalu’ (mannerisms), ‘subuddigalu’ (good conduct), ‘kathegalu (moral stories and songs of Purandaradasa) and an announcement stating that “anybody can send the news and it will be published if it is true.”

Progress into modernism:

News man Moegling got feedback from different parts of Kannada areas. He was particularly happy that so many readers in Mysuru, Shivamogga, Honnavara, Bellary, Mangaluru and Tumakuru subscribed. According to the Basel Mission report, a total of 7,850 copies were lithographed from July 1, 1843, to February 15, 1844. Later the publication was taken over by the London Missionary Society at Bellary which had the advantage of printing newspapers by letterpress. The first publication in Kannada had an average circulation of 530 copies during its existence in Mangaluru.

After the Sepoy mutiny, which created more curiosity in political developments of the country, Moegling evinced interest in bringing out a new publication to inform readers about political developments. The new ‘Kannada Suvartika’, a fortnightly came out in 1857 and lasted for two years. Though he was sent as a missionary, Moegling devoted more time to education, literary activities and newspaper publications. For the commendable work he did for Kannada literature and journalism, the Eberhard Karls University of Tubingen awarded Moegling an honorary doctorate in 1858. He was the first one to get such an honour for the work he did for the cause of Kannada.

In less than 200 years, we note the tremendous strides that print media and publications have made, the great heights they have scaled and the development that has been caused due to supply and demand and the continuous innovations. Now, once again at major cross roads it is imminent that this critical world pandemic will give rise mainly to digital and online dispersal of information and knowledge. It is crucial that we give thought to equip ourselves for the revolution ahead - accepting and adapting to the new world order on several levels.
Shakespeare in LOCKDOWN

By DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

It was 1564 and in that year Shakespeare was born on April 23 just a few months after the bubonic plague which killed one tenth of the population of the Stratford-upon-Avon. Luckily Shakespeare survived the apocalyptic event but there were occasions enough to present before him the painful image of the epidemic and endless anecdotes about the plague he might have heard from his father John or other members of the house or from the neighbours. Stories when they come later come in manifolds and in a larger volume than that of the time of occurrence.

So Shakespeare grew up in this atmosphere of fears and apprehension of plague. In London too Shakespeare witnessed the terrible outbreak of plague again in 1592 and theatres were closed for nearly six months. He used to live that time in the house on Silver Street where the church bells tolled for the plague victims constantly. Plague raged through the summer and early autumn and the the city of London parish where Shakespeare saw Marie Mountjoy , the landlady of his own house to have died As we know from the theatre historian James Shapiro, Shakespeare took refuge to the poetic world as he had to stay in lockdown.

The deserted streets, closed shops, dogs running free and the constant ringing of the curfew bells for funerals gave Shakespeare a tragic mood. But the worst is the the 1606 epidemic during which there was a long closure of the Globe Theatre. By that time Shakespeare became a professional actor, then a playwright and shareholder in a London company, and quite naturally the plague came as a professional threat. It was the peak season for the theatre and Shakespeare’s creative mood. He had to go to self-isolation. He had to work from home and it was not surprising that such a creative mind would use his time in the best way possible. He was not a man to waste his time by playing Tik Tok even if were available that time or playing cards. In fact, the Globe’s lengthy closure came to him more as a blessing than as curse as the myriad-minded Shakespeare regained his full mood for creativity.

Many other contemporaries like Ben Jonson in The Alchemist or Thomas Dekker The Wonderful Year made explicit references to the plague. But Shakespeare made his chilly text saturated by images of death, chaos, nihilism and desperation. Many made high conjectures that his masterpiece King Lear is also a plague text especially because of the deeply tragic note as is reflected in the words of Gloucester: “Love cools, friendship falls off , brothers divide ; in palaces treason and the bond cracked “twist son and father…we have seen the best of our time”. What Shakespeare called ironically ‘best of our time’ Thomas Dekker called it ‘the wonderful year’. This is the artless art of Shakespeare who can tell all by telling nothing directly.

In King Lear which many guessed more confidently that Shakespeare wrote it during the plague lockdown contained direct reference as we find it in Kent crying in loud exasperation at the servant Oswald “A plague upon your epileptic visage!” Kent is the right hand man of King Lear who himself thinks that the ‘plagues…hang in this pendulous air’.

Corona may not be airborne but it was a common belief that plague virus could be spread by airborne transmission. Lear again and again uses the word ‘plague’ in his consternation: ‘He calls his own wicked daughter Goneril ‘a plague sore, an embossed carbuncle in my /Corrupted blood”. This is a graphic visualization of the nasty disease especially the enlarged lymph nodes symptom.

People in quarantine are now suffering from mental anxiety and passivity affecting physical and mental health. But for a creative genius like Shakespeare even a lockdown or quarantined compulsion can be a period for amazing creativity. This is a huge message for all of us who can try some unrealized dream of writing a novel or a poetry book in this lock down period.

Solution to MANGALORE TODAY Crossword
(From page No.31)

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Welcome to

www.mangaloretoday.com

Updated every hour. Every day.
Divya was getting ready to go to college. It was her first day in college and naturally she was a bit tense and nervous. She had done her PUC in her village and had come to town to go to college by staying in her aunt’s house. Her uncle was ready to take her to college and both stepped out of the house, after bidding good bye to aunt Mrs Usha. As Divya and her Suresh Uncle walked towards the college, just 15 minutes walk from their house, Divya’s mind was full of thoughts. She knew none in the college, all her village friends had joined other colleges, while her father had admitted her to a government college as the fee was nominal. As Divya stepped inside the college compound, she smiled at her uncle who returned her smile and wished her good luck. She walked into her classroom with all new faces around, and sat in one corner of a bench. A girl seated next to her introduced herself as Asha. She seemed friendly and Divya was a bit comfortable in her company. The first day classes ended in an hour and a holiday was declared. Divya walked towards home along with Asha, her new found friend. She learnt that even Asha had joined a hostel close by Divya’s house. Divya was pleased and very soon both became very good friends.

Asha was an intelligent girl, and her company was liked by Divya. Once Asha invited Divya to come along with her for a cup of tea in a nearby restaurant. Divya was initially hesitant for she had never been to a hotel earlier. But, when Asha compelled, she agreed. As both were seated in the restaurant, a smart looking youngster approached Asha and sat opposite to them. Divya began feeling uncomfortable in the presence of the young man who seemed to be staring at her. Asha introduced him as her friend Bharath. He smiled at Divya who smiled back hesitantly. Both, Asha and Bharath began chatting to such an extent that Divya got tired and pinched Asha to say she wanted to go home. Asha bade good bye to her friend and the two walked towards home. Later on, Divya learnt that Bharath was a senior in their college. As days passed by, Bharath spoke to Asha almost every day, whenever she was along with Divya and exchanged quick glances at the shy village girl. But Divya thought him to be a nuisance and once even said so to Asha who however, wouldn’t listen to her. Finally, as a last weapon, Divya said “Look Asha, I will no longer be your friend if you do not stop talking to Bharath.” Asha was in a fix. She fell silent as the two walked towards home. The next morning, Divya walked towards college alone. She didn’t speak to Asha seated next to her. After the college, Asha held Divya’s hand and said “Divya I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to hurt you, but the truth is that it was Bharath who compelled me. His intention was not to chat with me, he only wanted to be closer to you. He just loves you sincerely Divya,” she said with tears in her eyes. Divya was stunned and stock. She couldn’t believe this.

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray, “Take only one. God is watching.” Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples.”

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

Girl: Will you love me after marriage also? Boy: This depends on your husband, if he allows me.

Doctor: your husband needs rest and peace. Here are some sleeping pills.
Wife: When must I give them to him?
Doctor: They are for you.
ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
This month brings some extra interest in learning, connecting, communicating, and branching out for you, dear Aries. It’s not the best time for focused concentration, but you’re in great shape for feeling out your options and picking up new information. June is excellent for studies, particularly self-taught or home-learning endeavors.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20)
There’s a focus on your resources this month, dear Taurus, and a good part of you wants to settle in and secure or develop essential systems in your life. Your valuables, finances, and material affairs gain more attention. Another theme threading through June revolves around learning, communicating, and connecting. While it’s a go-slow month in many respects, there are some real opportunities to enjoy yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There’s a spotlight on your personality, needs, and plans this month. Healthy self-focus is appropriate now, and others take notice of you more than usual. You may continue to enjoy increased ambition and competition in June. It’s a dynamic period that may challenge you at times, but that can also be invigorating and refreshing. Around the same time, on the 27th, Mars moves into harmony with your sign, helping you make the most of the transition.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
There is much going on under the hood for you this month, dear Cancer. It’s not a time to push ahead for all, and this may be particularly the case for you, although the last week of June is certainly a motivating period. You’re likely to enjoy a sense of purpose in the last days of June. It’s a good time to quit a bad habit, or to take steps towards that end, and for a boost in your reputation or credibility.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
There’s a special focus on your friendships, hopes, and dreams this month and it can be a time for reinvigorating your social life or focusing more intensively on plans, projects, and happiness goals. Involvement with your community, networks, or friends can be in the spotlight, although with Venus retrograde until the 25th, there can be some related problems to iron out.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept. 23)
While there’s a strong emphasis on your responsibilities, duties, and performance continuing this month, dear Virgo, relationships are a big focus. You are particularly goal-oriented in June. You’re more personally invested in your accomplishments and might be in higher demand than usual. At the same time, areas of discontent can magnify with Venus retrograde until the 25th.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You’re seeking richer experiences and more mental stimulation this month. You can also enjoy immersing yourself in challenging, motivating projects. You may be energizing your daily routines or health programs. Mars in your solar sixth house until the 27th revs you up and motivates you to take care of business.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You’re seeking more depth or intimacy from your experiences this month. Venus (all month) and the Sun (until the 20th) move through this zone of your solar chart, which rules regeneration, transformation, other people’s resources (that affect you), and debts, both spiritual or emotional and material ones.

STAR STUCK

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
There is a strong focus on your home life and relationships in June, dear Sagittarius. The transits of your ruler, Jupiter, suggest that despite a general emphasis on relationships and others, it’s a strong month for personal progress, motivation, and determination. In the last few days of June, you can successfully channel your energy into creative or productive pursuits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan 20)
You can be quite busy getting your life into better order this month, dear Capricorn. Taking charge of your work and health routines is rewarding now as you experience a need to lead a more organized, productive, and healthier lifestyle. There is a significant emphasis on chores, work, health, routines, communications, learning, services, daily affairs, diet, and habits in June.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb. 19)
There’s a healthy emphasis on pleasure, creative self-expression, romance, and entertainment in June, dear Aquarius. As always with eclipses, remind yourself to hold off on making big decisions until more clarity comes. In the last few days of June, your energy reserves are strong, and you may want to take on projects that require concentration. You might uncover answers to complicated problems.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)
There’s an emphasis on home and family this month, dear Pisces, and you’re in good shape for improving your sense of safety, security, and comfort. It’s a time for bringing healing and wholeness, as well as some refinement and organization, to your home life. It’s also an important period for anchoring on a psychological level. This can also be a time when money comes in, as Mars rules your income sector.

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

MANGALORE TODAY - JUNE 2020

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VISIONARY SCIENTIST

He was one of the greatest scientists India has ever seen and is considered the Father of Indian Space Programme. Dr Vikram Sarabhai was not only a scientist, but also an industrialist and a great visionary. He wanted the practical application of science to reach the common man.

Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was born on August 12, 1919 at Ahmedabad in an affluent family as one of eight children of Ambalal and Sarla Devi. Some of the great men of India - Rabindranath Tagore, J. Krishna Murthi, Motilal Nehru, V. S. Shrinivasa Shastri, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Maulana Azad and C. V. Raman used to stay with the Sarabhai family when they visited Ahmedabad. Mahatma Gandhi also once stayed at their house while recovering from an illness. Visits by such great men greatly influenced Vikram Sarabhai.

After his matriculation, Vikram Sarabhai proceeded to Cambridge and secured a tripods degree from St. John’s College in 1940. He later joined as a research scholar under Sir C. V. Raman at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. His interest in solar physics and cosmic ray led him to set up many observation stations around the country. He completed his Ph.D in Cambridge in 1947.

Vikram Sarabhai was instrumental in establishing the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in November 1947.

The launching of Sputnik-I in 1957 as part of the International Geophysical Year exposed him to the new vistas of space science. Subsequently, the Indian National Committee for Space Research was created, of which Vikram Sarabhai became Chairman.

With active support from Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, set up the first Rocket Launching station (TERLS) in the country at Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram. The first rocket with sodium vapour payload was launched on November 21, 1963.

After the sudden death of Homi Bhabha in an air crash, Vikram Sarabhai became the Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission in 1966. He is a recipient of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal and Padma Bhushan Award. Vikram Sarabhai passed away on December 31, 1971.
**SHORT STORY**

“Yeah...!!” shouted Tanvi in excitement. After her 10th birthday celebration, Tanvi started opening all her gifts one by one. She had opened all her birthday gifts but the last one from her Aunt Jenny. Ahhh... her joy had no bound and she was on cloud nine. The gift she received was a Robot Clock.

The robot was bright and attractive in Pink and Yellow colour and looked like a Barbie doll. It had twinkling eyes. It could reach every nook and corner of her house. Tanvi received a lively friend in the house in form of this Robot clock. Her parents helped her to talk to the robot and program the robot clock such that it would remind Tanvi to perform all different activities at programmed time in a very melodious sound. She would eagerly wait for Robot to remind her next activity so she is supposed to do and will try to complete as fast as she can, in anticipation of hearing the next activity from the robot. It used to remind her to perform all daily activities from waking her up to eat her meals, to do her homework, to play, to read story books, to get ready for school etc.

On day, while Tanvi was playing with Robot, it fell from bed and suddenly stopped working. Tanvi was so devastated and started crying. When her mother heard her crying, she immediately rushed to her bedroom and inquired about what happened. Tanvi narrated the entire incident and her mother asked her to calm down telling her that she would give the robot for repair and it would start working again soon. Her mother gave the robot for repair the same day but was asked to wait for couple of weeks until it gets repaired as one of the important parts that had to be replaced was not available in stock. Her mother convinced Tanvi to manage for 2 weeks and then she would have the robot back again.

3 days passed by and now Tanvi was finding it very difficult to perform all her activities as she was so used to do everything based on robot reminders. Tanvi’s parents realized that she had become too dependent on the robot clock and couldn’t manage to do things on time on her own without reminders. Her father explained her how she had become so much dependent on the technology developed by humans and was not allowing her brain to remember things even at this small age. Her parents had to take some extra care for about 10 days and then Tanvi started managing things on her own without any reminders. Now, she became more independent and would prioritize the things based on her mood, preference and some guidance from her parents.

The day arrived when the robot clock got repaired and Tanvi got it back. The robot clock again started giving reminders in a melodious voice but now Tanvi had mixed feeling to act based on reminders as she had developed herself to perform daily routine on her own.

Tanvi’s granny was old and staying alone. She had to be reminded everyday to take medicines on time. Tanvi came up with an idea to program the robot to remind her granny to take medicine every day on time and gift the Robot to her granny. She shared this idea with her parents and they were happy to know that Tanvi thought about a good use of Robot for someone in the family whose memory was fading.

The next day, Tanvi and her parents visited her granny and gifted her programmed robot. After a week, granny called Tanvi and told her that the robot has been very useful to her and she is able to take her medicines regularly with the help of reminders from the robot. Tanvi was so glad to know this and to put the robot to the right use.

By KIANA GOPANI

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** TECHNOLOGY: Blessing or Curse?**

Check out how sharp your eyes are. Find out at least 6 differences between the pictures below.

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**HOCUS - FOCUS**
**Appointed**

Raghavendra Kini has been appointed as the new Chairman of Udupi Urban Development Authority. Kini is a Consulting Civil Engineer and this is the first time that an individual of this profession has been appointed to this coveted post. He has served as the Yuva Morcha Town Committee President.

**Awarded**

Dr K Prabhaker Shetty, senior physician from Kaup has been Awarded the State level Best Doctor Award given by the Karnataka State Chapter of Indian Medical Association in memory of Dr B C Roy on the occasion of Doctors’ Day. Dr Shetty is the founder of Prashanth Hospital in Kaup.

**Abstain**

A total of 466 students have abstained from the second PUC English examination held in the district on June 18. According to the Pre-University Education Department as many as 26,486 students have appeared for the exams out of the 26,952 who had registered. As many as 760 students from Kerala too appeared for the exams in various examination centres in the district.

**Demanded**

DK District Taximen’s and Maxicab Association has urged the Union and State Governments to regulate the increasing fuel prices. Association President Dinesh Kumpala M said the Association would resort to protest if the demand was not met with. Taxi and maxicab drivers who are already hit hard due to lockdown, are now further suffering due to fuel price hike and demanded withdrawal of the price hike, he said. He also said the Rs 5,000 compensation announced by the government should be extended to all taxi drivers including maxicab drivers having MLV badge.

**Developed**

Santhosh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Science & Engineering, NMAMIT, Nitte, has developed an innovative ‘Theertha Dispenser’ for temples. This innovative device was launched at the ‘Mahaganapathy Temple’ of Nitte campus by Niranjan Chiplunkar, Principal, NMAMIT. This touchless Theertha Dispenser provides the advantages of social distancing. One needs to just place one’s hand near the dispenser output and the device will automatically sense the palm and dispense Theertha. Easy installation, easy refill, low maintenance cost and low power consumption are its added advantages.

**Foundation laid**

DK District in-charge Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary laid the foundation for
various developmental works at the District Wenlock Hospital and Ladygoschen Hospital recently. The works are taken up under Smart City Project.

**Inaugurated**
The relocated office of Karnataka Beary Sahitya Academy near the Mangaluru Central Railway Station, was inaugurated by DK District in-charge Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary. Beary Sahitya Academy President Rahim Ucchil, Mangaluru Taluk Panchayat President Muhammed Monu, Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy President Dayananda Kattalsar, Mangaluru Taluk Panchayat executive officer Sadananda were also present.

**Launched**
Karnataka Bank has launched a new product named KBL Micro Mitra, wherein financial assistance up to Rs.10 lakhs can be provided to the Micro manufacturing and service enterprises either for working capital or for investment purposes. This facility is available across India through all the branches of Karnataka

**Observed**
Mask Day was observed on behalf of Mangaluru City Corporation on June 18, Thursday. Mayor Diwaker Pandeshwar who launched the Mask Day Padayatra called upon each and everyone to compulsorily adhere to Covid-19 guidelines including wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

**Missing**
A 16 year old girl who had left home to collect her SSLC exam hall ticket from her school, has been reported missing. Her family has lodged a complaint at Kadri Police Station. The missing girl is Bheemavva alias Sujatha (16).

**Suspended**
Wholesale fresh fish dealers in the old port of Mangaluru have decided to suspend all businesses for the next ten days as many are reportedly suffering from Covid-19 symptoms like cold, cough and fever. The wholesale dealers have also requested the administration to ensure unauthorised traders do not carry out business in other areas.

**Takes charge**
Vikash Kumar took charge as the new City Police Commissioner on June 29. The erstwhile Commissioner Dr P S Harsha has been transferred to Bengaluru as Commissioner of the Information Department. Vikash Kumar was hitherto serving as DIG and Commander of Anti-Naxal Force. He has also served as SP of Chikkamagaluru district.

**OBITUARY**
Former president of Rotary Club of Mangaluru, B Mohan Nayak (87) passed away at his residence at Mannagudda recently. Mohan Nayak was a well known social worker. He had also served as a member of the Besant educational institutions Management Board for over four decades. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Noted businessman and philanthropist Anthony Francis D’Souza passed away on June 13 following a brief illness. He was 93 years of age.
A medical doctor and academic, well known in medical circles, **Dr Prema Saldanha** is admired by peers and students for her expertise. She is the newly appointed Professor & Head of the Department of Pathology, at Yenepoya Medical College in Mangaluru and is an outstanding Pathologist.

Dr. Prema is highly specialized from renowned institutions and is known to be very competent in the field of Pathology. She holds an MBBS, MD (Pathology), DNB from St. John’s Medical College, Bengaluru, MNAMS from National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, PGDHOM (Hospital Management) from AIIMS, Chennai and ACME Advance Course in Medical Education from Christian Medical College, Vellore.

**Progressive Pathologist**

She has earlier served as Lecturer at Fr. Muller’s Medical College and as Assistant Professor /Associate Professor at KMC, Mangalore.

Some of her many interests are Medical education, Oncopathology Development of Curriculum, improving the teaching of Pathology by Innovative Techniques and use of electronic resources in medical teaching. Her special attention is to research guidance and she presently guides 19 MD Dissertation students and two PhD Thesis scholars.

Prof Dr Prema Saldanha is the elder daughter of a yester year renowned medic of Fr. Muller’s Hospital and a pioneer homeopath Dr. V T D’Souza, who was practicing until recently. Her husband Dr. Julian Saldanha is a Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at Wenlock and as of now both are contributing at the forefront of the ‘Corona War.’

**Rising Star**

Many believe that India’s real talent lies in its villages. This may not be an exaggeration as in the recent past India has seen several promising talents emerge from rural areas. One such talent from our very own district is **Baby.** Hailing from Amtur village in Bantwal taluk, Baby has over the years shaped into a very talented athlete who has excelled in various events at the local, state and national levels.

Baby is an alumnus of St Antony School at Amtur and Sri Rama Vdiya Kendra where she completed her graduation. The talent in her was duly recognised by the physical instructors of Sri Rama High School who took efforts in honing her talent.

She has in her kitty medals which she has won in running race, high jump, hilly terrain race etc held at various levels.

The society as well as the government should encourage talents like Baby who can bring laurels at national and international level provided they get the right training.
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