NEP or SEP

The New Education Policy
The Rationale and the Resistance

We now stand on the precipice of a new chapter in Indian Education- as parents, educational professionals and neutral observers. So what were the pitfalls of the old system that the National Education Policy wanted to overcome and what can we expect from these latest policy changes?
IDEO
Ideally Yours

THE INTERNATIONAL RANGE OF ICE CREAMS
"Paying tributes to martyrs is a way of showing respect to Mother India. Acknowledging and discussing the contributions of these martyrs is important, failing to do so sends a negative message" Dr Shamsul Islam, former professor of Delhi University at B V Kakkilaya Inspired Oration.

"Greediness is the biggest disease that has afflicted the society today. It has no remedy. However there can be a change when every individual aims at self-progress without harming others" former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde at an interaction at Shakti educational institution.

"Political Science will never lose its importance as it is dynamic in nature" Jayaraj Amin, Acting Vice-Chancellor of Mangalore University at a workshop held at University College.

"Gender bias has not reduced in the society even decades after securing independence. Today we need a society which understands that even a woman has a right to a dignified life and self-respect" eminent poetess Dr H L Pushpa at a programme organised by Karavali Lekhakiyara, Vachakiyara Sangha.

"Any task can be successful when ten hands join together with complete consensus" State Assembly Speaker UT Khader at the inaugural of Udupi Syndicate Credit-Co-operative Society's new branch.

NANNA MAITRI KICKS OFF: The ambitious Nanna Maitri Scheme of the State Government aimed at distributing menstrual cups to girl students in the 17-18 age group being launched by DK District in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundurao.
Policy failure

Successive governments in the country have regularly tinkered with education policies changing teaching methods, syllabus and examination systems. Only some of these changes have resulted in benefit to students. The implementation of the new policies (making it the joint responsibility of the Central and State governments) has only added to the confusion and confrontation.

The New National Education Policy of the Central government is the latest in this direction. The committee headed by K Kasturirangan, former Chancellor of JNU completed its work in 2019 and the new NEP was released in 2020. From syllabus updates to grade structure modifications, emphasized by fundamental changes in the way the Indian Educational System works, it’s evident that the NEP aims to both disrupt and revamp the current system.

With the prime responsibility for designing the texts and content with the state government, this gave ample opportunity for those who came to power in the states to vary the textbooks according to their ideological leanings. Absurd changes to history apart, even supposedly neutral subjects such as Science were tinkered with resulting in parts of science textbooks resembling fiction.

States resent the interference of the center in the Education sector as they perceive this as an attempt to curtail their powers under the constitution. When the political ideology of the state and the center differ, there is further suspicion that the center is trying to push its own ideology down the throats of the ideologically differing states.

The NEP’s absence of a detailed implementation strategy is one of its biggest flaws. The policy has several challenging aims and objectives, but it doesn't offer a clear plan for how they will be accomplished. Teachers are unsure about how to apply the NEP in their classes and schools as a result of the lack of clarity, which has left them perplexed and uncertain.

While the NEP promises to revolutionize Indian Education, what does this truly mean for the thousands of students undergoing change? If the aforementioned changes are implemented with commitment and consistency, we could witness a significant reform in the way the younger generation perceives and experiences education.

We now stand on the precipice of a new chapter in Indian Education- as parents, educational professionals and neutral observers. Hence, what were the pitfalls of the old system that the NEP wanted to overcome and what can we expect from these latest policy changes?
NEP or SEP?
The New Education Policy
The Rationale and the Resistance

■ COVER STORY ..... 14

■ PROFILE 28
B K Deva Rao
Passionate Paddy Conservationist
B. K. Deva Rao who is known for his cultivation and conservation of diverse varieties of paddy and other crops through organic methods of farming, is an inspiration to the farming community.

■ BOOK RELEASE 30
BOOK INSIGHTS
‘Pride of Kanara; True Son of India’
Fr Jerome D’Souza SJ was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and was known as one of the architects of the Indian Constitution. The book is authored by Edmund Frank, dean PGDBM, St Aloysius College.

Contents
Reactions ................................... 6
Wordzworth ................................ 7
Editorial ..................................... 8
City Politix .................................. 9
DK Diary ................................... 10
Column ..................................... 12
Opinion ..................................... 24
Poetic License .......................... 29
Happenings ................................ 33
Controversy .............................. 36
Viewpoint ................................. 38
Life Experience ........................ 40
Random Thoughts ...................... 42
Humour .................................... 44
Kids .......................................... 46
News Briefs .............................. 48
People ...................................... 50

MANGALORE TODAY - SEPTEMBER 2023 5
Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts have immense tourism potential including leisure tourism, religious tourism as well as medical tourism. The district, particularly Mangaluru boasts of some of the best hospitals that has helped in promoting medical tourism. Places of tourist interest must be developed, promoted and popularized through blogging and other platforms. It may be recalled here that some time back bloggers were invited for the purpose of popularising places of importance in the region. Setting up of a committee of experts and stakeholders including officials of the Tourism Department to chalk out ways and means to promote tourism and ensure increase of tourists visiting the region. This would also be a great boost to the economy of the region.

ADOLF RODRIGUES, Mangaluru

Mangalore Today Editorial on the Washroom video scandal that rocked a private college in Udupi was timely. This incident which made much news and even led to a lot of protests by the BJP and right wing outfits for the sole reason that the so called victim and the accused belonged to different religions. However the issue seems to have been forgotten of late. There are many who feel the issue would have been sorted out at the college level itself as it was a question of the future of the students.

VALERIAN D’SÁ, Mangaluru

“The recent instance wherein police seized drugs laced chocolates from two shops in the city is indeed shocking and equally alarming. It also highlights how parents need to be extra cautious on what their children eat while out of home. Such chocolates once consumed will become more of addictive.”

ALAN S.J., Mangaluru

Mangalore Today Editorial on the Washroom video scandal that rocked a private college in Udupi was timely. This incident which made much news and even led to a lot of protests by the BJP and right wing outfits for the sole reason that the so called victim and the accused belonged to different religions. However the issue seems to have been forgotten of late. There are many who feel the issue would have been sorted out at the college level itself as it was a question of the future of the students.

VALERIAN D’SÁ, Mangaluru

A welcome development after the new Congress government came to power in the state, is the crackdown on drugs in the district. The police have been on a war footing in their drive to make Mangaluru drugs free city. It is indeed alarming that drug peddlers are caught almost every day. That students are the main targets of these drug mafia is disturbing. The police need to go to the root of this menace in order to eradicate it. All the more important is to create awareness against drugs among youngsters. Only enlightened and aware youth can end this menace and they have to say no to drugs.

ASHA MARINA, Mangaluru

HOT PROPERTIES IN MANGALURU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 cents land for sale</td>
<td>near Kaprigudda, Falnir. Just IKM from Falnir Main Road</td>
<td>₹: 25 Lakhs per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 sft new 1BHK Apartment for sale</td>
<td>at Maryhill, Opp: Vikas College, Mangalore</td>
<td>₹: 30 Lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 cents commercial land touching Falnir Main Road for sale.</td>
<td></td>
<td>₹: 45 Lakhs per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1400sft 2BHK Apartment for sale Maryhill @ Rs. 45 Lakhs

CONTACT: 9880616670 / 9591520629
An Exclusive Address at an Affordable Price

2 BHK @ ₹45 LAKHS

GENESIS WHITE CORNUS
AIRPORT ROAD, MARYHILL, MANGALORE

FOR BOOKING CALL:
+91 9880616670 / 9591520629

PROMOTERS
GENESIS ENGINEERS
White Forest, Near AJ Hospital, Mangalore - 575004

Architects
SARASWATHI CONSULTANCY

Structural Consultants
VIMAL ANIL

Vastu Consultant
SRI MAHESH MUNIYANGALA
NEW MAYOR
EXPECTATIONS FROM CITIZENS

The citizens of Mangaluru are hoping that several pressing problems confronting the port city would be solved during the term of the new Mayor.

Mangaluru City has got a new Mayor. The election of three-time corporator Sudhir Shetty Kannur as the new Mayor of Mangaluru, as expected has kindled a lot of hopes and expectations and it is ardently hoped that he would not disappoint the trust reposed by the people of the city on him.

Every time a new Mayor is elected, it is but natural to have some expectations from the first citizen. Given the experience which Sudhir Shetty a three-time corporator has, citizens are hoping he would certainly make things better in the port city.

Sudhir Shetty represents the Kodialbail ward and during his two previous terms as Corporator represented Kannur and Mangaluru City South. An agile and pro-active leader that he is, citizens want some concrete action from the new Mayor and hope long lasting solutions would be found to many issues facing the city.

Soon after he took charge, the new Mayor has said that during his term efforts would be made to augment drinking water supply to the city from the Adyar vented dam built across the Nethravathi on the downstream of Thumbay vented dam.

The Mayor has also promised to solve problems relating to underground drainage management and also to accord priority to water management in the backdrop of shortage in rainfall.

The new Mayor has further said he would be available for the public to meet him between 3.30 pm to 6 pm. That is a welcome move and citizens can approach the Mayor directly with regard to any of their civic issues.

There are many citizens who want the Mayor to make it a point to visit at least one ward every week in order to have a first-hand account of various issues facing the different wards. It also brings in a sense of satisfaction for the citizens to know that they have a pro-active mayor. The Mayor has already assured to convene a meeting of corporators of 15 wards each every month in order to review progress by taking into confidence opposition party leaders. This is a good development.

He has also assured transparency and a corruption free administration and citizens are really hoping that the mayor keeps up his words.

Though a Smart City in the making, Mangaluru is facing a number of problems including bad roads and roads without proper footpaths. There have been complaints since long of irregular water supply in many wards. There is a need for the new mayor to look into this aspect.

Proper maintenance of the roads, effective garbage disposal system, identifying garbage black spots and ensuring tough action against those dumping garbage on the roadsides are very much needed. Also much attention must be given to the Pachanady dumping yard issue and also with regard to scientific disposal of wastes given the fact that the quantity of wastes generated by the growing city of Mangaluru too is increasing.

Overflowing drainages have also been a recurrent problem in some wards and this is another issue that needs urgent attention from the Mayor.

Street vendors issue too needs to be addressed. Despite several drives, it is a fact that the problem of street vendors has not solved. Street vendors too are a part of the city and there are hundreds of vendors who make out a living from this. Considering this fact, the Corporation has to ensure pedestrian and traffic movement is not hindered due to street vendors. Their rehabilitation too is a big challenge as a place identified for street vendors during the earlier regime has been of little use.

As far as the new Mayor is concerned, he has also assured a Janaspandana programme at Town Hall once in three months to hear grievances directly from the public. Hope he takes concrete steps even in this direction as it goes a long way in instilling trust and confidence among the citizens.

Citizens are ardently hoping that Mangaluru would be a still better place with better infrastructure and other facilities under the dynamic leadership of the new Mayor.
In a tight spot

The cash for ticket scam involving Chaitra has certainly put the BJP in a tight spot though almost everyone in the BJP have maintained a distance from her and are stating that the case has to be thoroughly investigated and they have nothing to do with it. The fact is that the saffron outfits have benefited a lot from the fiery speeches of Chaitra and now the BJP has conveniently washed its hands off the issue though Chaitra has reportedly mentioned about the involvement of big names in the scam. While former CM Basavaraj Bommai made it clear that the party has nothing to do with the case, another leader C T Ravi has said that money is not everything for BJP. He also went on to state that had money was of paramount importance for the party then many poor party workers would not have become MLAs or MPs. He also cited the names of a few BJP elected representatives of the district to prove his point.

Shedding crocodile tears?

Recently, senior Congress leader and former union minister M Veerappa Moily made an interesting remark against the Centre. He said the BJP government at the Centre was shedding crocodile tears for women. The Congress leader was referring to the Women’s Reservation Bill tabled by the Centre in the parliament. His remark came in the backdrop of the lack of clarity regarding the Bill. He went on to claim that gender bias has increased in the nation. He also said the BJP government need not have had to wait for so many years to table the Bill now. It was evident that the senior politician was referring to the Lok Sabha election next year and that the Bill was tabled now just to appease women voters.

No future!

Byndoor’s BJP strong man, former MLA B M Sukumar Shetty recently gave a big jolt to his party by announcing his plans to join the Congress party. Equally shocking were his statements, which many believe are candid. He claimed that he was a capable leader and that capable people like him have no place in the BJP. He also went on to say that the BJP has no future and that it was he who helped BJP gain strong foothold in Byndoor and that he was sidelined despite his contributions to the party.

But the crux of the matter behind all the outbursts of the senior politician seems to be that the party had denied him a ticket to contest the Assembly election. It seems till date the BJP has not made any effort to ensure he remained in the party and one can expect a major development when he formally joins the Congress.

OFF TRACK

Unending woes

The road at Kalladka in Bantwal presents a pathetic picture, thanks to the ongoing highway works. The narrow service road and the absence of side drains creates a mess of a situation whenever it rains and has also been the leading cause of accidents. The assurance by the officials following a recent protest by locals, has remained a mere assurance with the problem remaining unresolved. When will the authorities rise to the occasion?
The State High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation seeking a re-investigation into the Sowjanya rape and murder case that took place in Dharmasthala in 2012.

The PIL was filed by Naveen Kumar Neriya, Girish Bharadwaj and Vinayaka Friends Trust, Balnadu of Puttur.

The court which heard the applicants said that only the government, original complainants or the aggrieved family can file an appeal in the case wherein the CBI court has acquitted the lone accused in the case. There is also scope to consider the loopholes in the investigation in the case.

Though the intention of the petitioners is good, everything has to be within the purview of law, the court said and dismissed the petition.

A swimming pool of international standards is being built at Yemmekere under the Smart City Project. The works are in the final stages and are expected to be completed soon. Already three pools have been constructed and presently water is stored in the pools on an experimental basis. Tiling works, plumbing and gallery works are complete. The project has been taken up at a cost of Rs 25 crores.

The main pool here is 50 meters long and 25 meters wide while another swimming pool for practice is 12 meters long and 10 meters wide. A children’s pool is 13.3 meters long and six meters wide.

The swimming pool complex will have a first aid room, judges room, officials room, record room, shower room, lavatory, filtration plant, pump room etc. The basement will have parking facility.

Terracotta objects found at Megalithic dolmen site at Moodukonaje

Unique terracotta objects were discovered at the megalithic dolmen site at Moodukonaje near Moodbidri during a recent archaeological exploration by researchers led by retired Professor Murugeshi T, from MSRS College, Shirva.

Along with the terracotta figures, were found bone and iron pieces. The site is believed to be the biggest Megalithic Dolmen site consisting of 19 Dolmens on the slope of a hill. Here presently only two dolmens are intact while others are in a dilapidated state.

In the Moodkonaje dolmen site eight terracotta objects were found and they resembled a cow, peacocks, horse, mother goddess, an unknown object and a hand of a goddess. The terracotta objects were found on the surface of dolmens that were damaged, very likely by hunters.

High Court dismisses PIL seeking reprobe into Sowjanya case

Senior advocate Arun Shyam argued for the petitioners.

Sudhir Shetty Kannur is new Mayor; Sunitha Salian is Deputy Mayor

Sudhir Shetty Shetty was elected as the 24th Mayor of Mangaluru while Sunitha Salian was elected as Deputy Mayor in the election held at the MCC Mangala Auditorium recently.

Sudhir Shetty represents Kodialbail ward while Sunitha Salian is a corporator from Panambur Benge ward.

Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, Mangaluru South MLA Vedavyas Kamath, Mangaluru North MLA Dr Bharath Shetty were present and congratulated the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

New Mayor Sudhir Shetty is a three time corporator while the Deputy Mayor is a first time corporator. The Congress had fielded Naveen R D’Souza for the election to the Mayor post. Sudhir won 47 votes as against 14 votes won by Naveen. The Deputy Mayor was however elected unopposed as the Congress did not field any candidate.
Mangaluru-Goa Vande Bharat train likely in Oct: Nalin Kumar Kateel

Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel has informed that Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has assured that a Vande Bharat Express would be made operational from Mangaluru to Goa by October end.

The MP said he received an assurance to this effect during his meeting with the Railway Minister in New Delhi. He said he has requested the Railway Minister not to yield to the demand of Keralites to extend the Bengaluru-Kannur train upto Kochi. He also said the Minister has responded positively to his appeal. He said an approval has also been granted to run early morning train from Subrahmanya Road station to Mangaluru and evening train from Mangaluru to Subrahmanya. He said an appeal has also been made to the minister to include Mangaluru in the Mysuru division of South West Railway instead of the Palakkad division of Southern Railway.

Tulu teachers waiting for honorarium since 3 years

Several teachers who have been teaching Tulu as a third language in as many as 42 schools of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts are yet to receive their honorarium for the past three years. A total of Rs 27.60 lakh honorarium is not yet released by the government. Tulu teaching had commenced in the school after the Vishwa Tulu Sammelan held in 2009 had passed a resolution to this effect and had made a request to the government.

Since the past three years the government has not made any concerted effort to appoint Tulu teachers and the monthly remuneration of Rs 3,000 has also not been given to the teachers since past three years through the Academy.

The present government has been apprised of the issue and the government has assured to do the needful to release the honorarium, according to Tulu Academy Registrar Manohar Kamath. Even Kannada and Culture Minister has responded positively to the request. A total of 1,628 students from 33 schools in DK studying from sixth to tenth standards learnt Tulu in the academic year 2022-23 while in Udupi 152 students learnt Tulu in four schools.

City’s new top cop promises to continue drive against drugs

Anupam Agarwal who took charge as the new Police Commissioner of Mangaluru following the transfer of the earlier incumbent Kuldeep Kumar Jain, has assured to carry forward the crusade against drugs trafficking initiated by his predecessor. He said he would continue the drive with the cooperation of all officials.

He also said all illegal activities including gambling would be checked.

3rd phase fisheries port project to get cabinet nod soon: Dinesh Gundurao

DK District in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundurao has said that the state cabinet would soon give its approval for the third phase development of the Fisheries port in Mangaluru. The project will be taken up at a cost of Rs 49.50 crores, he informed.

He said a subsidy of Rs 50,000 is provided to convert kerosene engine fisheries boats into petrol/diesel engines. He further added that a total subsidy of Rs 20 crore has been provided for conversion of the engines of 4000 boats.

He said the interest free loan limit for fisherwomen has been increased for Rs 50,000 to Rs 3 lakhs. He said the government has decided to provide grants for continuous supply of kerosene oil to country boat fishermen.

The minister further informed that Rs 3.90 crore grant has been provided for dredging in the wharf and estuary in fisheries port. On the proposed IT Park on PPP Model on the 3 acre land owned by Keonics at Derebail, he said the RFP of the project would be ready in two months.

He said there has been discussions on bringing about amendments to the Mangaluru Master Plan Zonal rules. It has been directed to send the recommended amendments by MUDA to the Department concerned, he added.
Prof. Narendra Nayak highlights how those at the helm of power are diverting the attention of youth towards hijab, love jihad, ‘urban naxals’ and such other issues rather than the real pressing issues.

Coming back to the issue of a protest against an event about which they knew nothing except shout out a few slogans, the students have shown again as to how they can be manipulated by vested interests, they were shouting naxal go back, we will not allow campus to be politicised - while it was exactly what they were doing! They were going by a right wing reactionary ideology while trying say that there should be no politics. It is no secret that Dr. Shamsul Islam is a communist, an atheist and can be by no stretch of any one’s most fertile of imaginations to be an Islamist. He in fact is more hated by them than by the Hindu right wing. He is an activist who has written, directed and acted in many plays. His specialization is in street plays. His academics are the history of the freedom movement and its secular nature. As he says at no stage was it confined to a
religious group, a caste, community or region. He had brought out a list of the martyrs of the freedom struggle in Karnataka and a banner was to be displayed at the place where the lecture would be going on.

If we go into the history of this organization which protested, its only laudable role was during the emergency of Indira Gandhi when there was a movement against her dictatorial policies by a united opposition. Ironically, the opposition space during those times was occupied by a number of ideologically diverse groups starting from the right wingers like the Swatantra party, Jan Sangh (the ideological fountain head of ABVP), Nijalingappa Congress to left minded parties like the Socialists and even the communists. While the last named had split into two- the communist party of India which was allied with Indira Gandhi and the other called as CPIM was against her. It was during these times that the Jan Sangh and its RSS based minions joined the mainstream politics and as they say there was no looking back for them. Along with that growth the student wing also flourished. The right wing politics which was an anathema to the students started attracting them with Hindutva as its main plank on which organisations like ABVP flourished. One of the main supporting factors was the flow of money which started when the backers- the traders, industrialists and middle class employees socially and economically backward classes into it. So, today we have these hordes of the confused young people who are frustrated at their future prospects ready to jump on those who they think are responsible for the present state of affairs. Though it should be obvious to them that the policies of those in power for the last decade are responsible, their attention is diverted to issues like hijab, love jihad, ‘urban naxals’ and myriad of such.

Finally a conversation reported in a newspaper about the issue in question sums up the whole:

Q- Do you know who Shamsul Islam is?  A- No.
Q- Do you know what he is talking about?  A- No.
Q- Do you know anything about independence struggle?  A- No.
Q- Do you know that the person B V Kakkilaya in whose memory this lecture is being organized is a freedom fighter who was underground and also imprisoned during those times?  A- No.
Q- Then why are you opposing it?  A- We are opposing it because it is organized by Dr. Kakkilaya who is a bad man and anti-social!

This sums up how students can be misled into an agitation about which they know nothing and not interested in knowing either!

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
NEP or SEP?

The New Education Policy

The Rationale and the Resistance

We now stand on the precipice of a new chapter in Indian Education— as parents, educational professionals and neutral observers. So what were the pitfalls of the old system that the National Education Policy wanted to overcome and what can we expect from these latest policy changes?
**“Educate and raise the masses, thus alone a nation is possible”**
- Swami Vivekananda

**EDUCATION IS POSSIBLY THE most vital ingredient in human development.** The entire human story has been about mankind raising itself higher and higher by knowing more and more. In the last century, governments started taking a keen interest in what the education system in their country should look like. The first goal they set for themselves was to ensure that their people could at least read and write. Mass literacy programs were launched with dramatic effect especially in newly free countries like Singapore and Malaysia. These countries saw rapid rise in productivity that raised their countries out of abject poverty and into the league of rich nations. India’s experiments with mass literacy, however, have been mixed. While states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu rapidly spread education among their people and put them to productive use, there were laggards like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Here non-serious efforts resulted in poor outcomes and such states slipped down in human development indices. In Karnataka, the universal spread of education in districts such as Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, which already had a long tradition of good education, resulted in huge benefits in terms of social development to the districts’ population. The single biggest contributor to the economic prosperity of the twin districts has been education. Bright young minds trained in science, arts and humanities have left to work in Bangalore, Mumbai and the Gulf and have remitted back millions of dollars, lifting the districts out of colonial backwardness to new age prosperity.

With such an important role for education it is not surprising that successive governments in India have regularly tinkered with education policies changing teaching methods, syllabus and examination systems. Only some of these changes have resulted in benefit to students in general. The placement of Education in the concurrent list of governance (making it the joint responsibility of the Central and State governments) has only added to the confusion. Education is one of the most important ministries at the State level and almost all states resent the interference of the Central government in what they consider as their turf. This has not prevented successive Central governments from periodically framing new policies, which they have hoped to implement nationwide.

The New National Education Policy of the Central government is the latest in this direction. In 2017 the Central government tasked a committee headed by Mr K Kasturirangan, the former head of ISRO and former Chancellor of JNU to draw up a National Education Policy (NEP). The committee completed its work in 2019 and the new NEP was released in 2020. Mr Kasturirangan was then requested to draft a new National Curriculum Framework, a guiding document for syllabi, textbooks and teaching practices under the NEP. From syllabus updates to grade structure modifications, emphasized by fundamental changes in the way the Indian Educational System works, it’s evident that the NEP aims to both disrupt and revamp the current system.

We now stand on the precipice of a new chapter in Indian Education- as parents, educational professionals and neutral observers. So what were the pitfalls of the old system that the NEP wanted to overcome and what can we expect from these latest policy changes?

**Pitfalls of the old system**

One of the biggest complaints against the existing system of education is that it merely encourages rote learning. That is, prioritizing memorization over understanding. From syllabus updates to grade structure modifications, emphasized by fundamental changes in the way the Indian Educational System works, it’s evident that the NEP aims to both disrupt and revamp the current system.

One of the biggest complaints against the existing system of education is that it merely encourages rote learning. That is, prioritizing memorization over understanding. Since the goal was to pass exams, students were encouraged to “remember” texts, numbers and procedures rather than understand the meaning behind them. For example we all remember only too clearly being told by teachers to memorize the steps to a maths problem rather than understand the logic behind the steps. Invariably the student forgot the memorized text or procedure once the exam was over!
A second issue was of multiple boards across the country and sometimes within the same state or city. Each board adopted different learning methods, and imparted different skills to its students, who were then all expected to take the same standardized board exams. Adding to the discord between the multiple boards, are the standardized entrance exams, such as the JEET, NEET and UPSC, which were supposed to even the playing field for applicants from across the country, yet favour the teaching styles of certain boards only.

A third issue was that of content. With the prime responsibility for designing the texts and content with the state government, this gave ample opportunity for those who came to power in the states to vary the textbooks according to their ideological leanings. Absurd changes to history apart, even supposedly neutral subjects such as Science were tinkered with resulting in parts of Science textbooks resembling fiction.

**Broad Aims of the NEP**

The changes sought by the NEP can be condensed into four main points; this will give us an idea of the degree of change the current system will have to undergo:

Firstly, the establishment of a uniform, centralized board that oversees the education of all students across the country. The establishment of this centralized board removes the need for the multiple boards that exist today. What this means in practice is that the current system would have to undergo a complete overhaul, and also endure long periods of collaboration, as the various boards converge under a single centralized unit.

Secondly, the establishment of a new National Curriculum Framework (NCF), that would incorporate necessary syllabus changes, with the objective of promoting creativity and curiosity amongst students, whilst establishing alternate forms of teaching.

Thirdly, specific focus on developing the infrastructure of schools so as to enable them to teach subjects such as Robotics and Astronomy that are the scientific frontiers of the new age economy. With this there will also be increased focus on improving the quality of learning, supplemented by innovative teaching methods.

And fourthly, making intrinsic changes in grade structures by moving from the traditional 10+2+3 system to a new 5+3+3+4 format. This will change the very definitions of primary and secondary education in India as well as the objectives of the schooling system. The new grade system will also challenge the infrastructure of several educational institutions in India and furthermore call into question the Qualifications provided by these institutions. The NEP also proposes to remove internal exams until the Second Grade and to introduce semesters in Grade 12. Parallely, a new Student Evaluation Assessment Scheme will be introduced to evaluate students on the basis of their growth, understanding and learning.

**Key Changes**

Some of the biggest changes made in the NEP as regards higher education are:

- A single regulator for higher education institutions. Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.

- Multiple entry and exit options in degree courses. Under the NEP, there will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences,
between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams. Students can select subjects of their liking across the streams. Vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade, and will include internships.

- Undergraduate degree will be of either 3 or 4-year duration with multiple exit options within this period. College will be mandated to give certificate after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, a diploma after 2 years of study, or a Bachelor’s degree after a 3-year program and an Honours degree if the 4th year is completed.

The government will also establish an Academic Bank of Credit for digitally storing academic credits earned so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.

- Discontinuation of MPhil programs. This is in the context of UGC’s decision to make PhD mandatory for recruitment of teaching faculty. This has made the MPhil course meaningless. The need to do away with it has further gained ground because of the proposed change to the 4-year undergraduate program which will also have a research focus. It is expected that students can now apply directly for the PhD program after their 4 year undergraduate degree.

- Common entrance exams for universities. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has declared that a common entrance test called the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will determine admission to 45 central universities across the nation. Board exams will play no role, though universities can use board results as an eligibility criterion for the test. Beyond that, admission will depend solely on performance in the common entrance test. The scope of the test will encompass language, the subjects of specialization, general knowledge and reasoning.

As far as School education is concerned the proposed changes include:

- Schooling will start at the age of 3 years now. The New Education Policy expands age group 6-14 years of mandatory schooling to 3-18 years of schooling. The 5+3+3+4 curricular structure will correspond to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.

- The NEP puts focus on students’ mother tongue as the medium of instruction even as it sticks to the Three Language Formula but it hastens to add that no language would be imposed on anyone. The NEP only recommends the mother tongue as medium of instruction, and does not make it compulsory. The policy states that “Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be in the home language, mother tongue, local language or the regional language. Thereafter, the home or local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. This will be followed by both public and private schools.”

- All schools will have computer labs, smart classrooms, e-libraries and virtual labs. In addition, coding will be taught from Grade 6. The government also proposes to develop high quality e-resources for the teacher.

- The choice of subjects in grades 11 and 12 will not be restricted to streams such as Arts, Science and Commerce and students will get flexibility to choose. Students in grade 11 and 12 would need to study two languages; at least one language must be Indian. Board exams will be conducted twice a year and students will be allowed to retain best score.

- Focus on vocational training from an early age. Students from Grade 6 will be allowed to intern at local workshops and also enroll for arts and crafts classes.

So what can we expect from the NEP?

While the NEP promises to revolutionize Indian Education, what does this truly mean for the thousands of students undergoing change? If the aforementioned changes are implemented with commitment and consistency, we could witness a significant reform in the way the younger generation perceives and experiences education.
The policy offers flexible learning pathways, allowing students to choose subjects based on their interests and career aspirations. This promotes personalized learning, enabling students to explore their passions and develop expertise in their chosen fields. The NEP also aims to reduce the curriculum burden on students by emphasizing core concepts and essential learning outcomes. This allows for a deeper understanding of subjects and encourages a more comprehensive learning experience.

The NEP emphasizes skill development, equipping students with 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, and digital literacy. This enhances their employability and prepares them for future challenges.

The policy also envisages empowering teachers to become facilitators of learning rather than just information providers. Teachers will be expected to guide students through their learning journey, foster critical thinking, and nurture students’ interests and talents.

Though the initial implementation of the NEP will bring about a great deal of work, with the enforcement of new policies and budgets, a proper implementation is expected to bring the Indian Education System in line with the best systems across the world.

**Criticism of the NEP**

Not everybody is enamoured by the New National Education Policy. As mentioned earlier in this article, states resent the interference of the center in the Education sector as they perceive this as an attempt to curtail their powers under the constitution. When the political ideology of the state and the center differ there is a further suspicion that the center is trying to push its own ideology down the throats of the ideologically differing states. Apart from this, groups from both sides of the ideological spectrum either find the prescriptions in the new policy too much or too little. Aside from this obvious opposition to the policy let us also look at the criticism from a few educators and neutral observers.

The NEP’s absence of a detailed implementation strategy is one of its biggest flaws. The policy has several challenging aims and objectives, but it doesn’t offer a clear plan for how they will be accomplished. Teachers are unsure about how to apply the NEP in their classes and schools as a result of the lack of clarity, which has left them perplexed and uncertain.

The NEP’s failure to effectively handle the financial issue is another flaw in it. The strategy calls for large investments in the educational system, including the building of new schools, hiring more teachers, and implementing cutting-edge technology and instructional strategies. Many schools and teachers are left straining to make ends meet because the NEP does not outline any specific plans for how these investments will be paid for.

One of the primary concerns with the policy is the potential increase in pressure and competition among students. NEP emphasizes the importance of standardized examinations and encourages board exams at multiple levels, starting from the early years. This approach may lead to an excessive focus on grades and performance, compromising the overall development and well-being of students.

The NEP is criticized for emphasizing standardized entrance tests as well. A common entrance exam for higher education is to be implemented. Many educators, however, contend that this initiative does little to advance learning and might even deter both students and teachers from taking chances and experimenting with novel ideas.

The new policy proposes a shift towards a multidisciplinary approach, which aims to provide students with a broad range of subjects. However, this might inadvertently limit their options. With an increased emphasis on vocational education and skill development, subjects like arts, humanities, and social sciences may receive less
attention. This narrow focus could hinder the overall intellectual and creative growth of students.

The new education policy places significant emphasis on digital education and e-learning platforms. While this can enhance access to education, it also exposes the digital divide prevalent in our society. Not all students have equal access to digital devices, internet connectivity, or resources required for online learning. This imbalance may further marginalize students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, exacerbating educational inequalities.

The policy’s emphasis on the significance of ensuring equitable access to education raises another issue because it does not sufficiently describe how this would be accomplished. There are now worries that the NEP won’t effectively meet the requirements of underprivileged pupils, including those from rural areas, low-income families, and minority groups. Therefore, the New Education Policy has several flaws that have been pointed out by educators, decision-makers, and other stakeholders. These issues include the need for a detailed implementation strategy, insufficient resources, a focus on standardized testing, and a disregard for the needs of underserved populations.

Political Blowback

Political blowback on the New National Educational Policy was always expected. The NEP was perceived as a pet project of the BJP government at the Center and the non-BJP governments at the state level were ready with their opposition.

Three years since the release of the National Education Policy the implementation status is mixed. Some states have adopted the policy wholly and some have picked specific parts of it for application. The pushback to the policy has come mainly from Opposition-ruled states, with Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu either delaying implementation or refusing to adopt the policy altogether. It must be noted that since Education is on the

STUDENTS CAN ATTEMPT THREE ANNUAL EXAMS

In a major reform, the Karnataka Government through the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has announced that the current system of Supplementary Exams would be scrapped and in its place three Annual Examinations would be introduced for Class X and Class XII.

Currently, students who have passed the Annual Examination but are not satisfied with their marks in a particular subject can reject the marks obtained in that subject and sit for a Supplementary Exam in the same subject (one supplementary in the case of Class X and two supplementary in the case of Class XII). However, only the marks obtained in the Supplementary Exam is being taken as the final score. This has led to dissatisfaction among students as they are not allowed to retain their “best score” for a subject.

Under the new system, it will be compulsory for regular students to appear for the 1st Annual Exam and thereafter, if they are dissatisfied with their score, they can appear for the 2nd and 3rd Annual Exams. The students will be allowed to retain their best scores and the marks card will not mention in which exam they obtained their final score.

The new system is expected to reduce stress and anxiety for the student as some consider it an ignominy to have passed in a supplementary exam. The KSEAB has promised to maintain uniformity in content and difficulty level through all the three exams. A bridge course is also planned for students who are delayed in joining the next class due to the process of taking more than one exam.

This reform of the examination system is not without criticism. Niranjan Aradhya, Educationist, says “Conducting more number of exams will not help students. We need to enable them to learn more through comprehensive and continuous learning methods.” He said the student-teacher ratio which is nearly 1:75 in some schools could have been looked at instead. Sashi Kumar D, General Secretary, Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) wondered how with only a 15-20 day gap between the exams, the students would improve their performance which they couldn’t do for the entire year. He added that two annual exams could have been a better policy.

The key task, however, will be execution. It is expected that the KSEAB would find it very tedious to conduct three exams and reevaluation within a small time frame. It would certainly need meticulous planning between KSEAB and higher institutions.
concurrent list, states remain free to accept or reject the policy.

Karnataka had been the first state to announce implementation of the policy after it was announced under the earlier BJP dispensation. And in August, the state became the first to repeal the policy under the current Congress regime. Karnataka CM Mr Siddaramiah announced that since he would not wish to disrupt the studies of those who are already under the NEP system, the policy would be discontinued from the next academic year. This coincided with the release of the revised draft of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) by the Union Education Minister Mr Dharmendra Pradhan. This document will serve as a guide for designing textbooks for classes 3 to 12 to be published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). These textbooks are expected to be introduced by the 2024-’25 academic session. The Karnataka government has decided to introduce its own Karnataka Education Policy from the next academic year.

The decision of the Karnataka government to repeal the NEP has not gone down well with the Center, with Union Education Minister criticizing the decision and urging the state not to indulge in “politics over the NEP”. The minister claimed that the NEP was envisioned by the educationists of this country and was not a political document but a philosophical document for the 21st century.

Meanwhile Kerala, too, is yet to adopt the provisions of the policy. In August, the state released supplementary textbooks that cover the portions deleted from the NCERT textbooks. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the deleted sections should not have been removed and that the updated textbooks will “endanger our secular thinking and fraternal society.” In August 2022, the Kerala State Curriculum Committee for Higher Education released a circular piloting a four-year undergraduate program with a single-exit option after three years in Kerala universities. The committee noted that its provisions are not the same as in the NEP, which provides for multiple entry-exit options.

Tamil Nadu is another state resisting the policy. The state government in 2021 refused to accept it, with the ruling DMK writing to the Union Ministry of Education with its reservations. The DMK asked the BJP to “concentrate in the states where they ruled to improve the literacy rate”. The DMK accused the Central Government of trying to dictate policy to states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu with higher literacy rates and development. It said such a policy will erase the importance of culture, language, linguistics and traditional diversities.

As for the remaining Opposition-ruled states and Union Territories, Delhi, Bihar, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have either adopted the policy in parts or decided to postpone the implementation process. Telangana, for instance, hasn’t denounced the policy but has yet to begin implementing it. West Bengal has asked state universities to offer four-year undergraduate programs starting with the upcoming academic session this year, following a partial adoption of the NEP. The state, however, announced its own education policy soon afterwards, making it clear that it was not going to adopt the national policy in full. Only the BJP ruled states have started implementing the NEP in earnest.

Although the policy has many worthwhile concepts and objectives, it will need careful implementation and considerable investment to get past obstacles and realize its full potential. Some schools have criticized the NEP for its focus on standardized testing, lack of assistance for underprivileged pupils, and difficulties with feasibility and implementation. The program aspires to enhance the educational system and give all students access to a high-quality education, but it may need several revisions to give the desired results.

By SENNA
SEP vs NEP

Deafening Silence of Public is Disturbing

It’s the time for NGOs in educational sector to express their views. Why are they quiet? Even when NEP was unveiled, there were far more criticism - mostly from politicians and affected vested interests - than accolades, writes By Bhamy V. Shenoy

It is very unfortunate that when our education sector in Karnataka needs million mutinies to pull it out of ICU, attention is directed to find fault with a professionally developed progressive New Education Policy. This is like cutting the nose to spite the face.

What is even more disturbing is deafening silence on the part of the public. Even here the educationists (significantly current and retired Vice Chancellors), professional bodies representing teachers’ community, NGOs in education sector and management of private educational institutions are most part quiet.

It is shocking to learn that current VCs being state employees do not have the freedom to express their views publicly. If the heads of the universities do not have freedom of speech, are they then the glorified coaching institutions? Still I would have expected some daring, concerned and competent VCs to express their views freely. There is absolutely no reason for the management of private educational institutions not to protest when most of them had gladly accepted NEP.

There are hundreds of NGOs in educational sector. Now is the time for them to express their views. Why are they quiet? Even when NEP was unveiled, there were far more criticism - mostly from politicians and affected vested interests - than accolades. The way they were critiquing NEP, it was clear that most had not even read it. Also they were not familiar with the ground realities of dismal state of education sector. It is no different today.

If NEP is implemented even partially, it will usher in a new era in India’s education sector. There will be no fear of one examination deciding the destiny of the student. Going to school will be enjoyable and not boring like today. Students will have far more flexibility to select courses. Rote learning will be replaced by creative thinking. Minimum bureaucracy, less regulation and less scope for corruption.

One of the biggest problems of the current system is over emphasis on examinations. Still on the pretext of giving a better education policy, there is a proposal to conduct three board examinations. NEP is actually getting rid of the current dreadful colonial system of SSLC and PUC exams. The kind of evaluation recommended in NEP is considerably less stressful semester based exams where students will not be withheld for not getting passing marks.

Let us look at often mentioned criticism of NEP to be replaced by SEP. States are not consulted, goes against the constitution and leads to centralization. Hundreds of meetings were organized by the nine member committee of experts headed by former ISRO Chairman Dr. Kasturirangan. After the draft NEP was published, committee studied 2.5 lakh feedback. NEP gives a lot of flexibility just not to the state, but even to educational institutions and students. Enough has been written refuting these often ideologically driven criticisms. NEP does not give enough support to teaching in local language, promotes Hindi, it will lead to Sanskritization, students belonging to OBC/SC/ST will be hurt, promotes Hindutva, etc. These are again totally baseless charges.

NEP encourages teaching in mother
tongue. Since children have tremendous ability to learn several languages, it encourages to teach two more languages and choice is left to each school. No priority has been given to Hindi and in fact more emphasis is placed to teach India’s classical languages like Sanskrit, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, etc.

It is ironical and outright shameful to argue that OBC/SC/ST students will be hurt by NEP. On the other hand these are the students who will benefit the most as a result of transformative change of the public sector schools. As an advisor working closely with Pratham, I had visited hundreds of government schools in different parts of India and it pains me to see how poorly they are managed today. Where were these critics all these years?

I wonder how many of these critics have visited government schools, where there are no libraries, no lab facilities, no playground, no toilets, no drinking water, etc, and where teachers take classes for several grades if and when they come to schools. The report has recommended school complexes where, if needed, students will be bused, and where all facilities will be provided. They will be even better than most private schools. Early childhood education gets the highest priority. This is influenced by the fact that over 85% of cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of six. The anganwadis are strengthened either as part of the school complex, where possible, or by building high-quality standalone pre-schools. States will prepare a cadre of professional educators unlike today’s caretakers, with little or no training to impart pre-schooling.

Of course there are some outstanding government schools. But most are below standards as shown repeatedly by several reports where close to 50% are unable to read or do maths at second grade level. Replacing the current 5+3+2+2 school system by 5+3+3+4 semester-based system, to prioritize pre-schooling from three years of age in fully-equipped schools, developing a scientific temper, an aesthetic sense, communication, ethical reasoning, digital literacy, knowledge of India, and knowledge of critical issues affecting the local community and the world will bring about transformative change in LKG to PU.

One of the outstanding features (there are many) is shutting down all dysfunctional, corrupt and standalone teaching schools to be replaced by four-year degree colleges which are associated with universities or autonomous colleges to provide multi-disciplinary training. Government should allocate at least 6% of GDP for education sector, currently at 3%. The NEP should have discussed the key success factors for its implementation. One such factor is honest, competent, dedicated teachers and managers at all levels which though discussed could have been pointed out as critical success factor. All “Stages” will heavily incorporate Indian and local traditions, as well as ethical reasoning, socio-emotional learning, quantitative and logical reasoning, computational thinking and digital literacy, scientific temper, languages, and communication skills.

Because of several outstanding recommendations in NEP to transform current education to world class level, even Kerala- a non BJP ruled state like Karnataka has adapted 95% of NEP. It is my hope that the new committee of experts to be formed by the ruling Congress Party will also follow Kerala model. It was in implementation, the previous BJP government failed miserably. In a hurry to implement NEP, a sound implementation plan was not developed. No visionary changes however outstanding will be less than optimal if not implemented properly.

While BJP government was enthusiastic to implement NEP, there was no matching announcement about steps to be taken to allocate 6% of the state GDP to education sector. Now with the implementation of four of the five guarantees, Congress government will find it even more daunting task to allocate needed resources for education sector.

It is encouraging to learn from the Higher Education Minister, M. C. Sudhakar that the new committee will accept what is good in NEP. More than likely the new committee will spend far more time in developing a sound implementation plan without reinventing a new SEP to replace NEP. If not it will be like cutting the nose to spite the face. Let us follow Sarvajna’s wise saying that we should not hesitate to learn from those who know more.

Dr. Bhamy V. Shenoy, an IITM graduate has MS from Illinois Institute of Technology, Ph.D from University of Houston, attended Executive Program in Business Administration at Columbia University, Energy Program at Stanford University, interacted with students in several college and high school students in different states of India and abroad, and an advisor to Pratham Mysuru.
Subscribe
The only English monthly of DK & Udupi

Rs. 150/- per year

YES I would like to subscribe to MANGALORE TODAY. Please post it to me at the following address.

Name: ..................................................................
Address: ..................................................................
...................................................................................
State: ...........................................................................
Country: .......................................................................

PINCODE: □□□□□□

Mail the form to: The Circulation Manager, MANGALORE TODAY
26/27 Venkataramana Bldg., Car Street, MANGALORE - 575 001.

Subscription for any country other than India:
Rs. 900/- including postage for 12 issues
SUDDEN TRANSFERS OCCUR routinely in any bureaucracy, and governments take shelter under an innocuous term called “Administrative reasons”. A ‘routine transfer’ happens annually, as also promotion transfers, compassionate transfers for medical reasons, and request transfer. But, unusual transfers, have different shades, like Punishment transfer, transfer without posting, and compulsory transfer. When an officer gets abruptly transferred for no apparent reason whatsoever, it results in an incomplete tenure, leaving the officer disenchanted and even humiliated.

Mangalore city just witnessed the abrupt transfer of a dynamic City Police Commissioner Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Jain, who was on a crusade against the drug-mafia.

The drug mafia is fairly well entrenched in Karnataka, with deep roots spread across the political spectrum, bureaucracy, traders, peddlers, film stars, fashion models and students. A single man out to combat this lobby is on a Mission Impossible. The drug trade is protected culturally and politically throughout the world, and it depends heavily on state cooperation and compliance to sustain thousands of crores of rupees financial levels of illicit State and national commerce. Wealthy business magnates, their political and bureaucratic collaborators operate outside accountable political processes and legal networks to forge creation of financial empires with links in money laundering havens. It is widely accepted that drug trafficking organizations have considerable cash reserves at their disposal. With the advent of tighter banking controls, drug traffickers face increasing difficulty in laundering those funds for use in the legitimate economy, particularly in traditional money-laundering “safe havens” like real estate, sham import-export businesses and entertainment industry. It is thus significant that in reforming economies, governments have sought to achieve stability by reducing money supply growth and reining in public expenditures; as a result, politicians, corrupt bureaucrats, shady industrialists, traders have difficulty in maintaining financial flows. Together, liquidity from the drug trade and reform-induced austerity go far in explaining the reluctance of politicians to connive at the growing drug menace.

Illicit retail drug transactions motivate criminal organizations to expand lending operations in reforming economies by directly lending hard currency to domestic borrowers, without going through the formal banking system. As financial authorities develop and enforce money laundering laws, this direct-lending option will become increasingly attractive to criminal organizations. Drug money could in this light be perceived as a potentially stabilizing force, a source of capital without the strings of conditionality attached, and drug money flows along hidden channels far beyond government control. Politicians use shell companies and family or business contacts acting as proxies to hide their illegal assets, as also use complex transnational mechanisms to move, store, and trade their wealth abroad. The single largest marketplace for illegal drugs continues to be the student population. Students, whether in Karnataka, Kerala, or in educational hubs in Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi, still think nothing about occasionally buying a gram of cocaine, a few hits of ecstasy or a quarter ounce of weed to party with their friends on the weekends. A hard core group having more serious drug habits, and casual users, spend several crores on drugs. All these drug sales mean that large amounts of cash accumulate in secret houses and collection points at numerous secret locations, guarded by goondas and hooligans. The traffickers, and the peddlers, who are at the operational field level, have set up a chain of bakeries, fast-food non-vegetarian eating joints, medical shops, nurseries, mobile phone shops, trade in vegetables, flowers, fruits, fish and a battery of food delivery staff to facilitate smooth supply of drugs to...
suppliers and consumers. Entire stretches of National Highways are lined up with these kinds of shady joints that trade only in cash, to facilitate easy manipulation of accounts and tax avoidance. In such a complicated scenario, all that can be done is to pick up some drug addict students, small time peddler, and boast of drug bust! Politicians and higher echelons of the bureaucracy do not mind this kind of image boosting exercises for public consumption, some photo-ops, vain boasts, might even fetch a medal on Republic Day or Independence Day! Khaki uniforms, stars and Ashok Chakras, cannot transgress beyond this point. He will be replaced in no time. Transfer and postings are dual weapons that the political class can use without any compunction or accountability, using terms like “administrative reasons”, and “Public interest”. No Court or Tribunal will interfere.

But why speak of officers, they are just small fry? Take the case of even a Chief Minister who started a war on drugs in Manipur. He discovered that in no time he was battling not just a drug war but it had become a hydra-headed monster, of deadly instigated tribal conflicts, religious wars, stage managed stripping of women, rapes, parading by naked women, organized fake protests and dharnas across the country by religious groups, assorted NGOs, and politicians of all hues and colours. The drug lobby had paraded its financial clout and muscle power to bring even a State government to its knees.

The Lone Ranger officer who ventures out to cleanse the system, fights a solo battle, alone on the frontlines, abandoned by crafty superiors, sulking subordinates, and smirking colleagues. As the former City Police Commissioner exits the only consolation is, ironically in the words of the Dread Pirate Roberts, founder of the underground drug market - Silk Road, “I know this whole market is based on the trust you put in me and I don’t take that lightly. It’s an honour to serve you and though you don’t know who I am, and have no recourse if I were to betray you, I hope that as time goes on I will have more opportunities to demonstrate that my intentions are genuine and no amount of money could buy my integrity.”

Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon IRS (Rtd), Ph.D. (Narcotics) is former director general of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics.
INLAND
ASCOTT
A mark of status
Near Bondel Church,
Airport Road, Mangalore

A Building of
Global Standards

2BHK
1265, 1320, 1380 sq.ft.

3BHK
1640, 1690, 1810 sq.ft.

4BHK
3555 sq.ft.

Premium
Residential and
Commercial Spaces
with all modern
Amenities

IN-LAND®
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.
“Inland Ormate”, 3rd Floor, Navbharath Circle, Mangaluru - 575 003.
E-mail: info@inlandbuilders.net Web: www.inlandbuilders.net

Bengaluru Office: "PSR Marvel", 2nd Floor, Bellary Road, Near Baptist Hospital, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024. Mob: 98801 45145

For Special Offers please contact
+91 99720 89099 | +91 99720 14055
B. K. DEVA RAO, A DIVERSE paddy cultivator and ardent conservationist from Mittabagilu village near Ujire in Dakshina Kannada district is 79 years old. But, his age has never come in his way as far as his undiminished love for the paddy crops is concerned. Even at this ripe age when many would be all the more happy to lead a leisurely life, Rao works hard every hour and every day, thanks to his great interest in conserving different varieties of paddy.

Rao has contributed significantly in preserving 240 varieties of rice including 117 traditional varieties from Karnataka, 25 from Kerala, 15 from West Bengal, five from Tamil Nadu, 10 aromatic rice from Maharashtra and two from Andhra Pradesh. He has also conserved one variety of rice each from Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Manipur, Jharkand, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

In his five acres of land in his Mittabagilu village, Rao grows paddy varieties including Kuttikayame, Ubaramunda, Kariyajebi, Sanna Atikaraya, Kayame, Atikaraya, Suggikayame, Masoori, Rajakayame, Jeersaale, Gandhasaale, Kalame, Peetsaale, Hallinga and Kavalakannu.

His efforts in conserving plant genetic resources has earned him the coveted Plant Genome Saviour Farmers Reward 2020-21 which he received from President Draupadi Murmu in New Delhi recently on the occasion of the first global symposium on farmers’ rights (GSFR) at the ICAR Convention Centre, National Agricultural Science Centre.

The Award given by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority (PPVFR) carried a cash prize of ₹1.5 lakh, a citation, and a memento. The Award was instituted to support and reward farmers and farming communities engaged in conservation and improvement of plant genetic resources.

Rao also is working significantly towards conserving 50 varieties of jackfruit, six varieties of arecanut, four varieties of black pepper, five varieties of nutmeg, six cassava, 25 varieties of Indian yam and 100 medicinal plants.

Rao through his phenomenal efforts has also contributed towards the growth of agriculture. He has shared as many as 30 varieties of rice that he grows, with the Zonal Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, Brahmavar in Udupi district and Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural Sciences, Shivamogga.

Rao used to grow as many as 40 varieties of paddy till 1970 and was also using chemical fertilizers but later shifted to organic farming after he observed the impact of chemical fertilizers and how it had hardened the soil. Rao is so passionate towards paddy cultivation that profit is certainly not in his mind. However if someone turns up and asks, then he willingly sells the rice he grows. He uses his own machines to turn the paddy into rice.

Most of the paddy varieties that Rao cultivates are indigenous. Rao is also a winner of the Rajyotsava Award. His undiminished interest in paddy cultivation, his zeal to conserve different varieties of paddy and his contributions to the agricultural sector are indeed very much significant and Rao is an inspiration to the present day farmers.
Looking through my Balcony

Early morning looking from balcony
I see little children going to school
Laughing, chatting, sometimes in quarrel,
In their colourful Uniforms,
That takes me back to sixty years
When we too went to school
In the same way,
Except for the school uniforms.

Early morning looking from balcony
I see people going for their morning walks,
Young people in their jogging mood,
Health consciousness is awakening people.

Early morning looking from balcony
I see people rushing out for their work
By walking to bus stop or rikshaw stand,
But more people in their own vehicles, scooters or cars,
Just as we did in our times.
Difference is that now more ladies are in the rush
Playing dual roles of working women and housewives,
In search of a better Life for their families.

Time is rolling, but players are different,
Goals, differ in tune with changing times,
That’s the message of time, change,
Evolution is the rule of the creation
But don’t forget your basics, roots.

Musings of Group-18

We are of group eighteen
Six are we in numbers
Mendeleev showed this Throne
And named us majestically
Noble Gases seating us
In this high pedestal.

We are noble, untouchable
None of our family of
Ninety four touch us
Nor can we mingle with them.

Our brothers and sisters are
Friendly with each other
And multiply into millions
To make this world more
Sustainable to live.
We remained Noble in name
But not in deed
Thou humans don’t be
Noble like us
Be like our brothers and sisters
And make this Earth beautiful
Be Noble Indeed

Poems by

Surathkal Srinivas Kamath is a regular contributor to Mangalore Today

MANGALORE TODAY CROSSWORD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACROSS
1. Cheeky (8)
2. Timber (6)
3. Clothing (6)
4. Body powder (4)
5. Rooster (4)
6. Solid Mineral (3)
7. Everlasting (8)
8. Solid element (5)
9. Declamation (7)
10. Exotic flower (6)
11. Constructed (4)
12. Delete (5)
13. Bowl-shaped hollow (6)
14. Street (4)
15. Messenger of gods (7)
16. Arctic mammal (6)
17. Tethering rope (6)
18. Solid mineral (3)
19. Coal mine (3)
20. Rotate (4)
21. Period of time (3)
22. Mass departure (6)
23. Hospital ward (7)
24. Artistic abode (4)
25. Be present (6)
26. Blaring (4)
27. Artistic abode (4)
28. Artistic abode (4)
29. Angie (3)
30. Miscarriage (8)
31. Narrow valley (4)
32. Largest animal (8)
33. Largest animal (8)

Solutions on page no. 42
BOOK INSIGHTS

‘Pride of Kanara; True Son of India’

Fr Jerome D’Souza SJ’ was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and was known as one of the architects of the Indian Constitution. The book is authored by Edmund Frank, dean PGDM, St Aloysius College.

INSPIRING PERSONALITIES HAVE brought rare developments to India, one of significance are the Kanara stalwarts. A Jesuit Priest, Champion of rights, Scholar, intellectual and litterateur Rev. Fr. Jerome D’Souza SJ (1897-1977), a book titled “Pride of Kanara; True Son of India, Fr.Jerome D’Souza SJ” a simple, interesting, easily readable book; released on 7 August, 2023 at St.Aloysius College, Mangalore by the Bishop of Mangalore Rev Dr. Peter Paul Saldanha, is here highlighted. Author Prof Dr. Edmund J B Frank, is a renowned person of Kanara.

The Personality & Rare Information:

Fr Jerome D’Souza was born on 6 August 1897, his parents Sabastian and Seraphina D’Souza lived in Mulki, a seaside town on the banks of river Shambhavi now in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. After his primary education in Mulki, he was at Aloysius High school in Mangalore along with his elder brother Boniface, all the five D’Souza siblings served the church. The good performance got him a place in St Aloysius College where he did first year Intermediate. Unforeseen reasons made him join St Joseph’s College in Trichy which was run by the Jesuits, his extended family was connected there. Jerome completed his BA Hons. in English Literature from Presidency College Madras and worked as Lecturer in English at Tiruchi. Impressed with the work of the Jesuits among the poor Tamilian families (like that of Martyr Fr.Stan Swamy) he joined the Society of Jesus Novitiate at the Sacred Heart college, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal in 1921. In 1928, he was sent to Belgium for his Theology studies and was ordained a Jesuit priest at Enghien, Belgium on 30 August 1931. Fr Jerome did Theology and Tertianship at Amiens in France, where he mastered French. Fr Jerome returned to India in 1933 and was called to re-join the English faculty as Professor at St Joseph’s College in Trichy. In 1935 he was appointed the first Indian Principal of the College. This was when
he made a mark in public life and got acquainted with C Rajagopalachari and Jawahar Lal Nehru. In 1938 he was appointed the first Indian Rector. When World War II broke out in 1939. One aspect of note for long there was a tug of war between the Vatican and the Jesuit General on appointing him ‘Archbishop’, but the Jesuits wanted him and blocked the efforts of the Vatican repeatedly. Fr Jerome who was recognised as a great orator was appointed to the District War Committee and as a member of the Advisory Board of All India Radio. He was invited to speak at public places to motivate the people and keep the morale high.

In 1942 he was transferred to Madras/Chennai as Rector and Principal of Loyola College. He was soon appointed to the Syndicate of Madras University and after obtaining the permission from his religious Superiors was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly in March 1946; elected member of the Constituent Assembly the same year as Christian representative. On 19 December 1946 Fr Jerome made his first entry into the Constituent Assembly as the only Catholic Priest. He fought for Minority Rights and Fundamental Rights and distinguished himself as a prominent member in the Assembly. Fr Jerome D’Souza SJ is rightly called one of the architects of the Indian Constitution. He played a major role in the debates on Minority Rights and Fundamental Rights. He is a signatory to the original copy of the Constitution of India. Fr Jerome was the member of the first Interim Parliament until 1952, when the first elected parliament of India came into being.

Author Prof. Edmund Frank narrates that he knew Fr Jerome during his Post Graduate studies at Loyola College, Madras from 1971 to 1973. Fr Jerome during discussions often elaborated his experiences in the Constituent Assembly and at the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation (1949 to 1957) and anecdotes of his life. Quoting former Prime Minister Morarjee Desai he said that Fr Jerome was a veteran educationist and strived to create an atmosphere for national integration to enable the minorities to join the mainstream of national life. Rightly so, the Government of India honoured Fr Jerome posthumously by issuing a commemorative postage stamp, in his honour for his Birth Centenary, 18 December 1997. This book gives the reader an exclusive knowledge of the great personality. It is time that the Govt of India suitably recognizes and decorates this tall contributor to the essence of India that is unmatched.

Insights & Views:

Kanara claims pride that many outstanding personalities have originated from this fertile land. Yes, it is true, most have served other regions of the world in exclusive ways and gained invaluable repute. Fr. Jerome D; Souza SJ is a name that may be heard occasionally in these modern confused times, few now know / remember his stature and contributions. In the life of this august Indian Christian the intrinsic light is blinding, his contribution to the establishment of early India, 77 plus years ago has much light at the end of the tunnel - as a religious and Kanarite, his magnanimous services made him a ‘nobody’s child’ and little has been seen and heard of him in the modern media.
Early this year a prominent Don of Aloysius College, Mangalore, Prof Edmund J B Frank, who has gained the reputation of a renowned author / writer with several noteworthy books was motivated to hurriedly publish this essential book. Researched books have shortcomings, but the author’s time consuming dedication and efforts must be seen and appreciated. The ‘punyabhoomi ’, promised land for this great 'Pride of Kanara', were the Tamil cities of Trichy and Madras of the 1940s. It could strike many of us that the people of Kanara who made it big are often from very humble communities, it is they that shone like the stars in other lands, but who were ignored or even banished by the pseudo elite of Mangalore. Like the biblical word that says "the stone that the builders’ rejected has become the corner stone". One quality in the Konkani Catholic ethos perhaps that is strange, that refuses to recognise all, but only the few who foot their bill. A peculiar psyche in the subtle mental makeup of the Kanara Konkani’s have controversies in-built, a form of masked ego and jealousy giving them the reputation of "Crabs in a basket'. There is a common unseen discriminatory methodology (like a carry-over of the inquisition times), that torments and precludes best and superior qualities from emerging and surfacing that causes great losses to Kanara and India (When promising gifted folk are forced to seek pastures overseas - a drain of talents). Wealth and influence in the community, with a Western culture, in the past too were a great catalyst to recognition and acceptance in a strange way. Look at the fact that India has pioneered the moon now ingeniously with simple folk.

Greater gains: Fr.Jerome D'Souza SJ’s aplomb, and consequent early rejection by the Mangalore Jesuits forced his personal sojourn and development in Trichy and Madras regions, in the last few decades this tall brilliant Jesuit priest has gone unsung, no national honors have been demanded or showered for his great services to India. The unsuspecting humble young Jerome D’Souza from a simple village background of Mulky, was practically hounded and belittled making him to seek solace in Tamil land of Trichy, where his extended family gave him shelter and education in his Intermediate and Graduate days, before he had any idea of being a Jesuit. Surely people who have faced this rejection and know the truth will understand. The reverse also exists for those from other lands who have in a larger sense gained acceptance and renown in Kanara. One strange aspect that also holds back Konkani ethos is an unknown unwritten factor that Konkani media, literature, dramas, movies et al is promoted, only in Konkani (with lipi too a part), and many works in English and other languages that laud Konkani are ignored, shunned as of no consequence, never recognised, even though it is they that reach the unreached majority. Mainstream Konkani Superiors(inclusive of the Kanara Church, a main actor) rarely recognise and promotes English media whose impact is greater and so on, versus Konkani mainstream; who are generally, little aware of the value English publication generates world over, lipi excluded, to play a big role in the recognition of Konkani. A subtle barrier to accepting English is clear, a prejudiced mindset that needs a good look.

Hopefully, this new humble book (which may not be fitting enough) and set to be translated into Konkani, Kannada and Tamil, will bring the right honour to this giant of a personality for his services to the Nation. May it enlighten many Indian diasporas across the world to recognise and understand the true great intellectual human that Fr.Jerome really was. As long as we do not consider our fellowmen and neighbours as equals - we cannot be really great humans.

By I J SALDANHA SHET
Welcome to

www.mangaloretoday.com
Updated every hour. Every day.
DC directs officials to create awareness on Dengue, Nipah virus

Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan has directed the authorities to create awareness among the people on Dengue, Nipah virus and such other contagious diseases. He was addressing a meeting held at his office recently to discuss measures to check the spread of diseases.

He said there was no need for any fear of Nipah virus but people must be cautious if bats are found in the vicinity of their houses. Fruits which are bitten by birds should not be consumed and all fruits must be thoroughly cleaned before consumption. In case of fever there should not be any neglect and proper treatment must be availed, he said.

He directed all government hospitals and primary health centres to have separate wards ready. ZP CEO Dr Anand K, Additional DC Dr Santosh Kumar, MCC Commissioner Anand C L, District Surgeon and Wenlock Hospital Superintendent Dr Sadashiv Shanbogh, Lady Goschen Hospital Superintendent Dr Durgaprasad and others were present.

B V Kakkilaya Inspired Oration
Names of 132 martyrs of first freedom struggle of 1857 unveiled

A plaque unveiling the names of 132 martyrs from Karnataka who laid down their lives during the four rebellions that took place in the course of the nation’s first freedom struggle in 1857, was unveiled at the University College premises recently on the occasion of the B V Kakkilaya Inspired Oration at the college auditorium. The plaques were unveiled by Dr Shamsul Islam, a former professor of Delhi university and a prominent researcher and author.

The plaque unveils the list of freedom fighters from the Naragunda rebellion, Koppala Fort struggle of 1858, Halagali Bedas rebellion and Surapur Rebellion. The names of these martyrs were compiled by Dr. Islam from the 'Dictionary of Martyrs: India’s Freedom Struggle 1857-1947.'

Speaking on the occasion, Shamsul Islam said paying tributes to martyrs was akin to honouring Mother India. When we fail to acknowledge and discuss the sacrifices of martyrs, it only sends a wrong message, he added.

It may be recalled here that the ABVP activists had staged a protest against the participation of Dr Shamsul Islam in the programme.

Reacting to the protestors, Dr Shamsul Islam said hundreds of people have been martyred during the freedom struggle, but the sacrifice of many martyrs have been neglected. This has to be understood by everyone, he added.

CAMPCO seeks Minimum Support Price for rubber

CAMPCO has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to extend minimum support price to rubber growers of Karnataka on the lines of a scheme available for rubber growers in the neighbouring state of Kerala. The demand has been put forward in the wake of a steep fall in the price of natural rubber.

CAMPCO President Kishore Kumar Kodgi, in a letter to the Chief Minister has drawn the attention of the latter towards the problems faced by the rubber growers.

He said the price of natural rubber which was Rs 242 in 2011 has reduced to 140 in 2023. “The state has as many as 60,000 rubber growers who are cultivating rubber in around 55,000 hectares of land,” the letter said.

Apart from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, rubber is also grown in Mysuru, Hassan, Chikmagaluru, Shivamogga and Kodagu districts.

No takers for stalls build on Kadri Park Road

As many as 38 stalls constructed along the Kadri Park Road as part of the Kadri Park Road Enhancement Project under the Mangaluru Smart City Limited, has no takers so far. The project was taken up at a cost of Rs 16 crores as part of tourism promotion.

Initially it was decided to hand over all the 38 stalls to a single person under competitive tender process. However only one bidder had expressed interest and later the tender process was suspended temporarily.

Presently Mangaluru Smart City Ltd has decided to amend the tender conditions to attract more bidders. MSCL authorities informed that fresh tenders would be invited soon.
**Nitte Institute of Communication gets Godox Certification**

Nitte Institute of Communication (NICO) has recently received the Godox Certification, which makes it the only Media & Communication Institute in India with this recognition. The Godox Certification reaffirms the Institute’s commitment to providing students with excellent training in media and communication, backed by cutting-edge equipment from Godox.

As part of the certification, Godox will conduct workshops on lighting for students, where they will learn from the Godox Team about latest lighting techniques and practices. The Institute will also be organizing Short Term Courses with Godox.

Besides the Godox partnership, Nitte Institute of Communication also hosts workshops by experts in photography, feature writing, video editing, VFX, and short filmmaking. These workshops give students exposure to real-world challenges and opportunities in the media industry.

---

**MRPL donates buses to two schools for special-needs children**

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has contributed Rs. 45.41 Lakhs to support special education initiatives of two eminent special schools in the coastal region: the Chethana Special School in Karkala, located in Udupi District, and the Spoorthi Special School and Training Centre in Moodbidri, situated in Dakshina Kannada District.

This special contribution was made under MRPL’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program and is aimed at providing for their daily commute to the school. MRPL’s funds have facilitated the procurement of a dedicated vehicle, a Tempo Traveller. Through this gesture, it hopes to ensure that children with special needs continue their education. A total of 165 children will directly benefit from MRPL’s generous support.

---

**‘Tolerance must begin at home’**

Writer and activist Prof. K Phaniraj has stressed the need to spread love which is a most powerful weapon. He also said tolerance is something which should begin at home and then in the society for a harmonious and peaceful co-existence.

He was speaking after inaugurating a symposium “Cells of Love in a Diverse India” organised by St Mother Teresa Vichara Vedike on the occasion of the 26th death anniversary of Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa must be remembered every day of our lives for her humanitarian services which helped in providing succor to those in distress, he said.

Gananath Shetty Yekkar, former state NSS officer said youth must draw inspiration from noble personalities like Mother Teresa, Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi.

K Ashraf, former mayor, Roy Castelino, President of St Mother Teresa Vichara Vedike and others were present on the occasion.
WWhile I have written elsewhere in this issue about how the Hindutva gang uses people like toilet paper and discards them when they are of no use for them, I can recall a number of such cases where the so-called foot soldiers have been used for the nefarious ends, forced into criminal acts and discarded when they become of no further use for them.

I first recall the case of a Bank attender who used to accompany me for some programs and was help too. He is from the fisherman community who are one of the pillars of the Hindutva gang and getting involved in everything from cow politics to moral policing. In areas where they are a dominant group they also have political leadership. This incident happened two decades ago when organized communal riots went out of control. The minority community was under heavy attack but the police moved with a heavy hand and arrested hundreds of people and sent them to jails to faraway Bellary! This bank attender was also one of those and his uncle came to ask me to help his nephew who he said was innocent. The uncle said that the nephew had just gone to make peace and was being framed though he was innocent. The uncle said that the nephew had just gone to make peace and was being framed for that. I got in touch with the Superintendent of police (then Mangalore was not under a commissioner) and requested him to kindly spare this man whose job would be also under stake. He sought all details and promised to get back to me. After a few days he told me that he had made inquiries and had been shown a video in which he was throwing stones at a shop and later on setting it on fire! He asked me whether I would be interested in watching it before seeking such concessions from him! I said not needed and may the law take its own course. A couple of years later when I met this boy, I remembered the case and asked him about it. His reply was none of those who had instigated him lifted a finger to save him and he was under suspension from the bank drawing some allowance. When the case came up for hearing, the very same people whom he attacked and damaged their property refused to identify him and he was acquitted! They did not want to spoil his future, so he got reinstated with arrears of wages etc. Today he refuses to join in this politics of says better mind my own business! While his so-called mentors had betrayed him, the so-called enemies had saved him out of compassion!

Another case I can recall is that of a student leader of four decades back with whom, I was connected as a member of the academic council of the Mangalore where I was elected as a teachers representative in 1985 or so. I was leading an agitation against the irregularities there on a number of issues. At that time ruling party meant the Congress and all our ire was directed against them. Any one who was opposed to them was looked upon as an ally. This leader was in ABVP and we took part in many processions, protests and street battles. Later on the demolition of Babri masjid happened and a rift grew between us and we were in opposite sides. I can also recall that at time when we

The strange case of Chaitra Kundapura

The Chaitra Kundapur case while garnering a lot of attention has also highlighted how the Sangh Parivar makes use of such people to deliver inflammatory speeches for its own advantage and then conveniently keeps distance when trouble brews, writes Prof. Narendra Nayak
decided to organize a human chain to unite all irrespective of religion and caste, this man was at the leadership of a group who were trying to disrupt that. Just last week when we met, we were reminiscing on those days! He realized the folly of associating himself with such outfits several years ago and has turned secular. When people get involved with such, the apparent adulation of the masses, the applause and a sense of megalomania develops among these people. There is also a sense of invincibility brought on by watching people close to them getting away with things like even rape and murder. The so-called caste equations also play a very important role and the family background too. The case of this young woman who has hit the headlines recently is one of such ones. She was known for her fiery speeches attacking the minorities with the choicest of abuses and rabble-rousing rhetoric. Hailing from a non-descript family back ground and economically backward section of the society, she came to the attention of the sangh Parivar higher ups who wanted those who could make inflammatory speeches, attract criminal cases and make obviously defamatory comments. She fitted well into this slot. Along with fame came wealth too. If we go by the revelations of the investigators now, she has crores of assets at the age of 28 without any family inheritance or having practiced any profession or any source of employment which could have generated such. Ostensibly, the revelation was done because of the complaint of a businessman Govind Babu Pujary a wealthy individual who had handed over 5 crores or by some accounts 7 crores to her for an MLA seat for Baindoor constituency of Udupi district for the May, 2023 vidhan sabha elections. She and her gang had convinced him that they had the contacts with ‘higher ups’ and he had parted with this amount in cash.

Despite of his requests to return the amount, it was not returned under various pretenses finally with a totally unbelievable cock and bull story that the alleged .......ji of the central committee had absconded with the total amount to Kashmir where he passed away with the amount being untraceable! It is also claimed that this man, getting outraged by a chit of a girl and her gang complained to police about the cheating which led to the whole sordid exposure. Though this woman had tried to put on Oscar award winning performance in police custody of falling down unconscious and foaming at the mouth, the doctors at the hospital had seen through this malingering and discharged her. As I am writing these exposures of crores of worth of property, jewelry, deposits etc are coming out.

But the primary issues here are those of how, Hindutva is being used by all sorts of thugs and carpet baggers to rouse sentiments and earn ill begotten gains. The very woman who had hit the headlines by spewing venom against minorities speaking about love jihad, putting them in their places etc had taken shelter at the home of a friend of the same community, had a lawyer of the same and ironically when displayed symptoms of malingering was examined by a hijab wearing doctor of the same community. It is hoped that all those who clapped and whistled at her venom spewing rhetoric remember these things. Also, that all those who contributed to the so called ‘mission’ of this woman to save the majority from the aggression of the so called minority community understand the emptiness of her rhetoric! Will our people ever learn? The same is also applicable to a number of religious heads who claim to be protectors of the faith and saviors of the dharma. Because, in this very case one Swami of a math is said to have pocketed a cool 1.5 crores!
Many reports are emerging in the media about seizures of drug laced chocolates, from shops and other eating places. Consumers being children and students are not aware that all these products are untested, unlabelled, and inconsistent in potency. Many of these products are designed and packaged to look like popular chocolates and toffees. This type of copycat packaging is not rare and is worrisome for multiple reasons. First, copycat packaging can be subtle and people may mistake these products for regular chocolates. Second, many of these products are adulterated with Cannabis or other deadly narcotic drugs, that contain THC or Tetrahydrocannabinol than what is generally considered safe, by medical professionals. Third, colourful packaging and the resemblance to regular chocolates can make these products extremely attractive to children, and trap them in addiction.

While medical cases of childhood cannabis intoxication reported are still relatively rare, there is suspicion that parents are maintaining secrecy about such cases. The risks to children are real, and uncontrolled consumption of chocolates can lead to toxicity.

The Cannabis chocolate industry in USA is a $20 billion industry. Cannabis can be hugely damaging to young children, affecting their ability to learn social and problem-solving skills, while potentially stunting cognitive ability and general emotional intelligence. In both the United States and Canada, emergency room visits and calls to poison control centres for cannabis intoxication are going up. This is not entirely surprising given the increasing availability of Cannabis infused edible products. That this unhealthy trend is catching up in India is of great concern to all parents and health professionals.

Those consuming drug laced chocolates, ice-creams and other bakery products are at great risk of overconsumption and ingestion of cannabis edibles. Unlike inhaled cannabis, ingested cannabis must be digested first before being absorbed. This delay can lead young users to inadvertently overconsume because they might not feel the intoxicating effects immediately.

Smoking Cannabis results in a near instantaneous onset, whereas consuming cannabis commonly takes between 30 to 60 minutes. But that can vary depending on many different factors including the user’s metabolism and the contents of the edible itself. Overconsumption is of significant concern because of the delayed time to onset feelings of an energetic and happy ‘high’. Unlike inhaled cannabis, ingested cannabis must be digested first before being absorbed, and once it has been ingested, consumers might not feel effects immediately and hence be tempted to overconsume. Instead of eating a single chocolate, children might consume about three or four chocolates in a single spell.

Cannabis consumption beginning at a young age, can lead to impaired brain development and poor mental health. In older adults, cannabis can affect the cardiovascular system and can cause an increase in heart rate and blood pressure.

**Hashish Chocolates and the Cannabis Chocolate Industry**

*Parents should guide and oversee their children’s choices when purchasing snacks, such as chocolates, baked goods and soft drinks from various shops and eateries,” advises Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon*
There’s the potential for cannabis-induced psychosis, which results in paranoia, confusion, and hallucinations. The danger comes from the active ingredient Delta-8 THC intoxication, which give rise to the following symptoms- lethargy, uncoordinated movements and decreased psychomotor activity, slurred speech, increased heart rate progressing to slowed heart rate, low blood pressure, and difficulty in breathing.

There’s really no antidote to Cannabis toxicity. As the body metabolizes the cannabis, affected consumers will gradually become normal again. It may take a day or two and in the meantime they will need intensive supportive care.

Abroad, especially in USA, another new threat emerging are chocolates laced with Rainbow Fentanyl, and other colourful drugs, to attract children and students. Forensic laboratories are struggling to develop validated methodologies for the analysis of edibles.

Cannabis is probably the most studied psychoactive compound in the world. Mixing cannabis with chocolate might mean mixing cannabis with cadmium. Cadmium is often found in cacao, the main ingredient in chocolate, which of course is central to so many different types of chocolates and other sweet products consumed by children. This scenario is scary because, Cadmium, the heavy metal, even at low exposure levels, is toxic to the kidneys and to human life.

Products like chocolate edibles need to be screened because the cannabis in them can contain large quantities of heavy metals, pesticides, mycotoxins and other dangerous substances. Nowadays, Turkish chocolates are to be seen in large quantities in bakeries, malls, and other eateries, in colorful wrappers and kept in big jars, especially in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

India imports most of its Chocolate, and chocolate sauce from Turkey. India is the 2nd largest importer of Chocolate, and sauce in the World. There are a lot of local manufacturers, as also, those making imitation products. Since there is no quality control at any stage, these products are much cheaper, and the profit margin given to outlets is much higher than those given by established firms. Most of these Turkish chocolates, imported into India do not exhibit the expiry date. Unsuspecting young children and students consuming them, are at great risk of not only consuming cannabis adulterated chocolates but also expired stuff, that can cause grave health problems.

Parents should advise and monitor from which shop, bakery and eating outlet, their wards are buying eatables like chocolates, bakery products and soft drinks. Buyer should beware and take precautions.

Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon, IRS (Rtd), Ph.D. (Narcotics). He is Former Director General of National Academy of Customs Indirect Taxes and Narcotics & Multi-Disciplinary School Of Economic Intelligence India; Fellow, James Martin Centre For Non Proliferation Studies, USA; Fellow, Centre for International Trade & Security, University of Georgia, USA; Public Administration, Maxwell School of Public Administration, Syracuse University, U.S.A.; AOTS Scholar, Japan. He can be contacted at shreemenon48@gmail.com

For long life of lead-acid batteries
(Used in Vehicles, Inverters and UPS)

Top up with laboratory grade DEIONISED WATER

B. N. Laboratories
WT Road, Temple Square, Mangalore - 575 001. Phone: 0824 – 2454079
Throughout my over four decades’ service in different banks, I have never been an operational banker, except for a few months. The exception to the rule occurred when, in the late ’70s, I was transferred from the Syndicate Bank’s headquarters in Manipal to Mumbai - to the Foreign Exchange Department located in the Fort area. Keeping in mind my 14 years’ service in a foreign bank (though my working as a typist was totally ignored!), my mentor T. A. Pai considered it the best option and, like any dutiful soldier, I accepted his command.

Though I was conversant with terminologies like ‘bill of lading’, ‘sight draft’, ‘packing list’, ‘insurance policy’, etc. the very documents I had handled as a typist while clattering off the covering schedules of export documents—the intricacies of packing credit, shipping loan, etc, were absolutely Greek to me. Hence, when I was entrusted with the Packing Credit Department the moment I landed in Mumbai, I felt all at sea. More so when I realized that the departmental head was to proceed on a month’s leave, handing over the charge to me the next day itself!

It was a traumatic phase. Almost all my time and energy were spent on trying my best to dissect items like ‘Stale B/L’ and to grasp insurance risks such as TPND/ SRCC, perishable and non-perishable goods, etc; (to mention only a few).

Yet, I was meticulous about one thing—check very minutely the amount written on any voucher, tallying the figures as well as words Even afterwards, I would sign the voucher only after invoking the (names of our family deity, Shantadurga of Kavle, Goa, and our Swamiji of Chitrapur Mutt, Shirali.)

At night, these figures would dance around in my dream, surrounded by related documents such as BIL, DID, insurance cover policy, packing list and invoice. They seemed to be ridiculing me, challenging my ability to keep them under control.

Yes, there was much logic in that nocturnal bamboozling. More often than not, I had to depend on Mr. L., my only clerk, to bail me out. He had gauged my weakness within a few days of my arrival. Hence, when I was entrusted with the Packing Credit Department the moment I landed in Mumbai, I felt all at sea. More so when I realized that the departmental head was to proceed on a month’s leave, handing over the charge to me the next day itself!

It was a Saturday. So, right from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., I was trying to catch the deadline of clearing cheques. Packing credit documents had to be processed and the credit given to the respective accounts, whose cheques had been already sent for clearing.

Officially speaking, the half-day had no lunch break. But Mr. L. my clerk as usual, left for lunch at 12.30 noon and returned at 1.30 p.m., while I continued to slog at my table. Mr. L’s casual behaviour really annoyed me, even though I was well aware that he too had worked continuously, (but not for four hours) at a single stretch and deserved a break.

Sharp at 2 p.m., when I was about to go for my lunch, Mr. L approached me for my approval for overtime, as a couple of weekly statements remained to be completed. I suggested to him that, having already taken an hour’s lunch break on a day that had no provision for such a break, he should work up to 3 p.m. to compensate. I would consider overtime only after that.

Mr. L was taken aback. He had not expected me to adopt such a rigid stand. What was worse, as many around us had overheard our conversation, he deemed it a blow to his prestige and status to take; such an order from a comparative greenhorn.

So he banged on my table with clenched fist and declared, "No overtime, no statement. I will teach you a lesson". Then he walked out of the office locking his table'.

Mr. L was notorious for his stubbornness, his principle being ‘Hum kare so kaida’ (What I say goes). But, till that moment, his behavioural oddities had not bothered me much. Now I realised three things-what a trouble maker he can be, what
a jam I had got into and what was in store for me in future.

That entire Sunday, I kept praying to Siddhivinayak of Prabhadevi to save me from the consequences of my impetuous action, even though I did not regret it in any way. (After coming to Mumbai I had unconsciously changed my loyalty-forsaking Mukhya Prana and Lord Krishna of Udupi.) All the bosses had left by the time Mr. L staged his protest walkout on Saturday and, being a newcomer, I was in no position to visualise their reactions. On reaching the office on Monday, I had both a surprise and a disappointment in store for me. The good news was that Mr. L had applied for 4 days’ casual leave. The bad one was, my fervent pleadings with the boss, Mr P, fell on deaf ears. He shunted me out from his cabin with “Never depend on anyone... including me” For once, he was right. No help came from any quarters. The burden of the entire clerical routine— inwarding, entering in various registers, verification of documents and insurance cover within sanctioned limits, so on and so forth fell on my fragile shoulders and it kept me on my toes almost the whole day. I could not leave my table for even a 15 minute lunch-break. Totally fagged out, I was in no mood to even listen to my children’s daily reports—a routine I had fixed and stuck to all along without any exception or exemption.

The next day, however, I took myself by surprise. I found the entire routine so easy! My disposal was so quick, even my boss, over a cup of coffee in his cabin, uttered a few words of appreciation on my performance.

I took the opportunity to make one thing clear: I did not wish to be burdened with Mr L, who was less of a help and more of a pain in the neck. Even a raw hand would do to replace him.

The boss seemed quite impressed by my stand. So, when Mr. L resumed duty, he was instructed to work in the Dispatch Department. The poor guy just could not believe his ears. He found a brand new recruit sitting on his table and sifting through documents. Though my head was down (immersed in work’), from a corner of my eye, I saw him slink off with a sour face.

By lunchtime, I had two feelers—one from the union representative and the other from an officer, a close chum of Mr. L, to bury the hatchet and take him back to avoid big monetary loss.

My response to them was simple and curt. Mr. L had sought to humiliate me by threatening to teach me a lesson. I had learnt mine and now let him learn his!

As for the so-called ’monetary loss’, I expressed my disbelief over it. Working in any other department would make no difference to Mr. L in terms of his salary. But discrete enquires revealed that Mr. L would be deprived of ‘Diwali’ gifts, as none offered them to a dispatch clerk!

So, for a short while I the crestfallen Mr. L was forced to fight with the franking machine in the Dispatch Department. Two months later, he even resigned from the bank. A prosperous relative in the Gulf had fixed a job for him there.

A couple of months later, I too joined Union Bank, as in charge of: the PR Department, a job that I liked and carried out till 1994—for almost a quarter century.

S N SURKUND
The author of the famous book “Ad-ventures of a PR Man.”
Stoic Serenity

Mastering the Art of Unshakeable Calm in a Chaotic World

By P. Mohan Chandran

How often do you find yourself caught in the tempest of life’s turbulent seas, clutching at straws for some semblance of control, only to feel disoriented, anxious, or even helpless? What if there was a way to find an oasis of calm in this chaotic cosmos, a way to navigate life with grace and equanimity, irrespective of the circumstances? Welcome to Stoicism, an ancient philosophy teeming with timeless wisdom, a beacon to guide us through life’s uncharted terrains.

Imagine if you could, like the Stoic, separate the world into things you can control and those you can’t. Would the anxiety of the unpredictable dissipate? By focusing our energies only on what we can control, we find liberation from the unnecessary stresses that often preoccupy our minds. It’s about cultivating an internal locus of control, a life-altering shift in perspective that puts you back in the driver’s seat of your life.

But Stoicism is not just about accepting the uncontrollable; it’s about embracing the challenges, the very situations we tend to dread. Imagine viewing every obstacle as an opportunity, every stumbling-block a steppingstone to growth. In the stoic worldview, adversity is no longer something to be feared; it’s the anvil upon which character is forged.

At the heart of Stoicism is a profound appreciation for the here and now. Instead of lamenting the past or fearing the future, we are encouraged to immerse ourselves in the present, to practice gratitude for what we have rather than pine for what we don’t. Can such a simple shift in perspective transform our experience of life? The Stoics would say, emphatically, yes.

Then there is the cultivation of virtues — wisdom, courage, justice — an ongoing process of self-improvement, the journey toward our best selves. What if we viewed our time as the most valuable currency we possess, spent wisely in pursuit of these virtues and in alignment with our values and goals?

Embracing Stoicism means understanding that happiness is an inside job. It’s about cultivating an excellent mental state, independent of external circumstances. It encourages us to keep our ego in check and dismiss the superficial trappings of vanity. Can we imagine a life defined not by societal standards but by our own values, a life free from the pursuit of external validation?

As we navigate through life, guided by these Stoic principles, we discover a calmness that transcends circumstances, a serenity that lies not in the absence of troubles but in our response to them.

But what does it mean, practically, to live a stoic life daily? It means starting each day by reminding ourselves of what is within our control and what isn’t. It means practicing mental resilience, turning adversities into advantages. It means ending each day with a reflection on our actions and a quiet acknowledgement of the things we’re grateful for.

What might happen if you woke up tomorrow and decided to live a stoic life? How would your experience of life change if you chose to focus only on what you can control, to practice gratitude in the present, to embrace challenges as opportunities, and to dismiss vanity and ego?

As we embark on this journey towards a stoic life, we find that we are no longer tossed by the ebb and flow of external events but stand firm, an immovable anchor amidst life’s tumultuous seas. We are not mere passengers in life, we are the captains, navigating our ships with wisdom, courage, and a tranquil heart.

In the grand theatre of life, what role will you play? The Stoic invites you to be the author of your own story, the creator of your own destiny. Are you ready to seize the pen?
SITTING ON THE BENCH SHE wondered, how multifaceted her life was. She analysed the different patterns of life and how there are no rules really. Every individual comes with a journey. And every journey is so uniquely similar.

As someone who felt very different from the people around her, it’s a constant battle between making an effort to socialise and regretting after having done it. Many a time a lot goes on in her mind. She has multiple ideas, both creative and emotional and most often than not she finds herself at crossroads. Sometimes it is her expectations of life. Sometimes it is what people tell her. Sometimes it is a situation. Sometimes it is her feelings. Sometimes it is her interpretation. It becomes overwhelming. She finds herself being lonely - Intellectually. She has these strange thoughts that keep revisiting her very often. Like today, she was questioning her femininity. Is she feminine enough? Because she does not relate to a lot of women who claim to be modern and open minded and have opinions on marriage and on having & raising children. Is she passionate enough about equality when clearly we have been created differently? Also, fully understanding that everyone is different and have a right to feel and believe in what they think is right.

She constantly questions her feelings, just like how she felt nothing when she heard that her mothers brother passed away this morning. She had zero feelings for him. He was never a good influence in her life. She had nothing to do with him. What he left were scars, deep ones. On the other hand, she finds herself crying for and reaching out to people she doesn’t even know. Helping them in whatever way she can and finding joy in their smiles.

Can this logic be explained? She doesn’t seem to have an answer and it irks her. It makes her question her values. Her morals and morale.

To the world she might be an over the top, confident, charming person. But deep inside she is hurting, hollow, scared and constantly self doubting. It is exhausting. She doesn’t find joy in being with her many times. Because she over analyses. And she wants to stop. But it’s hard.

Talking to the Gods helps her. Many times. Almost always. But the timing sometimes makes her anxious. The fact that it always happens according to God’s ways makes her angry and frustrated. Every time God can’t have a say, no? She also needs her to be heard as she deeply believes that she is an important part of creation.

And here’s what makes her ponder. The whole concept of spirituality. The mystery of it. How mystical, powerful and strange it all is. She identifies to be a part of it knowing she is powerless and powerful both simultaneously. The bipolarity of it astonishes her and feels clueless both at once.

Does everyone feel this way? Or is it only her? Existence comes with one or more crises and she is still critical of a lot of things, constantly questioning the unknown knowing she would probably never get an answer.

Kripanjali Tellis Nayak: Based in Mangalore. PBBSC Nursing, MA - English Literature and MBA - Healthcare Administration, (PhD - Gerontology). Social Worker, writer. One of those few who finds value in empathy, compassion and kindness. Enjoys travelling and documenting her experience and learnings. Deeply passionate about Gerontology, intends to make a difference in the society specially for the senior citizens.
I t was pitch dark. There was no sign of light anywhere. Not even the moon. I was coming home after a long time. My mother was living alone since my father’s death. My job kept me away from home for the past few years. I had come a year ago on the death anniversary of my father. Since then, I wanted to settle down in my home town. The time has come and I here for the better or worst.

The train was late and it was 2-AM as to my watch. There were only a few passengers to alight. I was too tired and sleepy to bother anything except that I wanted to reach home at the earliest.

The railway station was quite far from the town and the road was very narrow and curvy. At this time of the hour, I had no other choice but to walk home alone. Those who had alighted along with me had already gone by now and I was alone walking towards the town as there were no taxies or autos.

I have come half the way when I heard a vehicle sound and its headlight far behind me. Must be some passenger who had come in the same train-I guessed. The car came and stopped next to me. “Are you going to town?” asked the driver. He looked old and had long white beard like a sadhu. “Hop in” he said. Without a word I opened the door and sat beside him. He smiled as he moved forward. “It is too dark and the power cut is adding the misery” he said. “The authorities have no concern for the people- stupid fellows” he continued to talk. I had sat there listening to his wise words and blames.

The old man looked very familiar. His sound was quite known but could not remember. May be someone I had known but did not remember. I was thankful to him but was not in a mood to ask him anything. He continued talking various things which I hardly heard. The cool breeze and the darkness have added to sleepy mood.

I dosed off to sleep and my childhood memories flashed on. There were no trains those days; only a few busses. I used go with my father in his car to the local temple and rarely to outside the town. On one of our visit to the temple, we saw a blind old man who wanted cross the road. My father asked me to help the blind man cross the road. “You should be kind and helpful to the needy” he had advised.

On another occasion, we were going to one of our relatives house in the near by town. Someone on the way waved to stop the car. He was badly injured and needed help to reach a hospital. We did take him to a hospital. “May God bless you” while getting down he had said. My father was very pleased to hear that.

The car stopped in front my house. I woke up to find no man or any car. I was standing in front of my house. Then I remembered the voice and the face. My father...

Father...
**ARIES**

Your work, routines, health, and habits are in strong focus this month, dear Aries. While there can be review, editing, and a focus on the past, you’re in great shape to reorganize your life, improve wellness routines, and manage your time more productively. Working on the details of projects, work, and plans can be invigorating.

**TAURUS**

September brings a stronger focus on enjoying and expressing yourself, dear Taurus. There’s an emphasis on your solar sector of joy and creativity, and Venus, your planetary ruler, ends its retrograde cycle early in the month on the 3rd. Ideally, you’ve come into better touch with your innermost needs and desires while Venus was retrograde since July 22nd.

**GEMINI**

This month’s strong focus is your personal life, dear Gemini. Family and home matters are top priority, and it’s an important time for boosting your feelings of security and freedom or enjoyment on the home front. But while you’re finding solace and comfort in the familiar, a playful, creative theme runs through the month and helps balance you.

**CANCER**

Learning, communicating, and connecting feature strongly in September. Your mind is curious, excited, and hungry, and opportunities to feed it pop up when you need them most. Establishing mental rapport with others can be in focus and hugely rewarding.

**LEO**

With an emphasis on your solar second house in September, dear Leo, you want results, but you’re also very willing to put in the necessary time and energy to achieve your goals. With Mercury retrograde in this sector until the 15th, you’ll need some patience, but the edits you make now can be very worthwhile.

**VIRGO**

You begin the month in a position of personal power, dear Virgo, with the Sun in your sign (until the 23rd) and Mercury also in your corner. Indeed, Mercury is retrograde until the 15th, and you could be waiting on information or questioning recent choices. However, it’s a time to shine and enjoy a bit of healthy self-focus.

**LIBRA**

While you have a strong presence and can be in demand this month. A part of you remains a little reserved or withdrawn. Your self-confidence and decisiveness increase as Venus ends its retrograde cycle on the 3rd, but it may not be until the Sun moves into Libra on the 23rd that you feel ready to start anew.

**SCORPIO**

This is a potentially powerful month for payoffs from recent career or business efforts, networking, and connecting with friends, dear Scorpio, although this can take time to build and develop. With Venus turning direct on the 3rd, there is good energy for innovation on the job, new or improved methods, and a healthier sense that you’re on top of things.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Several influences in September point to increased ambition, commitment to realizing success, determination, and the need for more structure and order in your life, dear Sagittarius. Whatever your definition of success at this point in your journey, you are beginning to hunger for it. Organizing your thoughts and establishing goals can be beneficial this month.

**CAPRICORN**

September is strong for opening your mind and heart to new ideas, dear Capricorn, and finding more meaning in your life. It’s a visible, outgoing, spirited period. You’re exploring beyond your usual bounds, and it’s enriching. It can also be an important time for a loan or other support coming through.

**AQUARIUS**

For you, September is largely more a month of observation than of making bold moves, dear Aquarius. Much is going on under the hood or in a close relationship. Venus turns direct in your partnership zone on the 3rd, and you’ll begin to see changes and forward-moving in a relationship. Some of your discoveries about your relationship needs or values strongly affect your decisions this month and next.

**PISCES**

Relationships, especially partnerships, are in strong focus this month and you get the chance to start fresh. A New Moon occurs in your solar 7th house on the 14th, just a day after Mercury ends its retrograde in the same sector, prompting you to consider relationship lacks & needs. A significant person in your life can be in the spotlight now.

Believe it or not, we are definitely not responsible for your fate!
Anandi Gopal was India’s first lady doctor. Coming from an extremely orthodox poor Brahmin family from Bombay, she went to U.S.A in 1883 at a young age of 17 years and obtained an M.D degree from an American University.

Anandi, whose maiden name was Yamu [for Yamuna], was born on March 31, 1865. Her father Ganapatrao Joshi hailed from the family of the Peshwas. The Joshis were highly orthodox and ran a joint family with three generations staying under the same roof. When Yamu turned nine they found a groom for her. He was Gopalrao, also a Joshi, aged about 25 years, and worked as a clerk in the Kalyan Post Office. His two obsessions in life were: Women’s Education and Remarriage of Widows. Later Gopalrao married Yamu who became Anandi. During his leisure hours Gopalrao started teaching Anandi how to read and write Marathi, right from the alphabets. Gradually he inculcated a desire in his wife to learn more and more. In course of time, he taught her English, Sanskrit, several of the scriptures, Geography etc. Within a few years, Anandi got transformed so much into a well-read intelligent girl that it became difficult even for the family and the immediate neighborhood to believe the metamorphosis in Anandi. He decided to give the highest education to his wife and with the help of some friends arranged for a medical seat to Anandi in the Medical College at Philadelphia, U.S.A. On the 17th of April 1883, Anandi sailed alone to America from Calcutta. This was at a time when she was just 17 years old, coming from a poor orthodox Brahmin family and travelling alone to a distant foreign country at a time when crossing the sea was considered a taboo. When Anandi joined the Medical College, the Dean was all praise for the courage and conviction of this young Indian girl and her great desire to secure higher knowledge against all odds. The college offered her a scholarship for three years. The subject which she chose for specialization was “Obstetrics among the Hindu Aryans. In the Convocation held on 11th March 1886, Anandi received tremendous ovation when the President of the College cited: “I am proud to say that today should be recorded in golden letters in the annals of this college. We have the first Indian woman who is honoring this college by acquiring a degree in medicine. Mrs. Anandi Joshi has the honor to be the very first woman doctor of India”.

But in the later year, Anandi fell sick and the couple decided to return to India. Later it was revealed that she was suffering from tuberculosis. The family was in abject poverty and had no funds to treat her. Though Anandi opted to be treated by an Ayurvedic practitioner, he refused to treat her saying she had lived alone with strangers and had eaten forbidden food in America thus bringing shame to Brahmins.

One day, Anandi received a letter from Lokamanya Tilak offering her Rs 100 as his contribution. Within a few days after this Anandi Gopal passed away at the young age of 21 years on February 26, 1887, a month short of her 22nd birthday.
Many of us know that a beautiful and colourful butterfly comes from an unappealing worm! Here is the story of a butterfly that was never able to live its life as a normal butterfly.

One day, a man saw a cocoon. He loved butterflies and had a craze for its wonderful combination of colours. In fact, he used to spend a lot of time around butterflies. He knew how a butterfly would struggle to transform from an ugly caterpillar into a beautiful one.

He saw the cocoon with a tiny opening. It meant that the butterfly was trying to make its way out to enjoy the world. He decided to watch how the butterfly would come out of the cocoon. He was watching the butterfly struggling to break the shell for several hours. He spent almost more than 10 hours with the cocoon and the butterfly. The butterfly had been struggling very hard for hours to come out through the tiny opening. Unfortunately, even after continuous attempts for several hours, there was no progress. It seemed that the butterfly had tried its best and could not give any more try.

The man, who had a passion and love for butterflies, decided to help the butterfly. He got a pair of scissors and tweaked the cocoon to make larger opening for the butterfly and removed the remaining cocoon. The butterfly emerged without any struggle!

Unfortunately, the butterfly looked no longer beautiful and had a swollen body with small and withered wings.

The man was happy that he had made the butterfly come out of the cocoon without any more struggles. He continued to watch the butterfly and was quite eager to see it fly with its beautiful wings. He thought that at any time, the butterfly might expand its wings, shrink the body and the wings could support the body. Unfortunately, neither did the wings expand nor the swollen body reduce.

Unfortunately, the butterfly just crawled around with withered wings and a huge body. It was never able to fly. Although the man did it with a good intention, he did not know that only by going through struggles the butterfly can emerge to be beautiful, with strong wings.

The continuous effort from the butterfly to come out of its cocoon would let the fluid stored in the body be converted into wings. Thus, the body would become lighter and smaller, and the wings would be beautiful and large.

If we don’t want to undergo any struggle, we won’t be able to fly!

*Struggles make us shine!*
Appointed
Dr Mona Jaqueline Mendonca, Assistant Professor, Dept to History, St Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangalore, has been appointed as the Head of the Department recently. She is a Soft Skills Trainer, TV presenter and a freelance writer and Researcher. She has to her credit numerous Research Articles, published in reputed journals.

Bagged
- Vinith Kumar, a student of Shakti Pre-University College has bagged gold medal in the National Kickboxing Championship held at Jarkhand. He is a second PUC (Science) student.
- Shradha Gurudas has bagged the second place in the national level Harikatha competition conducted by the Kala Gauri institution of Bengaluru. She is the daughter of well-known Keerthanakar Dr S P Gurudas and Sneha Gurudas.

Elected
John B. Monteiro has been elected as the President of the Rachana Catholic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The election was held at the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the St Sebastian Church Auditorium. Naveen Lobo was elected the Vice President on this occasion. Other office bearers are Vijay Vishwas Lobo (Secretary), Walter D’Cunha (Joint Secretary), Nelson Monteiro (Treasurer).

Observed
National Forest Martyrs Day was observed at the Aranya Bhavan at recently. City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal and other dignitaries who graced the occasion paid tributes to the Forest Martyrs Memorial on this occasion. District Superintendent of Police Rishyanth, Mangaluru Circle Forest Conservator V Karikkallan, Cashew Development Corporation Managing Director Kamala Karikkallan, Income Tax Department Joint Director Manikantan, Enforcement Directorate Deputy Director Sarvesh, Deputy Conservator of Forest Antony S Mariappa, ACF Sridhar and others were present.

Promoted
City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal has issued an order to promote 16 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police under Mangalore City Police Commissionerate, who have been waiting for promotion for many years.

Seized
Bajpe police have seized 15 boats and two tipper lorries during a raid on an illegal sand extraction spot on the banks of the Gurupura Phalguni River. The accused, however, managed to escape. Several equipment used for sand extraction were also seized.

Selected
- Well known classical singer Dr Vidyabhushana has been selected for the Dr Kota Shivarama Karantha Huttura Prashasti given by the Karanth Huttura Prashasti Pratishtana, Kota for the year 2023. The award presentation ceremony will be held on October 10 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Kota Shivarama Karanth.
- Saharsh S Prabhu of Mangaluru has been selected to represent Karnataka in the national junior badminton championship to be held in Bengaluru.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare and DK District in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundurao along with Speaker U T Khader inaugurated the new building of the Kudmul Rangarao pre-matric and post-matric SC Girls' hostels at Kdollabail recently. Mayor Sudhir Shetty Kannur, Mangaluru South MLA Vedavyas Kamath, MLC Harish Kumar, ZP CEO Dr Anand, Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan and others were present.
OBITUARY

Subrahmanya Venkataramana Bhat, President of the Kerala Gadinada unit of Kannada Sahitya Parishat, passed away on September 10. He was 74 years old and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Subrahmanya Venkataramana Bhat who was popularly known as S V Bhat had served as a teacher, headmaster and Kasargod District Assistant Education Officer. He was elected as President of the Kerala unit of Kannada Sahitya Parishat for the fourth time and was active in pro-Kannada movements and activities.

Veteran Congress leader N Sudhaker Shetty from Puttur, passed away on September 10. He is survived by his wife and two sons. He was the former president of Puttur Block Congress and had contested from Puttur Assembly constituency in two elections as a Congress candidate. He was the former president of Puttur Mahalingeshwara Temple Committee.

Chandra K Adoor, Head Constable of Kadri Police Station passed away on September 23, Saturday following a brief. He was 48 years old and is survived by his wife and two children. Chandra K Adoor hailed from Adoor in Kasargod and had joined the Police Department in 1996. He had served the CCB, CCRB, CEN stations, Kankanady, Ullal and Pandeshwar stations apart from Kadri police station.

MANGALORE TODAY - SEPTEMBER 2023

Won

- Harshitha Ravindra of Kavoor has won the first place in long jump and 100 meters race in the State Level Sports Meet for Hearing Impaired held at Udupi recently. She is now qualified to take part in the national level event to be held in Gujarat.

- Ansh Rego, a student of St Mary’s English Medium School, Falnir has won the first place in the district level chess tournament conducted by the DK ZP, Public Education Department and Block Education Office. He has now been selected to take part in the state level event.

- Satvik Sujeer Nayak, a ninth standard student of St Aloysius Gonzaga School has won a gold medal in 200 meters freestyle relay in the 49th national junior aquatic championship held at Bhubaneshwar under the aegis of the National Swimming Federation.

State Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda inspected the works of the DC office complex at Padil recently. Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan, Assistant Commissioner Harshavardhan, MLC Harish Kumar and other officers were present.
**BEST LIBRARIAN**

Books are Man’s best friends and Libraries are a treasure trove of knowledge. Librarians who are the guardians of libraries also are the guides of those who visit the libraries in search of books of their choice. **Dr Meeramani N** is an outstanding academic librarian with good expertise in digital library research and e-resource management. She recently received the prestigious Best Librarian Award for the year 2023 given by the state government in recognition of her commendable service in the field of Library development and library science.

Dr Meeramani who hails from Sullia is presently serving the Jain Deemed-to-be University in Bengaluru. She started her career in the Jain group in 2000 as an assistant librarian and is currently librarian at Jain (Deemed-to-be University).

She has published over forty six research papers in national and international journals and conferences. She also has the credit of organizing more than 49 webinars, conferences, workshops, faculty development programs, and seminars for both students and faculty members. She was a resource person in the 30-day NEP-aligned Guru Dakshta Faculty Induction Programme held at her institution.

Dr Meeramani was felicitated at the JGI Annual Awards Ceremony - 2016 for outstanding contribution in the field of research. She won the best paper award at IIM Bangalore and Jain (Deemed to be University in 2014. She has also designed and developed curriculum matrix and syllabus for BLISc and MLISc program for the institution which she is serving.

**GREAT HONOUR**

Over the next two years (2023-2025), Dr Salins and his team will diligently analyse the underlying factors contributing to the disparity between the biomedical and humanitarian aspects of cancer care.

Dr Salins graduated with honours in Internal Medicine MD in 2003 from KMC Manipal. He pursued his three years of specialist fellowship training in Palliative Medicine at the Lyell McEwin Hospital and later served as a consultant at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, South Australia. On return to India, he has held clinical and academic positions at the Health Care Global, Bangalore and Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai before joining KMC.

In 2020 he was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) by the Royal College of Physicians London and Glasgow. He completed his PhD in Palliative Care from the Lancaster University UK in 2021. He is also the Honorary Professor of Medicine at Cardiff University, UK.

**DYNAMIC PERSONALITY**

**Ramesh Adige** of coastal origin who was recently appointed as the Additional Independent Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India’s Housing Finance Corporation is a dynamic and versatile officer.

Adige has a rich experience spanning over five decades in areas including insurance, banking, branding, consumer areas of healthcare, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, financial services, marketing, branding, consumer durables, Global Corporate Communications, Administration, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability Reporting, Intellectual Property Policy and Public Affairs.

Ramesh Adige is a Master’s in Business Administration with specialization in Marketing from University of Delhi and holds a B.E. (Honours) degree from the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani.

He has earlier served as Executive Director of Ranbaxy Laboratories where he spearheaded the Corporate Affairs and Global Corporate Communications functions. He also held global responsibility for CSR, EHS, Admin & Security.
Beautiful in every way

K.S. Rao Road,
Mangalore - 575 001.
Ph : 0824 - 2440242
E-mail : slshet1947@gmail.com
Follow us on

S.L.SHET
Jewellers & Diamond House®
एमआरपीएल
कर्नाटक का एक अनमोल रत्न
देश की सेवा में एमआरपीएल

मंगलूर रिफाइनरी एण्ड पेट्रोकेमिकल्स लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम और ओएनजीसी की सहायक कंपनी)
अनुसूची “ए”, मिनी रत्न श्रेणी - 1 का सरकारी उपक्रम पेट्रोकेमिकल्स कॉर्पोरेच्च के साथ 15 एमएमटीए रिफाइनरी मंगलूर, कर्नाटक

www.mrpl.co.in