Of graft, Babus and Netas

ENDLESS CORRUPTION

It is so virulent around us that even after the so-called digital revolution in public service, the matter remains the same. In fact, it appears to be a convenient option for many of us.
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“Lawyers should have a new approach and bring in ingenuity for solving problems plaguing the society”
Karnataka High Court judge P. Krishna Bhat at a legal workshop in the city.

“Literary works should reveal the truth without any prejudices. While studying great literary works, one should not be narrow-minded”
scholar, Shatavadhani R Ganesh at the fourth edition of Mangaluru Lit Fest.

“All IS WELL: Padma Shri Award winning folk singer Sukri Bommagowda who is recuperating in the hospital, interacting with State Minister for Backward Classes Kota Srinivas Poojary.

“Mangaluru city holds a unique place in India, and has ample opportunities in every field. We should never lose that tag. Nobody should allow society to divide due to hatred”
N Vinay Hegde, Chancellor of Nitte Deemed to be University at an Iftar get-together in the city.

“Education is the most direct path for building a democratic culture. Education should allow for consensus building with room for dissent, should present reality and foster critical thinking”
Supreme Court Judge Justice S Abdul Nazeer at the 40th Convocation of Mangalore University.

“Ramayana is not just a story, but a life lesson. It is very much relevant even in the modern computer age”
Sri Vishwa Prasanna Theertha Swamiji of Pejawar Mutt, at a book launch event in the city.
Endless Battle

Corruption continues to pervade virtually every sphere of life in the country. It is a devastating social cancer which spares no one. It is so painful to see how the government functionaries have been squeezing money from the common people, so viciously, surreptitiously. The Lokayukta, Anti-Corruption Bureau and the police files show numerous cases that are still unsettled.

In July 2021, the Lokayukta special court sentenced Mangaluru City Corporation assistant town planning official BP Shivaraj to five years in prison and a fine of Rs 34 lakhs for keeping assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The Udupi Urban Development Authority was raided by the Anti-Corruption Bureau and unearthed lakhs of ill-gotten money from UUDA engineer Guruprasad. Two other officers of the UUDA, Naima Sayyid and Prasad, were taken into custody for taking bribes.

The Mangalore Smart City Limited officials were also under the scanner of the ACB. In November last year, the ACB sleuths raided the house of the Executive Director of the MSCL after they received complaints from the contractors of the MSCL civil works of alleged amassment of wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The regional transport authorities are well known for extortionate corruption. Despite the digitalisation of services, the paperwork still exists leading to corruption. Right from attaining a learning license for a two-wheeler to the registration of a multi-axle air-conditioned coach, this process continues.

The most shameful incident happened a month ago was that of a civil contractor, Santhosh Patil, who committed suicide in Udupi after alleging former minister KS Eshwarappa and a few others of holding back his payment for the work taken up demanding 40% commission.

Corruption is a major contributor to the current state of inequity in our society. It stifles a country’s social, economic, and political growth and progress on all fronts. The people of the coastal region are usually impassive who do not tend to raise their voices against corruption. However, there are organizations like Forum for Justice and individuals like activist Shashidhar Shetty and few others who have been fighting corrupt practices and corruption in public life. Fighting Corruption is an endless Battle. Let us fight corruption.
OF GRAFT, BABUS AND NETAS
ENDLESS CORRUPTION
It is so virulent around us that even after the so-called digital revolution in public service, the matter remains the same. In fact, it appears to be a convenient option for many of us.

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Mangalore-Goa origin Bishop a First in the US
I. J. Saldanha Shet writes about the Mangalre roots of Rev Fr. Dr Earl K. Fernandes, the Bishop elect of the Diocese of Columbus

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ATHENA HOSPITAL Celebrating 25 Years of Healthcare
Athena Hospital in Mangaluru which celebrated its silver jubilee recently, has emerged as one of the excellent multi-speciality hospitals, offering yeoman services in the healthcare sector.

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It is nothing but a great tragedy that a district known as an educational hub, became a hotbed of controversy through the Hijab row that hit headlines. One really need to ask as to where our society is heading to even as it claims to be progressive. India being a plural, diverse nation, controversies like these are needless and must be resolved at the grassroots level itself.

RICHARD PINTO, Mangaluru

Mangalore Today cover story “Hijab Hysteria” was apt at a time when Hijab issue was at the centre of a major controversy. It was a controversy that brought nothing but disrepute to the coastal districts and it has also left many wondering how all of a sudden the issue was blown out of proportions and there was this saffron shawl issue that too cropped up from nowhere. It was indeed very concerning to see students divided on religious lines.

M. COLACO, Mangaluru

There is no doubt that there are some unseen hands behind the Hijab row that rocked the coast and then the entire state. There should have been a probe into this aspect as well as subsequent developments of sidelining one particular community.

VISHWANATH S., Mangaluru

I’m so glad ‘Mangalore Today’ decided to publish the article ‘Hijab Hysteria’, in the March 2022 issue, it’s a very knowledgeable article. People tend to choose sides not having enough knowledge about such problems and this is exactly what happened in the hijab matter. Some people ended up choosing sides and ultimately it became a free for all religious issue. I hope the article reaches the maximum people and people are rational about it and prevent becoming a victim of any political tactics, at least henceforth. The article is very well projected, very well researched and factual. I wish everyone reads the article to leave women alone, it’s up to them how they want to be.

NAAZ, Honnavar

It was really wonderful to read about Savitri Babulkar. Her book ‘Childhood Daze’ is simply amazing and Savitri Babulkar’s style of writing is exemplary. The way she has narrated her childhood experiences by going down memory lane is heart-warming. My heartfelt thank you to I J Saldanha Shet for this write-up on Savitri Babulkar.

K.G. SHENOY, Mangaluru

Horse riding women on the streets of Mangaluru were a true inspiration to many more women on International Women’s Day this year. This was a small attempt to prove that women can be on par with men in any field. Certainly this horse riding event would inspire many more women to learn horse riding. It will make them much more confident to face the modern competitive world.

S.N. GONSALVES, Mangaluru

Prasad Art Gallery in Mangaluru has played a pivotal role in promoting art in the coastal city, thanks to the yeoman efforts by its founder Koti Prasad Alva, a great patron of art. Every city needs many more such art galleries that can be centres of excellence in their own way.

R.D. D’SILVAS, Mangaluru

Savitri Babulkar is my favourite author. In fact I was bowled over by her lucid writing style after reading some of the chapters from her book in Mangalore Today a few years ago. Her writings take the readers back to their golden childhood, times which everyone cherishes lifelong.

NITHIN SHETTY, Mangaluru

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<th>HOT PROPERTIES IN MANGALURU</th>
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<td><strong>1300sf 3 BHK House</strong> in 2.5 cents land for sale at Mugrodi, Padavinangadi</td>
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Road safety is a subject of prime importance particularly in the present times when road accidents are on rise. Our roads are being concretized and widened, thanks to a number of projects. These wider roads are surely a boon to the motorists. But, at the same time the wider roads have led to speeding of vehicles in turn leading to many a fatal and near fatal accidents.

Data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways indicates that a large proportion of fatal road mishaps stems from over-speeding (66.5 per cent), alcohol-intake, and distracted driving.

The city in the recent past saw a couple of accidents which were shocking. In one case a speeding BMW jumped the divider ran berserk and crashed into a woman riding a scooty, another car and a bike at Ballalbagh in Mangaluru while in another case, a speeding bus jumped the signal light and rammed into a bike leading to fire that engulfed the bus in the heart of the city, at Hampankatta. In the first case, a lady scooterist sustained serious injuries, while in the second, it was a close shave for the passengers in the bus as one even dreads to imagine the consequence had there been even a slightest delay in them getting out of the bus. In this case, the bike too was gutted and the rider has suffered serious injuries.

With regard to both cases, the errant drivers have been arrested. They both have committed a serious offence which would have turned fatal for many. Such acts deserve the strictest punishments which can be a deterrent factor for others and ensure compliance to road safety rules.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, which came into effect on 1st September 2019 and made rules more stringent for offenders of traffic rules, was thought to be a game changer that would reduce accidents, considering the higher penalty and stricter punishment that it advocated.

But India continues to be at the top spot as far as number of persons killed in road accidents are concerned. A grim fact indeed. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari recently raised concern in this regard while speaking in the Rajya Sabha.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Gadkari said that based on the latest issue of the World Road Statistics 2018, brought out by the International Road Federation, Geneva, India ranks number 3 as per number of accidents.

Moreover, the percentage of the fatalities involving road users between 18 to 45 years stood at 69.80 per cent for the year 2020. Every year, on an average 1.5 lakh lives are lost in road mishaps, the government has informed the Lok Sabha.

Considering the grim situation and the need to reduce accidents by reducing accident prone areas and black spots on National and State Highways, the Government has a plan to implement a Rs 7500 crore scheme with World Bank aid. This was revealed by Union Minister Gadkari himself in the Parliament. Citizens are ardently hoping this would be a reality.

It is also a fact that every time a driver cannot be blamed for an accident particularly in black spots and in places where road works are underway and there are diversions taking many unaware when no proper sign boards are in place.

The potholes and craters on roads too are claiming many lives every year. The authorities need to be blamed for such deaths and mishaps. There is a need for good maintenance of roads too to reduce accidents and also to ensure least inconvenience to motorists whenever road work is underway.

In a way the co-operation of each and every citizen as well as the government departments concerned, coupled with stricter enforcement of traffic rules would go a long way in reducing accidents and making our roads safer for the motorists and pedestrians alike.
Commission galore?

Yes, it’s raining Commission everywhere. Of course, we mean Commission allegations and counter allegations. First it was all about 40% commission and suddenly there was a twist followed by a 30% commission allegation by a Lingayat seer Dingaleshwar Swami by stating a 30% cut was collected from even grants given to the mutts. However this allegation has met with objection from a section of the seers including Vajradehi Swami and a swamiji of the Phalimar Mutt of Udupi.

Vajradehi seer Sri Rajashekharananda dubbed as 'blatant lie' the 30% allegation of Dingaleshwar seer. He claimed that his mutt has not given even single rupee as commission and added that there needs to be some evidence before making claims of Commission.

Even Phalimar seer Sri Vidyadheesha Theertha Swamiji refuted the allegation and said there is no scope for bribe or commission while offering grants to religious places.

The common man is in a fix. Whom to believe? It is now for the government to come clean on the issue.

Words and Deeds!

The recent developments in the state, particularly in the coastal districts, the several demands placed forth by the Hindutva organisations, almost all aimed at alienating the minority community, while testing the patience of the common man, has drawn sharp reactions particularly from the Congress leaders. MLA U T Khader recently lashed out at the CM and said he has handed over the state to Goonda elements, clearly taking a dig at the Government for failing to act at the Hindutva groups which were coming up with a new demand every other day.

The CM has to speak up, he has to launch a crackdown on communal elements, Khader thundered. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister who was in the district to participate in a host of programmes, knowing very well that people are expecting answers said "We know how to maintain peace, our actions will speak for us." But not much of an action has been seen on the ground level except banning the entry of a Hindutva leader to Udupi district. And of course, rules were relaxed and the leader indeed made a visit, though he did not take part in any event.

Pathetic!

A Smart City like Mangaluru can now boast of wide concretised roads. But what about inner streets? Here is one, the Kalbavi Road at Kottara. The sight is pathetic and the road needs urgent repair. There are many such instances in this Smart City. Will the MCC act?

PIC: GIRISH KULAL
Unique megalithic era rock cave found near Ramakunja

A rock-cut cave, considered to be the first such cave from Megalithic period to be found in Dakshina Kannada was traced at a government plantation at Aturu-Kundaje near Ramakunja of Kadaba taluk.

Though usually megalithic burial sites have stone circles and menhirs, the one found at the cashew plantation is a sepulchre with a circle or zero. An altar like pit has been noticed at the centre with small pieces of red, black pottery found inside, says Prof. T Murugeshi, Associate Professor of History and Archaeology at MSRS College, Shirva.

The cave has a large engraving of a circle of about seven feet diameter and below there is a hemispherical cave with a 2 feet height side opening.

City based waste management start-up gets aid from US firm

A US based Plastic Action Platform named rePurpose Global has come forward to aid Mangala Resource management Private Ltd in disposal of multi-layer plastic wastes including snacks packets.

Mangala Resource Management which is a start-up involved in waste management is managing the Material Recovery Facility at Nitte in Karkala taluk. It recently signed an MoU with rePurpose Global with regard to disposal of multi-layer plastic. As per the agreement the financial assistance provided by rePurpose Global will be used to cover the cost towards segregation and transportation of multi-layered plastics.

Mangala Resource Management has been segregating multi-layer plastics which cannot be recycled and sending the same to cement factories in Bagalkot where these plastic wastes are used as an alternative to coal. The Mangala firm has been thus spending Rs 16 per kg towards this.

The MoU between Mangala Resource Management and rePurpose Global was signed in the presence of Mangala firm’s Managing Director Dilraj Alva and Executive Director Ranjan Bellarpady. Kamal Raj, Director of Impact Projects represented rePurpose Global.

Dredging works to be taken up in 8 ports this year: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that the dredging works in eight fisheries ports of the state will be taken up this year. Addressing a party workers’ meet at Bantwal during his recent visit to the district, the Chief Minister said the government would also offer subsidy for purchase of high-end speed boats for deep sea fishing.

He said measures would also be taken to relax CRZ regulations so that more industries come up and employment opportunities are created.

The CM also exuded confidence that the BJP would be able to win the next Assembly elections in the state. State Transport Minister B Sriramulu, Energy Minister Sunil Kumar, MP DV Sadananda Gowda, Fisheries Minister S Angara and other party leaders were present.

City lad wins National Junior Classic Powerlifting Championship

Aren Joy Fernandes, a third-year student of E&C Engineering at St Joseph Engineering College, Mangaluru, won first place in the National Junior Classic Powerlifting Championship held at Alappuzha in Kerala.

He set national records in Squat 230 kg and Dead Lift 283 kg by lifting a total weight of 653 kg. He also did a 140 kg Bench Press during the event.

Earlier, in 2019, he had won a gold medal at the Asian Classic Powerlifting Championship held in Kazakhstan. In 2021, he stood sixth in the World Junior Classic Powerlifting Championship held at Halmstad in Sweden.
Likely fourth Covid wave keeps educational institutions on alert mode

With several experts predicting a fourth Covid-19 wave in the state in the weeks to come, the educational institutions in the district are gearing up and are ensuring all Covid protocols like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing are adhered to. The Mangalore University meanwhile, as a precautionary measure has asked all its eligible employees to take the booster shot of Covid vaccine.

Presently, with Covid cases almost on the decline and with just one or two cases being reported on a daily basis and nil cases on some days, there is a sigh of relief among the masses and also among the students.

But the prediction of a possible Covid wave has caused some apprehension more so because there has been some leniency in adhering to the rules in the recent weeks with a complete decline in Covid cases. With schools too set to reopen for the coming academic year on May 16, there is a need to follow all guidelines as a precautionary measure to ensure there is no spike in cases.

The Kashmir Files impact
Puttur institution offers free education for Kashmiri Pandit children

Subrahmanya Nattoja, the Founder of Ambika Pre-University College in Puttur has embarked on a noble mission after watching the movie "The Kashmir Files" which depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits after the terrorist insurgency of the '90s.

Inspired by the movie, he not only screened it for the students of his institute but also visited Jagati in Jammu along with his family and with the help of the Jammu Press Club announced that he would offer free education in his institution to the children of Kashmiri Pandits. Jagati in Jammu is the place where hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit families have resettled after their exodus from Kashmir.

He said his move of offering free education is with the intention of seeing to it that no one is deprived of education due to financial issues.

Three students have enrolled for the free education programme so far and the institution is also receiving more enquiries regarding the free education offer.

Dwindling fish catch worries fishermen

Fishing was once a thriving industry of the coast. Not anymore, with the industry reeling under various problems. The pandemic and the subsequent restrictions have already taken a heavy toll on the industry. To add to the problem, dwindling fish catch has been a great source of worry to the fishermen. Even the rise in diesel prices has been adding salt to injury as going on a deep sea fishing would mean more burden on the pockets of the boat owners.

With just a few weeks away for the monsoon fishing ban, fishermen are a worried lot. Some fishermen attribute the problem to illegal fishing activities like light fishing and fishing during reproductive period of the marine creatures.

The dwindling fish catch is reflecting on the prices of fish in turn hitting hard the fish lovers of the coastal belt. The government has to do something to help the fishing industry, say many fishermen leaders.
Dangerous Attempts to Divide the Society

The blowing up of non-issues into out of proportion seems to be the major task of some forces which are hell bent upon creating rifts between communities and raising the bogey of threats to Hinduism, writes Prof. Narendra Nayak

With due apologies to Martin Niemoller:
First they came for the rationalists; I did not speak up because I am not a rationalist
Then they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak up because I am not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Muslims, I did not speak up because I am not a Muslim
Then they came for the Christians, I did not speak up because I am not a Christian
Then they came for the dalits, I did not speak up because I am not a dalit
Then they came for me, there was no one left to speak up for me.

If we go back to these times, they are a modification of what was written by Martin Niemuller, a Lutheran priest in Nazi ruled Germany. Of course the groups were different, but the attitudes were the same. Creating a fear of domination on minority groups, thrusting the rhetoric of a dominant group down the throats of even unwilling majority of the population and a false sense of belonging to a group with a glorious past which has been suppressed by ‘invasions’ real or imaginary. Seizing power and holding on to it by mass hysteria and sloganeering was the main tool in the hands of the fascists who were thrust into power at a time when the nation was reeling under economic depression. Supported by a police, secret service and a section of the population willing to snitch on their neighbors, the egos bolstered by illusions of glory unleashed a tragedy resulting in deaths of millions, hardship on billions and a world war that devastated mankind. It took decades for recovery and untold misery on the survivors.

The situation that we are experiencing in our country today, is reminiscent of those times. With double digit inflation, an economy hit by pandemic and recession, rising unemployment with a huge section of the youth directionless and clueless about their futures the future seems to be bleak. Well, as the famous saying goes- if they do not have bread, let them eat cake – today’s slogan seems to be-if we do not have any issues to raise let us create some. It has been said many times that Karnataka in the laboratory of Hindutva in the South. The laboratory seems to have gone into over time that the elections are approaching. The blowing up of non issues into out of proportion seems to be the major task of these forces. Starting from dictating diets to a new found love for the legal machinery seem to be the latest issues. It started with the hijab issue and the court orders and branding the questioning of them as antinational!
The very same groups who agitated for a year against the Supreme Court judgment on the entry of women into Sabarimalai issue are today talking about the Karnataka High Court judgment on the Hijab issue being sacrosanct and threatening those who question it with contempt of court without even having an idea of what is contempt of court!

The other issues that have been raked up are dietary preferences. While the classification of diet into vegetarian and non vegetarian is a typical Indianism like cousin brother, co-sister etc. the term is used specifically in the Indian context restricted to one religion because the Abrahamaic religions too have such idiosyncrasies, theirs are generally confined to their own adherents and to those countries where their laws are the laws of the land. But, in India which is secular the thrusting of the dietary restrictions of one community down the throats of others seems to have now become the norm. In a circular issued by a local body in Karnataka two days in this month have been banned for animal slaughter- one is Rama Navami and the other is April, 14th Ambedkar’s birthday! While none of them were vegetarians it looks like a new version of these revered personalities have been created!

Looking at statistics it is said that while 81% of Indians have meat in their diet, only 39% describe themselves as vegetarians. While the point under discussion is not just thrusting the preferences of a minor percentage of the population down the throats of others, it is also a matter of constitutional rights of all. While a commotion would be caused if a vegetarian be made to eat meat, the other way round seems to be perfectly all right! Some of the Hindus who have migrated abroad and even taken up the citizenship of ‘meat eating’ majority countries, they would like to zealously guard their dietary preferences. Just a week ago a huge fuss was made about a Jain being mistakenly served something which was not vegetarian on a Air India leading to petition that henceforth food served on Air India be made vegetarian only.

It is not just thrusting dietary preferences, but also affecting livelihoods of a section of the population by targeting their businesses, rented premises, articles sold by them etc. The issues of Halal and Jhatka slaughter being one of them. Putting that aside, a load of water melons- which come under neither were wantonly destroyed by a Hindutva outfit in Dharwar- the reason being they were being sold by a Muslim! One has to see whether the same will be extended to all products being purchased and sold to these communities because the major share of oil comes from Muslim nations! One has to wait and see whether these outfits will start banning these too- because almost all of the petroleum products used in this country come from either Muslim or Christian countries! Would that apply to cell phones, the media platforms belonging to Non Hindus?

It is very clear that the ruling party having assumed power by hook and crook wants to hold on to it by any means. Last election issues were murders of Hindu activists by deficient law and order. In this election this issue cannot be raised because they are ruling. Hence they are on the lookout for new issues. The hottest topics seem to be creating rifts between communities and raising the bogey of threats to Hinduism! While no threats are seen to it in countries where the relatives of the leaders stay, are employed, where their children get educated- the danger is in a country where they are 80% of the population, rule at the Centre as well as many of the states!

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: naryen@gmail.com
OF GRAFT, BABUS AND NETAS

ENDLESS CORRUPTION

It is so virulent around us that even after the so-called digital revolution in public service, the matter remains the same. In fact, it appears to be a convenient option for many of us.
CALL IT CORRUPTION, nepotism, favouritism, or red tape; it all leads to one end: the illegal exchange of money. It is so virulent around us that even after the so-called digital revolution in public service, the matter remains the same. However, things have moved upwards in value and corruption is now indirect, insidious and more lethal.

But when did this happen? Blame it on the right-wing governments? It appears to be a convenient option for many of us. But it cannot be totally undeniable that the recent scams that tumbled out of the closet of the ruling party have shocked society. The Police Sub Inspector recruitment examination, the university teachers’ examination, and many more have left us with only one question: is this malady ever going to leave us? Or are we stuck with it forever?

Going through the research papers put out by various law portals, it is so strenuous to see how the government functionaries have squeezed money from the common people, so viciously, surreptitiously, and definitely. There are cases of land grabs, circumventing processes, delaying clearances and outright denial of services for want of pecuniary benefits. The Lokayukta and Anti-Corruption Bureau and even the police files show a great deal of divide between the people and the service givers-in this case, the government! However, it is also true that officers and politicians still believe in upright social conduct, and there is a judiciary that likes to stand by them.

On July 25 last year (2021), a Lokayukta special court sentenced Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) assistant town planning official BP Shivaraj to five years in prison and a fine of Rs 34 lac for keeping assets disproportionate to his known sources of income in his 20 years as a town planning officer in the service of Mangaluru City Corporation.

In the neighbouring district of Udupi, the office of the Udupi Urban Development Authority (UUDA) was raided by the sleuths of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and they were able to unearth the ill-gotten sum of money of Rs 2.5 lakh from UUDA engineer Guruprasad. Two other officers of the UUDA, Naima Sayyid and Prasad, were taken into custody by ACB sleuths. These were the payments from people seeking building licences, who were basically builders, but there are cases where the common people who wanted licences and completion certificates were also made to run from pillar to post to attain the documents.

The regional transport authorities are still in their ‘Raj’ timeline. Despite the digitisation of services, the paperwork does exist and corruption exists where the paperwork still rules. The touts come into the process and the touts are hand in glove with the officers. Right from attaining a learning licence for a humble two-wheeler from a college-going kid to the registration of a multi-axel air-conditioned coach, this process continues. If there is a renewal of the registration certificate which has lapsed, then God only saves the owner. But consider the old vehicles that have lived their lives and can also get the 2022 registration mark!

The Lokayukta investigator in the case
of charges of corruption against MCC town planning official Shivaraj had gathered information about Shivaraj’s properties and noted in the report given to the Lokayukta DySP Prabhudev Mane that the official had amassed wealth valued at Rs 38 lakhs, in addition to his sources of income. Luckily, both Mane and Raju were able to gather 27 witnesses in support of their charge sheet, which made them collect 160 different documents to nail the official. The judiciary was also quick in disposing of the case and awarding the sentence with a fine. The sentence was handed down by a judge of the third district and sessions court under sections 13 (1) and (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Justice Jakati, known for his quick and right judgements, had observed that corruption is cancer in society and that leniency in the quantum of punishment for the accused is not appropriate. This was a landmark judgement in the history of Mangalore City Corporation and was quoted by the advocates in their guest lectures at the law schools.

Viral video on Corruption:

The MCC council meeting held on December 31, 2021, witnessed a vociferous discussion over a viral video of Mayor Premanand Shetty taking MCC officials to task over corruption. In the viral video, a citizen was seen complaining about officials receiving bribes. “I have seen a person distributing Rs. 500/- each to all here yesterday,” he told the Mayor, who reached the spot after receiving complaints. The Mayor immediately sought the CCTV camera images and took the officials to task for not clearing files for more than two months.

Raising the issue, Congress Corporators alleged that people are forced to pay Rs. 500/- at each table in the MCC. Opposition leader A C Vinayaraj said that people have been discussing corruption in the MCC on social media platforms. Another Corporator, Naveen D’Souza said that the Mayor had immediately rushed to the section of the MCC and found the truth knowing well that corruption is rampant in all sections of the City Corporation.

Real estate operators’ woes:

"The higher the buildings, the higher the rate of corruption" appears to be the tagline. The real estate operators, some of them, have opened their minds to fight corruption. In an expression aired by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI), members point out that despite the Prime Minister of India has resolved that his government will expedite houses for everybody in the country, the lacklustre services are given at the registering offices everywhere in the country has made buyers and sellers wary of the process. An operator who also holds office at the CREDAI Udupi unit told Mangalore Today on condition of anonymity that the sub registrar’s offices in both Mangaluru and Udupi deliberately have fewer people to handle the rush. Many times in a day, the servers either go slow or crash, and every registration is delayed or postponed, sometimes for days together. The tokens have been re-issued in that event, and again, another cycle of the process goes on. The offices are so understaffed that sometimes we have to book tokens for 3–4 weeks for registration.

The CREDAI and other organisations have appealed to the district administrations, but there is no respite from this red tapeism, the CREDAI office bearers lament.

Speaking on the difficulties faced, they say, "We are paying crores of rupees as
tax to the government. But there is an acute shortage of staff in government offices. The government should consider setting up two sub-registrar offices for urban and rural areas, respectively, for ease of business. In a few states, the registration is being done at the lawyer’s offices. The government should consider this as another means of reducing the dependency on the registration office. In cities like Mumbai, the sub-registrar office staff work on a shift basis; the first shift is from 7 AM to 1 PM, and the second shift is from 2 PM to 8 PM. This has brought many positive changes. This will also provide employment opportunities. There are only three appointed staff in the Udupi sub-registrar office. All the other staff are earning their income from the bribe amounts. When probing into the difficulties, the CREDAI office bearers found that the officials were complaining of a shortage of hands and computers and also a stable network. We donated everything they wanted, but when it comes to service, they still lag behind a lot. After seeing this for years, we have come to the conclusion that they are doing this to squeeze money from the people who come for registration.

Two officials of the Regional Transport Office in Udupi were arrested recently by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for allegedly receiving bribes from a car owner. The owner had lost his car just a month after he had purchased it. It was gutted in the fire that broke out at the parking slot of the Bangalore air show. The officials were caught receiving bribes from Vignesh for clearing his car’s documents. As he used the car only for a month, he was eligible to get a refund of the road tax. Hence, he had applied for documents from the transport office. Vignesh had already received his car insurance amount of Rs 3 lakh and had applied for documents to submit it for a refund. He was supposed to get Rs 65,000 as road tax. The officials had demanded 10% of this sum. Vignesh refused to pay the bribe and brought the matter to the notice of the ACB, who later booked both officials.

The Mangalore Smart City Limited officials were also under the scanner of the ACB. In November last year, the ACB sleuths raided the house of the Executive Director of the MSCL after they received complaints from the contractors of the MSCL civil works of alleged amassment of wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

On February 1, 2021, State minister for urban development, B A ByrathiBasavaraj took officials concerned to task for not completing development works under the Smart City project. He said the he was aware of the corruption involved in development works.

On April 23, 2022, MLC, Manjunath Bhandary said “BJP government is a commission government. They have fixed rate for every work. We cannot expect goodness from this government.” Speaking to reporters at Hemmady, Bhandary said, “A person by the name Kempanna wrote a letter to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi about the 40% commission issue of state BJP government a year ago. But there is no response from the PM’s secretariat. This has given rise to suspicion.
The silence of the PM shows that he is supporting corruption indirectly.

The law portals like Indian Kanoon, AndhaKanoon, and many others have pages of such cases of corruption that have taken place in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, mainly in Mangaluru and Udupi cities. Most of them are from the civic bodies, transport department, land and revenue department, and even some from the agriculture department under crop insurance schemes. Most of them have reached the conviction stage, and some of them have been acquitted.

Mr Paniyala, in a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, stated that the incident appears to involve the corrupt practice of offering illegal gratification, amounting to misconduct unbecoming of a professor’s education. “Undoubtedly, this is an act of moral turpitude, lowering the dignity and reputation of the university itself, of which I am part by being a member of the mighty Catholic Church in a case of embezzlement of funds donated by the laity for the development of the Cordel Church in 2018. The sum was to the extent of Rs. 5 crores.

But the big expose that happened in the world of politics was in the case of a civil contractor, Santhosh Patil, who committed suicide in Udupi after alleging former minister KS Eshwarappa and a few others of holding back his payment for the work taken up by the RDPR department in Belagavi district. It is now beyond any doubt that the Santhosh Patil suicide case will have political overtones following the resignation of KS Eshwarappa, one of the heavyweight ministers of the state cabinet, and the Congress Party, the principal opposition party in the state assembly, clamouring for the arrest and implication of Eshwarappa. “The event of arrest and further proceedings on Eshwarappa will hinge on the investigations and the findings.” But it is also true that the Udupi police have filed an FIR and a case of abetment of suicide under strict sections of the CrPC. "Under such conditions, Eshwarappa must have been arrested and, of course, bail and other processes must have been followed within a few hours of filing the case by the police,” said a former high-ranking police officer on condition of anonymity. It is still unsure if the resignation of Eshwarappa has been accepted or not by the Chief Minister.

Syndicate. While the police are going to investigate the criminal aspect of the offence, the university, being the employer and appointing authority constituted under the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, is required to take serious cognizance of this shocking incident and seek an explanation from the professor in question forthwith as a prelude before initiating appropriate disciplinary proceedings from the point of misconduct as the issue is much deeper and larger, warranting appropriate action proactively in the larger interest of the public. The letter has stated

In another valiant fight, Robert Rosario, an anti-corruption fighter, took on the

The people’s movement against corruption is weak on the coast.

The coastal people are usually calm and keep to themselves, except for some emotive issues concerning religion and rarely the environment. They do not tend to raise their voices against corruption. However, there are organisations like Forum for Justice and a few individuals like Vivekananda Paniyala, an independent and gutsy advocate and anti-corruption activist, Shashidhar Shetty, and many others who have raised their voices against corrupt practices. In a classic and shameful case, a Mangaluru University professor filed a police complaint alleging that he was duped out of Rs. 30 lakhs by a man named Prasad. This sum was paid by the professor as consideration for appointing him to the post of Vice-Chancellor of one of the scheduled universities.

Now there are more claims of corruption from different groups. Temples, electrical contractors, and college and school administrations have claimed that officials and politicians are demanding a percentage of the money released by the government.
Summertime corruption:
The Mangaluru City Corporation has a queer and very insidious way of corruption. It is micromanaged. Despite the city having good water sources in the form of the Nethravati river and Thumbe dam, 30 per cent of the city is always parched. There is a sound water distribution system in place that can reach water to every corner of the city for at least 3 hours every day. But still, water tankers are in great demand during the summer at Rs. 800-1000 per tank. One might wonder how! It is simple; do not open the release valve fully so that the water does not fill up the overhead tanks. The valve operators have specific orders from their superiors to keep the valve half open. When there is no water in their tanks, where do they go? Naturally, they will call the local water suppliers. All the water supply operators with their own wells and water sources make big money during the two-month summer.

Corruption of the divine kind!
The coast is known for its temples. It has the richest temples in Karnataka, second only to Tirupathi. But the practises these temples follow to keep the devotees queued up do reek of corruption of the spiritual kind! How did the temples become famous? By the number of devotees outside the temple! So keep them outside as far as possible. Do not give them darshan. They quickly close the temple mahadwaras at a time when devotees start arriving. And when there is enough of a crowd outside that becomes restless and unmanageable, open the Mahadwara and let them in. Give them only one second of darshan. Push them away if they take a good look at the idol. By that time, the devotee would have been drained physically and mentally, and he or she would want to get out of the temple and head homeward. If they want longer darshan, create another queue that will be paid. Many A-grade temples have now 'paid darshan’. Each ticket costs anything between Rs. 200-300 per person and, according to the sources in the Muzrai department, all the 40 plus A-grade temples do have this facility now and the target is to divert 50 per cent of devotees through the paid darshan queue. The temple administration is so brutal that senior citizens and those in poor health are denied direct access to the darshan. Everybody has to stand in a queue for not less than two hours inside the maze of steel railings for that "one-second" darshan. The so-called guardians of Hinduism do not address these issues and use their influence to bring

1800-year-old Gujjarakere Lake rejuvenated at a cost of around Rs.4 crore last year, the tank continues to receive sewage, witnesses increase in coliform content.
reformation in temple management. Are they a part of this corrupt practice too? One cannot help but think aloud.

Consider this: families from far-flung places in Karnataka and neighbouring states spend thousands of rupees of their hard-earned money to come to temples on the coast, especially Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya, Kollur Mookambika, and other places, and they are not even allowed to stand in front of the deity for a few seconds! But the temple authorities do not forget to remind them to deposit their "Kanike" into the Hundi. He and his family had come from Koppal to Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya, and Kollur Mookambika, paying Rs. 20,000 towards the transport and spending another Rs. 30,000 on other expenses for his family of 10. "They made my aged parents stand in the queue for 3 hours for darshan. In the end, when they were about to get darshan, the temple strongmen pushed them away as they were slow in moving." I will never come again, "Gowda said.

**Transparency International**

In 2021, Transparency International ranked India at 85 among 180 countries in its Corruption Perception Index. "The case of India is particularly worrying. There are concerns over the country’s democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay," it reported. The report highlighted concerns over the risk to journalists and activists who have been “victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials.” “Civil society organisations that speak up against the government have been targeted with security, defamation, sedition, hate speech and contempt-of-court charges, and with regulations on foreign funding,” the report revealed.

The report recorded that more than 62% of Indians had at some point or another paid a bribe to a public official to get a job done. Another report showed that over 50% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or using contacts to get services performed by public offices.

Corruption continues to pervade virtually every sphere of life in the country. Corruption eats into the innards of a country. It is a debilitating social cancer which spares no one. The biggest consequences of corruption are the generation of vast amounts of black money, the flight of capital, bad governance and abysmal backwardness in areas where corruption remains high and undetected. Promises made by politicians and political parties to root out corruption in the country have not been kept.

India needs strong, independent institutions across the board which will not buckle under pressure from politicians. It is only when key institutions such as the CVC, Lok Pal, Lokayukta, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Anti-Corruption Bureaux (ACBs), Comptroller and Auditor Generals (CAGs) and Police departments live up to their promise and are empowered against manipulation by politicians and other vested interests that the country will begin to see better governance and greater respect for the law.
WHILE IT WAS THE former Prime minister, Indira Gandhi who said corruption is a universal phenomenon, the present dispensation which came to power with the slogan ‘na khaoonga na khane doonga’ aided by Rip Van Vinkle’s desi avatar who wakes up once in a while goes on a fast unto death protesting corruption only to go back to sleep after getting ‘assurances’ to wake up later and the winking contortionist who philosophizes on everything from health to corruption till he gets the same through the government, however corrupt it may be.

With the latest understood let us go on with the older ones.

1. Part of our cultural ethos - it starts right from the childhood (when the son is told drink your milk and I will give you the chocolate) to adulthood to the grave - the last being preceded by heavy bribes to the nonexistent gods in terms of rituals to take the soul of the departed to heaven, where again, the good deeds will be rewarded by getting the chance to cavort with Rambha, Urvasi and the other apsaras with unlimited supplies of somras! This apart, those professing other faiths can have their share of virgins or float on clouds twanging harp etc!

2. Mamool or fixed routine - this is the usual payment over and above the official fee. Though this corruption has become totally acceptable, as part of business as usual.

3. Share of the ill gotten gains - in sales tax offices, registrar’s office, building permits, illegal activities the huge profits made have to be ‘shared’ with the regulatory authorities for turning a blind eye or sanctioning them.

4. One time payment - say starting a highly profitable venture, be it real estate, factory, seat selling educational outfit or even a brothel for that matter - the local, regional and national regulatory bodies have to be ‘taken care of’!

5. Philosophical justifications-
   a) He/she has paid so much to get the job, so should that be not recovered?
   b) After all everyone is corrupt.
   c) He/she has a family to look after.
   d) He/she has to pay so much to higher ups.

May be to these you can add your own.

People like yours truly are looked upon like an aberration! I recall the time when my mother’s remains were taken for cremation and the clerk there filled up the particulars and asked for Rs.50. I asked him for the receipt as per my usual habit. He said the receipt was for Rs.5 only. I said then it is only amount that I will pay. He was furious. I said I will complain and those who came with me said your mother is dead and here you are fighting for a few rupees. I said I am not fighting for a few rupees; I am sticking to my principles. One of my friends told me to get lost and look after the arrangements, don’t stand here fighting. I do not know what happened later. My mother was too kind hearted for that. Once when I had come home for lunch (we were in an independent rented house then) she told me that the fuse on the pole had blown and she called the electricity board and a line man had come to replace it. She had given him a twenty rupee note which he threw back at her and demanded fifty which she had paid.
reluctantly. Outraged I shot off a furious letter to the executive engineer. After two days when I came home for lunch, she had a story. She said the concerned line man had come home apologized and gave back the fifty rupees with the remark that I do not want your money; I do not want your complaint. After some time she said the junior engineer had come to explain to her how though the concerned individual was corrupt, he was good at his work and he would lose his job and that he had a family which would be on the streets. My mother’s grouse was who asked you to complain? If he loses his job, family will be on the streets! She also told me the issue was settled and I should mind my own business. When I asked her why she had complained to me about the corruption, her reply was she had not complained, just mentioned it!

I could write volumes about how I, as an individual, fought corruption, have not paid a paisa as a bribe etc. I am just giving the following which I had penned a decade back about my experiences at the sub registrar’s office which is one of the top hot beds of corruption. Any number of stories could be told about how things have been manipulated. Here is my narrative of how I fought it.

**At the registrar’s office:**

The office of the sub registrar who registers documents about properties, wills, trusts and partnership deeds etc is supposed to be one of the most corrupt of the govt. offices. It is said that even a paper will not flutter in the breeze there unless a bribe is paid. It is also dominated by some lawyers and so called ‘document writers’. My first brush with the registrar was about 31 years back when I got married. The registrar was brought to my father-in-law’s house for the registration of my marriage and various amounts were demanded. There were receipts for each payment except for some five rupees which they said was to be paid as transport allowance though they had been brought there by some one’s car! No other payment was made. The registrar was probably free as it was during Rahu Kalam, a very inauspicious period and hence no registrations would take place during this time. There was no ‘document writer’ involved in the process!

My next visit was to the place for registering the purchase deed for a shop which was done for all the purchasers at the same time and that time there was probably no occasion to pay a bribe or I do not know whether something was paid by the promoter, any way I did not pay anything extra. The next occasion came when I had to purchase a flat in 1998. When I went for registration with the promoter of the project the sub registrar was one Manjunath! When I saw him, a bell rang in my memory! He had been a sub registrar in the same place and had been transferred somewhere else. During his previous stint he had refused to register a marriage and we had complained about that to higher ups and an inquiry had been held and during that we had a heavy exchange of words! He had probably manipulated to come back to Mangalore because it was a very 'profitable' posting!

When he saw me he almost jumped out of his chair and glared at me! I put forward the documents and he said undervaluation - it was in fact undervaluation - a flat whose declared value according to the government was about 550,000 rupees was being sold to me for 250,000 rupees. There was no other payment involved because there had been a court decree to that effect. We had been tenants of a house at the plot where the flats were built and the promoter had promised us a three bed room flat for that amount so that we would vacate the premises immediately and that had been recorded by a court decree! I explained to
him that, but he kept saying that it was beyond his powers. I told him to reject the document but state that in writing but I would not pay him a paisa. He replied that he had not asked me for that but since it was beyond his powers to register the document as it was, he was sending it to the district registrar who was the higher authority.

After some days I got a letter from the district registrar asking me to come and meet him. When I went at the appointed time he told me that he does not know the location of the property. I told him that the address was there and it was his headache. He told me that I had to take him to see the place and I replied that he better use the government car provided to him for such purposes. He was furious and said that he would decide without seeing the place. I told him to go ahead and do whatever he wanted. It was obvious that he wanted to be ‘taken’ to that place and ‘convinced’ - both things which I was not willing to do. So, after some days I got a notice to pay the additional amount of duty on the undervalued deed and I did that. When the process was over I asked the clerk whether I had to pay anything more. He said I could give him something if I wanted. I told him that I was paying him his salary every month and whether he was not happy with that. He was taken aback and said that he did not want anything! So, that was the end of the story.

We have registered some organisations. In 1984 we had to register a trust called as the Consumers Education Trust of Mangalore and one of our trustees who was a chartered accountant had drafted the deed. But, when we took it to the sub registrar for registration, he rejected it saying that it had no signature of the person who had drafted it. He said the rule was that such deeds could be drafted only by a document writer or a lawyer! We had decided to go back but there was a lawyer who was known to us and he put his signature as the person who drafted it and it was accepted. A few years back, I had decided to buy a plot of land at a place called Guruvayankere near Mangalore and the whole process went through without any bribe to the sub registrar as I had specified that when I purchased the land from a friend of mine.

The latest was on the 30th July when I had gone to register our Aid Without Religion Trust. The trust deed had been drafted by my cousin, a chartered accountant and I wanted to get the same registered on the particular day considered to be the most inauspicious in Mangalore side and at the most inappropriate time Rahu Kalam which is an all India phenomenon. When I went to the Mangalore city sub registrar’s office at 9.45 am some of the people were already ensconced in their chairs, a wonder indeed for a government office but remember - this is no ordinary government office but that of the sub registrar supposed to be one of the most lucrative posts! There is something called a token system and I told the concerned person in charge that mine should be ‘Number 1’ as I was the first person coming in and he agreed. When I was showing him the papers, the lady sitting at the next table got irritated and told me that I should take a group photo when everything was over. I asked her whether she had objections to taking photos and that I would continue to take photos even if she objected because it was a government office, a public place and not her personal property. Then she asked me for the camera when I queried why, she said she wanted to take my photograph. I told her that I had no objection at all to taking mine but she should do that with her personal camera and not mine!

Then we waited for the sub registrar to turn up and she was late by 30 minutes. As soon as she came in the owners of document of ‘Token Number 2’ were at her table. I protested and told them what was the point in giving the token numbers? So, the papers of Token No 2 were removed and mine put on the table. Then

Probably it must have been for the first time in the history of the office that someone was questioning their timing! So, the whole task of registering a trust went on without paying a paisa as bribe, without budging an inch and in time!
I asked the sub registrar what were the office timings, she said at 10 and every day she was on time and apologized for the delay. Probably it must have been for the first time in the history of the office that someone was questioning their timing! So, the whole task of registering a trust went on without paying a paisa as bribe, without budging an inch and in time! By that time one of the TV channels had come to record this event and I went to the lady who had objected to my photography and told her that I was apologizing for taking only still photographs and the TV cameraman would set that right by taking video footage and I could sense the impotent rage in her looks!

So, it is possible to register documents without paying a paisa as bribe, taking the help of a 'document writer' or lawyer and also get our things done in time. In fact, the documents have to be returned to the registering person the same evening after completing the formalities! Since most of us are unfamiliar with the procedures we fall a prey to the machinations of the staff of the office who are hand in glove with the horde of brokers who are seen outside the premises and act as if they are the official agents of the government. Unless we are forthright, tough and aware of our rights we shall continue to be taken for a ride by these so called government servants who are actually the servants of the real estate lobby, a gang of lawyers and so called document writers.

Each time I have visited the sub registrar’s office I can see the look of surprise on the faces of many people who cannot even imagine that one can talk like I do in that office! The sad state of affairs is that people do not know about their rights and the procedures. In fact one does not need any lawyer or document writer to 'draft' the document. We can do that ourselves and write on it as drafted by self. If we do not know the procedure one can inquire in the office itself! The registration has to be done according to token numbers and it should go on according to the serial order. No one should be allowed to jump the queue. If one’s documents are rejected it should be stated in writing as to why that is being done. If one suspects that there is some hanky panky we can seek the records under the Right to Information act. We should understand that the employees of all government offices are public servants paid with the taxpayers money and they are not the masters. Only when we realise and stand up for our rights can these people be taken to task.

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Malpe, the famous tourist spot of Udupi, now has another attraction. The first ever floating bridge of the state that is expected to attract many more tourists to the spot.

MLA of Udupi Raghupati Bhat inaugurated the bridge recently and said more water sports activities would be introduced in the beach in the days to come and assured all support from the Tourism Department and District Administration to those who wish to start water sports activities here.

Udupi CMC President Sumitra Nayak, CMC Vice President Lakshmi Manjunath, former minister Pramod Madhwaraj and others were present.

The 100 meter long bridge is a contribution of the local Hanuman Vitobha Bhajana Mandal. The bridge which is 3.5 feet wide is made of pontoons blocks.

A visitor would be charged Rs 100 and at a time 100 visitors will be allowed and they can spend 15 minutes at the 12 meter long and 7.5 meter wide space facing the sea during their trip and can feel the movement of the sea waves.

The bridge has 30 lifebuoy rings for the safety purpose and 10 lifeguards will also be on duty.

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Malpe gets another attraction

A FLOATING BRIDGE

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Fifty Golden years

P&T (IndiaPost) a Govt organisation in October 1963. She was an athlete and a gold medalist in the P & T (Post & Telegraph) department. She was the first lady to be the director in P&T employees Cooperative. She also served as a president of Canara High School, Urwa, Alumni Association. She guided many aspirants to pursue jobs in the postal department. In 2004, she retired from the P & T department. In 2008, she was invited as a chief guest for the philatelic club day in Canara High School, Main. On the Annual Day in 2008-2009 she was honoured as a retired Postal Official. Her social standing was exemplary and many turned to her for help and guidance in many matters.

On the occasion of 50 Golden years of wedded life, the grand old couple is wished many good things by their children, near and dear. Their deep gratitude and their generosity and example in real life is admired and can be an inspiration for ever.

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IJS SHET
Twenty one year old Amritha Joshi has achieved a feat that can inspire and motivate many other women - A solo bike expedition to the North Eastern states of India. When Amritha who hails from Kumble set out on her expedition, there were many who cautioned her that North Eastern states were not safe, but a determined Amritha set out on her mission and has succeeded. She says she could complete her expedition due to the love and affection shown by the people of the NE states, contrary to the notion that these places were unsafe.

On a Solo Mission

Amritha who began her expedition on February 5 this year from Kallikote in Kerala traversed 8,040 kms through Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. She also visited neighbouring Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Enthused by her NE Expedition she has now set out on another mission of extending her bike expedition to other states. A member of C.R.F. Women on Wheel club, she is the daughter of Annapoorna Joshi and late Ashok Joshi of Kumble.

India is known for its diversity that transcends all barriers and one such instance which is truly resplendent of India’s uniqueness can be witnessed in Kaup. The Marigudis of this tranquil town which attract devotees from far and near have a unique tradition wherein two Muslim musicians play Nadaswara before the Goddess.

The musicians who offers this service to the Goddess are Sheik Jaleel Saheb and his younger brother Sheikh Akbar Saheb. Their family has been offering music service at temples of the town since ages and their’s is the fifth generation to do. They offer this Music Service with utmost devotion and find immense satisfaction in it.

Their great great grandfather Sheik Mathha Saheb was given an acre of land as Umbali by the ancient Lakshmi Janardhan Temple of Kaup and the family cultivates that land and offers music service to the Gods. Jaleel Saheb’s father Baban Saheb, grandfather Imam Saheb and great grand-father Mugdum Saheb too had offered Nadaswara seva to the Goddess.

Every Tuesday Jaleel offers Seva at the Third Mari Gudi in the town during the Darshana. Jaleel and Akbar offer Seva at different temples in the town and are indeed happy to so. A worthy tradition indeed.
Staunchly believing that every student has the potential to excel, Boscoss Pre-University College was started in the June of 2016, as the brainchild of Prof. S.S. Bosco’s incessant aspiration to build an exemplary institution where students can be inspired to excel academically. Boscoss PU College, a learner-friendly college, has evolved with the intrinsic strength of well-trained and highly experienced faculty who have spent decades in the area of Pre-University teaching.

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Shrutika D (NTK)
Shruti D (PEST)
Varun Kadya (JSS, Mysore)

NEET Toppers 2018
Shreyas B (RVCE - C.S.)
Chintanasharma (PEST - C.S.)
Shreyas Nallaya (RVCE - C.S.)
Mother's Day

Since yesterday the social media
Facebook, WhatsApp & many others
Are flooded, nearly gagged with
Messages, images, videos and selfies
Of greetings on Mother’s Day
As if everyone is out to score over others
In a tearing hurry & cut-throat competition
To prove and show the world at large
How much they love and care for their mother!

I don’t justify or care if I am right or wrong
For everyone indeed has freedom to live
Commensurate with own beliefs and ideals
But when I watch this hullabaloo in media
I experience a rush of emotions and pulse
Laden with sorrow, dejection and disgust
But for my genuine feeling and conviction
That if you genuinely love and care for her
You don’t need to announce it always
From a roof or hilltop in your everyday life...

Instead you must implement it in private life
Bestowing such attention and care on her
As if each day of year is the day of mother.

Change of Seasons

This year winter was too harsh
With everywhere snow and frost
Life was standstill in many parts
But it’s over and gone at last.

Wind a bit chill but Sun is warm
Now with the Spring’s arrival
All country folks are in smile
Dormant trees have begun to bud
Leaves unfurling, flowers in bloom
Bees are to buzz and birds to sing.

Whether it’s flora or it’s fauna
Let alone the human life
Full of colors and full of hope
Onset of Spring brings back life.

So this is the life’s canvas
And these are the colors
Sometimes we may be happy
And sometimes we are in blues
So whether contented or forlorn
Let’s make peace with change of seasons.

Poems by DR. JAIPAL SINGH

MANGALORE TODAY CROSSWORD

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ACROSS
1. Pungent bulb (6)
4. Referee (6)
7. Heirlooms (5-4)
10. Cavort (4)
11. Mineral spring (3)
12. Ardent (4)
13. Canvas shelter (4)
15. Foot-lever (5)
18. Point in question (5)
20. Deity (4)
21. Domain (4)
22. Red burgandy (5)
24. Additional (5)
26. Costume (4)
29. Idolise (4)
31. Through (3)
32. Roster (4)
33. Special case (9)
34. Set of six (6)
35. Agile (6)

DOWN
1. Chinwag (6)
2. Jump (4)
3. Edge of bread (5)
4. Municipal (5)
5. Sneak of look (4)
6. Show clearly (6)
7. Exonerate (9)
8. High point (4)
9. Thril (9)
14. Grow weary (4)
16. Commotion (3)
17. Extensive (4)
19. Gender (3)
22. Indian city (6)
23. Clasp (4)
25. Street ruffian (6)
27. Turn aside (5)
28. Truncheon (5)
30. Way out (4)
32. Wander (4)

Solutions on page no. 42
Incredibly, now the USA is seen as having an unprecedented line of leaders with ‘Indian or INDIA’ connections, this is so in many major nations too without doubt. It is well known that the US President Biden himself has an ‘India’ connection, not to mention the US VP Ms. Kamala Harris. Many top officials and peoples’ representatives in the US now have strong Indian links; also heads of top business houses and most professionals, the list runs long. Not to be out done, Pope Francis seems to follow the trend by appointing a first generation Indian-American Rev Fr. Earl K Fernandes, a Knights of Columbus, as a prelate of the Roman Catholic Church in the US. The announcement on April 2, 2022, was made by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Papal Nuncio to the United States. The new Bishop will be consecrated and installed as the 13th bishop of Columbus (Ohio) on May 31, 2022. Exclusively this is amazing news for Mangaloreans and Goans and Mumbaikars, set to bring much joy. Wonderfully, the Bishop-elect Fr.Earl Fernandes, on the Paternal side has strong roots in Mangalore and on the Maternal side in Goa. On both sides the grandparents moved to Bombay of old in the 1930s. This soon to be bishop’s immediate Mangalore roots can be summarized as: ‘Parents: Dr.Sidney Fernandes & Thelma Fernandes nee’ Noronha, Grand Parents: Ligoury Fernandes & Mary Magdalene (known also as Hilda) Fernandes nee’ Coelho, Great Grandparents: Lawrence Fernandes & Joanna Fernandes nee’ Machado.

A MANGALORE-GOA PARENTAGE:

Rev Fr Earl’s father is Dr. Sidney Oswald Fernandes (1936-2019) was born in Bombay, graduated from Saint Xavier College in Mumbai and Topiwala Medical School and Nair Hospital in 1965. Dr. Fernandes’ parents originally hail from Mangalore city, and can trace his roots to Goa about 4-5 generations back. Earl’s mother (Thelma nee Noronha) is originally from Aldona, Goa and was a teacher in Bombay’s Catholic schools, after updating her qualifications went on to a rewarding teaching career in the USA.

Dr. Sidney Fernandes with his wife Thelma and two oldest sons moved to Toledo, Ohio in 1970, a time many professionals enjoyed this privilege. He did medical residencies at the Medical College of Ohio in family practice and internal medicine. He maintained a solo medical practice in Oregon, Ohio, for 40 years until retirement. Involved with the Mercy Health System, he was lovingly committed to Mercy Saint Charles Hospital, where he was Chief of Staff in 1988-89. Known for his exceptional care of his patients over the years, he is fondly remembered far and wide.
The Mangalore Roots:

Substantial information from various sources confirms that Fr Earl's dad Dr. Sidney is of Mangalorean roots (grew up in Bombay) after his parents moved there from Mangalore. He married Thelma Noronha a Goan whose parents moved from Goa - a common matter to earn livelihoods in those times. Fr Earl Fernandes' paternal grandfather was Ligoury Fernandes (1906-77) of Canara Coffee Works, Fort Mumbai, hailed from Mangalore. Ligoury's wife Mary Magdalene (Better known as Hilda) hailed from a Coelho family of Bolar, an ancient heart of Mangalore, one of her relations (a cousin of her father) was Isidore Coelho (1878-1968), author of the classic work on Mangalorean culinary art "The Chef". They had six children, Joyce (Sr Hilda), Terence, Sidney, Joan, Brian and Vernon.

Referring to some basic Mangalore genealogical information the names of Dr. Sidney and Mrs Thelma's appear in a Directory of Mangaloreans in the US. Also, Grandfather Ligoury Fernandes is seen under Mangalore origin 'Coffee Marketeers' of Mumbai in a detailed directory. Well known Mangalore based genealogist and researcher in his two decade plus old publications, has assigned this family to be of "Fernandes-Shenoy" origin with roots in Nantoor in the city; connections are sure to emerge in due course of time and hopefully people will share their information. Further information proves that Ligoury Fernandes' parents (Bp Earnest's Great Grandparents) Lawrence & Joanna nee' Machado, lived in Nantoor in Mangalore.

Great Grandmother Joanna hails from a Machado family of sub-urban Omzoor. The Mangalore connection may not be too significant for the present generation of the diaspora family proper as the perceptions are different; 'Konkani Mangaloreans' from all over Kanara today are found in almost every nation of the 196 or so nations of the world and contributing in a big way, their renown and integrity has been recognised for centuries. Here in Mangalore (and Goa, Mumbai) the community has every reason to know, be aware and appreciate. World media in general has missed out on this angle, it is hoped some interest will be soon generated and more significant information will emerge.

US Bishop elect Rev Earl K Fernandes:

Born on September 21, 1972, in Toledo in Ohio to Sidney Oswald Fernandes and Thelma Fernandes nee' Noronha, who migrated to the USA from the western Indian metropolis of Bombay (now Mumbai) in the early 1970s. Fr Earl has four brothers: Karl, Trevor (who is a Catholic deacon), Ashley, and Eustace - Trevor is a Magistrate and others are medical doctors. It is recalled that Earl's
spiritual formation was fostered by the love of the Christian faith his parents inculcated in him. Earl obtained his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Toledo in 1994 and went on to study physiology at the University of Salford. It was in his second year of medical studies at the University of Cincinnati that he felt the call of the Lord to serve Him. The bishop-elect, did his priestly formation at Mount Saint Mary’s of the West in Cincinnati and bagged a master’s in Theology in 2002. He attributes his deep faith and vocation to the exemplary prayer life of his mother, a teacher, and his father, a physician. Rev Fr Earl Fernances, was ordained a priest on May 18, 2002, for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and two years later he went to Rome to earn a licentiate and doctoral degree in moral theology from the Alphonsian Academy. Fr Earl served as vicar of Holy Angels parish and was a religious teacher at Lehman Catholic High School from 2002 to 2004.

Indian-American Fr. Earl Fernandes, was the dean and assistant professor of moral theology at Mount Saint Mary’s of the West seminary from 2008 to 2016. He served as a member of the executive committee for the National Association of Catholic Theological Schools and was appointed a Missionary of Mercy during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy from 2015 to 2016. He served on the staff of the nunciature for three and a half years. A board of trustees member of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Fr Earl is fluent in Spanish, Italian and French apart from having a reading knowledge of Latin - both his parents have an old Konkani Catholic background. The diocese, Spread across 11,310 square miles in the state of Ohio, has 207,041 Catholics out of a population of 2,828,514. He will be the first Indian-American bishop of the Latin Church in the United States, and will be the first person of color to serve as the Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, aged 49 years, he is the youngest diocesan Bishop in the United States, upon ordination.

In his first public speech Bishop-elect Rt Rev Earnest Fernandes said, “this America is the land of opportunity, there is a great deal of pride (in being the first Indian-American bishop).” The Ohio native is also the first person of color to lead the Columbus Diocese, and the first Indian-American to be named a Catholic bishop, Deacon Thomas Berg, diocesan chancellor, confirmed. The fourth of five sons born to Indian immigrants in Toledo, young Earnest remembers celebrating the U.S. bicentennial on July 4, 1976, holding signs with his four brothers. His father, who memorized the Constitution before taking his citizenship test, had fashioned together his own version of the Liberty Bell. Rev Fernandes, 49, a self-described “young and happy priest.” News of Fernandes’ appointment as a Bishop comes months after Pope Francis reassigned former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan to lead the Diocese of Brooklyn. Indeed it is seen as an incredible act of God at a time when the Church world over needs a fresh outlook.
By TAALIYANAANAZ

Y ES, IT IS “RAMADAN” NOW and when I hear the word the first thing that comes flooding to my mind is ‘PURE’. What I mean by pure is the absolute pure intention of every Muslim. The month of Ramadan is holy for Muslims. This year, it has begun on April 3rd in India, you can see Muslims fasting, offering solemn prayers, and more so Ramadan food stalls where delicious iftar food is sold/distributed. Muslims enter into this month with pure intentions of devoting themselves to Allah in every way they can. They fast from pre-dawn to sunset, offer a special prayer called Taraweeh, and abstain from behaviors that are considered sinful. It is a sacred month. It is said that Allah-the most merciful and beneficent forgives all the sins and the doors to Jannah(paradise) are opened, the door to Jahannam (Hell) is closed and the devils are chained in this month.

The Month of Ramadan

The month of Ramadan is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar. Healthy Muslims fast this month, it is one of the five pillars of Islam. Fasting takes place from dawn to sunset for 29-30 days depending on the sighting of the new moon. Suhur is the meal eaten before dawn whereas Iftar is the meal eaten after sunset to break the fast. To fast during this month is to devote one’s soul to Allah by abstaining from eating and drinking, sinful speech and behavior, and sexual relations. Fasting is meant to understand the suffering of those who face hardship every day even for one square meal. To every Muslim who can afford to eat three meals a day and never go to bed hungry, this month teaches a lesson on the value of food, to be grateful for what they have, and to show mercy on the penurious. It is the duty of every earning Muslim to donate 2.5% of their earnings as zakat (a form of almsgiving) to the needy. This is the month where Muslims indulge themselves the most in charitable activities.

Fasting is meant to understand the suffering of those who face hardship every day even for one square meal. Many Muslims, especially at night, say additional prayers and seek to recite the complete Qur’an. The additional prayer is called Taraweeh which includes reciting lengthy passages from the Quran as well as offering 20 rakats(cycles of movement involved in Prayer). The Qur’an was initially revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during the last ten nights of Ramadan, according to Muslim tradition. The Holy Quran was sent to the world during one of those 10 nights and that particular night is known as Laylat-al-Qadr. Muslims believe that God’s blessings and mercy are abundant on the Night of Qadr, that sins are forgiven, duas (private prayers) are accepted, and that the annual decree is revealed to the angels, who carry it out according to God’s grace.

The end of the month of Ramadan is marked 'Eid-al-Fitr’. The day when Muslims welcome the next lunar month and offer Eid prayers in congregation in an open area. On Eid morning, Muslims dress up in their best, often brand-new garments, and many adorn their homes. On Eid, Muslims greet one another by exchanging hugs and exclaiming 'Eid Mubarak,’ which means 'good Eid' starting the special Eid Namaz. This is done to instill a sense of goodwill and unity. People often pay visits to relatives throughout the day, eating at each location. The heavenly graces are seen all around.

Ms. Taaliyanaaz is an Engineering student, avid reader, a passionate writer and an amateur gardener.
ATHENA HOSPITAL
Celebrating 25 Years of Healthcare

MANGALURU, THE MAJOR developed and historical city on the West Coast in Karnataka having Air, Sea, Rail and Road transport; is well known for its medical facilities, hospitals and medical Colleges. It has many state-of-the-art institutions which are over a hundred years, all the same when the popular modest and beloved hospital of the city which served many a needy sick citizen touched the 25 years silver milestone it was time to cheer and laud it, and that is what exactly happened in March 2022. Athena Hospital, at Falnir a modest, popular, respected and totally integrated multi speciality hospital and healthcare promotion center of medical excellence, was established in the year 1997. The multi dimensional hospital complex houses amongst other facilities, state of art equipment and conveniences designed to meet any diagnostic, therapeutic, surgical and primary healthcare requirements.

THE AIMS & SERVICES:
Athena Hospital occupies a pre eminent position in every area of medical activity under one roof and is steered by dynamic professionals all of whom work towards a common desired objective with unified concern and commitment towards the patients. The farsighted vision of the Trust has gone a long way in bringing Athena Hospital to a position of excellence in healthcare. A vision of quality and affordable healthcare made real through a team of the finest medical and nursing professionals, the latest medical technologies, advanced tools and equipment; a deep sense of caring and commitment to excellence in every aspect of medical care has written its name in Gold. Athena Hospital is a popularly known multi specialty high-tech 310 bedded hospital situated in Falnir in the heart of the city of Mangalore. It is easily accessible by many modes of transport. It has the most sophisticated equipment and is served by a panel of internationally renowned consultants. Nursing care is of the highest standards provided by fully trained nurses. Athena Hospital has completed 25 years of meaningful services in the Health care sector.

Athena Hospital’s excellent facilities like Cardiology, Casualty/Emergency, Dental Surgery, Internal Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Neonatology, Nephrology, Neurology, Neuro-Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Physiotherapy, Pulmonary Medicine, Radiology Imaging, Urology, Vascular surgery is well known to medical caregivers and professionals. Athena Hospital has always been sensitive to social needs regarding healthcare, which was a key factor to start Nursing Education programs. Athena Institute of Health Sciences is a unit of Athena Hospital, a Registered Society under Akshath Charitable Trust. It is a Christian Minority
CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE:

R. S Shettian, Chairman & Managing Director

In his message stressed, ever since Athena Hospital was born, we have striven hard to maintain high ethical, moral and academic standards in all our institutions. The credit of whatever we have achieved goes to the Untiring efforts of our employees, principal, teaching & non-teaching staff, students and alumni. Look at our achievements, the present steps and the plans and vision. Let it also give the lead, how to improve and deliver what is good for our institutions. My vision is to see all our institutions grow to be model institutions and bring about the best in the graduates.

Education is the very foundation, our goal is to prepare our students into well-grounded future professionals who provide leadership and exemplary healthcare services to improve the society. We aim to foster a learning environment that promotes responsible and principled behaviour, which respects the dignity of all the members of the society. Our mission is to be an excellent value driven Institution and research centre marked by quality and commitment. Our intent is to improve the health and well-being of the citizens in the region and the society at large. Athena group of Institutions is committed to provide quality healthcare to the clients/patients with professionally competent nurses with adequate knowledge, skills, attitudes and leadership qualities to provide holistic healthcare to the clients.

Sustain us through their powerful intercession. Athena Hospital block, was built and established by Dr Sushil Jathanna, the son of Bishop Rt Rev. C.D.Jathanna, as an NRI hospital in order to provide affordable high quality healthcare to the people of Mangaluru. Dr Sushil Jathanna, a physician by background, had rich experience in managing hospitals and healthcare organisations in the UK and was former CEO of NHS Cambridgeshire in the UK. He later sold his shares on the advice of his mother to his sister Mrs Asha Shettian, now the shareholder in Athena Hospital. So the divine providence continues to help this Institution grow from strength to strength, to suit the changing and challenging needs with renewed vigour and enthusiasm to keep the light of service and learning shine brightly spreading its radiance far and wide.

CELEBRATING SILVER:

The Athena Institute of Health Sciences and Athena Hospital celebrated their Silver Jubilee and Graduation day on 30th March 2022 for the outgoing batches of GNM, B.Sc, P.B.B.Sc., M.Sc. Nursing and B.Sc. Renal Dialysis Technology in Father Muller Convention Centre honoured by Rev. Fr. Richard Aloysius Coelho, Director, Father Muller Charitable Institutions as the Chief Guest, Dr. G. G. Laxman Prabhu, Professor of Urology, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore & Secretary Elect, Urological Society of India and Dr. Bindhu Mathew, Vice Principal St. John’s College of Nursing Bangalore; & Dean of Nursing Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore as the Guests of Honour and presided over by Mr. R.S. Shettian, Chairman Athena Institute of Health Sciences. The Annual report of Athena Institute of Health Sciences was presented by the Principal Rev Sr. Deepa Peter. Mrs. Asha Shettian, Secretary Athena Institute of Health Sciences was also present on the dais. The presence of the management committee, teaching and non teaching staff, students, parents and guardians enhanced the beauty of the occasion to persevere till Golden year is reached.

Compiled by I J SALDANHA SHET
**Demand to name Circuit House – Lalbagh road after George Fernandes**

The road from Circuit House to Lalbagh must be named after former union minister late George Fernandes, urged Richard Moras, Convenor of Konkani Lekhak Sangh.

Speaking on behalf of some Konkani writers and artists, Richard Moras said it would be very much apt to name this particular road which passes through Bejai after Fernandes as he hailed from Bejai and went on to occupy the post of Defence Minister and was also the architect of Konkan Railway.

He also demanded that the City Corporation recognize the services of George Fernandes to the nation and name this particular stretch of the road after him.

It may be recalled here that last year, on the occasion of the second death anniversary of George Fernandes, the parish priest of the Bejai Church had also made an appeal to name the road between Bejai Church and Lalbagh after George Fernandes.

**Aerators installed at MIA**

Mangaluru International Airport has installed as many as 80 aerators in the washrooms of the terminal building with the objective of saving water. A total of 46 pink waste bins have also been placed to facilitate women to dispose their personal hygiene items. Two incinerators with a capacity to dispose 200 napkins and diapers have been also installed.

**“Health issues due to pollution by industries” Assurance Committee seeks report**

The several ailments affecting the people in areas in proximity to industries, was taken serious note of by the Legislative Council’s Assurance Committee led by MLC B M Farooq which was on a visit to the city recently.

The Committee recently visited various places in the vicinity of industries and also sea erosion affected areas and took cognizance of the problems faced by the people. Air and water pollution has resulted in many cases of cancer, skin problems and respiratory issues in areas close by industries, Farooq said adding the Committee was informed of this issue by the Health Authorities as well as local residents during the visit.

He also said the problem was more in Suratkal, Kulai, Bajpe, Katipalla, Jokatte areas and that people complained about pollution of river water and ground water in the area. Pointing out that industries have denied causing any pollution, Farooq said the Committee has sought a detailed report from the Health Department.

The Committee which visited the sea erosion affected areas of Ullal, said the problem can be solved if sand mining is not permitted in CRZ areas. The Committee also held a meeting with officials.

**NGT to form panel to study pollution of Phalguni river**

The National Green Tribunal has constituted a committee comprising regional officers of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Central Pollution Control Board, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Director of Fisheries, Karnataka and the District Magistrate, Dakshina Kannada to look into the serious aspect of increasing pollution of Phalguni river due to release of industrial effluents as well as domestic wastes.

The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal which took note of the media reports in this regard said the Committee will have the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board as the nodal agency and added that all stakeholders must meet within two weeks and the Committee should recommend measures to check pollution.

The full bench of the Tribunal including Chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel, judicial member Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A. Senthil Vel also said at the outset it was clear that untreated effluents and sewage were released into the river by industries and also pointed out that fish were dying in large numbers in the downstream of Malavoor vented dam and the colour of the water has turned black.

The Tribunal has also directed the Committee to meet within two weeks, visit the affected places and then submit a report providing recommendations to mitigate the pollution.
Udupi District Administration steps up safety measures at St Mary's Island

The Udupi District Administration has stepped up safety arrangements at St Mary's Island, Malpe the famous tourist spot of the district in the backdrop of the recent tragedies wherein five students drowned in two separate incidents.

Udupi Deputy Commissioner Kurma Rao has said that he had visited the beach along with officials to ensure all safety measures are in place.

He said places have been marked to ensure tourists do not step into the water in dangerous spots. The DC said several suggestions have been placed forth to make the place safe for tourists and added that the suggestions would be incorporated in an action plan that would be prepared.

He said steps would also be taken to have a selfie point in the island. The measure aims at ensuring that tourists do not stand in dangerous spots to pose for selfies.

Education- a direct path towards democratic culture: Justice Abdul Nazeer

Education is the most direct path towards building a democratic culture, said Supreme Court Judge Justice S Abdul Nazeer.

Delivering the 40th Convocation address at Mangalore University recently, he spoke on the close relationship between democracy and education.

He said the University campuses provide conducive environments for decision making through democratic means. Democracy gives freedom to the people and people need to be educated lest the freedom may lead to indiscipline, he cautioned.

Governor and Chancellor Thavar Chand Gehlot who delivered the presidential address highlighted the role of youth in the progress of the nation.

Vice Chancellor Prof P S Yadapaditta, Registrar (Administration) Kishore Kumar K, Registrar (Evaluation) P L Dharma, Academic Council and Syndicate Members were present. A total of 153 scholars received Ph.D, 52 got gold medals while ranks were awarded to 192 students.

Honorary Doctorates were conferred on Hemavathi V Heggade, President of Shree Kshetra Dharmasthala Jnana Vikasa Yojana, Harikrishna Punaroor, former president of Kannada Sahitya Parishat and theatre personality Devadas Kapikad. Dr Shivananda Naik was conferred doctorate for his research in science.

Private institutions too must help in promotion of language, culture: Shathavadhani R. Ganesh

As it is difficult for the government alone to take up the work of promotion of language, art and culture, private institutions too should take up this responsibility, said Shathavadhani R Ganesh.

He was speaking at the inaugural of the fourth edition of Mangaluru Lit Fest organised by the Bharat Foundation in the city recently.

Continuing, he said higher learning institutions of the nation have not done much in highlighting the significance and greatness of Kannada.

K P Rao who was instrumental in developing a Kannada keyboard and software to use Kannada language in computers, said technology is helping in leading better life and also in development of languages.

Dattesh D Parulekar, Assistant Professor, School of International and Area Studies, Goa University, spoke on "Redifining Contours: Russia and Ukraine crisis: India Perspective." He said India has proved how it was emerging as a strong nation through its neutral stand on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
Ladyhill Circle named after Brahmashree Narayana Guru

The prominent Ladyhill Circle in Mangaluru has been renamed as Brahmashree Narayana Guru Circle. A plaque in this regard was unveiled by DK District in-charge Minister V Sunil Kumar in the presence of a host of dignitaries recently. The foundation was also laid for the development of the circle.

It may be recalled here that the state government had recently approved the MCC proposal to rename the circle.

Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, MLAs Vedavyas Kamath, Dr Bharath Shetty, Mayor Premananda Shetty, Deputy Mayor Sumangala, Kudroli Gokaranatha Temple Committee President Sairam and others were present.

Nitte signs MoU with Toyota Tsusho India

Nitte (Deemed to be University) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Toyota Tsusho India Private Limited (TTIPL) wherein Toyota firm will work with Nitte Institutions to provide training on selected Manufacturing Technology and Management topics. In addition, TTIPL would also explore possibilities to collaborate in the area of Center of Excellence, Incubation Center, Internship for students and campus recruitment based on the business need of the Totoya Tsusho Group in India.

N Vinay Hegde, Chancellor, Dr. M. Shantharam Shetty, Pro-Chancellor, Vishal Hegde, Pro-Chancellor, Dr. Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, Vice-Chancellor, M.

Rajendra, Director (Finance & Planning), Dr. M. S. Moodithaya, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Alka Kulkarni, Registrar, Dr. Harsha Halahalli, Director (Curriculum Development), Dr. Niranjan Chiplunkar, Principal, NMAMIT, Prof. Shashikantha Karinka, NMAMIT, Harikrishna Bhat, Director (International Collaborations) and Yasuko Sato, Executive Asst., Japan Collaborations, represented Nitte Group in the discussions. TTIPL was represented by Divakar G.S., Vice President & SBU Head - Corporate, Manjunath S, General Manager – Human Resources and Mithun Poonja, Senior Manager, Human Resources Development.

Karnataka Bank sets 14% tentative growth target for 2022-23

Karnataka Bank Managing Director and CEO M.S. Mahabaleshwara has said that the Bank has initially set a target of 14% growth for the new financial year to take the total business to Rs 1,57,500 crore and a final call will be taken after getting the audited numbers.

Addressing bank employees across the country through virtual mode from Mangaluru, Mahabaleshwara outlined the blueprint of the strategies and broad plan of action for 2022-23 besides reviewing the year gone-by. He said as per the provisional numbers, the Bank has achieved a historic high of 32.97% CASA (Current and Savings Accounts) deposits as on March 31, 2022. The business turnover stood at Rs 1,38,111 crore with a growth rate of 7.59% deposits of Rs 80,385 crore and advances of Rs 57,726 crore as per the provisional figures. Advances grew by 9.48% roughly and the Bank has navigated fairly well through a full year affected by COVID-19, he said.

Chief Operating Officer Y.V. Balachandra, Chief Business Officer Gokuldas Pai and others were present.
Navmi Veg Restaurant inaugurated

Navmi Veg Restaurant of the well-known Navami Group was inaugurated near the Mangaladevi Temple in the city recently by Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel.

Swami Vikhyatanandaji of Ramakrishna Mutt, blessed the occasion. MLA of Mangaluru South Vedavyas Kamath, MUDA Chairman Ravishanker Mijar, Mayor Premanand Shetty, former minister Abhayachandra Jain, Mangaladevi Temple Managing Trustee Ramanath Hegde, KFDC Chairman Nitin Kumar, BJP District President Sudarshan Moodbidri, businessmen Mohammad Mukwar, Melwyn N Carmelio and others were present as chief guests.

Navmi Group Chairman Nandakumar R Kudva, Naresh N Kudva, Rashmi N Kudva, Radhika Kudva, Ashwath N Poojary, Sindhu Baliga, Meenakshi Baliga, Satyaprakash Nayak, Namitha Nayak, General Manager Ganesh Prasad and others were present.

Navmi Veg Restaurant is a spacious AC Restaurant and also has ample parking facility. Among the delicacies served to the customers include the famed Sri Krishna Batata Vada of Mumbai, Sabudana Vada, Poha Samosa, Kothmir Vadi as well as other fast food items. South Indian Thali, Desi Indian, Chinese Food, Mumbai style cold panipuri and Pav Baji are also available here. There is also a self-service fast food section.

Two Maoist activities in police custody for questioning in many cases

Two Maoist leaders B G Krishnamurthi and Savitri who are wanted in many cases in the coastal districts were recently brought to Karkala from Chikkamagaluru and were produced before the court. The court has remanded the two to 12 days of police custody. Police will question the two with regard to the December 2008 incident wherein a farmer named Keshava from Hallihole in Kundapur was killed. The duo is also suspected to be behind the murder of Sadashiva Shetty of Tingalamakki near Kabbinale in December 2011 and in another case of threatening Kutti Shetty of Mutlupady and yet another case of damage to police vehicle at Muttavu near Hebri in an explosion.

The two have as many as 12 cases against them in Karkala, Hebri and Ajekar police station limits. The duo was arrested by the National Investigation Agency in November 2021 in an area adjoining Karnataka-Kerala border.

Advocates must respond to social problems: High Court Judge Krishna Bhat

In the past advocates had played a crucial role in the freedom struggle, the present day advocates should come forward to respond to social problems, said Karnataka High Court Judge P Krishna Bhat.

He was speaking after inaugurating a Legal Workshop organised at the SDM Law College Auditorium recently under the aegis of the South region unit of Adhivakta Parishat and the Legal Aid unit of SDM Law College.

Pointing out that Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Motilal Nehru, Sardar Vallabha Bhai Patel and many more freedom fighters were also advocates, he exhorted the present day advocates to try to solve societal issues.

There may be many laws, but change in attitude and thinking is what is needed most. Many a times lawyers can solve even the most complex problems in a simple way, he added.

Adhivakta Parishat State President Ravindranath P N, Mangalore Bar Association Chief Narasimha Hegde, SDM Law College Principal Taranath Gatti, senior advocate Pushpalatha and others were present.
COCAINNE IS A POWERFULLY addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America, and known as ‘Hell of a drug’. Fortunately, its availability in India is very limited, as it has to be imported from South America, and hence very expensive. Because it is an expensive drug, Cocaine use is referred to as “King’s habit”, hence affordable only by film stars, fashion models and super-rich people.

The leaf extract of the Coca plant, when processed gives three different forms of cocaine:
- Cocaine hydrochloride: a fine white powder with a bitter, numbing taste. It is often mixed, or ‘cut’, with other substances such as lidocaine, talcum powder or sugar to dilute it before being sold.
- Freebase: a white powder that is purer than cocaine hydrochloride.
- Crack: crystals ranging from white or cream to transparent with a pink or yellow colour containing impurities.

Consumption of any form of Cocaine makes the person confident and happy and willing to take any type of risk. As it is a stimulant it produces fast and intense feeling of power and energy. Generally, its use results in faster heart rate, raised body temperature, increased sex drive and aggressive behaviour. It is so addictive that just one use is sufficient to make a person crave for it again and again.

It is usually snorted, but can be smoked or dissolved in water and injected. It reacts with the body’s central nervous system and induces the brain to release large amounts of the pleasure giving chemical Dopamine. Long term use leads to genetic changes in the brain cells and nerve cells. After using cocaine, a person feels irradiated, tired, and depressed. This is called a coke crash. When a person takes the drug at higher and higher doses (a binge), it can cause increasing irritability, restlessness, and paranoia that can result in a serious loss of touch with reality (paranoid psychosis).

Use of cocaine can lead to serious health problems, including:
- Changes in heart rhythm and heart attack.
- Headache, seizure, and stroke.
- Loss of smell, persistent runny nose, nosebleeds, hoarseness, and destruction of the nasal separation (nasal septum) when the drug is snorted.
- Bowel tissue death.
- Damage to the kidneys.
- Serious infections, HIV, hepatitis, or allergic reactions when injected into a vein.
- Weight loss and poor nutrition from loss of appetite.
- Developing a stimulant use disorder.

Men and women are affected by Cocaine in different ways. “Women report more intense highs from cocaine than men do, and they become addicted to the drug more rapidly. Studies have shown that the female hormone Estradiol contributes to these differences” (https://archives.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2017/08/why-females-are-more-sensitive-to-cocaine)

Cocaine users in India number about 10.7 lakhs. Being pretty expensive, its use is confined to the rich class of people. Most cocaine users are in Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Karnataka. The largest seizure of Cocaine in India in the year 2021 was detected at SVP International Airport, Ahmedabad, Gujarat by Narcotics Control Board (NCB). 4 kilograms of Cocaine was seized valued at Rupees twenty-two crores.

A Cocaine Screen is a test done to find out whether a suspect drug-addict has used cocaine recently. The test can be done on
urine, saliva, blood, hair, or sweat. It looks for the presence of cocaine or one of its metabolites. These are chemicals that the human body makes to process cocaine. The two major metabolites of cocaine are Benzoylecgonine and Ecgonine-methylester. Testing is usually done for the first of these two metabolites.

After last use, cocaine or its metabolites typically can show up on a blood or saliva test for up to 2 days, a urine test for up to 3 days, and a hair test for months to years. A heavy user can test positive on a urine test for up to 2 weeks.

The authorities in India rarely come across coca leaves and its paste, but usually encounter cocaine powder. When powdered leaves are found, its confirmation can be done by microscopy.

4. Solubility in alcohol (Ethanol) and water is tested if there is impurities or cutting of cocaine is carried out.

Confirmatory tests:

Thin layer chromatography (TLC):
TLC can be used as an effective method for detection of the drug even if it is in trace amounts. The compound can be identified based on their RF values.

Gas chromatography and Mass Spectroscopy (GC-MS):
Gas chromatography is a method which can be used to test for the drug and also can be quantified based on the strength of the signals detected by the sensors attached to the instrument.

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC):

Cocaine seized by CCB and the personnel of Economic and Narcotic Drugs police station in Mangaluru in October 2019.

The paste of cocaine or its powder if seized is subjected to a presumptive test initially to screen it from other compounds, since a variety of items can be in the form of a white crystalline powder. The presumptive tests usually done are:
1. Colour tests like Scott’s test or modified cobalt hyocyanate test.
2. Odour tests which can detect the benzoic acid esters from the very distinct odour.
3. Microcrystal test using Platinitic chloride and Gold chloride gives “v” shaped branching crystals which can be observed under microscope.

Even though it is an expensive method for everyday use, the method is a very sensitive option for the detection of the drug and its quantification.

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIS):
This is a very specific method where the detection of the sample can be tested from the unique spectrum.

Ultra violet Spectroscopy: The ultraviolet signals if passed through the solution containing Cocaine will show a specific absorption spectrum.

The detection of the drug in the body slower the excretion. If a person is having higher body fat levels, they stay longer in the body as the metabolites are fat soluble.

The cross reactivity between the metabolites or cocaine with other compounds never occurs which helps in detection to a very large extent.

The window period of detection largely depends on the person’s body mass index and the hydration levels, because the drug is water soluble and is easily excreted. Alcohol and caffeine consumption along with cocaine abuse can

Writers can be contacted at: shreemenon48@gmail.com and drnirmalknambiar@gmail.com
WHERE IS ‘DHARMA’?

By G Swaminathan

It is also a fact that the corruption is omnipresent not because of the politicians alone. The bureaucrats and the educated without qualms indulge in any sort of malpractices. We can argue that the whole world is like that and since the population in India is more we could feel the magnitude of it significantly.

But that argument is hardly convincing. The country which is considered to be a land of philosophy degenerating into corruption for material benefits and countries which promote existential principles favor corruption and amazing wealth carry a large difference. Indians preach philosophy and practice hypocrisy. So at least let us follow the western world in accepting our weaknesses and greed for pelf.

The major problem for Indian community for being corrupt is their utter selfishness and love for their family and progenies. In no other country the people suffer with such a type of family connections and feeling that their entire generations to be happy with the money kept in store well in advance. This is evident in the activities of the film stars, politicians, doctors and other professionals trying to bring their children into the same field by hook or by crook. We never care for their individuality or interest.

We consider it is the responsibility of the parents to keep wealth for the entire generations so that they live happily. This directly dictates everyone to earn wealth and hoard them. God said ‘Wherever there is a failure of Dharma I will born to establish Dharma’. I am sure that must be the statement exclusively for the Indian Nation. What is exactly the meaning of ‘dharma’ and where is ‘dharma’ today? We have reached a stage that even if God himself comes down to Indian soil he will be defeated in his efforts to establish Dharma as ‘Adharma’ has become so prevalent in our country.

Thorough Patient Interrogation

By Dr. Frank S. K. Barar

Over six decades ago I had done my MBBS and was appointed as a Registrar in Medicine. As a Registrar I was expected to take the complete history of the patient and present the case to the Chief on his morning round. We had a case with continuous fever for over three months. The Chief had Brucella in his mind, for which a carrier could be goat’s milk.

The Chief asked me, “Have you asked the patient if he has been taking goat’s milk?” I sheepishly replied, “No, Sir”. Then the Chief said, “I will tell you how to take a thorough history of a patient”. The Chief asked the patient, “Kya aap ko doodh peenay ka shawk hai?”. The patient replied, “Doctor Sahib, mujhe to apni maa ka doodh bhi naseeb nahi hua”. Hearing this the Chief moved on to the next bed, and the ward round continued.

A Lesson In Humility

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), the 16th President of the USA was once travelling in the country-side. A labourer on the roadside wished him time, and bowed his head in respect. Lincoln responded and bowed even more than the poor labourer.

The Aide with the President asked Lincoln as to why did he bow so low to the poor and petty labourer being the President of the USA?

Lincoln replied, "I do not want him to exceed me in humility".

Solution to MANGALORE TODAY Crossword

(From page No.29)
AT FIFTY

At fifty the mind is the best friend of a person. If the mind is stable one's life is stable, writes KP Vasudev Rao

I have chosen a very peculiar subject "AT FIFTY". The reader may wonder what is so special about being fifty. If a man turns forty then the oft quoted saying is 'AGED FORTY BUT VERY NAUGHTY'. Then to speak of being sixty is to realize that the autumn of life has set in. The days on this blessed earth are numbered. I tried to search as what the famous have said about being fifty. There was no luck at all. A fair glimpse into different types of literature also did not take me any where. In my limited understanding of life this is an important phase. Being fifty is old age of youth and youth of old age. If one takes stock of all that took place during youth he cannot help from giving a good certificate to himself. For all the failures he will blame, all others except himself. For all the good laurels he will applaud his back. While walking down the memory lane at some point, one will realize that some things are yet to be achieved and they are still pending. At that juncture he may engulf with a thought that the strength of the body is reduced. When there was ample strength in the physique, the unfulfilled things could not be achieved for various reasons. Now with the body not willing to take the burden as also faculties not in the same form we feel helpless. The mind like a cauldron creates all the dreams. At this point I would like to take refuge in the time tested phenomenon; between forty to fifty a civilized person attains a fair degree of stability in mind. More than the strength of the body, it is the stability of the mind that will play a major role. The other side of the stable mind is equilibrium between being sober and subtle. These are great assets of middle aged persons. To many of the mortals the buck stops there. However much the books of religion may profess that there is an element called soul beyond the realm of body and mind, we having the science as the foundation refuse to recognize the theory of soul. The reason and logic form a big blockade to these thoughts. The religious magnitude is to cross these hurdles and dwell on beliefs. For a moment we can keep these beliefs out of our thought process and come back to the importance of mind at fiftieth year. I again emphasize that, it is the stable mind that is required. The fittest analogy would be railway engine steering all the compartments. The counter part in human life for railway engine is the mind. At fifty the mind is the best friend of a person. If the mind is stable one's life is stable. I think a small exercise can keep the mind of a man very stable. Like the fuel to the engine a few good thoughts can keep the mind alert. The processing of these good thoughts is not the prerogative of the mind. It is the wisdom earned that churns the thoughts. At fifty what kind of thoughts to be fed to this engine called mind. It is again a moot question. I may be excused for being autobiographical. To keep the mind stable and also beyond disturbance a few experiments are tried by me. Among them, visit to school where children with mentally challenged are educated. Here I have experienced thoughts beyond logic and reason. My mind was stable there. This I think is one of the modes of achieving stablility as also calmness. Now the primary question is why we should worry about weakness of physique. The easy chair thinkers' philosophy does not attract me.

When I reach sixty what could be my thinking. I might have read a few books. A few others I might have read already I may re-read to get a different understanding. The meaning of life may have changed at the time. There may be only two things possible at that time. Firstly, some fortune may have been accumulated. Some other fortune might have been lost. Right from one's childhood one does not find an answer as to why a thing happens. It is easier to find in science as to how it happened. The diagnosis of an event is more difficult than the postmortem of the same event. Why I should suffer, there is no answer for that, but how I suffered is easier to explain. Just like any body else I also spent considerable time in diagnosis rather than post mortem, of a misfortune. To create a world of our own with bliss and harmony it is not possible. On the contrary we can blend a few strings of harmony around us for other. That in the process may bring bliss to us. That is the stable mind I started with which I want to be more stable at sixty. For next ten years I will nourish my mind with more stability. So that the few (past) misfortunes can be compensated aptly. That is the foundation at fifty to go for sixty.

Thus far I have travelled up to fifty. Now the question is should I go beyond in the exploration or stop here. If I have to go, where to go? Perhaps I may find an answer at sixty if I see the sunrise on being sixty.
An employee applied for leave as follows: “Since I have to go to my village to sell my land along with my wife, please sanction me one-week leave.”

From an employee who was performing the "mundan" ceremony of his 10 year old son: "as I want to shave my son's head, please leave me for two days..

"As my mother-in-law has expired and I am only one responsible for it, please grant me 10 days leave."

An employee applied for half day leave as follows: "Since I've to go to the cremation ground at 10 o'clock and I may not return, please grant me half day casual leave".

"I am suffering from fever, please declare one-day holiday."

A leave letter to the headmaster: “As I am studying in this school I am suffering from headache. I request you to leave me today".

Covering note: "Dear Sir: with reference to the above, please refer to my below...".

Actual letter written for application of leave: "My wife is suffering from sickness and as I am her only husband at home I may be granted leave".

Letter writing: - "I am well here and hope you are also in the same well."

A candidate’s job application: "This has reference to your advertisement calling for a 'Typist and an Accountant - Male or Female'. As I am both(!!) for the past several years and I can handle both with good experience, I am applying for the post. by IJSS"
MANGALORE TODAY - MAY 2022

ARIES
You’re getting your bearings in key ways this month, dear Aries, and sorting out money or belongings can be part of this. There can be a stronger focus on personal finances, possessions, resources, and business. You could discover ways to increase your income or your earning potential, or there can be new beginnings with money and personal possessions.

TAURUS
You begin the month with a strong sense of starting fresh, dear Taurus. At the end of April, the Solar Eclipse occurred in your sign, and it prompted you to recognize your need for stronger personal plans, more independence, and a clean slate.

GEMINI
There can be much focus on the past, emotional issues, and your inner world in May, dear Gemini, although you’re building towards a far more active and involved phase as the month progresses. Key players move into your social sector: Venus on the 2nd, Jupiter on the 10th, and Mars on the 24th. As well, the Sun enters your sign on the 20th.

CANCER
You’re seeking ways to improve your life experiences and expand your knowledge and wisdom this month, dear Cancer. However, your drive to take care of business builds as May advances. If you play your cards right, this can be a strong month for coming to a good work-play balance.

LEO
May begins shortly after a Solar Eclipse at the top of your solar chart, dear Leo, pointing to a fresh start with your career, social standing, reputation, responsibilities, or performance. You’re more ambitious and focused, ready to apply yourself. As the month progresses, your sense of adventure builds.

VIRGO
You begin the month just after a Solar Eclipse occurred in your spirit sector, dear Virgo, and your need for mental refreshment is high. Opportunities to break the routine emerge. Learning, sharing ideas, publishing, studying, or promoting are important themes in your life. A change of pace or scenery can be beneficial now.

LIBRA
May is often a month for strategizing, observing, and researching your options, dear Libra. A big headline this month is Jupiter moving into this same area of your solar chart, bringing on a longer-term trend of improvement and growth in partnerships. The 28-29 is a great time to develop solutions to problems or plans.

SCORPIO
With a Solar Eclipse in your partnership sector just behind you as you begin May, dear Scorpio, you’re in great shape for starting anew. Sorting out problems and enjoying special moments with someone special can be pleasant activities in their own right but can also positively impact many different life departments. You’re motivated to work hard to relate in positive, rewarding ways.

SAGITTARIUS
May is strong for making helpful adjustments and getting your daily routines and self-care systems into order, dear Sagittarius. It can be a busy time with the Sun in your solar sixth house of work, health, and habits until the 20th. A Solar Eclipse has just occurred in this area of your solar chart, and you want to start fresh.

CAPRICORN
The sector of your chart that rules self-expression, creativity, romance, entertainment, and pleasure receives special attention this month, dear Capricorn. You begin the month just after a Solar Eclipse occurred there, inspiring new beginnings and fresh starts in these areas of life. You’re seeking more meaningful and fulfilling endeavors.

AQUARIUS
Home and family matters are in strong focus as you start the month, dear Aquarius, after a very recent Solar Eclipse in your solar fourth house. Even so, the month promises special attention to personal interests, making connections, and intellectual stimulation. You’re motivated to take action that helps boost your sense of security and comfort, and you have support from the cosmos for these efforts.

PISCES
May begins with a continued strong focus on your sign, dear Pisces, and you’re turning heads. While you’re getting attention, you’re also quite independent, and doing things on your own behalf has the most significant rewards now. This can be a rewarding month.

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

Thirteen year old Ethan Pinto of Mangaluru is a promising singer. He has earned laurels at a very young age and has amazed everyone with his performances. True to his talent, he emerged winner of the first edition of ‘What’s UR Talent- Easter Edition’ singing contest organised by Grandieu in the city of Brampton in Canada recently. He was the youngest among the three finalists and won a cash prize of $1000 and a contract to record a song.

Son of singer couple Ashith and Babitha Pinto, Ethan has won several prizes in music competitions back in his hometown prior to moving to Canada with his parents a year ago.

Amazing history of the Giant Wheel

Giant Wheel is a star attraction, be it any religious fair, festival or even an exhibition. Kids enjoy the amazing giant wheel ride which is a lot more fun. Do you know the history of this Giant Wheel?. Here are some interesting facts.

The present Giant Wheel was originally known as the Ferris Wheel as it was invented by George W.G. Ferris Jr. He built the first one for the 1893 World’s Fair, in Chicago, Illinois. Ferris owned a company that tested iron and steel for railroads and bridges. He used his knowledge of structural steel to design a steel structure that would amaze the visitors to the fair.

The organizers of the 1893 World’s Fair wanted an attraction that could rival what was unveiled at the 1889 World’s Fair in Paris - the Eiffel Tower. George Ferris responded to a challenge issued by the organizers, and promised that his wheel would be the best.

The first Ferris wheel was supported by two 140-foot tall steel towers, with a 45-foot long axle between them. The wheel had a diameter of 250 feet, and had 36 wooden cars that could each hold up to 60 riders.

It was lit up by 3000 of Thomas Edison’s new light bulbs. The first Ferris wheel was a huge success, and was considered a marvel of engineering.

After the fair, the original Ferris wheel was moved to Lincoln Park in Chicago, and later moved to the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. It was dismantled in 1906.

The term "Ferris wheel" has become the generic name for the many similar rides that have been built since 1893. Currently, the world’s largest Ferris wheel is in Las Vegas, Nevada. Named "High Roller" it has a diameter of 550 feet.
Kids Story

A young crow had fallen from its nest and was fluttering about on the road in danger of being crushed by some vehicle, when Rahul brought it home. It was in a sorry condition and none at home expected it to live. Rahul and his grandfather did their best to save it and fed it with great care. Finally the young crow was on its way to recovery.

He was offered his freedom but did not take it. Instead he made himself at home in Rahul’s house. The crow was in no mood to go out and the family not knowing if he was a male or female named him Caesar.

Before long, Caesar began joining the family at meal times besides finding his own grubs or beetles in the garden. He danced about on the dining table till he was given his small bowl of meat, soup and vegetables. He was always restless, fidgeting about and investigating things. He would hop about a table to empty a matchbox of its contents, or rip the daily paper to shreds, over-turn a vase of flowers or tug at the tail of one of the dogs. “That crow will ruin us”, grandmother used to often grumble.

The family did try putting Caesar in a cage but he became so angry and objected with such fierce cawing and flapping that they thought it was better to live him on his own. He also did not show any inclination to join the other crows in the banyan tree.

In time, Caesar learnt to talk a little-as ravens sometimes do-in a cracked, throaty voice. He would sit for hours outside the window, banging on the glass and calling “Hello, hello.” He seemed to recognize the click of the gate when Rahul came home from school and would come to the door with hop, skip and a jump to say “Hello, hello.”

Pet or pest, Grandfather insisted that Caesar was a pest inspite of his engaging habits. If he had restricted his activities to his own house it would not have been so bad, but he took to visiting neighbours’ houses and stealing pens and pencils, hair ribbons, combs, toys, shuttle cocks, toothbrushes and false teeth. He was especially fond of toothbrushes and made a collection of them on top of the cupboard in Rahul’s room. Most of the neighbours were represented in the house by a toothbrush. Toothbrush sales went up that year and so did grandmother’s blood pressure.

Caesar spied on children going to the baniya’s shop, and often managed to snatch sweets from them as they came out. Cloth pegs fascinated him. Neighbours would return from the bazaar to find their washing lying in the mud and no sign of the pegs. These too found their way to the top of the cupboard.

It was Caesar’s gardening activities which finally led to disaster. He was helping himself to a neighbour’s beans when a stick was flung at him, breaking his leg. Rahul carried the unfortunate bird home and he and grandfather washed and bandaged his leg as best as they could. But it would not mend. Caesar hung his head and no longer talked. He grew weaker day by day, refusing to eat. An occasional sip of Grandfather’s wine was all that kept him going.

One morning Rahul found him dead on the sofa, his legs stiff in the air. Poor Caesar! His anti-social habits led to his early end. Rahul dug a shallow grave in the garden and buried him there along with all the toothbrushes and cloth-peg like he had taken the trouble to collect.
**Appointed**

- Dhananjaya Adpangaya has been appointed as the KPCC General Secretary. He has earlier served as ZP Member, Standing Committee President, Sullia Youth Congress President, State Youth Congress Secretary and Vice President. Presently, he is the Hassan District in-charge of the party’s Digital Membership Campaign.

- B A Abdul Nasir has been appointed as the President of the DK District Wakf Advisory Committee by the State Wakf Board. He took charge recently. Abdul Nasir is the chief of Luckystar Group of Industries and is the Mangaluru Taluk unit President of Karnataka Muslim Jamaat and President of Baikampady Muhiyuddeen Jumma Masjid.

**Elected**

- Progressive farmers Satish Hegde of Amasebail and Upendra Nayak of Karkala Marne have been elected for the Udayommukha Krishi Pandita Award given by the Department of Agriculture.

- Dr Annayya Kulal has been elected the new President of Family Physicians Association. Dr Vivekanand Bhat was elected the Secretary while Dr G K Bhat Sankabittilu was elected as Treasurer.

- International badminton player Ashok Poovaiah has been elected the new President of Dakshina Kannada Badminton Association.

- Srinivas Nayak Indaje has been elected unopposed as the President of DK District Working Journalists Union for the year 2022-2025. Pushparaj BAN was elected unopposed as the Treasurer while Bhasker Rai Katte, Rajesh K Poojary and Ansar Innoli were elected Vice Presidents. Hithendra Kundeshwar was elected General Secretary while Vijay Kotian, Gangadhar Kallapalli and Bhuvaneshwar Gerukatte were elected as Secretaries.

**Awarded**

Ashwini, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry in St Aloysius College, has been awarded PhD by the Visvesvaraiyah Technological University for her thesis for “Studies on N. O. S Donor Ligands as Analytical Reagent and Complexing Agent.” She was guided by Dr Gopalakrishna Bhat N, professor, Srinivas Institute of Technology, Mangaluru and Dr Ronald A Nazareth, associate professor, St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru.

**Bagged**

Sheetal Nayak, a student of Besant Evening College has bagged the first rank and two gold medals in the M.Com exams conducted by Mangalore University. She is presently serving in A J Institute of Management.

**Selected**

- Noted international counter-narcotics specialist and regular writer on narcotics issues in mangaloretoday.com, Dr. Shreekumar Menon, has been selected as Consultant by United Nations Office of Drugs & Crimes (UNODC), for a specialized narcotics assignment, covering six countries of South East Asia- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

- Eminent physician and writer Dr Na. Mogasale has been chosen for the

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Justice K S Hegde Charitable Hospital, Derlakatte received the Double Helical National Health Award instituted by Double Helical magazine in association with Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organizations (CAHO) & Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI). The Award has been given in recognition of the hospital's contribution towards affordable healthcare. Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Major (Dr) S K Hiremath received the Award from Dr S K Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in the presence of several eminent guests at a function held at New Delhi.
Honorary Award of the Karnataka Sahitya Academy for the year 2021. Dr Purushottam Bilimale's work "Kaage Mutida Neeru" has been chosen for the Simpi Linganna Endowment Award.

**Suspended**

City Corporation Commissioner Akshy Sridhar has issued an order suspending two MCC employees for dereliction of duty with regard to appointing outsourced security personnel. Those suspended are Assistant Engineer Rajesh and Draftsman Pushparaj.

**Urged**

- CAMPCO President A. Kishore Kumar Kodgi recently met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and urged him to reduce the GST on areca from the existing 5% to 2%. He requested the CM to prevail upon the Centre in this regard. He also sought a grant of Rs 5 crore to the Areca Research and Development Foundation so that it could further involve in research activities for the benefit of growers.

- At the Sugrama Convention held at the ZP Auditorium in the city recently, the Sugrama Gram Panchayat Elected Women Representatives Forum has urged the DK and Udupi District in-charge ministers to take steps to ensure filling of vacancies of Panchayat Development Officers Secretaries in various Gram Panchayats of the district. The Forum has also placed forth a demand for rise in honorarium of Gram Panchayat Presidents, Vice Presidents and Members.

**Won**

- Shubha K H, in-charge Principal of Government First Grade College, Mudipu has won first place in Long Jump, Triple Jump and High Jump in the 3rd Karnataka State Masters Games organised in Udupi by Karnataka Master Games Association.

- Zubair Khan Kudla, a creative artist from Mangaluru has won the Raja Ravivarma International Gold Award at the International Art Festival organised by Lalitha Kala Kendra, Assam. Presently, he is serving as a Drawing Teacher at the Janapriya Central School in Kambalabettu, Vittal.

- Rakshitha Poojary has won the first rank in the MA History exams conducted by Mangalore University in the year 2021-22. She is a student of Tenkanidiyoor Government First Grade College and Postgraduate study Centre.

- Ravikumar, a member of Balanjanya Gym, Mangaluru has won gold in Hammer Throw in the above 65 years category in the state Masters Games held at Udupi. He has also bagged silver in discus throw. He has bagged gold medal in the DK District Body Building competition held in Moodbidri.

**Obituary**

K John, the Chief Editor and Publisher of Johnwill Marine Information, the only Shipping News Daily of its kind in Karnataka, passed away on April 11. Through the shipping bulletin John promoted shipping activities. He was the President of Ship Chandler’s Association of New Mangalore Port. He is survived by his wife Rosamma John and two daughters.

Renowned Yakshagana Bhagawatha Balipa Prasad passed away at a private hospital in Mangaluru on April 11 due to a brief illness. He was the chief Bhagavatha of the Kateel Mela. Balipa Prasad was the son of Balipa Narayana Bhagavatha who is also a famed Yakshagana Bhagawatha. This year Balipa Prasad had remained away from the Yakshagana Tirugata due to his ill-health. He has left behind his father, wife and three daughters.

Senior Botanist and retired professor of Poorna Prajna College, Dr. K Gopalakrishna Bhat passed away at his residence at Chitpady in Udupi on April 7. He was 75 years of age. Bhat who hailed from Neerchal Kakunjie of Kasargod district had served Poorna Prajna College as a Professor of Botany for 33 years. His work- Flora of Udupi, Flora of Dakshina Kannada was a treasure house of information on the plant species found in both the districts. The Flora of Udupi is a 913-page book on rare plant species found in the Western Ghats and the Flora of DK contains explanations of over 1,888 flowering-bearing plants.
Passionate Learner

Seventy five year old Usha Chadaga from Udupi is a proud woman and her family too is extremely proud of her. There is every reason for this. Usha is all set to be awarded a doctorate during the Mangalore University Convocation for her thesis on Saint Madhavacharya.

A former principal of Santhana Public School, Tiruvananthapuram, it was Usha’s zeal to learn and excel that prompted her to take up learning Sanskrit at the SMSP Sanskrit College in Udupi, after her retirement. After an MA in Sanskrit from the KSOU, Mysuru with a fourth rank and also a Vidwat title in Vedanta from the Udupi Sanskrit College, there was no looking back for her.

Usha Chadaga then joined the Shree Durga Post Graduate Study and Research Centre at Kateel where under the guidance of Director Dr Padmanabha Marathe, she ceaselessly strived to prepare her thesis “Critical analysis of Sri Madhavacharya’s unique doctrines of ‘Jeevaswabhava vaada’ and ‘Sarvashabda Vachyatva of Vishnu” which has won her a Ph.D. Usha is also indebted to late scholar Bannanje Govindacharya who was a great source of inspiration during her research.

Thus with her ceaseless quest for knowledge, Usha has been a role model to many to pursue their passion to learn to any age.

A true sports patron

Sports is a field that beckons many. But what is more important is the right coaching and patronage. Here is one man from Udyavar in Udupi district, who has been a great patron of sports, particularly badminton and has been nurturing talented players.

Sadashiv Kotian has been an avid sports enthusiast who has been striving hard to popularise badminton since four decades. A B.Com graduate, Sadashiv Kotian though a businessman by profession, nurturing sporting talents is his passion.

Many talented badminton players of the region have been his students and Kotian is proud of this fact. A member of the Golden Jubilee Club of Manipal, he has coached many youngsters free of cost and is presently offering training to youth at Doddanagudde Club.

He is also a lover of theatre and has acted in several plays.

Kotian strongly believes that it is sports that gives strength to an individual and makes him or her courageous and self-confident.

Holistic Learner

Holistically service oriented, skilled, committed, qualified, professional homeopath Dr. Sr. Saritha D’Cunha may not be in the headlines, but her services, spirit and concern to mitigate human sufferings are praiseworthy.

Dr. Sr Saritha, hailing from Kotekar Beeri after completing her schooling at St Sebastian High School Permannur, Thokkottu, joined Ursuline Franciscan Nuns in 1994, the oldest indigenous nunnery in the city. After her PUC she studied Homoeopathy medicine and obtained a BHMS degree at Fr Muller’s Kankanady. She practiced homeopathy at Sirsi for one year. After earning an MD in homeo ‘Materia Medica’ at Fr Muller’s Derlakatte in 2012, she set up “Sampoorna” clinic at Hoigebazar road in the city here.

She is well known for her specialised treatment of asthma, Migraine headache, Hypothyroidism, piles and fissures, gangrene, gastritis, allergies and many other ailments through Homoeopathy medicines. She has gained renown by word of mouth and is known for commitment, dedication and skill in her medical calling, supported by faith. She says, “Homeopathy is a holistic (Sampoorna) system of medicine “My aim is that many more people, without discrimination, need to benefit from homeopathy, which cures deeply a wide range of diseases without any side effects”. Yes, indeed worth its weight in gold.
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