

Towards a purposeful regimen

ISSUES & CONCERNS

VOL - 26

No - 309

DECEMBER - 2025

Rs 35/-

I&C

www.issuesandconcerns.co.in

SON-RISE INDUSTRY & POLITICS IN INDIA



DELHI BOMB BLAST



26th
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

Transformations in Hinduism

EMPOWERING YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAMS

KBL MSME — SCHEME —

FINANCE FOR MICRO, SMALL &
MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Timely finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises that help their business grow.

Finance of upto ₹500 lakhs is given for

- Working Capital requirements
- Establishment and / or improvement of the unit, repairs & renovations, acquiring machineries/vehicles/equipments/ any fixed assets for the unit
- Purchase/acquiring of property (shop/factory/ godown/office) for self use

conditions apply

Words of precaution to the public



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

Call toll free no. 1800 425 1444 or step into our nearest branch for details Follow us on [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) /karnatakabank



Karnataka Bank

Your Family Bank. Across India.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL & MONTH-IN- PERSPECTIVE.....4 - 11
FEEDBACK 12
FOCUS.....13-19
SON RISE INDUSTRY & POLITICS IN INDIA
DELHI BOMB BLAST: QUESTION OF ANSWERS
HEALTH 19- 22
SERIAL..... 23-24
THE PARTITION OF INDIA
YEH MERA INDIA.....25-27
MONTH THAT WAS.....28-30
ABRACADABRA.....31-33
LAST PAGE34

FounderMemberEditorial Board:

Dr.MV Kamath

Editorial Board

Prof. B. M. Hegde

Editor:

J.Shriyan

Dr. Ravindranath Shanbhag

Dr. Ravishankar Rao

Dr. Satish Rao

M.R Vasudeva

Representatives :

Bangalore: S.K. Punja : 09341974709

Ravi S. Marla : 09845392696

Chaithra Padukone : 09945166918

Mumbai : Ravi Mendon : 09945435111

Bhaskar Salian : 09930830621

Published by:

J. Shriyan, Sahakari Bank Old Bldg.,Near

Bus Stand, Surathkal,

MANGALORE - 575 014

Mob : 7795782435

www.issuesandconcerns.co.in

www.issuesandconcern.blogspot.com

email : issuesandconcerns@gmail.com

Printed at:

Diganta Mudrana Ltd.,Mangalore

Cover Page Designed by:

Ravindra Shetty Kuthethure

NOTE: Views and opinions expressed in individual articles are those of the writers and not necessarily those of ISSUES & CONCERNS. Total pages: 36

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



**Discipline is the soul of an
army. It makes small numbers
formidable, procures success to
the weak, and esteem to all.
- George Washnigton**





Friends,

We are in the last month of 2025 and I&C is truly into 26th year of its non-stop publication. This is the 309th edition and 2nd edition of the 26th year. October 2025 had marked the silver jubilee edition. November was the 1st edition of 26th year. We hope to continue as usual in coming months.

Month-in-Perspective is as usual. We have tried to cover some of the events left uncovered in the M-i-P.

Coming to the rescue of an innocent accused from the application of the rigours of POCSO, Supreme Court has raised the bar of judicial reach out. An accused who was awarded a 10 year imprisonment for the offence involving him with a minor girl, the Supreme Court invoked its extraordinary power under article 142 of the constitution, set him free since it was emotionally consensual relationship that culminated in marriage and subsequent parenthood of a child. Clearly it was not an offence and therefore fit case to be treated outside POCSO. It was a happily ended situation due to the apex court's intervention.

We Indians, at least a good part of us, revel in rushing where 'angels fear to tread'. Despite known cases of how uncontrolled milling crowd can lead to completely avoidable deaths, comes this stampede at 'Mini Tirupati Temple', where some dozen or so have died. Reportedly some 20k devotees had rushed in on 'Karthika Ekadashi' day at a private Venkateshwara Swamy temple. It could be that such a crowd was not anticipated and hence no arrangement for crowd management was made. There have been such stampede elsewhere where deaths have taken place and some kind of organized crowd control could have been there. But we are, as usual, poor learners.

Accidents by heavy vehicles like tippers, buses causing death by dozens do not seem to affect the driving community. A tipper in Hydrebad rammed a bus after it suddenly changed its lane and collided with the oncoming bus. Some 20 died on the spot and injured dozens, drivers as usual managed to escape the inferno. Another news 13 dead as tipper ploughs into 17 vehicles in Jaipur. It was caused by a drunken tipper driver in broad day light near Loha Mandi. A fortnight earlier in Kurnool a bus driven over fallen motorcycle caused the explosion of fuel tank of the bus killing some 20 passengers in the middle of the night on way to Bengalooru from Hydrebad. There is a great need to control the issue of Heavy Duty Driving License. Getting a driving license is hardly difficult with RTO laxity. Would that happen!

Desmand Tutu had famously observed "When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, lets all pray and we closed our eyes, When we opened our eyes we had Bible in our hands and they had land with them". The Chattisgarh High Court in its ruling restrained pastors and Christian converts from entering the 8 villages which had put up hoardings that prohibited the entry of pastors and converted Christians. However Syro Malabar Church questioned the wisdom of Chattisgarh High Court (CHC) and wanted the ruling to be challenged in SC, since 'its against secularism and is unconstitutional'. After all those eight villages were only worried about forced conversion through allurements and fraudulent means. CHC sustained their fear and stopped the entry of pastors and converted Christians, which appears to be in order.

Among the glorious uncertainties of life, nothing can be worse than this. Subramanya Vedam, now 64 who entered U.S as a 9 months old child was recently in the news for sadly a wrong reason. He spent his 2/3rd life, 43 years to be exact, in U.S. prison for a crime he did not commit. He was released early November from prison, now in immigration custody

pending two court orders not to deport him. He may win his case to stay back, but what can you make of it so late in the day!? And it happened in the citadel of freedom!


Supreme Court got all mixed-up with the issue of stray dogs. In August it ordered the relocation of these luckless canines out of Delhi- NCR Streets, without applying itself. After widespread criticism, it decided to relook. And relook it did. But in the process put the cart before the horse. It advocated forcing all educational institutions, hospitals, sports complex, bus depots and bus stands, Railway stations etc., after removing all stray dogs. First of all it is impractical to fencing any of the above to prevent stray dogs from entering, for the sheer difficulties for the users. Besides it may need huge funding for which there is no provision in the first place. Besides it is against Animal Birth Control Rules (ABC) 2003 which does not advocate shifting stray dogs from one place to another. Hence its not the last word. We need to involve animal groups for meaningful solution to the problem of stray dogs by keeping ABC at the centre of it.

In third world prisons, criminals running their activities from inside the four walls of prisons with the help of jail personnel is fairly well known. So if it has happened in the Bengalooru's Central Prison in Parappana Agrahaara, is not surprising at all. If only when such extra-territorial criminal activities becomes brazenly open, it certainly invites unintended attention. So the Home Minister in Bengalooru has shunted the Chief Superintendent of Prison and suspended two senior prison officials and ordered a probe. The panel to probe includes IGP with ADGP (Law and Order) heading the panel. Other actions planned is to make an IPS officer to head Bengalooru Central Prison and transferring all prison officers who have completed 5 years. Hope the malaise is addressed in some form.

Government employees anywhere in India are a better paid lot hence paying their own Life Insurance Premium should not be an issue. Every employee who joins service in Karnataka government departments is automatically enrolled in the KGID (Karnataka Government Insurances Deptt) life insurance schemes when they join service. There is a mandatory 6.25% of their salary deducted as Life insurance premium to cover government servant life insurance scheme. However there is a minimum amount prescribed, and if the 6.25% comes below the minimum, deductions do not take place and the concerned employee should directly pay to the designated account. But a recent audit has found 82,256 of the 6 lakh Karnataka state employees have failed to pay the insurance premium as mandated. While recovery of the due amounts of premium may not be a problem, it's the mentality of these employees who despite good salary fail to pay the dues for their own life insurance cover.

The issue of sacking of Lieutenant Samuel Kamalesan for refusing to enter a Gurudwara during the course of duty has come for debate in public space. It happened in 2021, after an army court martial concluded that refusal amounted to indiscipline. Both Delhi High Court and Supreme Court upheld the decision recently. Of course as expected The Hindu carried an article by Supreme Court lawyer Sanjay Hegde why army should not have sacked him citing his exemplary performance in the past. But for army, discipline is not negotiable and they cannot make exception. That carried the day. Any deviation could have had widespread demand for exemptions. Army means business and it stays. Period.

Ever since, Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor raked the issue of dynastic politics in India, its been in the public space making its rounds. Hence we decided to take it up in Focus. Thus came about this 'Son-Rise Industry & Politics in India'. We have tried to be as comprehensive as possible. We also took up under Focus, the recent Delhi bomb blast and its genesis. Hope readers would find both the pieces interesting and worth their time. Do revert with your considered inputs. We do value them.





MONTH-IN-PERSPECTIVE

BIHAR: ELECTION 2025

So, the election to Bihar Assembly has come and gone into history. But, unexpectedly, it has also made history. The ruling NDA combine has won an unprecedented over 4/5th of Bihar's 243 seats at 202, which works to over 83%. That indeed is staggering, coming as it does in the background of what RJD leader Tejasvi Yadav had declared post election that on 18th November he will take oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar. In the event however, his party and his MAHAGHATBANDHAN (MGB) came a cropper. With RJD getting only 25 seats despite contesting 143 seats and MGB getting a total of 34 seats. Here it is pertinent to note that NDA had 126 seats in the outgoing assembly and MGB had 110 seats. From 126, NDA leapfrogged to 202 seats, a jump of over 60% seats and MGB got sunk from 110 seats to 34 seats, a fall of over 66%.

Why this spectacular change has happened in Bihar? Suddenly the Lalu Prasad Yadav factor has lost its relevance, something that RJD didn't expect that it was coming. All the earlier elections, it was "Jab thak rahega aalo, Laaloo rahega". At long last Biharis have realized that this discredited 'Chhara Ghotala Chor' and the one who sold 'railway jobs for land' cannot be trusted. And what can be better way of saying than voting RJD out. RJD had 75 seats in the outgoing assembly, got reduced to 25



and MGB had 110 seats came down to 34. That was indeed a complete metamorphosis. That's good for Bihar and Biharis.

However what is equally important was the realization that NDA can be trusted to perform. Times of India, editorial tells "Government investment in road infra is evident, even rural roads have expanded from a mere 1000 kms to 1 lakh kms, over 58 lakh dwellings were built in rural Bihar in last 10 years, piped water coverage is total, power situation is better, law and order has improved." Thus Biharis have realized, even those who earlier voted for RJD, at least a good part of them, have voted for change for a better government. After all the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been nick named as 'Sushaasan Baabu', not for nothing. According to Pavan Varma, a former IFS, 'Nitish Kumar carried a formidable reputation, well educated engineer, a person of impeccable personal integrity with a razor sharp brain and a good administrator.' Besides, he did not promote politically anyone from his family. So there are enough and more positives of the longest serving Chief Minister. No wonder this is going to be Nitish Kumar's 10th Chief Ministership.

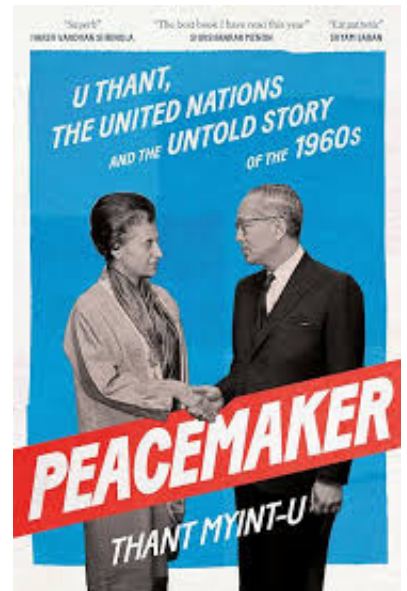
Election also threw up some interesting statistics. RJD despite its debacle, its vote share remained intact. In fact, it improved a little over the 2020 election when it had 23.1% but got 23.42% this time round. So, there is support for the discredited Lalu Prasad party, which is rather inexplicable, whether it's the caste or the blind supporters! BJP which got 15 seats more than the last election improved its vote share from 19.5% to 20.44% and JD(U) almost doubled its seats share from 43 to 85 seats, increased its vote share however to only 19.62% from 15.4%.

However at the end of the day, JO JEETHAA WAHI SIKANDAR. So best of luck to the new government

of NDA to deliver even better.

WORLD: UNITED NATIONS

We all know that its always the victor who writes the history and generally as per their own perspective. "So its no surprise that in 1945, post World War II, the allied forces of Americans, the British and the Russians played key roles in the creation of United Nations Organization (UNO) to put in place an international system," so informs Thant Myint-U.



Thant Myint-U, a grandson of a former Secretary General of UNO, U Thant, has written a book "Peacemaker: U Thant, the United Nations and the untold story of the 1960s". He is an acknowledged historian and a well-known writer. The attempt to write this latest book is to present to the world, the role played by his grandfather in the evolving global world order during his stewardship of UNO.

However what is important is his views on the creeping irrelevance of the world body, which was primarily started with a core mandate of preventing and ending war between nations. This is a very relevant statement since we are in the middle of Russia-Ukraine war, Israel and



MONTH-IN-PERSPECTIVE

Hamas conflict, with no sign of ending in the immediate future. So its not merely the funds crisis but an existential crisis. Clearly, UNO has lost its way forward.

So what's the way forward! He talks about reactivating the world body by having a new Secretary General who will be more proactive in the realization of the UN vision of at least preventing the III World War. The present Secretary General Antonio Guterres is likely to demit office on 1st Jan 2027, after completion of two, 5 years terms. Presently no name is making any round for the possible successor.

Thant Myint U thinks India should be a permanent Member of Security Council of UNO. However, such possibility is loaded with uncertainties, with veto powers vested with the present Security Council Members, some of whom may not favor India.

Hope the latest book by Thant Myint U is well circulated and read for the betterment of UNO in general and for its continued relevance in a world greatly in need of peace and stability.

M A H A R A S H T R A : CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

The print media report datelined Vasai, north of Mumbai megapolis, "Vasai school girl dies a week after 100 sit-up punishment", made a sad reading. Reportedly a 13 year old girl, Kajal Sikandar Gaud, a class VI student of Shri Hanumant Vidya Mandir succumbed to her physical exhaustion on Children's Day, after she was made to do 100 sit-ups with her school bag on her back, for arriving late to school by 10 minutes.

This was a sad development involving elementary school children being punished by teachers. Reportedly, neither the teacher nor the school management expressed regret for the incident that led to the death of a girl student. This is



an unwholesome dimension of the entire episode. Coming late to the school, either by children or their teachers is not unusual. It's fairly normal anywhere in the world. The delay could be for varieties of reasons. Without monitoring delays punishing a small girl with heavy bag on the back, is a criminal act by the teacher Mamta Yadav. At least she should have allowed the bag to be kept aside and even reduce the number of sit-ups to say 50, instead of 100. Anybody can feel the pain of 100 sit-up. In fact, police must, as and when they decide to take action on the matter, should make the concerned teacher with the heavy load on her back do similarly 100 sit-ups. She needs to know, what it means to make a small 13 year old girl suffer the physical pain by her insensitive act.

Even School management should be made accountable for the unfortunate incident.

In fact there is law for the prevention of corporal punishment in schools. Authorities must invoke all the stringent clauses of law to make both teacher and the school management to undergo punishment for their action of commission and omission. The mere locking of the school by political workers is not a solution.

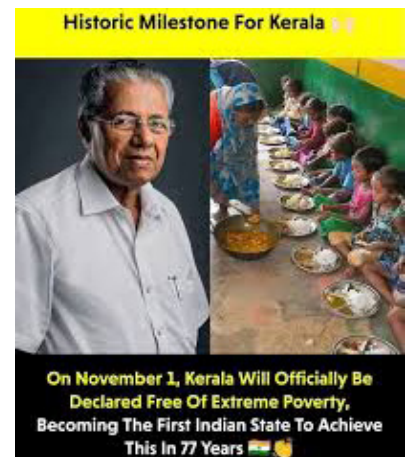
K E R A L A : H U M A N DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

That Kerala is a model state when it comes to HDI or Human Development Index, was never in

doubt. However their declaration that "Kerala is free of extreme poverty" is the icing on the cake.

States reorganization falls on 1st November and Kerala calls it PIRAVI. However strangely, unlike Karnataka, Kerala does not have a public holiday on state reorganization day. It's Rajyotsava Day in Karnataka. Even banks are closed on that day. Be that as it may, on that day this year -1st November 2025- the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared on the floor of the assembly that 'Kerala has eradicated extreme poverty from the state' and was 'presenting a new model to the nation that other states can evaluate and benefit from.

According to the Chief Minister Vijayan that "measures like providing welfare pensions to about 62 lakh families, houses to about 4.70 lakh homeless families, establishing about



6000 public health centres, free health insurance to 43 lakh families and land to 4 lakh families have helped to significantly reduce the extent and intensity of extreme poverty in Kerala".

That landlessness and poverty are clearly correlated is a dimension Kerala leadership-especially communist governments-has acknowledged pretty early. That is how early land reforms, welfare spending and trust in the health system has helped very early in achieving the nationally best HDI.

Hence, Kerala leadership led



by Pinarayi Vijayan needs to be congratulated for the visionary approach to the socio-economic development of its people.

Here it is pertinent to recollect the Kerala HDI in public space. The following table indicates ratio of state and national averages.

its own inspector! Vivekanadna approached higher-ups in police and knocked the door of Home Minister even. But nothing happened. Fortunately Vivekananda, true to his name, persisted with his complaint. He was merely fighting for justice. He should have been atleast given

the State Government, and by Governor to the President. There was sharp reactions from legal brains across India that the SC bench of Justices Pardiwala and Mahadewan clearly overstepped. Even the Union government then had reacted “Judiciary can’t dictate the President”.

The judgment of this 2 judges bench of the Supreme Court had forced the hands of the President for this Presidential Reference. Naturally the CJI having got seized of the situation constituted a larger constitutional bench and debated among themselves to come up with this latest judgment. The print media headlines on November 21, says it all. The report datelined New Delhi “Can’t impose time lines on governors to clear bills, says SC”, says it all.

According to the report, the highest adjudicator of the land, has unanimously ruled that “it has no jurisdiction or power to set a timeline for a Governor or the President to take decision on the bills passed by the state assemblies.” This unanimous



ruling by the bench of CJI Gavai, CJI designate Surya Kant, Justices Vikram Nath, Narasimha and Chandrashekar has dismantled the body, heart and soul of the April 8 eyebrow raising judgment by Justices Pardiwala and Mahadevan, informs the report.

So the latest ruling by the five judges bench has already stated in no uncertain terms that President is indeed the Supreme Commander of the armed forces and that Supreme Court must respect the ‘Laxman Rekha’ when it comes to powers of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary as demarcated in the Constitution of India.

	KERALA	INDIA
1) Life expectancy at birth (in years)	75.1	70.3
2) Living in pucca houses (%)	83.0	60.0
3) Female Literacy – (15-49 yrs) (%)	98.3	71.5
4) Female with 12+ years schooling (%)	51.0	26.0
5) Total Fertility Rate (Children per women)	1.5	1.9
6) Women married before 18 (%)	6.3	23.3

Thus there is lesson for all states to learn from Kerala, the model state for the Human Development Index.

KARNATAKA: POLICE HIGH HANDEDNESS

A report datelined Dharwad, “HC Bench directs Ballari SP to register FIR against inspector”, has once again exposed the high handed behavior of police and how one tries to save the other policemen despite wrong having been committed.

V. Vivekananda, a Kolar resident, had gone to meet Karnataka Labour Minister, Santosh Lad on Aug 24, 2025. Mahesh Gowda, the security detail, as police inspector, was around and did not allow Vivekananda to meet the Minister. After a verbal altercation between inspector Gowda and Vivekananda, reportedly inspector Gowda allegedly assaulted Vivekananda.

Aggrieved, Vivekananda filed a complaint against Inspector Gowda at Sandur Police Station but reportedly police did not take any action. It was perhaps too much to expect that police at Sandur will act against

a hearing in one of the three levels he had taken his complaints to. But that was not to be. Undeterred he approached the Dharwad Bench of the Karnataka High Court (KHC) in October which took up his petition in earnest. He had prayed that court should give direction to the DGP/IGP Karnataka and the Ballari SP to ensure that an FIR is registered against inspector Mahesh Gowda based on the complaint of Vivekananda.

The Dharwad bench of KHC on 18th November has directed the Superintendent of Police, Ballari, to ensure that an FIR is filed based on the complaint of Vivekananda and a fair investigation is conducted. Hope the police brass is alive to the situation and try to act against one of their very own and setup a standard in policing.

NEWDELHI: PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE

It was in September 2025 that I&C had written about the Presidential Reference consequent to the judgement of two judge bench of the apex court on Governors’ powers. On 8th April, the Supreme Court bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan had stipulated timeline while passing its order on powers of state Governors and that of the President of India, to clear the bills referred to Governor by



Here it is pertinent to recollect what I&C had stated in its September edition that Union Government on its own should take up the issue of pending bills with both Governors and the President and put it before both houses of parliament and decide the time within which a bill referred to both the governor by the state government and the President by the Governor. Hope the Union Government acts in the larger interest of constitutional propriety and a possible impasse in future in the clearance of any bills from any state governments in India.

NEW DELHI: URANIUM IN BREAST MILK

A New Delhi datelined report tells “Research detects Uranium in breast milk in 6 Bihar districts”. According to the report, a nature study survey has found that due to ground water contamination uranium traces were found in breast milk of lactating mothers. The findings, informs the report, indicates that the toxic element long present in the aquifers across the state has made its way into the new born through their first and the most vital source of nutrition. This is a very serious development.

The study by Mahavir Cancer

Samsthan, Patna and AIIMS, New Delhi, conducted between October 2021 and July 2024 analyzed 40 breast milk samples from mothers aged between 17-35, in Bihar’s 6 districts. Reportedly uranium was detected in all samples with varying concentration levels, with Khagaria district recording the highest and Nalanda district recording the lowest. Comfortingly, authors of the study tells that as of now it has no carcinogenic health risk. However, surprisingly sources of contamination remains unclear with even Geological Survey of India being unsure as of now.

However detection of uranium in breast milk has signaled that contamination has reached the most vulnerable population, the infants. They are especially vulnerable since their organs are still developing, they absorb toxic substances more readily due to their low body weight. Uranium can cause kidney damage, neurological impairment, cognitive delays and increase the risk of cancer as they grow.

Globally, the report informs, that uranium in ground water was found in Bangladesh, China, Canada, Finland, Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, the U.S., so also Mekong delta. But nowhere its found in breast milk. Therefore it becomes a public health imperative to intervene to trace the source of ground water contamination to urgently bio-monitor to ensure rigorous water quality testing to make the life of vulnerable infants of these affected districts better. Hope authorities in Bihar rise to the occasion to ensure safety of these infants.

K A R N A T A K A : ANGANAWADI TRAVAILS

The report in the print media “50 paise per kid, per day for veggies!” made a very funny



disturbing reading. How can any government think that Anganawadi workers can procure vegetables for the children’s meal at Anganawadi at 0.50 paise! No wonder an Anganawadi worker remarked “Forget vegetables, we cannot even buy chillies, lemons or coriander leaves”.

What a shame, that Karnataka government can get so low in its socio-economic priorities for vulnerable children of vulnerable sections when other grandiose plans go uninterrupted without monetary constraints! A reflection of mental poverty of those responsible.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was started in 1975 to combat malnutrition among growing children, expecting and lactating mothers. In Mysore district, T Narasipura taluk was the first to start a pilot project with 100 Anganwadis. Reportedly to-day there are 69,919 centres with 40 lakh children and mothers with 1.2 lakh employed therein as Anganwadi conductors (workers) and cooks.

It is the Golden Jubilee Year and state government is celebrating by giving 0.50 paise per child for vegetable procurement, what an irony! According to a conductor earlier the government used to provide green gram, jiggery, varieties of pulses, groundnut and other items that helped them make food tasty and healthy. But now its limited to rice, tur dal and wheat flour along with milk powder and eggs. However government



wants egg to be given twice a week, with price fixed at Rs6/- but the present rate is Rs 7/- who pays the difference! Besides government pays once every three months, so Anganwadi conductors must manage on their own until government money comes. Very sad situation of Anganwadi conductors.

Coming to the 0.50 paise for vegetables, the government response was “we have trained Anganwadi workers to grow veggies”. The question is, should they manage children, expecting and lactating mothers or should they look after the children, including visiting the surrounding areas to identify pregnant women or grow vegetables? Besides many Anganwadis are operating from single room, so how do they grow vegetables? Many places water needs to be brought from outside. Toilets are there but with no water connection. 25 years ago it was 1000/- salary now its 12500/-. Somehow the show has been going on thanks to the management skill of Anganwadi teachers. Two cheers for Anganwadi Conductors/ Teachers.

NEW DELHI: VIOLENCE ON WOMEN

Addressing the nation on 15th August 2014, the then newest Prime Minister Narendra Modi had addressed the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort as was the norm. Among many issues he brought the female factor on

the center stage. He spoke about the assault on women and girls and how they are exposed to the violence both at home and on streets. He appealed the sense of responsibility of parents in counselling their boys and men to look upon their sisters and wives with respect and compassion. Thus one of the first initiative from Prime Minister Modi, was to emphasize the security and safety of women and girls in the society.

However, 11 years down the line comes this report datelined New Delhi “Nearly 30% women in India suffer from partner violence: WHO report”.

According to the report published by World Health Organization (WHO), some 1/3rd of women have suffered during their life time due to their husbands or life partners. Violence to women from their male partner is a global phenomena. The figure is around 840 million or 1 in every 3, is the global figure. The figure, according to the report, includes 8.4% violence from non-partners. The figure in India on the violence from non-partners, however is 4%.

“This violence against women is the oldest pervasive pastime, yet hardly acted upon” tells WHO Director General Dr Tedros. “This violence against women should stop as a matter of dignity, equality and human rights. Behind every statistics is a woman or girl whose life has been forever altered”, added Dr Tedros. “Empowering woman and girls is not optional, it’s a pre-requisite for peace, development and health. A safer world for women is a better world for everyone” Dr Tedros said.

2 5 t h

November is observed as ‘International Day for the elimination of violence against women and girls’. This is also the part of ‘Sustainable Development Goals – 2030’. But it looks abusive, the way the violence against women and girls has remained happening all over the world as per the report.

Hope this report is made available to the PMO in New Delhi which would observe it in the context of what the Prime Minister had reiterated on 15th Aug 2014. Some positive action on this would send signal to the world body that India would take forward the concerns expressed by Dr Tedros. Indeed as PM Modi had remarked 11 years ago that our boys and men need to be counselled by their elders, parents and teachers in the school to be protective towards girls and women. After all they are all future mothers, who are expected to be tender and loving towards their offsprings. Hope it happens.

C H A T T I S G A R H : TEACHING GONE WONKY

There was this print media report datelined Raipur “Teachers tie child to tree for incomplete homework”.

Reportedly two teachers, Kajal Sahu and Anuradha Dewangan of Hans Vahini Vidya Mandir in Narayanpur village in Surajpur district, hung a 4 year old LKG student from a tree for not completing his homework. Reportedly the incident has evoked widespread outrage over the horrific incident of corporal punishment. The video of the incident which, unfortunately for



teachers, went viral and attracted the attention of authorities. Education department has initiated an urgent inquiry. Video showed teachers tying a rope to the child's shirt and suspending him from a tree within the school compound. It could be seen from the terrace of a nearby house from where someone recorded the incident and uploaded online. Angry locals circulated the video widely and reportedly demanded punishment.

The entire incident inflicted on a 4 year old child was most despicable for anyone to even think, let alone for teachers to commit such a heinous act on a hapless child. Such teachers are a disgrace to the profession of teaching. They appear clearly sick. They should not only be suspended but investigated as to their background. Also if possible legal provisions should be invoked under prevention of corporal punishment. So that a strong message is sent to all that a child should remain protected at all times and in all places.

NEW DELHI: PENDING CASES IN COURTS

The latest Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant appears to be keen on addressing the huge pending cases across the judiciary all over the country. According to him there is over 5.4 crore cases cumulative from trial courts to high courts to Supreme Courts. If the figures are correct, it clearly humongous. However his observation that its “a clear manifestation of deeper structural bottle neck within the

country’s system” is debatable. Any observer of the Indian legal scenario it is apparent that all stake holders have contributed in their way to the mess that judiciary is in to-day which includes Supreme Court judges. Acute infrastructural deficiency is the reason according to the newest CJI.

While infrastructural improvements in terms more courts, more judges can help no-doubt in addressing the mounting pending cases, there are other professional deficiencies among the legal fraternity that need to be addressed, besides the litigants taking liberty of all kinds in increasing the cases. There has to be alternative redressal forums created by legislature and parliament which can take part of these cases. Litigants should be educated and trained to avoid making a case where it can be settled through discussion, deliberation with or without involving lawyers. Adjournment at the drop of a hat should be discouraged and slowly stopped, so that cases can be completed early. Besides the working time of judges should be reviewed. Their short sittings, summer breaks, holidays, all need to have a relook. Since all stake holders shall revisit their space, so shall be the judicial officers from trial courts to the highest adjudicator, pari-passu. Then for sure the pending issue can be slowly and steadily addressed.

NEW DELHI: CCTV AT POLICE STATION

The report “SC irked over non-compliance with CCTV order for police station” has not come a day too early, while emphasizing that “custodial death is a blot on the system which cannot be tolerated”. Hearing petition by members of public regarding the installation of CCTV in



police stations, the apex court came down heavily on both the central and state governments for their failure to comply with the then Supreme Court order given on earlier occasions. Its an universal truth that police or any investigative agency cannot be made accountable in the absence of CCTV in areas where interrogations take place.

Actually custodial deaths have happened in different parts of the country only because police feel safe to indulge in inhuman treatment of accused or even alleged accused who could be even innocents. There were cases in the past where innocents have been cruelly beaten and they have succumbed. In fact there is a case of some years past where an elderly lady went to court after her son died in police custody in Kerala. He was caught for a theft he did not commit. In a rare judgment Kerala High Court had given death sentence to two police officers for literally killing an innocent man. The death sentence to policemen shocked police fraternity in Kerala.

The latest Supreme Court assertion that all states must comply with the order to install CCTV in all police stations, especially in areas where interrogations take place. Six central agencies like, NIA, CBI, Directorate of Enforcement, Narcotics Control Bureau, Serious Fraud Investigation Office are all required to install CCTV in their offices where interrogations take place, informs the S.C. order. Hope all concerned take the latest apex court order

J.Shriyan



CAPTIVATING VENTURE: A HIDDEN GEM IN ENGLISH MONTHLY - JOURNEY OF I&C

The 'Issues and Concern' magazine stands out in the world of English journalism, offering a refreshing perspective often missing in prominent national newspapers. Led by Jayaram Shriyan Surathkal, the editorial team showcases remarkable courage in tackling pressing national issues, examining them, critiquing them, and presenting them to readers without controversy.

Jayaram Shriyan's integrity and commitment to social causes shine through in his work. He's a man of his word, deeply empathetic towards the underprivileged and ordinary citizens. His dedication to publishing thought-provoking content is unwavering, as he asserts, "I will continue to express my thoughts openly, pointing out issues and reflecting concern to draw the attention of like-minded individuals." He advances in this direction with each monthly publication.

Under his leadership, 'Issues and Concern' has featured esteemed guests, including educationists, judges, doctors, and respected personalities, bridging the gap between society's leaders and readers. This unique endeavor deserves recognition and appreciation. We wish the publication continued success in its mission to inform and inspire.

-Dr. V.K Yadav Sasihithlu

A DATE WITH TIME - 9th OCT 2025

I read I&C November 2025 issue. I was moved by your piece entitled 'A Date With Time - 9th October 2025'. It was an unusual journalistic work, asking difficult questions and stirring the conscience of those whom we expect to ask difficult questions. Indeed, the people of India expect a great deal from the Fourth Estate. But, most of the time what the people get is garbage. This is particularly so in Electronic media. I do appreciate that being human, journalists are as much vulnerable to their own opinions, biases and prejudices. That is what is generally called liberal, conservative, leftist, rightist etc. But, today our journalism has passed that stage; they are getting busy with glorification of their chosen leaders, demeaning others and so on. Some confuse patriotism with jingoism. For some others, a little liberalism is anti-national. When our so called journalists get busy with all these, the real causes like exposing the likes of that rich son of a rich father who mowed down seven people by drunken driving and get out with a mince meat of punishment goes under the drain. This is but one example. We have many cases of the rich and mighty shamelessly behaving in anti social and anti national ways. How often have our journalists exposed them and followed them up? The only occasion I saw was Shankar Nag acting as a journalist doing it in the movie Accident! But that you know was a movie. That says a lot. I&C did well to try to wake them up.

-V K Talithaya, Bengalooru

25th YEAR EDITION OF ISSUES & CONCERNS

Feel very happy and proud that I & C has completed its glorious SILVER JUBILEE. The popular magazine has lived beyond the expectations of the intellectual readers to a great extent all these years in the face of onslaught by the social media. It has kept us well informed with the happenings in the region, country and the world at large...also raising concerns regarding important contemporary issues affecting the people.

The relentless hardwork and sincerity the editor Jayaram Shriyan has endured is well reflected in the contents especially the Editor's page and Month-in-Perspective.

We hope the magazine will scale greater heights in the years to come as it is cherished by its readers. BEST WISHES.

-Dr. Sathish Rao, NITTE University





SON-RISE INDUSTRY & POLITICS IN INDIA

India's popular Member of Parliament, Shri Shashi Tharoor, who is popular across different political parties, recently wrote an article "Indian Politics Are a Family Business" for an international media organization, reports print media.

He is a Senior Congress leader, being part of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and his statements, whether anyone likes it or not, has a lot of weight, for the background that he carries in style. Besides being highly educationally qualified, he was the Under Secretary General of United Na-

tions, a first for any Indian. He is recognized as a public intellectual. Therefore his public statements are very well taken.

Hence going back to his article "Indian Politics Are a Family Business", like a print media report tells, "Dynastic Politics pose grave threat to democracy", and asserted that it is high time that India traded, dynasty for meritocracy. According to him "when political power is determined by lineage rather than ability, commitment or grass roots engagement, the quality of governance suffers".

The Thiruvananthapuram M.P. is not far from truth. Indian democracy did suffer the vagaries of this dynastic enforcement politics.

While it is true that Jawaharlal Nehru, was forced by Gandhiji as the first Prime Minister of independent India after British colonialists left the country in 1947, he however cannot be accused of forcing his daughter Indira Gandhi into the corridors of power in New Delhi. After his death, a minister in his cabinet, Lal Bahadur Shastri was made the 2nd Prime Minister of India. Indira



Gandhi followed as Prime Minister on the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, who died under mysterious circumstances in Tashkent. But very strangely no post-mortem was conducted to establish the cause of death, leaving many questions unanswered, casting very valid aspersions on the then government led by Indira Gandhi.

However, coming to the question of dynasty, it may be in order to state that it all began with Indira Gandhi allowing her son Sanjay Gandhi to run riot with his officious behavior in the corridors of power in New Delhi. Unfortunately for both mother and son, Sanjay died in an air crash before he could politically establish himself. That paved the way for Rajeev Gandhi, a reluctant politician, to enter active politics. He became Prime Minister in 1984, after the assassination of Indira Gandhi by her body guards. In 1991, Rajeev Gandhi was assassinated by a Tamil Separatist in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. However, in a show of intellectual bankruptcy and sycophancy, Congressman proposed Sonia Gandhi, the widow of Rajeev Gandhi, as Congress candidate for India's Prime Ministership. She had no background worth mentioning, except being wife of Rajeev Gandhi, with hardly any educational qualification to speak of. Details in public space speaks poorly of her evolution. Rajeev Gandhi had two children, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra, both of whom are Members of Parliament. Rahul Gandhi is currently Opposition Leader in the Lok Sabha, waiting in the wings to become the Prime Minister of India.

Thus it is clear that it was Gandhi family that started the family centric dynastic political roles in Indian politics.

Politics, we are told, is truly the last refuge of scoundrels. But in India of 21st century, its not just scoundrels, but also their heirs who want to eat the political cake and have it for the family. Politics, like it or not, is a powerful attraction for a lot of people the world over. The creamier side of political office makes it so, especially in third world countries, like India.

The notorious Bofors scandal involving a kickback of 64 crores of rupees during the Rajeev Gandhi regime is the earliest in a series of financial skullduggery that happened post Rajeev Gandhi government. SukhRam, the then Telecommunication Minister in PV Narasimha Rao government was found with crores of rupees in cash lying all over in his house, by the raid party. There are umpteen cases of massive escape of public money, into private pockets, from the net of accountability. Hence good number of politicians are aware that politics indeed is a very lucrative career. It is well known that avenues and possibilities of making real good money is indeed very huge in Indian politics. No wonder it was Raja, again the then Telecommunication Minister in Dr Manmohan Singh government who allegedly caused loss to the national exchequer to the tune of 60,000 crores! This amount allegedly benefited bidders, who in turn would have paid a portion of it, may be even as low as 10%, that by itself was 6000 crores. Thus it is always the big money that attracted many people to politics.

Of course, there were very many personalities who wanted to serve the people and the country and therefore entered politics. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gulzarilal Nanda, Jaya Prakash Narayan were stalwarts who inspired generations of Indians

by their selfless service to the nation like Annadurai, Kamaraj, EMS Nambondaripad and many others across the national spectrum. They all died with no personal wealth. They were role models.

Coming of Shri Tharoor and his observation on politics of family in India, we can start at the top of India as a geographical entity. Of course, in an evolving India, where only the powerful and well-connected people flourish, this Son-Rise Industry was not confined to Congress alone.

At the top is Jammu & Kashmir. It was Sheikh Abdullah who was the first Chief Minister of J&K, followed by his son Farook Abdullah,



followed by his son Omar Abdullah, who is presently the CM of J&K. Then you have Mufti Mohd-Sayeed, a former Union Home Minister in V.P. Singh government, who had his daughter, Mehbooba Mufti as Chief Minister of J&K.

Coming down its Prakash Singh Badal as CM of Punjab, who made his son Sukhbir Singh Badal as Deputy CM, when he was already a



FOCUS



Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha, so that meat of the political power can be enjoyed uninterrupted and better.

Then its Haryana, where Devilal, Bhajan Lal and Om Prakash Chautala had all their sons milking the



system. All three of them were Chief Ministers of Haryana in turn. Chandra Mohan who is the

son of Bhajan Lal, who was 4 times Chief Minister, had Chandra Mohan as Dy CM in Chautala cabinet, who vanished for two months to get married for the 2nd time with first wife still alive. He got converted as Muslim just to enjoy bigamy. This is how these political upstarts use the system as a private fiefdom.

Coming down, its Rajasthan where Scindia family call the shot. Vasundhara Raje Scindia was a Chief Minister, after her mother Vijayaraje relinquished the office. Yashodara Raje Scindia, the son is already an MP. Here we need to remember Mad-



hav Rao Scindia was Union Cabinet

Minister in Congress government followed by his son Jyothiraditya Scindia, a minister in different governments, presently in BJP led NDA government at the centre.

Going East is Bihar where Lalu Prasad Yadav was Chief Minister for some terms; while being in jail for crimes as a Union Railway Minister, he named his illiterate wife Rabri Devi as CM of Bihar. Now they have Tejasvi Yadav, son of Lalu Yadav, who already was Dy CM in Nitish



Kumar government. Pappu, a brother of Rabri, is politically active and his wife is an MP in Loksabha on RJD ticket, the Lalu Prasad Party.

Coming down Mulayam Singh Yadav was the U.P. Chief Minister, who brought in his son Akhilesh Ya-



dav, who was already a CM of UP and presently in opposition under Yogi Adityanath, a bachelor and a priest. Mulayam was Union Minister for more than one term in Janata regime. Akhilesh was also an MP earlier.

Then in Jharkhand its Shibu Soren and his children calling the shot. Now Hemant Soren is the



Jharkhand CM. Purno Sangma from Meghalaya was a Union Minister in Janata party led Union government, but promoted his sons Conrad and James as ministers in Meghalaya government, while his daughter Agatha became a MP in Loksabha.

Coming down Biju Patnaik was a Union Minister, became Chief Min-



ister of Orissa and promoted his son Naveen Patnaik as CM of Orissa, for life. In Andhra Pradesh, N.T. Rama Rao as Chief Minister tried promoting his young wife, but his brother-in-law Chandra Babu Naidu up-



staged her and has been around since then. Now he is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Further down is DMK empire of Karunanidhi family. Father vacated the political space for son Stalin, who is the current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, with his sister Kanimoji in Parliament as Loksabha MP. Then Maran family, a close relative of Karunanidhi, also having multiple political interest. Further Maran and his son Dayanidhi were already Union Ministers.



Turning West its Karunakaran. He was Chief Minister of Kerala, promoted his son Muralidharan and daughter Padmaja.



Going up in Karnataka Bangarappa was the Chief Minister promoted



his son Madhu Bangarappa, who is presently a minister in Siddaramaiah

government in Bengalooru.

Accidental Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, who was earlier Chief Minister of Karnataka, promoted his entire family in 'service of the nation'. Starting with sons Kumaraswami and Revanna. Daughter-in-law Anitha is an M.P in Lok Sabha. Then there is this Prajwal Revanna, son of Revanna, who is in jail for criminal offences including POCSO. He had to disgracefully quit Parliament as Member of Parliament after being convicted.



Coming to Maharashtra Shiv Sena has its own brand of dynastic politics. Bal Thackray, promoted his nephew Raj Thackray earlier, but later settled for son Udhav to take over Shiv Sena. Udhav became Chief Minister twice and promoted his son Adithya Thackarey. Sharad Pawar had his own brand of politics. He was CM of Maharashtra and Union Minister. He promoted his daughter Supriya Sule, who was Union Minister and presently an MP. She is known to have a Singapore passport as well and owns property there. But nothing happened to it apparently. Some benefits of powerful connection! Among others from Maharashtra, father and son Murli Deora and son Milind Deora, who were both Union Ministers at some point. S.B. Chavan, a former CM of Maharashtra and Union Home Minister, had his son Ashok Chavan, as CM of Maharashtra, after holding many ministerial posts. Then Prithviraj Chavan, a nephew of SB Chavan, was a Union Minister. Ajith Pawar, protage and nephew of Sharad Pawar has been, in and out of power. Presently he is Deputy CM in BJP led State government in Mumbai.

List appear interminable of these sons and relatives of political heavy weights, who enriched themselves continuously at the cost of Mera Bharath Mahan.

Shashi Tharoor was making only an obvious statement that such promotions based on family connections has been detrimental to the interest of the nation as a whole, where incompetent and poorly educated people tried to manage the affairs of our Meyra Bhaarat Mahaan. Will we ever come out of this family business?! It's a loaded question looking for answers.

- J SHRIYAN



DELHI BOMB BLAST: QUESTION OF ANSWERS

On 10th November 2025, a car exploded near the Red Fort in Delhi, killing at least thirteen people and injuring dozens. The exact location reportedly is Lal Qila Metro Station Gate No:1, near Red Fort, possibly to cause most killings at around 7.00 pm rush hour. As per police reports, the blast is suspected to have been caused by ammonium nitrate loaded in the Hyundai i20 car with a Haryana number plate bearing HR 26 CE 7674.

So who owned the car? As per reports, the investigators going into the de-

tails of Red Fort Bomb Blast, traced the ownership of the Hyundai i20 that was found at the blast site, to one Dr. Umar Mohammed, a medical practitioner from Pulwama in J&K. However according to the police sources, the car was registered in the name of Nadeem Khan. According to investigators, this Dr Umar Mohammed used to work with people who were found with explosives and weapons during the raid in Faridabad, a city adjacent to Delhi. Other details of the investigation informs that, DNA analysis conducted by the investigators

have confirmed that the blast was triggered by Dr Umar Mohammed, attached to a private medical college Al Falah in Faridabad.

At the time of the blast he was found inside the car. So apparently it was a suicide bombing. Umar Mohammed, alias Umar Un-Nabi, was graduated from Government Medical College Srinagar in 2017. After having worked in Srinagar and Anantnag, he shifted to Faridabad to work for Al - Falah Medical College to serve as Asst Professor. He reportedly had close ties with two doctors, Dr Adeel Rathore



and Dr Mazammil Ganoia from Kashmir. These two doctors were arrested after having found explosives and ammunations in their possession. Panicked at this development, reportedly Dr Umar abandoned his routine and shut of his phone and went into hiding. On 10th November he drove his Hyundai i20 into Delhi, where CCTV footage spotted the vehicle and shortly thereafter the blast took place near Lal Qila Metro Station Gate No 1. That was the end of Dr Umar Mohammed alias Dr Umar Un-Nabi.

Security forces having found out the details of Dr Umar, had located his home in Koil Village in Pulwama district. They vacated the house of all his relatives and residents of nearby houses and demolished the house using explosives in the middle of the night on Thursday/Friday. It was by any standard an extreme step, but what actions would have been appropriate under the circumstances?

Omar Abdullah, the J&K Chief Minister had reacted, “such actions would only fuel anger”. He is right and not right at the same time. What are the options before the security forces? Besides, who should be held responsible for the death and destruction at Red Fort bomb blast?

This country has made him a medical professional and in return

he said ‘thank you’ by killing over a dozen people and seriously injured another two dozens and destroying scores of vehicles. For what on earth he had to do this inhuman, monstrous act against so many innocents?!

Omar Abdullah and his ilk should answer this question.

Other details made available to the press informs that there was a plot of terror strikes by a group of well educated people. Reportedly some 9 of them have been arrested which included some doctors. In fact there is this piece in THE HINDU “DOCTORS WITH BOMBS”.

According to the police sources from Faridabad, mentioned in the media, in collaboration with J&K police, they had recovered 300 kgs of ammonium nitrate stuffed into

12 suitcases, an AK-Krinkor rifle, magazines, walkie-talkies, timers and batteries during a raid at a room, in Fetehpur Taga village in Faridabad district, rented by 32 year old Dr Muzammil Ahmed Gahaie, a junior doctor at Al Falah University College Hospital. Police have arrested Gahaie from the hospital who led to another doctor Adul Ahmed Rather, was also arrested. There were others too, another five of them, who were involved in the related activities along with these two doctors. In the meanwhile J&K police had seized 2900 kgs of improvised explosives. According to them, it was an interstate transnational terror module linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and al-Qaeda affiliated to Ansar Ghazwat ul Hind. This arrest led to Dr Nabi panicking and eventual Lal Quila blast that killed him as well. Apparently, the gang of these doctors and their associates had bigger plan of targeting different cities and towns, which appeared to have failed as of now, due to the pro-active investigation by both J&K and Faridabad Police.

J&K police have also nabbed a local cleric Irfan Ahmed, who was part of the gang, who was radicalising youth in Srinagar’s Nowgam area. He was reportedly responsible for circulating posters in Urdu asking the residents ‘not to co-operate with the police and security personnel and not give them space to sit in their shops.’ These posters made the local



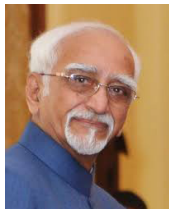


police think about the deeper plan behind these posters. That is how, it led to the arrest of some local youth which led to the discovery of explosives and allied materials.

With arrest of doctors, Al Falah University has come under the radar of security personnel. It was reportedly found out that the University itself lacks proper documentation which is being investigated.

Another very serious development is the development of Risin, a chemical compound, far more effective than cyanide, that could kill thousands by injecting it to vegetables and fruits. Dr Ahmed Mohi-uddin Syed from Hyderabad is the developer of Risin and is in police custody.

However at the end of it all, the question persists, why these people including many doctors who became part of some terror groups in the first place, and have planned to kill in-



nocents across different parts of India, which gave them so much? Could it be as some suggest, it's the religion, that makes them lose their sense of proportion.

And comes this social media post. In the post there are three prominent citizens of India who held very high constitutional positions, and they are former Supreme Court judge, Justice Abdul Nazeer, former Vice President of India Hamid Ansari and the former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi. With due apologies to all of them, according to the post, Justice Abdul Nazeer refused to sign the judgment declaring Triple Talaq unconstitutional. He chose belief over constitution. Vice President Hamid Ansari was

involved in exposing Indian intelligence operatives abroad leading to the killing of several RAW officers. Chief Election Commissioner N.Y. Quraishi, under whose tenure highest number of illegal Bangladeshi Muslims voter IDs were made in Bengal and Jharkhand. Thus the social media post has indicated that, when it comes to religion, they have all acted same, religion first, nation does not matter. Are these observations false?

Was Karl Marx prophetic, when he wrote in 1843 "Religion is the opium of the people"!

And comes this post in social media, which deserves reproduction in toto. Quote "I believe that those who try to justify terrorist activities in the name of perceived or otherwise injustice or sufferings of certain groups are deeply misguided. Many of them like Abu Azmi even start crying foul before anything has actually happened. Such individuals should be held accountable first. As a society, unless we all speak in one voice and agree that wrong is wrong, nothing will change. Everyone may have different perspectives, but no perspective can ever be correct if it harms human life in any way. Murder is the most heinous crime anyone can commit and these acts of terror – these explosions are nothing less". Unquote.

- J SHRIYAN



Hiccups: Treatment and Prevention

You most often have a hiccup when you eat food too quickly or drink too much carbonated beverages, isn't it? And you try various ways to get rid of it. Well, hiccups are common and almost everyone has experienced it at some point in their lives. The medical term for hiccup is singultus, which is derived from the Latin word 'singult' which means to catch one's breath while sobbing. Hiccup is a sudden, involuntary contraction of the diaphragm (a dome-shaped muscle used during breathing is located just below the heart and

lungs) and intercostal muscles (a group of muscles situated in between the ribs of the chest wall that assist with the breathing process). Each contraction is followed by a sudden closure of the vocal cords, which produces the 'hic' sound during a hiccup. Hiccups can occur in children, infants, adults and even in a foetus still in the womb. It usually lasts for few minutes and goes away within 48 hours.

Acute hiccups- They are often of short duration, lasting for less than 48 hours.

The most common causes of acute hiccups are gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and associated hiatal hernia. Acute hiccups are linked to eating heavy meals, irritation caused by spicy foods, drinking carbonated beverages or alcohol. It is estimated that 10 per cent of GERD patients have acute hiccups.

Persistent hiccups- They last for more than two days. One in four patients with oesophageal tumours tends to have persistent hiccups.

Intractable hiccups- They last for a month or longer. Persistent and intractable hiccups have been associ-

HICCUPS CAUSES, REMEDIES AND PREVENTION



ated with a number of medical conditions, which include the following

Cardiovascular disorders such as atrial pacing, aortic aneurysm (thoracic or abdominal), catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation, myocardial infarction, pericarditis and temporal arteritis.

Disorders of the central nervous system (CNS), which include encephalitis, meningitis, multiple sclerosis, neuromyelitis optica, neoplasms, Parkinson disease, seizure, stroke, aneurysms (especially posterior inferior cerebellar artery), lateral medullary syndrome, syringomyelia and vascular malformations.

ENT disorders like cough, goiter, laryngitis, neck cyst, neoplasms, pharyngitis, and recent intubation.

Infections caused by helicobacter pylori, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, influenza, malaria, neurosyphilis and tuberculosis.

Gastrointestinal disorders such as aerophagia, bowel obstruction, gastric distention, oesophageal cancer, oesophagitis, gallbladder disease, gastric distention, hepatitis, neoplasms, pancreatitis, peptic ulcer disease, and stomach volvulus.

Metabolic disorders like hy-

pocapnia, hypocalcemia, hypokalemia, hyponatremia, diabetes mellitus, and uremia. Psychological reactions including excitement, stress, distress and hyperventilation. Asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia diaphragmatic tumour or a hernia, empyema, lymphadenopathy, mediastinitis, neoplasms, pleuriti and pulmonary embolus. Surgeries such as bronchoscopy, gastrointestinal endoscopy and tracheostomy.

Medications such as alpha-methyl dopa, aripiprazole, chemotherapy drugs, azithromycin, morphine, benzodiazepines, ethanol, donepezil and

dexamethasone, to name a few.

Risk factors of hiccups Older males with increased height and weight are susceptible to intractable hiccups.

Patients with central nervous system disorders and GERD are at a risk of getting persistent hiccups Dehydration

Consumption of excess alcohol Stress, excitement and anxiety.

Complications of hiccups

Severe and continuous hiccup can lead to dehydration, weight loss, exhaustion, fatigue, malnutrition, insomnia, despair, depression and even death in extreme cases.

When to see a doctor In most cases, hiccups resolve on their own, however, consult a doctor if hiccups last for more than three hours, if they disturb your eating or sleeping habits or if they are accompanied with fever, shortness of breath and vomiting.

Diagnosis of hiccups

The diagnosis of prolonged hiccups is usually done based on the symptoms you are experiencing. The doctor will physically examine you and ask about your symptoms. After

which, additional laboratory and imaging tests (CT scan MIU scan, chest X-ray, fluoroscopy of the diaphragm, ECG and gastroscopy) may be performed to determine the underlying cause of hiccup.

Treatment of hiccups

Holding your breath and breathing into a paper bag can stop the frequency of hiccups.

Supra-supramaximal inspiration is a technique that may stop hiccups. First, exhale completely, then inhale and hold the breath for ten seconds. then inhale twice again. without ex-

haling, each time holding the breath for five seconds.

Other techniques to stop acute hiccups are pulling on the tongue, putting pressure on the eyeballs, sipping vinegar, swallowing sugar, gargling, drinking ice water, and Valsalva maneuver.

Persistent and Intractable hiccups

Chlorpromazine is a well-known drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat persistent hiccups. If hiccups are associated with GERD antacids, anti-

histamines or proton pump inhibitor may help treat this kind of hiccups.

Other medications used for the treatment of persistent hiccups are amantadine, antipsychotic drugs, nimodipine, amitriptyline, atropine, benzonatate, midazolam and valproic acid.

Prevention of hiccups

One can't prevent hiccups, but the susceptibility of hiccups can be lowered by following these tips: Don't overeat. Avoid eating hot or spicy foods. Try to keep yourself calm. Don't eat too quickly.

Fever, and how to reduce it

Dolo 650, a paracetamol-based medication, helps reduce fever. To manage fever, stay hydrated, rest, use fever-reducing medications, apply cool compresses and wear light clothing for comfort. Fever is one of the most common health concerns. The condition causes an increase in the body temperature. Fever is often a sign that the body is combating an infection, for instance, a viral or bacterial infection. In most cases, the condition in itself is not life-threatening and can be easily treated at home. Here are 5 ways to deal with a fever. Read on to know more.

STAY HYDRATED

You must increase your intake of water when suffering from fever. During fever, your body loses a lot of water via perspiration and this can make you dehydrated. Therefore, staying hydrated is important because it aids in regulating body temperature and boosts the immune system.

Tips for staying hydrated

1) Water: Take water in small sips and often during the day. It is the easiest and most efficient method of keeping oneself well-hydrated.

2) Herbal teas: Drinks like chamomile or peppermint tea can be calm-

ing and offer more hydration as well.

3) Electrolyte solutions: Some of the examples of foods that can replace lost electrolytes include oral rehydration solutions or sports drinks.

4) Clear broths: Soups are not only good for drinking, but they can also offer some sustenance if you are not up to eating a proper meal.

REST

It is important to rest when you have a fever. Your body requires en-

ergy to fight the infection and rest is a way of saving that energy. Excess physical activity can increase your body temperature and cause further damage, so it is advisable to relax a bit.

sleep is comfortable, noise-free and conducive for sleep.
2) Sleep: It is also important to try and get as much rest as possible. Sleep is the time when most of the healing and repairing of the body takes place.

3) Minimise activity: Do not engage in any physical activities and try to lie down or sleep as much as you can.

USE FEVER-REDUCING MEDICATIONS

Paracetamol and ibuprofen are medicines that can be bought over the counter at pharmacies and can be used to manage fever. These medicines may also resolve some of the symptoms that accompany fever, such as headaches, muscle aches and chills. A popular medication that is often used is Dolo 650.

About Dolo 650

Active Ingredient: Dolo 650 has paracetamol which is used to lower body temperature and also used to treat mild pain.

Dosage: Take the dosage as stated on the pack or as advised by the doctor. Usually, adults can swallow one tablet every 4 to 6 hours, but should



ergy to fight the infection and rest is a way of saving that energy. Excess physical activity can increase your body temperature and cause further damage, so it is advisable to relax a bit.

Tips for resting effectively

1) Comfortable environment: Make sure that the place where you

not exceed 4 grams per day.

Note: It is always advisable to seek the advice of a doctor before using any drug especially if one has other diseases or is on other drugs.

Cool compresses

Cooling can be done by use of cold compresses which will help to reduce the fever and give the body a break. This method operates by cooling the body, thus reducing your temperature.

How to use cool compresses

1) Cool cloth: Take a clean cloth and dip it in cool water but not cold water, ring it out and then put it on your forehead, wrists and neck. Refresh the cloth frequently.

2) Sponge bath: Bathe with water that is not too hot and not too cold. Do not take cold water as this may lead to shivering and this will increase your body temperature.

3) Avoid ice baths: Avoid using ice baths or very cold water as these may be detrimental and painful to the affected area.

Loose wearing and moderately warm climate

Light clothing and proper environmental control are some of the ways that can be used to control body temperature. Clothing and blankets that are thick can also retain heat and increase your body temperature even more.

Tips for dressing and environment

Light clothing: Use light and airy fabrics like cotton to avoid sweating and getting a sunburn. Do not use heavy or insulating materials such as wool.

Room temperature: Maintain the room temperature moderate, preferably between 20-22 degrees Celsius or 68-72 degrees Fahrenheit. If necessary, use a fan or an air conditioning unit to cool the room.

Bedding: Use light bedding. If you are cold, it is better to have a thin blanket than to have thick quilts.

Additional considerations

The above methods can be used

to treat fever at home but it is advisable to observe the following signs and symptoms. Seek medical attention if you experience any of the following:

1) High fever: A temperature of 103°F (39. 4°C) or higher that does not go away or decrease after taking medicine.

2) Persistent fever: An illness that is accompanied by a high temperature and lasts for more than three days.

3) Severe symptoms: Signs like shortness of breath, chest pain, persistent nausea and vomiting, severe headache, stiff neck or rash.

4) Underlying conditions: If you are taking care of your health and have a weak immune system or chronic diseases, then consult your doctor as soon as you feel a fever coming on.

If you follow these measures, then your body will be able to heal itself and you will be able to get better more easily.

GOVERNANCE

India's Decade of Transformation:

In a short span of 10 years, India has gained positions in the world order with significant positive consequences for the macro and market outlook.

Forex: 1) 2014- \$285 Billion 2) 2023- \$603 Billion, **Corporate Debt as % of GDP:** 1) 2015- 65% 2) 2023- 50% **Foreign Direct Investment:** 1) 2013- \$22 Billion 2) 2023- \$46 Billion **Mutual Fund Investment:** 1) 2013- \$100 Billion 2) 2023- \$500 Billion, **Electrified Railways:** 1) 2013- 4,100 kms 2) 2023- 28,100 kms, **Corporate Tax Rate:** 1) 2013- 33.9% 2) 2023- 22%, **RBI CPI Inflation:** 1) 2013- 10% 2) 2022- 4.7%, **Direct Benefit Transfer:** 1) 2013- \$0.89 Billion 2) 2023- \$32 Billion, **National Highways:** 1) 2014- 25,700 kms 2) 2023- 53,700 kms, **Airports:** 1) 2014- 74 2) 2023- 148, **Digital Transaction as % of GDP:** 1) 2016- 4.4% 2) 2023- 76.1%, **No. of IITs:** 1) 2014- 16 2) 2023- 23, **No. of IIMs:** 1) 2014- 13 2) 2023- 20, **No. of IIITs:** 1) 2014- 09 2) 2023- 25 **No. of Institutes of National Importance:** 1) 2014- 75 2) 2023- 149, **No. of AIIMS:** 1) 2014 - 7 2) 2023 - 2, **No. of Medical Colleges:** 1) 2014 - 385 2) 2022 - 693

Consider that household debt/GDP in India is just 19% vs. 48% for China and that only 2% of Indian households have life insurance. Manufacturing and services PMIs have rallied consistently since the end of Covid restrictions in contrast to the rapid fade seen in China. As well, real estate transaction volumes and construction have broken out to the upside.

Global investment banking firm Morgan Stanley, which has downgraded China while upgrading India in its list of emerging markets in Asia, is of the opinion that India's future looks to a significant extent like China's past. The path taken by India since 2014 reveals that India is likely to get the tag of the third largest economy in 2027 (or FY28) based on actual GDP data as on March 2023, a movement of seven places upwards since 2014 when India was ranked tenth and two years earlier than our previous forecast of 2029.

- Sourced from social media

THE PARTITION OF INDIA

PAKISTAN AND THE MALAISE

NATIONAL FRUSTRATION



Dr. B R Ambedkar

The Poona Pact between the Hindus and the Depressed classes gave another spurt to the efforts to bring about unity. During the months of November and December 1932 Muslims and Hindus did their best to come to some agreement. Muslims met in their All-Parties Conferences, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs met in Unity Conferences. Proposals and counter-proposals were made but nothing came out of these negotiations to replace the Award by a Pact and they were in the end abandoned after the Committee had held 23 sittings.

Just as attempts were made to bring about unity on political questions, attempts were also made to bring about unity on social and religious questions such as:-

(1) Cow slaughter, (2) music before Mosques and (3) conversions over which differences existed. The first attempt in this direction was made in 1923 when the Indian National Pact was proposed. It failed. Mr. Gandhi was then in gaol. Mr. Gandhi was released from gaol on the 5th February 1924. Stunned by the destruction of his work for Hindu-Muslim unity, Mr. Gandhi decided to go on a twenty-one days' fast, holding himself morally responsible for the murderous riots that had taken place between Hindus and Muslims. Advantage was taken of the fast to gather leading Indians of all communities at a Unity Conference, which was attended also by the Met-

ropolitan of Calcutta. The Conference held prolonged sittings from September 26th to October 2nd, 1924. The members of the Conference pledged themselves to use their utmost endeavours to enforce the principles of freedom of conscience and religion and condemn any deviation from them even under provocation. A Central National Panchayet was appointed with Mr. Gandhi as the chairman. The Conference laid down certain fundamental rights relating to liberty of holding and expressing religious beliefs and following religious practices, sacredness of places of worship, worship, cow slaughter, and music before mosques, with a statement of the limitations they must be subject to. This Unity Conference did not produce peace between the two communities. It only produced a lull in the rioting which had become the order of the day. Between 1925 and 1926, rioting was renewed with an intensity and malignity unknown before. Shocked by this rioting, Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India, in his address to the Central Legislature on 29th August 1927 made an appeal to the two communities to stop the rioting and establish amity. Lord Irwin's exhortation to establish amity was followed by another Unity Conference which was known as the Simla Unity Conference. This Unity Conference met on the 30th August 1927 and issued an appeal beseeching both the communities to support the leaders in their ef-

forts to arrive at a satisfactory settlement. The Conference appointed a Unity Committee which sat in Simla from 16th to 22nd September under the chairmanship of Mr. Jinnah. No conclusions were reached on any of the principal points involved in the cow and music questions and others pending before the Committee were not even touched. Some members felt that the Committee might break up. The Hindu members pressed that the Committee should meet again on some future convenient date. The Muslim members of the Committee were first divided in their opinion, but at last agreed to break up the Committee and the President was requested to summon a meeting if he received a requisition within six weeks from eleven specified members. Such a requisition never came and the Committee never met again.

The Simla Conference having failed, Mr. Srinivas Iyengar, the then President of the Congress, called a special conference of Hindus and Muslims which sat in Calcutta on the 27th and 28th October 1927. It came to be known as the Calcutta Unity Conference. The Conference passed certain resolutions on the three burning questions. But the resolution had no support behind them as neither the Hindu Maha Sabha nor the Muslim League was represented at the Conference.

At one time it was possible to say that Hindu-Muslim unity was an ideal which not only must

be realized but could be realized and leaders were blamed for not making sufficient efforts for its realization. Such was the view expressed in 1911 even by Maulana Mahomed Ali who had not then made any particular efforts to achieve Hindu-Muslim unity. Writing in the Comrade of 14th January 1911 Mr. Mahomed Ali said:- “We have no faith in the cry that India is united. If India was united where was the need of dragging the venerable President of this year’s Congress from a distant home? The bare imagination of a feast will not dull the edge of hunger. We have less faith still in the sanctimoniousness that transmutes in its subtle alchemy a rapacious monopoly into fervent patriotism the person we love best, fear the most, and trust the least is the impatient idealist. Goethe said of Byron that he was a prodigious poet, but that when he reflected he was a child. Well, we think no better and no worse of the man who combines great ideals and a greater impatience. So many efforts, well meaning as well as ill-begotten, have failed in bringing unity to this dis-tracted land, that we cannot spare even cheap and scentless flowers of sentiment for the grave of another ill-judged endeavour. We shall not make the mistake of gumming together pieces of broken glass, and then cry over the unsuccessful result, or blame the refractory material. In other words, we shall endeavour to face the situation boldly, and respect facts, howsoever ugly and ill-favoured. It is poor statesmanship to slur over inconvenient realities, and not the least important success in achieving unity is the honest and frank

recognition of the deep-seated prejudices that hinder it and the yawning differences that divide.”

Looking back on the history of these 30 years, one can well ask whether Hindu-Muslim unity has been realized? Whether efforts have not been made for its realization? And whether any efforts remain to be made? The history of the last 30 years shows that Hindu-Muslim unity has not been realized. On the contrary, there now exists the greatest disunity between them: that efforts - sincere and persistent - have been made to achieve it and that nothing now remains to be done to achieve it except surrender by one party to the other. If anyone, who is not in the habit of cultivating optimism where there is no justification for it, said that the pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity is like a mirage and that the idea must now be given up, no one can have the courage to call him a pessimist or an impatient idealist. It is for the Hindus to say whether they will engage themselves in this vain pursuit in spite of the tragic end of all their past endeavours or give up the pursuit of unity and try for a settlement on another basis. In the second place, it must be admitted that the Muslim point of view has undergone a complete revolution. How complete the revolution is can be seen by reference to the past pronouncements of some of those who insist on the two-nation theory and believe that Pakistan is the only solution of the Hindu-Muslim problem. Among these Mr. Jinnah, of course, must be accepted as the foremost. The revolution in his views on the Hindu-Muslim question is striking, if not staggering. To realize

the nature, character and vastness of this revolution it is necessary to know his pronouncements in the past relating to the subject so that they may be compared with those he is making now.

A study of his past pronouncements may well begin with the year 1906 when the leaders of the Muslim community waited upon Lord Minto and demanded separate electorates for the Muslim community. It is to be noted that Mr. Jinnah was not a member of the deputation. Whether he was not invited to join the deputation or whether he was invited to join and declined is not known. But the fact remains that he did not lend his support to the Muslim claim to separate representation when it was put forth in 1906.

In 1918 Mr. Jinnah resigned his membership of the Imperial Legislative Council as a protest against the Rowlatt Bill. In tendering his resignation Mr. Jinnah said:-

“I feel that under the prevailing conditions, I can be of no use to my people in the Council, nor consistently with one’s self-respect is co-operation possible with a Government that shows such utter disregard for the opinion of the representatives of the people at the Council Chamber and the feelings and the sentiments of the people outside.”

In 1919 Mr. Jinnah gave evidence before the Joint Select Committee appointed by Parliament on the Government of India Reform Bill, then on the anvil. The following views were expressed by him in answer to questions put by members of the Committee on the Hindu-Muslim question.

to be contd..

Neither government nor people learn lessons, we are poor learners

At least 19 people, including a 41 day old baby, were killed and 22 others injured when a gravel-laden tipper truck collided head-on with a govt bus in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana, officials said. This comes less than 10 days after the horrific Kur-nool accident that claimed 19 lives.

The crash occurred around 6.15am at Mirjaguda in Chevella, about 60 km from Hyderabad.

The truck, which was travelling towards Manneguda, crossed into the wrong lane and rammed the oncoming bus at high speed, pushing it back nearly 50 feet. The right side of the bus was smashed open by the impact leaving several passengers buried under the gravel that spilled from the overturned truck. It took nearly three hours to remove the gravel and recover all the bodies.

Three women constables from the Cyberabad commissionerate, who were passing by, were among the first responders. Along with locals, they broke bus windows to help trapped passengers escape and administered CPR where necessary. The constables told media that they found several passengers buried neck-deep in gravel inside the bus. They pulled some of the passengers out.

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) officials alleged that the truck was carrying 40-50 tonnes of gravel more than double its permitted capacity.

Rescue teams struggled for several hours to pull out survivors and bodies trapped beneath the debris.

Police said the RTC bus had started from Tandur around 4.40 am and was headed to Hyderabad's Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) with 72



passengers on board although it had seating capacity for only about 55. "Near Mirjaguda, the truck carrying gravel collided head-on with the bus. Among the deceased, 10 were women, eight were men, and one was an infant. Both drivers also died," said Mahesh Bhagwat, Additional DGP (Law and Order).

Truck owner was injured Based on a complaint from a victim, Chevella police registered a case under the BNS against truck driver Akash.

They also recorded the statement of Lachiram, the truck's owner and main driver, who suffered injuries. He claimed Akash took over the driving at Shankarpally while he fell asleep. Police suspect Akash may have dozed off or lost control while attempting to overtake another vehicle.

"The road at the accident spot is straight. To check if the driver was under the influence of alcohol, we have preserved viscera samples for forensic analysis," said Yogesh Goutam, DCP, Rajendranagar.

"By the time I reached around 7.15 am, several injured passengers had already been shifted to hospitals. We brought in an earthmover to clear gravel and open the vehicle," said Chevella inspector M. Bhoopal Sridhar.

Expressing grief, Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy announced Rs 5 lakh ex gratia to the families of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh for the injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled the deaths on X, calling the incident "deeply saddening," and announced an additional Rs 2 lakh for each deceased victim and Rs 50,000 for each injured person. Telangana RTC also assured Rs 2 lakh compensation for the families

Pigeon feeding: the human dimension

Jain monk Nileschandra Vijay began an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan, demanding the immediate reopening of the iconic Dadar Kabutarkhana, a traditional pigeon feeding site shut down by the civic body.

Speaking to reporters near the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters, the monk announced he had stopped drinking water upon starting his protest.

He framed his action as a democratic right, saying, "My protest is within the framework

of the Constitution written by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, who has given the right to each individual to protest in a democratic way".

The BMC's action to close the pigeon enclosures in Dadar and other areas across the city stems primarily from grave pub-



lic health and safety concerns, including respiratory illnesses.

The issue gained legal and legislative attention in July after an MLC raised concerns about residents near the Dadar Kabutarkhana suffering from respiratory ailments linked to the

massive presence of birds and their droppings. Several residents supported the ban, citing the health risks.

The closure of the Kabutarkhana came up before the Bombay high court in August, which ordered the state government to establish an expert committee to study the impact of pigeons and their droppings on human health in public places.

A court-mandated committee, comprising public health experts,

pulmonologists, and officials from ICMR and AIIMS, is tasked with framing guidelines.

The protest by the Jain monk comes in response to the BMC's recent decision to permit controlled pigeon feeding only at four designated alternate locations Worli Reservoir, a mangrove area in Andheri West, the Airoli Mulumund check post area, and Gorai-ground in Borivali West, and the feeding is restricted to between 7 am and 9 am, with NGOs managing the sites.

Nileshchandra Vijay rejected these alternate sites, arguing they were too far from Dadar.

New wedding norms to reduce extravagance

Villages in Uttarakhand's Garhwal region have begun enforcing new wedding norms limiting women to wearing only three gold ornaments and banning alcohol as part of a community-led effort "to bring simplicity and equality back into marriage rituals". The rules, passed in recent days by village panchayats in Chakrata's tribal belt and in Uttarkashi's Dunda block, aim to reduce wedding expenses, end displays of wealth, and protect families from the rising costs of social expectation.

In Chakrata's Kandhad and Indroli villages, the panchayat ruled that women would be permitted to wear only a nose pin, mangalsutra and earrings at weddings. Families that violate the restriction will be fined Rs 50,000, residents said. The resolution, which was passed unanimously, followed informal discussions among women who said the rising cost of gold and social expectations around ornaments were placing a disproportionate burden on poorer households.

"For weddings, women

are invited for a community meal it's part of our tradition before the marriage of the elder son," said Leeko Devi, 45, from Kandhad. "But gold had turned that into a burden. Every year, the pressure grew more ornaments, more judgment. Now, we've decided we'll all wear the same three pieces, and that's enough."

After the ornament rule was adopted, attention turned to liquor "We've started talking about banning liquor too." Devi said. "It doesn't add anything meaningful to our ceremonies. It just turns weddings into shows of wealth."

That conversation reached a decision in Lodara village of Uttarkashi's Dunda block, where the gram sabha passed a resolution earlier to ban alcohol at weddings and 'mundan' ceremonies. A fine of Rs 51,000 was approved for violations and families that serve alcohol will face social boycott.

"No one from our village will attend a wedding where liquor



is served," said Kavita Butola, Lodara's village head. "The decision came after meetings involving the Mahila Mangal Dal and Yuvak Mangal Dal. People are tired of weddings becoming more about spending than the rituals themselves."

Residents said these steps were necessary to address growing social pressure on families to organise weddings that display wealth, whether through jewellery, catering or alcohol.

"Ornaments used to symbolise happiness," said Arjun Singh, a village elder in Kandhad. "Now they symbolise anxiety. People don't sleep at night before their daughter's wedding, wondering how they'll afford the jewellery and gifts."

Model Solid Waste Unit by NGO

Mangaluru: The service of Niramaya Society in Vandse village, which has a social commitment, has become a model for other panchayats in the state, said Laxmi Hebbalkar, minister of women and child development and Udupi district minister.

She was speaking at the inauguration of the Community Palliative Care Centre being implemented for the first time in Karnataka in the Vandse cluster, covering the panchayats of Vandse, Chittur, Iduru-Kunjady, Aluru, Haklady, Hemmady, and Keradi. It was under the department of rural development and panchayat raj and the department of health and family welfare, through Niramaya Society.

Social workers become ideals for society, the state, and the country. Through the care centre, Vandse gram panchayat is serving the community. Additionally, it is generating

revenue from the solid waste unit by converting waste into compost, the minister said.

“Niramaya Society president Uday Kumar Shetty is eligible for the Rajyotsava award, and my wish is for him to receive the award next year. This service should continue, as power is not permanent, but the work we do is. Other gram panchayats should come and observe the work of Vandse gram panchayat. I will send the members of gram panchayats in Belagavi here. My wish is for this model to be implemented in our village as well,” said Hebbalkar. MLC Manjunath Bhandary, DC TK Swaroopa, ZP CEO Prateek Bayal, and others we-represent.

Upgradation of Shirva GP

The minister said steps will be taken to upgrade Shirva gram panchayat to a town panchayat. “Shirva GP is eligible in every way to become



a town panchayat. If the zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat elections do not take place in Dec, a recommendation will be made to upgrade Shirva gram panchayat,” she said.

She was speaking at the foundation stone laying and benefit distribution ceremony for various works in Udyavara and Shirva villages under the Kaapu assembly constituency. Measures will be taken for the comprehensive development of the constituency and more funds will be allocated in the coming days, she said.

Deaths due to Drug overdose

Bengaluru: In 2023, the latest year for which data is available, at least 12 people died every week in India on an average due to drug overdose, stats from NCRB show. That is nearly two deaths daily. Between 2019 and 2023, 3,290 deaths were attributed to the same cause, with the average for the five-year period remaining roughly the same as in 2023.

These figures represent only confirmed drug overdose deaths, they don't account for unreported cases and deaths misattributed to other causes. Also, NCRB doesn't specify if the overdose was involving a narcotic substance or



prescription drugs.

Psychiatrists, clinicians and retired police officers media spoke to said there needs to be more clarity in the classification of drug overdose cases. They pointed out that in many of these cases, there could have been an overuse of prescription drugs such as sleeping pills or painkillers.

The national figures tell a story of volatility rather than steady decline. After recording 704 deaths in 2019, the country saw a sharp drop to 514 deaths in 2020 - likely influenced by the COVID- induced lockdowns. The number of deaths surged to 737 in 2021, the highest in the five-year period, before moderating to 681 in 2022 and 654 in 2023. Tamil Nadu dominated the grim statistics in the early years of this period. In 2019, the state recorded 108

deaths, the highest in the country. In 2020, it spiked to 250 deaths in 2021. However it reversed in 2022 to just 50 then marginally rose to 65 in 2023.

Punjab bordering Pakistan has long been a conduit for drug trafficking, has maintained a consistently high position in the rankings. The state recorded 34 deaths in 2020. The figures more than doubled to 78 in 2021, before touching 144 in 2022 making it the state with the maximum overdose deaths that year. In 2023, though deaths in Punjab declined to 89, it still topped the national list.

Rajasthan, meanwhile, has shown a troubling consistency in terms of deaths. Starting with 60 deaths in 2019, the state's toll climbed to 92 in 2020. It reached 113 in 2021, and peaked to 117 in 2022.

162 PHCs in Karnataka record no child delivery

Even as the state govt intensifies efforts to reduce the maternal mortality rate (MMR) through better deployment of human resources, the under-performance of primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs) remains a concern.

PHCs and CHCs are the first contact points for child deliveries. As per data, out of 880 PHCs operating round the clock across the state, 162 recorded zero delivery in the past year. As many as 275 CHCs were involved in just 6% of deliveries that took place in public health facilities in Karnataka. Out of these, only 42 centres met the govt's benchmark of more than 30 deliveries per month to be considered well-performing, the remaining 233 were underperforming.

For PHCs, the benchmark is an average of 10 deliveries a month, but 130 PHCs had only one delivery per month, while only 279 centres registered more than six deliveries monthly.

While CHCs are equipped with obstetricians and anaesthetists capable of performing C-sections, PHCs typically have doctors and staff nurses who facilitate normal deliveries.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao explained the reasons for the underperformance of these health centres: "Doctors might not be interested or proactive, while nurses in those centres may not have the capabilities to perform deliveries. This is why we are redeploying staff from underperforming centres to high-performing centres where they will have a lot of work. When they are provided with all the facilities, they can perform better."

Highlighting positive examples, Rao pointed out the Rajankollur PHC in Yadgir, which has consistently recorded more than 100 deliveries every month with just a general duty medical officer (GDMO) and nurses.

The health department has received govt approval to rationalize human resources as proposed earlier this year. Maternal child health (MCH) specialists from non-performing CHCs will be redeployed to taluk hospitals and high-performing CHCs.

"All over India, we have a trend where patients, especially those with complications, end up going to healthcare centres which have more doctors. Tamil Nadu has rationalized



its resources for four years now and we have studied it. This process will lead to assured services," said Harsh Gupta, principal secretary of the health department.

Maternal death rate down 24%

The maternal mortality rate dipped by 24% in the first 10 months of the year, with 366 such deaths recorded from Jan to Oct, compared to 483 during the same period in 2024.

"This rationalization process will help us bring this number down further," Rao said.

In addition, 125 new super specialist posts, including cardiologists, nephrologists, and neurologists, are being created in 15 district hospitals to help reduce pregnancy-related complications and provide specialized care in their

SC upset with NMC on Stipend to interns!



With National Medical Commission (NMC) failing to ensure that all private medical

colleges and deemed universities pay stipend to MBBS interns, the Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Union Health Secretary to ensure that NMC collects details of various charges imposed by these institutions and the stipend they pay. SC, in an order, said that it expected the commission "to wake up from slumber" and directed it to file a comprehensive compliance

affidavit within two weeks.

Over two years after SC said that non-payment of stipend to MBBS interns was akin to bonded labour, not only has NMC failed to ensure payment, it has failed to even produce a list of medical colleges with details of how much they paid as stipend or penalise colleges not paying stipend, as it has been threatening to do.

In July, NMC issued a public notice directing colleges to submit the complete course-wise fee structure and details of stipend payment to MBBS interns/junior residents/senior residents etc., tuition fees, hostel charges, caution deposits and

all miscellaneous charges. NMC had threatened to act against the colleges, including issuing show-cause notices, imposing financial penalties, withdrawing course recognition and suspending admissions, if they failed to comply.

A few days before the July 11 public notice, NMC had issued another notice, pushing the onus of addressing grievances of medical students onto colleges, universities and directorates of medical education at the state level.

Meaningful Initiative: Toppers' answer scripts to guide students



How to crack questions? Learn it from last year's toppers.

Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has made accessible to the public the answer scripts of students who secured full marks in each subject in last year's SSLC and II PU exams. The answer with the student details masked - have been uploaded under the website's student corner.

The answer scripts of three students have been uploaded per subject. The exam board took a similar step back in 2019 before choosing to discontinue it thereafter.

"The answer scripts are samples of good papers, They will also give students motivation to strive for the best," said an official.

Apart from making the answer scripts public, the department of school education and literacy is taking other steps to improve results. This time, there will be three, not two, preparatory exams for SSLC and two for II PU. The exam papers will be framed by KSEAB, and may be accessed by school heads through their login and distributed to students on exam day. The SSLC preparatory exams are expected in the first and last weeks of Jan, and in Feb. Students will get around 20 days to prepare after the final preparatory exam.

Additionally, the board has

hosted multiple sample question papers on its website, the previous year's question papers and answer keys, the blueprint of the question paper detailing many marks are allotted for each chapter, and other learning material.

For II PU students, the scheme of evaluation has also been specified. Similarly, components for the practical exams have been specified.

The school education department also plans to make KSEAB active on social media to increase its reach to students. The SSLC exams will be held from March 18 to April 2, while the II PU exams are scheduled for Feb 28 to March 17. This year's exams come with a lot of changes, including a lower pass mark (33 as against 35) and the inclusion of internal marks for calculating the final score. Private candidates can register for the exam online.

Rare earths: India has huge potential

India has access to rare earth elements and can be part of the global supply chain if it focuses on refining and processing capabilities, Adnan Amin, chairman of the World Energy Council (WEC), has said.

Amin, who served as CEO of COP28, said that rare earth minerals are not actually that rare, and the key lies in developing processing infrastructure and industrial capacity.

"The critical minerals issue is very, very topical right now. And I

think there are a few fundamentals we need to understand about this. The first point is that when we discuss rare earth minerals, they are really not that rare. They're available in many places, including in India. The real issue is how do you develop the capacity to refine and process these rare earth minerals into usable elements for energy transition," Amin said in an exclusive interaction for ANI.

Reflecting on China's progress in



this space, he said that over the last 25 years, the country has invested in creating an ecosystem that focuses on rare earth processing and has

established a market dominance in this field.

He explained that recent discussions around trade disruptions and geopolitical tensions have created “a kind of supply situation and a sense that there is a monopoly environment in these minerals.”

He said India has the potential to be part of the supply chain. India has the possibility, but again, it’s the same as scaling up renewables, which is developing the industrial capacity for processing and refining that is going to be at the crux of this,” Amin said.

Amin sees several countries jumping on the rare earth bandwagon. The US recently announced an agreement with Japan for the supply of rare earths.

“...this (rare earths) is going to

be an area where many are going to be looking at how to diversify the supply chains. And I think within that, India has an important role to play,” Adnan Amin said.

As demand for copper, lithium, and rare earths skyrockets worldwide, Amin’s remarks reaffirm the importance of industrial capability in ensuring self-reliance.

For India, he believes the path forward lies not just in resource extraction but in developing a robust ecosystem for refining, processing, and innovation.

Touching upon the AI aspect that can shape up the energy domain, Adnan Amin said artificial intelligence (AI) will be “revolutionary for the energy industry”.

He described it as a

transformative moment, similar to the rise of mobile technology.

“I think the advent of AI is going to be revolutionary for the energy industry. And in my mind, it’s a little bit like - when we got mobile telephony. When we had a fixed landline infrastructure, it was very hard for people actually to get access to telephony. With the mobiles, it was revolutionary,” Amin said.

He said AI offers “the opportunity for developing countries in terms of planning their energy infrastructure, in terms of making their energy infrastructure efficient, in terms of designing a bridge for the future.”

He stated that countries like India, which have made significant strides in the field of AI, are well-positioned to benefit from this technology.

Two Sub Inspectors arrested for looting gold

Davanagere/ Bagalkot: Seven individuals, including two police sub-inspectors, were taken into custody on charges of extorting 78 grammes of gold jewellery worth Rs 7.5 lakh from a jewellery maker.

The alleged robbery occurred on 24th November evening, and the accused were arrested by officers from the KTJ Nagar station.

Even as the case of constable Annappa, who allegedly helped rob an ATM cash van in Bengaluru, is fresh in people’s minds, a case of robbery involving police in Davanagere has come to light. The arrested were identified as PSIs Malappa Chippalakatti and Praveen Kumar; Satish Revankar of Vinayak Nagar, Davanagere; Nagaraj Revankar of Sirsi, both goldsmiths; and three friends of the PSIs.



Police seized three cars, a fake gun, and the

gold ornaments used in the crime.

The victim, jewellery maker Vishwanath Arkasali of Karwar, collected gold bars and old ornaments from sellers in Mandipet and Halepet in Davanagere, before boarding a KSRTC bus via Hubballi to return home.

According to SP Uma Prashant, the PSIs stopped him on the bus, showed their identity cards, and took him into custody before driving him to KTJ Nagar police station.

“They told the on-duty constable that they were from the IT squad and that they were taking Vishwanath away as they suspected him,” said SP Uma Prashant.

The constable then informed higher

authorities, and the station summoned both PSIs. They claimed that Vishwanath misbehaved with Chippalakatti’s wife at the bus terminal and, after he apologised, they released him. KTJ Nagar police accepted this explanation.

“Vishwanath informed his family and filed a complaint at KTJ Nagar station on 24th Nov night.

The station’s investigation led to the arrest of the four accused, who remain in custody,” she added.

Uma noted that both PSIs drove him to the outskirts of the city and demanded his gold ornaments in exchange for his release, but then forcibly robbed him after he refused to give them. “The city DSP investigated the incident and arrested a total of seven persons involved in the crime.” She said.

PSI Chippalakatti, attached to Hamsabhavi police station in Haveri district, was assigned to the Davanagere East Zone IGP’s office pending inquiry into allegations of assault under the pretext of investigating a Pocco case. PSI Praveen Kumar was transferred from the Ranebennur traffic police station to the Sagar police station in Shivamogga district, but did not report to duty.

Dog mistaken for lion!

John O'Reilly, a forest manager in western Ireland, could hardly believe his eyes when he saw the grainy video on his phone, sent to him by a truck driver. There, slinking through the woodlands of County Clare, in Ireland was impossible: A stocky, tan-coloured animal with a shaggy mane and tufted tail, lumbering into the trees and then out of view.

You're saying, 'Christ, that couldn't be what it looks like,' O'Reilly recalled. A lion? The video began spreading on news sites and social media in Ireland, prompting both speculation and skepticism.

After nearly a week, Ireland's police force, known as An Garda Siochana, solved the confounding case. The creature was no apex predator. It was a shaggy Newfoundland dog. Its name? Mouse.

"Gardai from Killaloe have concluded that the recent video of a 'lion like' animal roaming around the woods in East Clare is in fact the very friendly dog named 'Mouse'," police said in a post on social platform X, along with photos of a calm, docile dog, whose shaved fur resembled a lion's mane and tail.

Despite the proximity to Halloween, it's still unclear why Mouse had been groomed to look like a lion. Veterinary doctors do not recommend shaving water dogs like Newfoundlands, whose coats protect them from the elements.

It is the amusing end to a saga that O'Reilly said began weeks ago, when construction crews and workers in the East Clare area noticed a large animal moving among the trees. They assumed it was a deer or a trick of the light, he said.

And then came that video, from the truck driver. O'Reilly, who runs a private forest-management company in neighbouring County Meath, said he decided to report the video to the Gardai because of safety concerns. Police, as perplexed as anyone at the apparent sight of a lion in Ireland, initially asked O'Reilly if it could have been made with artificial intelligence, he said.



The video could've been "everything from a dog, to a wannabe Al Pacino in Scarface keeping an animal in the woods to protect his grow house," O'Reilly said of the possibilities he considered - adding that it wouldn't be the first time an exotic animal was found roaming the island.

It wouldn't even be the first **to pg 33 ...**

ISSUES & CONCERNS (Regd)

NERALU, Maarigudi Road, Surathkal, Mangalore 575014

We are a registered Public Charitable Trust. Trustees are involved in publishing an awareness periodical also known as ISSUES & CONCERNS. This is a monthly, publishing writings on issues of national relevance. However, there are times when even international issues are written about. It has reasonable quality readership from across the national spectrum. This is the 23rd year of its publication and has remained committed to issues of social relevance.

The objective of the trust is to pool the resources through the periodical for CHILD CENTRIC REACH-OUT PROGRAMMES for CHILDREN in GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS. Initially the programme is restricted to providing SAFE DRINKING WATER and NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT, EXERCISE BOOKS and have plans to DISTRIBUTE FOOTWEAR and SCHOOL UNIFORMS. Besides, we also promote AWARENESS PROGRAMES, like, INTER-SCHOOL & INTER-COLLEGIATE ELOCUTION COMPETITIONS on subjects of national relevance. We are also participating in the MID DAY MEALS PROGRAMME OF AKSHAYA PAATRA of ISKCON, BANGALORE.

These activities necessarily entail funding in some form. You can help us.

- 1) by a prompt renewal of subscription to our periodical
- 2) by enlisting at least a dozen or more friends, colleagues or family members to subscribe to the periodical.
- 3) by giving advertisement support to the magazine.
- 4) by sending donations to ISSUES & CONCERNS (Regd.) (which is exempted from I.T. under 80G - No: 1-22 / 80G/CIT/MNG/2011-12 validity from : 18-08-2011 onwards.

Permanent Membership

The undersigned, who has been managing the publication of I&C, will not be around permanently. But to create a permanent entity is possible, to keep publishing I&C forever. Hence this concept of Permanent Membership. This entails a payment of `10,000/-, which is accounted separately. The idea is to create a co-operative limited liability outfit. As and when this outfit is registered, within the next 2/3 years, this `10,000/- shall be taken as its share capital. The plan is to transfer the ownership of the I&C to this new outfit. The new owners are free to expand its circulation. As and when circulation increases, advertisement to I&C shall come through ad-agencies, due to the certification by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC). Then this initial payment can be refunded as dividend. Then it is free for all these Permanent Members. Greater the circulation, larger the revenue, then it will not only earn money for its owners it can also provide funds to reach-out initiatives. So it can be a win-win situation. For more clarity, if needed, kindly call: 94800 15863

J. Shriyan
Editor

Dear Patron, This is a request for subscription. Our credentials are as follows:

Title: ISSUES & CONCERNS

Editorial Board :

- Prof. B.M. Hegde**, Former Vice Chancellor, Manipal University, Internationally known cardiologist, medical educationist, administrator, writer & orator.
- Dr. Ravindranath Shanbhag**, Human Rights Activist.
- Dr. Ravishankar Rao**, Prof. & Chair-Department of English (Rtd), Mangalore University
- Dr. Satish Rao**, Prof & Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Nitte University.
- M. R Vasudeva**, Former Director, Mangalore International Airport
- J. Shriyan**, Freelance Journalist and Social Activist.

Price : Rs. 35/- per copy.

This is a non-profit making effort and therefore needs support from you. We value your concern on various issues troubling the world in general and India in particular.

It's only to be expected that in the short run, the issues covered will be primarily Indian. Being in the new millennium, having seen the footprints on the shifting sands of time of the last 75+ years and being witness to the chequered history of our brush with progress of the past over half a century, as in the words of our first Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, we have still miles to go and a whole lot of promises to keep.

So friends, come and join us to take India truly into the new millennium. Feel concerned and India will emerge as a phoenix from the ashes of its past shortcomings and take its rightful place in the arena of global community. **Kindly support the effort by subscribing for Permanent Membership (see P/31).** If you are already a subscriber kindly pass this request to another friend and well wisher. We thank you for your valued support.

Editorial Board.

SUBSCRIPTION / RENEWAL FORM

Name : _____
 Address : _____
 : _____
 : _____
 email & Cell No : _____
 Kindly send your cheque / DD in favour of : **Issues & Concerns**, Near Bus Stand, NH-66, Surathkal, Mangalore - 575 014. A/C NO: 3517000300027301 Karnataka Bank Ltd. Iddya/Surathkal. IFS Code: KARB0000351 Cheque / DD No : _____
 Dated : _____ Drawn on : _____

Subscription	Within India
2 Years	: `800/- 5 Years : `2000/-
10 Years	: `3800/-
Permanent Member: `10,000/- (for details, see over leaf)	

YOUR PARTICIPATION & SUPPORT SOLICITED

Proceeds shall go for funding Safe Drinking Water & Nutritional Support & other Child Centric Programmes for children in Government schools

...from pg 34 India came under the subjugation of foreign forces, most notably Islam, Hinduism could not be conquered, no matter how hard Islam tried. Hinduism was elastic, accommodative and could adjust itself to changed circumstances. That is why it could survive and even thrive. That is its special strength.

Any other lesser religion would have gone down as a result of the onslaught of alien religions. Islam was only one of them. Then came Christianity. And while both, under the patronage of the rulers, made some marginal inroads into Hinduism-Islam more deeply in the end Hinduism prevailed.

Christianity spread all over Europe and tribe after tribe succumbed to its influence. Islam similarly spread from Arabia to Palestine in the north, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and other parts of Africa south of the Mediterranean, took over Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, parts of Central Asia and came to India. Hinduism resisted the early onslaughts, but when it could not do so, it curled into itself as a measure of self-preservation. Islam could go thus far, but no further.

In my next letter I must tell you something about that extraordinary religion, Islam, and Mohammad, its Prophet.
-Your loving Ajja

ABRACADABRA
Can jumbos be vengeful!

RAIPUR: Mourners laying to rest a 60-year-old farmer, allegedly trampled to death by wild elephants less than 24 hours earlier, were sent scurrying for cover by a herd that stormed the funeral, charged at the crowd and wrecked several vehicles in Chhattisgarh's forested Jashpur district. While the mourners asserted it was the same herd, forest officials were yet to verify the claim. They raised objection to locals frequenting forest regions despite being aware of routine elephant movement after dusk.

The victim, Joonas Bada of Gadakata village, had gone to his field with his sons and decided to spend the night there despite warnings that a herd was sighted nearby. Officials said his body was found in the fields at dawn, surrounded by deep elephant footprints. Bada had disregarded advisories not to visit

farms after dusk, forest officials said. "He was cautioned earlier but insisted on



going alone,” said Kunkuri ranger Surendra Hota.

Barely 24 hours later, as relatives and neighbours gathered for his late-night funeral, a herd of elephants coming out of nearby forests stormed the funeral. Witnesses said the elephants charged towards the crowd, smashed three vehicles and forced people to flee to nearby houses. “We had just buried the body when the elephants appeared,” said a villager.

Forest staff reached within minutes

and managed to drive the elephants back into the forest after a tense half-hour operation. Bada’s death marked the eighth elephant-related fatality in Jashpur this year, exposing persistent lapses in mitigation planning and continuing absence of permanent range officers in several conflict-prone beats.

Officials said 26 elephants were moving between Lotapani, Rajouti, Sajbahar and Kunjara forests while the lone male continued to wander

near Dodapani. “The isolated ones are more aggressive and unpredictable,” Hota said. “We are tracking their routes and issuing constant alerts to villagers, yet they venture into forests after dusk.” Forest officials couldn’t confirm if the same herd attacked the funeral.

“If at all it was, then the tuskers may have been responding to a past provocation or distress. But such claims require verification through tracking data,” an official said.

Dangerous Bangkok

Recently, an Indian was detained in Bangkok for stealing a box of cigarettes in a duty-free shop in Bangkok International Airport.

He had paid for chocolates and a carton of cigarettes. The cashier put a packet of cigarettes extra into his bag and he thought it was a free pack.

He was arrested for shop-lifting and the Thai Police extortion price was 30,000 Baht for his release.

He spent two nights in jail and paid 500 Baht for an air-conditioned cell, 200-300 baht for each visitor and 11,000 baht for his final release.

The Police shared the money in front of his eyes. On top of that, he was charged in court and fined 2,000 baht by the magistrate and handcuffed and escorted to his plane.

His passport was stamped “Thief”.



While there, his relatives requested help from the Indian Embassy and were told that embassy is helpless. Many Asians are victimized similarly daily and letters and phone-calls to Thai authorities are ignored.

He shared a cell with a Singaporean the first night who paid 60,000 baht for his release. The second night was a Malaysian national who paid 70,000 baht.

Mind you this was not in a shanty shop in downtown Bangkok but in a duty free shop at the Bangkok Int’l Airport . BE WARNED.

The above is 100% correct information because Mr Rajan Khera’s customer from India faced exactly the same scenario mentioned above when he was in transit at Bangkok Int’l Airport coming to Taipei.

Someone who went through the same ordeal in Dubai . He bought stuff at the Duty Free upon entering. The girl at Duty Free put a bottle of cologne in his shopping bag (he did not even see it happen). He was arrested for stealing (this is before he even picked up his luggage).

He sat at the airport jail where he was harassed for the whole day.

NO FOOD, NO WATER for one day and only after he paid a fine (bribe of US 500...). That is all the cash he had in his pocket at the time. They let him go.!!

These are scams happening all over the place. Please BE CAREFUL! All of this is pre-planned and the people who work at the airport know whom to target. Unbelievable but apply caution.... the duty free employees intentionally put extra items to trap passengers.....

ALWAYS TAKE A RECEIPT FOR ANY FREE GIFT THAT THE DUTY FREE SHOP GIVES.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL AND WATCHFUL....

PLZ DO NOT HURRY.

MAKE SURE to CHECK WHEN YOU ARE BEING

‘ BILLED ‘...AND ...ALSO WHEN THE ITEMS ARE ‘PACKED ‘ IN INTERNATIONAL AIR PORTS (DUTY FREE SHOPS).

Please Pass this info to Others. Before Holiday season.... Or...

Before they go on Official Duties ABROAD...Anywhere across the WORLD.

You may save someone and their family terrible agony.

...from pg 31 lion - in a 1951 incident that is now island lore, a lioness escaped from a lion tamer’s home in Dublin, where it was once legal to keep the large cats. The lioness mauled a city

teenager before being shot by police.

Lions have not inhabited the European continent in thousands of years. But the Irish, ironically, once cultivated a reputation for breeding the captive wildcats, which were

marquee items of many circuses and shows in the mid-century. The famed MGM lion, with his luxurious mane, bore the Irish name Cairbre and was born at the Dublin zoo.

Transformations in Hinduism



Dr. M. V. Kamath

To keep the association with late MVK alive, and to keep the Last page going, we are falling back on MVK's writings. His book – Letters to Gauri – includes some of his brush with historical wisdom. We are reproducing them with some sequential order for the benefit of our readers.

– Editor

nothing was rejected. If, in this manner, the Brahmins retained their hold on the people, it also contributed to numerous castes and subcastes, sects and subsects. Toleration was the order of the day. There was no single unified religion.

Had Hinduism refused to compromise, it is possible that Buddhism would have prevailed in the land and spread all over the country. But that was not to be. In the battle for the minds of people, Hinduism won because it was all things to all people. The disadvantage to this system was that Hindus would not unite to fight a common enemy. There was just no sense of unity among all the people.

The advantage, of course, was that while politically **to pg 32...**

My dear Gauri,

Around the time of the Buddha and Mahavira, Hinduism, or shall we call it the Vedic religion, had fallen upon bad times. There were too many rituals, too much emphasis on sacrifice and cows were slaughtered in their thousands. Today Hindus especially orthodox and fanatic Hindus-recoil at the thought of cow slaughter. But in those times that was taken for granted. The non-violence preached by Buddha and Mahavira was a reaction to the prevailing social and religious mores and customs.

Ashoka, especially, put a full stop to animal slaughter, and the Vedic religion fell into disrepute. Buddhism began to spread, especially among the lower classes who, in any event, did not care for the casteist society. There was no caste among Buddhists and among Jains. All were equal.

The only trouble with the two religious offshoots of Hinduism was that there were no Gods to worship and no religious tamasha to attend. It was all very well to prescribe a moral code and to ask people to be moderate in everything, but howsoever much such exhortations were admirable, a certain amount of fun had been taken out of life. Noticing this, the Hindu social structure swung into action.

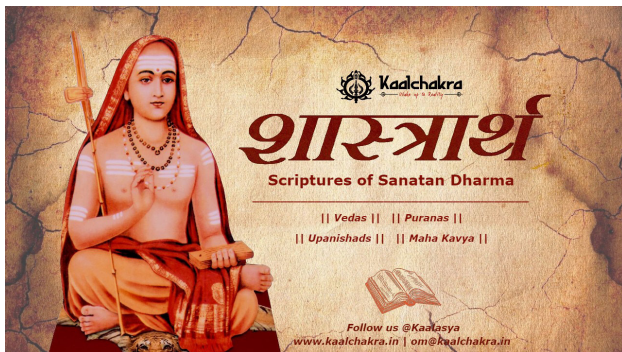
In an earlier letter I must have told you how the Vedic religion spread through assimilation and acceptance of many tribal gods

without diluting the hard core Vedic concepts. Hinduism never made a frontal attack on other religions. It tried to absorb them. Thus Hindus accepted that cow slaughter was bad and gave that up. So Buddhism and Jainism did not have much to complain about. The Buddha himself was accepted as an avatar: That was another prop knocked off from under Buddhism. In later centuries, of course, there were some regular wars against Buddhist monarchs and Jain rulers. Hinduism was not always totally non-violent.

Then again Hinduism permitted greater freedom of thought to its priesthood in order to cope with Buddhist and Jain challenges. Such a thing would have been un-heard of in Christianity and Islam. Hinduism gave up its rigidity. This enabled it to contain both Buddhism and Jainism.

Then Hinduism went further. It encouraged the Bhakti cult which had a tremendous appeal to ordinary people. It brought out the best in them. The cult of Krishna grew and Krishna became a popular God and a very attractive one in the bargain. The Brahmin saw to it that old tribal customs were preserved. Few things were never destroyed and the minimum violence was used. In this way Hinduism stood its ground and faced the challenge of its two offshoots, Jainism and Buddhism. In a popularity contest, Hinduism won hands down.

But Hinduism had to pay a very heavy price for this. It became a kichdi religion in which everything or almost everything was accepted and



ISSUES & CONCERNS INITIATIVE



Two government library staff being given assistance of Rs 25,000 + Rs 10,000/- for two (librarian + helper) under I&C reach-out initiative for being very poorly paid.



**DR NSAM
PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**
Mangaluru Campus



Integrated Coaching

JEE | NEET | KCET | NUCAT

COURSES OFFERED

- ▶ Physics | Chemistry | Mathematics
+ Biology / Computer Science / Statistics
- ▶ Physics | Chemistry | Biology
+ Home Science
- ▶ Business Studies | Accountancy | Statistics
+ Economics / Computer Science
- ▶ Business Studies | Accountancy | Economics
+ Basic Maths / Computer Science

Languages: English + Kannada/Hindi/Sanskrit

HIGHLIGHTS

- Free college bus facility
- Hostels for boys & girls
- Classrooms with audio-visual facilities
- Well-equipped laboratories
- Counseling & career guidance
- NSS | Sports | Cultural | Red Cross | Student Clubs

DR NSAM PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

3rd Cross, Vivekananda Road, Nanthoor, Mangaluru - 575005, Karnataka, India.
nsampucm@nitte.edu.in | nitte.ac.in/nsampucm



+91 72049 13559
0824 2984220

Other Programs Offered at Nitte

Medicine | Dentistry | Pharmacy | Nursing | Physiotherapy | Speech & Hearing
Allied & Healthcare | Biomedical Science | Engineering | Pilot Training | Flight Dispatcher
Architecture & Planning | Hotel Management | Culinary Arts | Airlines & Tourism
Media & Communication | Fashion Design | Interior Design



3
Campuses

44
Institutions

160+
Programs

5500+
Faculty

29000+
Students

apply.nitte.edu.in
+91 95131 88844

Ranked 80
in NIRF 2025

A+ Grade
by NAAC