

Towards a purposeful regimen

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GLOBAL TO LOCAL STORY OF SHRIDHAR VEMBU

26th
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

**नव वर्ष की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएँ**



**WISHING A YEAR OF PEACE & HARMONY
THE WORLD OVER**

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



The Law of Empathy

When you look at a situation through the eyes of someone else, you often find unseen possibilities. What is it that people need and want, and how could you give it to them !



Friends,
31st December has come and gone into the contemporary history as another year of the 21st century. At the stroke of midnight on 31st December ushered January 2026 replacing 2025. The new calendar will appear on the walls of homes and offices across the world. As you read this, calendars would have embellished the walls around the world.

So its WISHING A GREAT 2026 TO ALL OUR READERS, PATRONS AND WELL WISHERS.

The year that went-by, by any comparison, was a watershed year for ISSUES & CONCERNS. It was in October 2025, that I&C had completed its quarter century in print media. Looking back it was indeed a moment of deep satisfaction that we could complete 25 years despite sporadic negatives heaped on us. Of course there were innumerable kind souls who had positives to share and that made our journey a pleasure than an endurance. We are greatly thankful to them.

Month-in-Perspective is as usual. Have touched some of the issues left untouched in M.i.P.

Special Intensive Revision or SIR continues to hog the limelight with many assembly elections due in the pipeline. Since the very title envisages intensive revision it is bound to be time consuming with inbuilt verification demand. It is for sure would take time and with not too long period available, it will in all likelihood, increase pressure on Block Level Officers, who are supposed to work on SIRs. If work pressure has led to some BLOs committing suicide it may have to be investigated and if needed some solution has to be found out. But the need for SIR is real, with lot of mistakes - both real and engineered - having crept into the electoral rolls. Some thinking has to go into it with both government and opposition joining hands to find a way out.

Neighboring country Bangladesh going through some avoidable turbulence has to be bought under control for its own good. With radical group taking active part in the disturbances, the problem has only compounded with minorities coming under intense attack. How India can play its cards is dicey, with Sheikh Hasina still in India as a refugee. Why India continues to keep former Prime Minister of Bangladesh defies logic. The government could have asked her to go and stay with her son who is abroad. Her continued stay in India is a thorn Bangladesh could exploit. Even so late in the day, the Narendra Modi government should find a way to let her find some safe country to migrate. If she leaves India, we will be better placed to handle the situation. Will that happen, is a difficult question to answer.

A chance discovery of a long pending acid attack case evidently has upset the highest court of the land. A report datelined New Delhi "SC condemns 16 year delay in Delhi acid attack trial" has exposed the forces working against the justice itself. Describing as a shame, the continuance of trial in an attack case for 16 long years, the Supreme Court has promised to take up the case suo motu. An incident of 2009, the trial is still incomplete in Rohini court's in New Delhi. The point of the apex court is, if this case happens in the national capital, it's indeed a shame. CJI Surya Kant has asked the solicitor general to take it up with the Central Government that all acid attack cases should come under a special court for its speedy trial and disposal as quickly as possible. Hope it happens.

Financial Security, post retirement, is an issue most seniors are concerned about. Thus here comes this National Pension Scheme. PFRDA or Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority conducted a session "Retire Smart India" for the benefit of public, giving them details of retirement solutions to seniors as well as all interested individuals with returns on investment of upto 13.5%. This is a good initiative and should be widely publicized for all to take advantage of. Hope this initiative reaches to all parts of India.

In the conflict ridden global order India-Russia relationship is growing stronger by the day. The bonhomie between Indian premier Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin is on a different level altogether. On a recent visit of Russian President to India, PM Modi presented him with six items showcasing India's rich heritage. Items included Bhagwad Geeta in Russian

language, handcrafted silver tea set, a handcrafted silver horse, Agra marble chess set along with Kashmiri saffron and Assam tea. Hope and wish the friendship between India and Russia will stand the test of time.

In a bizarre development Baburam Sharma from Sambhal in Bareilly was arrested for getting his 22 year old son Ankit Sharma killed to claim Rs 2 crores as insurance settlement for an imagined road accident death claim. His luck ran out when autopsy of the dead body exposed head injury due to an assault. On persistent interrogation Baburam was reported to have confessed to killing of Aniket, his own son. This was probably the ultimate what one can do to make some fast buck.


In recent days we have been reading in the print media about Maoists being attacked by security forces fairly frequently. With the killing of Ganesh Uikey, who had carried over 2 crore bounty on his head from different states could be a decisive blow towards their eventual elimination. We have witnessed the violence and the trouble created by these Maoists in the name of empowering marginalized. In the process however, it was only the strong and powerful in their cadres enjoyed the power and moola. This naxal movement has to be wiped out for the sake of very people whom they claim to be fighting for. Hope the dawn is not too far for those marginalised.

The suspension of jail term for BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was imprisoned for life for kidnapping and physically assaulting a minor, is a complete miscarriage of justice. Clearly there were considerations other than justice to the accused which probably prompted the Delhi HC bench to suspend the well deserved life sentence of this criminal Sengar. No wonder the family of the survivor has called the suspension as 'death' for their family. Indicating there are activist lawyers who have challenged the judgment in the apex court is a welcome development. Hope the questionable judgement of Delhi HC on Sengar is reversed in the name of judicial accountability. Here it is important to recollect that this criminal Sengar while being in jail had organized the murder of victim's father, for which he is undergoing separate jail term of 10 years, which continued to keep him in jail despite Delhi HC's judicial largesse. Hence the seriousness of Sengar's culpability to remain incarcerated is established beyond doubt.

There was this report in print "Earned increment cant be denied for 1-day gap: HC", has comprehensively proved the anti-labour policy of Defence Ministry. Report informs that Rajbir Singh had joined Border Security Force (BSF) as a constable on Sept 5, 1979 and retired, after many promotion as inspector on 30th June 2016. Thus he had worked for 37 years. However as per departmental procedures, he was eligible for increment on 1st July 2016, and since he had already retired the previous day and was not on employment of that day with BSF he is not entitled to the increment as per norms. Legally it could be tenable for the purpose of interpretation. But purely in spirit of natural justice since Rajbir Singh had worked for 364 days instead of 365 days of the year, the Defense Ministry could have allowed the increment to be paid to him. But someone in the ministry with a petty mind decided to deny this increment, which Punjab and Haryana High court rightly condemned and asked BSF to include his last increment in the final settlement of Rajbir Singh. Thus justice has prevailed.

Report "State urges centre to mandate rest for drivers on night duty", has not come a day too early. We have just read about the horrendous accident past-midnight in Chitradurga district where a truck crashed on to the divider to hit a luxury bus coming from the opposite side causing many deaths and serious injuries. This was not an isolated incident, but one of the many regular happening across Indian highways. All these accidents have happened past midnight, between 12 midnight and 4 a.m. Therefore as suggested by the Karnataka Minister all trucks must be off the road between these 4 hours giving a greatly felt need of rest to truck drivers. Hope the centre takes it up in earnest to enact this provision to make life better for all road users in the night.

Stories of successful professionals returning to homeland for their own good and for welfare of their countrymen is fairly well known. But some of them can be incredibly fascinating. In Focus this time we have taken up the story of Shridhar Vembu, an IIT Madras alumni. We have tried to do justice to the subject. Hope readers could find it interesting. Do revert with your inputs. We value them.





MONTH-IN-PERSPECTIVE

KARNATAKA : BENGALURU LITERATURE FESTIVAL

There are four English newspapers of Karnataka. Deccan Herald is Bengaluru based. Other three are Karnataka editions, having headquarters elsewhere and they are the Times of India, The Hindu and the Indian Express.

However only two of them covered the Bengaluru Literature Festival (BLF). The Times of India had “Silence is the era’s greatest violence says Banu Mushtaq” as the title of its report on BLF on the first page, whereas the Indian Express had “Banu: India lost pluralism when Babri went down” as the title of its report on BLF. Strangely other two, did not cover the event, for reasons best known to them.

But the queer part of it was, both papers, which covered the event had nothing to say on BLF, instead they confined to statements of Banu Mushtaq. That was a bit odd.

Banu Mushtaq is a writer in Kannada and until May 2025 she was unknown beyond Karnataka. It was in May 2025 when Deepa Bhist’s translation of Banu’s short stories into English was adjudged as the winner of International Booker’s Prize 2025. So it was clearly a joint effort that led to the award.

Coming to BLF and Banu’s statements where she stated that “India lost its principle of pluralism on the day Babri Masjid was demolished”.

First of all she cannot speak on pluralism since she was the one who denied the honor to her Bookers partner Deepa Bhist, when Banu was invited to inaugurate the NAADA



HABBA on 1st November 2025. She had all the opportunity to invite Deepa to share the honor, but she didn’t show magnanimity to share it with the person who truly was the ‘rai-son d’etre’ for getting the Bookers award. Another side to this aspect of pluralism is, Babri Masjid was built by destroying a temple as established by ASI Director K K Mohammed. The community could have shown the largeness of heart by accepting the truth of temple demolition and mutually settled the matter. Ofcourse the law took its course and matter was settled. Therefore it was purely an attempt to sensationalise the issue of Babri demolition at the BLF as the Indian Express was waiting to grab to make it a headline.

Banu Mushtaq’s another statement “Silence is the era’s greatest violence” is certainly relevant. Edmond Burke had famously observed long ago “It is enough for the good to keep quiet for the bad to become worse “. This statement is timeless in its relevance and not necessarily limited to an era.

What is however important is Banu Mushtaq has been a rebel grown out of her own surroundings, which quite frankly is not everyone’s cup of tea. She needs to be complimented for the same. But the fact is we are all naked inside our garments. All need to recognize this truth, period.

She must continue to write against the practices among her cousins and their suffering. They need to be emancipated from their dogmatic domineering males.

WORLD: TRILLION \$ SURPLUS ECONOMY

A Washington datelined print media report “China first country with the \$1 trillion trade surplus”, has made Washington, New Delhi and Brussels circumspect at the Chinese skills in managing their economy in the face of Trump inspired global uncertainty.

Reportedly, it’s for the first time



that any country has crossed the \$ 1 trillion surplus milestone. This has happened despite U.S. President Trump’s tariff disruption that he caused to the global trade. What is all the more creditable for Chinese leadership is, Trump driven tariff attack did cause fall in Chinese exports to U.S. by almost 30%, but it managed to not only cover the short fall but did better by diverting their exports to EU, South East Asia, Africa and even India to a higher level than earlier years. In fact, Wall Street journal has acknowledged noting that ‘China is making itself an indispensable cog in global supply chain spanning technology, transport, medicine and consumer goods.’

Starting in 1980/1990, as maker and supplier of cheap garments and personal outfits like wigs and sneakers China has emerged as a dominant player in solar panels, electric vehicles and semi-conductors that power everyday household items. That’s a huge leap in international trade. And it looks clearly that China is destined to be a major power which can displace U.S. as the top economy globally.

However, in the context of India-China trade scenario, it is disturbing that 2024-25 saw a trade deficit of nearly \$ 100 billion with China. According to the figures available in the public space India imported goods and services worth \$ 113.5 billion as compared to an export figure of mere \$ 14.3 billion, a deficit of 99.2 billion, which is almost \$ 100 billion. This mismatch is pretty serious.

How do we address this imbalance! There have been suggestions in public space. To start with, do large-scale



MONTH-IN-PERSPECTIVE

reverse-engineering as originally started by China wherever it is possible, Engineering colleges, CSIR laboratories and such institutions which can be asked to import and dismantle products and develop blueprints for Indian manufacturers to start producing. Then follow it up with legislation to bring down import cost, an incentive for producers. Grow industrial support systems instead of giving freebies and subsidies to industries. Factors like land, power, logistics, long-term finance, supplier network etc are some of the government support that can help the industry.

Another very important aspect is the rejuvenation of administrative setup. Chinese bureaucracy is geared to function according to the needs of industries and commerce. Indian IAS and other functionaries managing government apparatus should rise to the occasion to be industry friendly. China has greatly improved its technological capability by investing hugely on research and development. India needs to learn from this. If you do not innovate you perish, so better innovate.

Thus, its not beyond the abilities of India and Indians to slowly and steadily catch up, at least to make the country less and less importing nation. Hope it's not a tall call, since we have the example of how Japan has built a rare-earth supply chain without China!

WORLD: CANCEROUS CONCEPTION

There was this very disturbing news datelined Copenhagen, "Sperm from donor with cancer-causing gene used to conceive around 200 kids". In the past there was this despicable news of some European drug manufacturers having found to have injected HIV inducing genes on some jail birds in African prisons and then trying some anti-HIV drugs on them. But this time round, it appears to be a genuine error on the part of



Sperm Donor With Rare Cancer Gene Has Fathered Close To 200 Children Throughout Europe.

Denmark's European Sperm Bank. An unaffected donor who was found with some cancer causing gene only in the sperm cells and not in other parts of the body, his sperm cells were injected to some 197 mothers to conceive from around the world by the Denmark's sperm bank.

According to the report, an asymptomatic sperm donor who was carrying a genetic mutation increasing the risk of cancer had donated his sperms to the sperm bank. This sperm bank in turn sold the sperm to some 67 clinics in 14 countries. In Denmark itself, 99 children were fathered by the donor's sperm. This apparently happened between 2006 and 2022. But in 2020, the Sperm Bank was alerted that a child conceived through donation was diagnosed with cancer that carried a genetic mutation. The European Sperm Bank suspended the sale of sperms and tested a sample of donor's sperm but found nothing wrong and then resumed sales. But 3 years later again another case came up with a child having developed cancer from this particular donation. Again it stopped the sale and subjected the donor to number of tests during which bank did come across cancer causing gene from the donors samples, although the donor was healthy. Then in 2023 the use of sperm from this particular donor was blocked. But the damage was done.

However it became very clear that there was no mischief and it was a rare mistake that normally wouldn't have happened. And mercifully only a few cases were so far detected. Hope it remains so and the bank takes additional care like multiple tests to ensure that such occurrence do not recur.

KARNATAKA: DRUG FREE CAMPAIGN

It's always good to have ideals, since they can be the beginning of a better world and may eventually help in realizing dreams which are also ideals.

Make A Change Foundation-(MACF) as the name suggests was probably founded with some visions of a better world. 'Making Mangalooru Drug Free' apparently inspired the founders of MACF that led to the media report, datelined Mangalooru "Drug-Free Mangalooru campaign from December 27".

According to the report, on 27th December, in collaboration with Mangalooru City Police, MACF will launch the campaign from TMA Pai Convention Centre, Mangalooru. Karnataka Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, Mangalooru Member of Parliament Capt. Brijesh Chowta, District Collector Darshan HV, MCC Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy will jointly launch the campaign.

This is an exemplary initiative from MACF, probably a first of its kind in the country. The organizers need to be congratulated for their seminal attempt.





Motto, according to MACF is, “SAFE MANGALLOORU-NO DRUG, NO CRIME”, to build ‘BRAND MANGALLOORU’. There are likely to be some 40 street corner meetings all over the city, with police and resource persons creating awareness on the effects of substance abuse among youth. Seers from Ramakrishna Math, Mullas from mosques and Mangalore Bishop are expected to join hands.

Drug abuse paper presentation, demonstration of drug abuse, fitness challenge for the youth are some of the activities included. Besides street corner meetings, visiting shopping malls where youth congregate, will also be targeted. So also, temples, mosques, churches. All in all, its an off-beat programme and I&C wishes all the very best for its intended success.

KARNATAKA: SCHOOL TRANSFER CERTIFICATES

There was this report in the print media datelined Bengaluru “Don’t delay issue of TCs, private schools warned”. The warning has not come a day too early.

We all know that private enterprises, as its objectives, are profit driven, which is very normal. Why should they serve for no benefit for themselves! While profit is the goal of all private enterprises, it should not be the only goal. While profiteering it should also serve some

social purpose. Look at Tatas! Tatas are a purely an entrepreneur wanting to start business and industry in India. In the evolving business and industry scenario, Tatas became a model and continued to remain a model to industrialists and businessman for all the 75 years of free India. This is exactly how business and industry should present itself. Find profit in serving the consumer who is really the society at large.

However the fact is vast majority of Indian business and industry did not learn from Tatas. Tatas were the first to start the Indian Institute of Science (IIS) in Bengaluru, as far back as 1909. Tatas were the first to start Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in 1945. Tatas were the first to start the Indian Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) before the independence in 1936. That is why they do not figure among the richest Indians, unlike Ambanis, Mittals and so many others.

So it is not surprising that private schools do not want students to leave their school for whatever reasons and delay issuing transfer certificates (TC) while insisting they pay fees for the remaining part of the academic year! For them difficulties of the students or their parents is none of their concern. They are only interested in filling their coffers. So only the concerned government should force the hands of these private school managements who are out to make a fast buck out of helpless hapless students and their parents.

Reportedly ‘the commissioner of the school education department has issued a circular directing private schools to issue Transfer Certificates (TC) to students seeking admission to other schools within 15 days of receiving an application, warning that strict action will be taken against delays’. This was sequel to a letter from Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Hope all private school managements fall in line and become student friendly

in their business model to become attractive for parents to opt for these private schools in case of need.

NEW DELHI: ROAD ACCIDENT DEATHS

Long years ago, there used to be a statement in vogue, “There are three good things of life and they are, American Salary, all want to go there, Indian wife followed as the 2nd good thing, for whom husband was God, and then came British discipline, due to which Britain ruled half the world. For these three good things to remain good, there had to be three comparable bad things. They were, Chinese salary, none wanted to go there. Followed by American wife as the 2nd bad thing, nobody wanted to take her home to the mother as daughter-in-law. Last came Indian discipline, Indians were the most indisciplined among all homosapians.

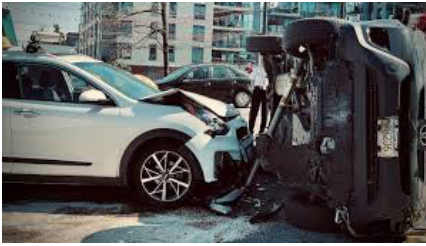
Times have changed. American salary is no more attractive and China has greatly improved its salaries. Similarly Indian wife is not necessarily the best, there are options including American wives. Britain has lost most of its control of its vast empire and British discipline did not matter. However the Indian indiscipline is the only one which remained unchanged, as bad as ever.

A report datelined New Delhi informs “Speeding killed nearly 1.24 lakh in 2024: Govt”, of which reportedly over 55% of deaths were linked to ‘No helmet or No seatbelt’.

‘Speed thrills, but it kills as well’, is an old, time tested idiom, and no wonder some 1.24 lakh have died due to accidents resulting from over-speed and irresponsible driving like no seatbelt and no helmet.

According to the report by Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to the parliament, the trend of ‘over speeding’ remains the main cause of fatal accidents, indicating a high level of indiscipline among Indians. Reportedly 92% of all road fatalities in Karnataka was due to overspeeding,





while Madhya Pradesh clocked 81%. However reportedly Tamil Nadu and Union Territories reported highest number of fatalities, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Similarly deaths due to not wearing seatbelts data showed Uttar Pradesh topped the list followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

So the adage that India is the most indisciplined country is sustained. During the Amrut Kaal that India is passing through authorities at least try to improve the state of discipline among our citizens. Something our socio-political leaders can take up through the primary and secondary schools, so that you catch them young.

KARNATAKA: HOSPITAL INSENSITIVITY

Lack of seriousness or lack of sensitivity by health centers or hospitals leading to fatal ending of patients is becoming increasingly routine. A news datelined Bengalooru “Man suffering heart attack rides scooter, dies on road” has exposed the callousness of hospitals.

According to the report 34 year old Venkatramana from Banashankari in Bengalooru woke-up around 3:30am with severe chest pain. Without waiting for any transport, he rode his scooter with his wife to a private hospital nearby in Kathrigruppe. Stating no doctor available hospital



turned them away. At another nearby hospital an ECG was taken, which confirmed the myocardial infarction. However the hospital failed to provide any emergency treatment, they advised the couple to go to Jayadeva Hospital without providing any ambulance. But sadly they could not reach. On the way, scooter wobbled due to severe chest pain and both husband and wife fell on the ground. It was around 4:20 in the morning, no cars stopped to help the couple for almost 10 minutes. By the time some Samaritans stopped the vehicle Venkatramana had lost consciousness. On reaching the hospital, doctors there declared him brought dead.

That was indeed a sad end to a young life which in all probability could have been saved if some emergency treatment was provided by the hospital and if an ambulance could have been made available or even if some vehicle could have stopped earlier to ferry him to Jayadeva. But that was not to be. Hope at least such reports in the media increases the awareness of what we all can do in such situations so that some precious lives can be saved.

NEW DELHI: NUCLEAR POWER

Recently Lok Sabha had cleared “Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transformation of India, (SHANTI) Bill”. The objective of the bill is to open the Nuclear energy sector to private enterprises.

According to government sources this legislation intended to seek modernization of India’s nuclear framework in line with contemporary technological, economic and energy realities, while emphasizing that private participation is needed to meet India’s 2047 clean energy goals.

While government insisted that the legislation is essential for energy security, long term growth and for investment, opposition had some valid points which could have been



embodied within the new enactment. Opposition pointed out possible dangers of privatization of nuclear expansion without adequate safe guards. Congress Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor described the bill as a “dangerous leap”, the proposed privatization. According to him “We cannot allow the pursuit of capital to override the non-negotiable requirements of public safety, environmental protection and justice to victims, if any”, while adding that the latest legislation was “heavy on discretion, full of loopholes and largely indifferent to public welfare, it appears more unclear rather than nuclear”, thus questioned the clarity of the proposed bill.

As is the wont, the government has justified the legislation. However the issue of removal of liability clause deserves relook and has to be debated thread bear. In all fairness, the bill should be referred to a committee of parliamentarians along with nuclear scientists who are experts in the energy sector with all its positives and negatives. Opposition must explore all possibilities of making the bill transparent, equitable and people friendly.

NEW DELHI: MGNREGA

Another bill that government pushed through in both houses of parliament was the renaming and amendment to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Opposition while demanding the roll back of the new VB-GRAM G Bill has termed it “assault on right to work”, “Insult to Mahatma Gandhi” etc.

The new bill “Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill 2025”, prima facie an unnecessary legislation. The existing MGNREGA was already well known and was functioning all right. If there were any issue like corruption as



stated by the government, the same could have been addressed without changing the title or the name which rather appears little funny, besides, removing the name of Mahatma Gandhi could have been avoided. Although Mahatma Gandhi may not be Mahatma anymore with so many dimension of Gandhiji being written about in public space in recent past abandoning MGNREGA title could have been avoided. The amendments that the new law attempts to bring could have been incorporated within the existing law. Just to bring about the title VIKSIT BHARAT appears to be the only purpose as is evident, for which valuable time was wasted which could have been saved.

NEW DELHI: RAILWAY FARES

“Indian railways raises fare for the 2nd time in 2024/25” was the news datelined New Delhi. According to the report railways have raised 2 paise per kilometer for AC and Non-AC coaches of mail and express trains. For distance beyond 215 kms for ordinary or general class increase will be 1 paise per kilometer. Last increase was in July this year. So in less than 6 months it was the second raise. However there was no increase in suburban railway fares and for

monthly pass holders.

Before the July raise, the previous raise was in 2020. It was 4 paise per kilometer for AC and 2 paise for non-AC in both mail and express trains. The combined raise of the last two increases would make the ticket fair costlier by Rs 50/80 for travel from Delhi to Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. Overall it could be anywhere from 2% to 4% of the present ticket fare. Railway fares in India is by far the cheapest anywhere. No wonder, according to railways the total cost for railways for 2024-25 was around Rs 2.63 lakh crores, while the earnings for 2024-25 was Rs 80,000/- crores, a loss of Rs 1.83 crores!

However the opposition, especially GOP, the Indian National Congress, has gone to the market crying hoarse. Party spokesman posted a social media post stating “Government increasing fare just before the annual budget is one thing, doing it surreptitiously is a new low even by the lowest standards set by Modi”.

Of course, the opposition is only playing the role of opposition,



opposing anything and everything. But when it comes to railway fare remarks of Pawan Khera, the Congress spokesman, its clearly off the tangent. Not only the railway fares are heavily subsidized, when its manpower cost alone for 2024-25 was Rs 1.15 lakh crore, without the pension of Rs 60,000 crores and other expenses. Besides the language of Khera indicates a new low for him and his party, where he described the increase “surreptitious” and “new low”. It was an open and the usual way increases are announced. As for “lowest standard set by Modi”,

Congress has comprehensively exposed itself of intolerance of NDA. After all NDA cannot be ruling the country with Modi as Prime Minister for the third term without public approbation of the Central government’s development dynamics.

KARNATAKA: VOILENCE ON MENTALLY CHALLENGED

There was this very disturbing report, “Mentally challenged teenager assaulted by teachers at school: Police arrest four”. Not merely the violence on a mentally challenged student, that it came to light months later, is far more disturbing, since it could have been a recurring incident.

Divyajyothi Residential Special School in Bagalkot, run by Siddhagiri Education and Social Service Institution for Children with Disabilities, is at the centre of this inhuman development. Teachers of the said school had allegedly subjected a teenager, a 16 year old mentally challenged Deepak Rathod to brutal physical abuse including beating him with belt and throwing chilli powder into his eyes. This violence was recorded secretly by a women employee of the school which she made viral after months. Reportedly the disturbing visuals have triggered widespread public outrage.

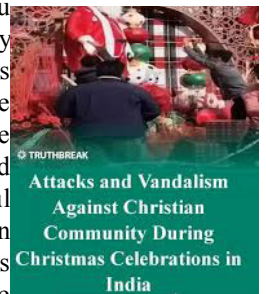
Video reportedly shows Akshay Indulkar, the school head, assaulting Deepak with belt, while his wife is seen throwing chilli powder into the boy’s eyes and another staff member is seen standing on the boy’s legs with others laughing in a perverse manner. It’s clearly very inhuman.

No wonder, it received wide local media coverage and all concerned acted fast. Police acted after the complaint by Deepak’s father. Police arrested four persons including the husband and wife team of Indulkars. Principal Civil Judge of JMFC Court, visited the school and conducted inspection. School, although registered was running

We have seen the video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending Christmas celebration in Delhi cathedral has only exposed the photo-op for public consumption, after many reported attacks on Christmas celebrations across the country. This is especially so since there have not been any reported reaction of either the Prime Minister Modi nor any senior government functionary on these attacks which are many as reported.

These condemnable actions by any group of people or organizations has to be, not only condemned, but those who have attacked should have been traced and arrested. They are clearly enemies of social harmony.

According to print media, there was attack in Palakkad, Kerala. Members of Xmas carol team were attacked by some extremist elements, while street vendors selling Christmas merchandise were obstructed and violently pushed around. In Delhi, reportedly some Hindu outfits have harassed women and children wearing Santa Clauss caps. In Bengalooru a group is accused of disrupting church programme and threatening a priest. Report also informs that attacks and disturbances took place in Kerala, U.P., New Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Orissa, which if true is really shameful. There should be suo-motu actions by authorities everywhere that those who violated the peaceful celebration of Christmas should be



seriously dealt with, so that some message is sent not only to those who celebrated Christmas even those hoodlums who took the law into their own hands and caused rupture to social harmony. Hope authorities everywhere act as expected of them.



without permission from the Deptt of Women and Child Welfare since last 4 years, clearly indicating lapse on the part of authorities. All students were sent home and steps initiated to close the school.

Only thorough investigation will find out the complete details of all 4 years of its functioning. Now only one case is seen, there could be other cases, unreported and unrecorded. Reportedly the Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar has stated that criminal case will be lodged against all those responsible for the assault, while remarking that “the incident has brought shame to Bagalkot and is deeply embarrassing” and asked Bagalkot DC to take necessary action to close the school.

TAMIL NADU: DEEPAM CONTROVERSY

Thiruppakankudram hill in Madurai has a shrine. Karthigai Deepam festival is a festival to light lamp on a stone pillar, which has been going on since long time into the past. For all these years there was no issue surrounding the festival. This time round, devotees of a dargah some 50 metres away from the Deepam festival place has objected. An obliging DMK government has stopped the Deepam festival by an executive order stating that it would disturb



communal harmny and cause law and order problem.

Aggrieved devotees approached Madras High Court (MHC). The single judge bench dismissed the order and allowed Deepam festival to light the lamp. TN government challenged it. The division bench of MHC upheld the single judge bench order.

Bent upon to please the Dargah administration Tamil Nadu government challenged the MHC order to allow the Deepam festival, in the Supreme Court. And, believe it not TN government insisted on its being listed as urgent. However the highest court of the land said it would consider listing it as soon as possible and didn't yield to TN government pressure. So its pending, listing.

In the meanwhile MHC has initiated contempt proceeding against TN government for not following its order of allowing the Deepam festival. However what everybody involved in the case do not seem to remember is, that Dargah's existence is of recent past, whereas Thiruppakankudram Hill Shrine is as old as time. Hence the question is why Dargah was built close to the shrine? That none asked. It could have been built a kilometer away, so that the shadow of the hill does not fall on Dargah or its devotees. Hence clearly Dargah, prima facie, has no case. Thus the whole exercise of DMK government of Tamil Nadu exposes its appeasement practices favouring Dargah devotees, therefore the order of TN government not to allow Deepam Festival is untenable, period. As and when Supreme Court takes the call it would hopefully give TN government, a piece of advice in governance.

Here, the Supreme Court should also take up those laws which enabled the state governments including Tamil Nadu to take control of Hindu temples and declare them as ultra vires to constitutional right to freedom of religion. This will put at rest temple looting by state governments, all over India.

NEW DELHI: ATTACKS ON

J.Shriyan

SON - RISE INDUSTRY & POLITICS IN INDIA - I & C DECEMBER 2025.

An excellent overview with a wonderful cover graphic. This family business in Politics from the North to South and East to West, is a low risk enterprise with assured high Return on Investment (ROI). The product they sell to the consumer/ voter is freebies accompanied by promises seldom kept. The real culprits are the voters who fall for this scam again and again.

-Rajnikanth Shastri, (UK)

SON - RISE INDUSTRY & POLITICS IN INDIA - I & C DECEMBER 2025.

It's a frank write-up with adequate coverage. It has exposed the hypocrisy of the political class. Indian politicians, most of whom are there in politics to cook their own meals and that of their children and are most benefited by politics. They made their fortune besides undeserved name and fame are in politics only to promote themselves and not to serve the people or the Mother India. The write-up has comprehensively exposed their multiple standards. Kudos to the writer J.Shriyan. Hope there will be such incisive articles in coming months.

- Harshavardhan K. Mumbai

“DELHI BOMB BLAST: QUESTION OF ANSWERS” in the December edition of ISSUES & CONCERNS has raised relevant questions. It is very sad that there were many medical practitioners including those attached to the AL FALAH UNIVERSITY, who were involved in this diabolic act of detonating bomb in crowded place. For what on earth these well educated people get involved in terror activities only to cause death of innocents and destruction of nation's properties. What are trying to convey to Indians in general. ‘ Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country ‘ is a famous remark of yesteryears. But here is a bunch of professionals who are destroying the social fabric of their own country by their diabolic act of terror. It's rather sad and bad.

-Melvin D'Costa, Bengalooru



HUMOUR

ALL NEED TO LAUGH

Today I donated my watch, phone and Rs.500 to a poor guy. You don't know the happiness I felt as I saw him put his knife back in his pocket.*****
I miss times when I was working at the zoo. My boss fired me just because I left the lions gate open. I mean who would steal a lion?*****
I was in a cab today and the cab driver said, "I love my job, I'm my own boss. Nobody tells me what to do". Then I said, "Turn left".*****
Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?*****
Why is it that doctors and attorneys call what they do 'practice'?*****
Why is time of the day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?*****
You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?*****
Why don't sheep shrink when it rains, whereas Sweaters of Wool, do?*****
Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?*****
Hope as you read, you have been smiling. We all need to smile every once in a while. A Day Without Laughter is a DAY Wasted !*****





GLOBAL TO LOCAL – STORY OF SHRIDHAR VEMBU

There was this video post going viral in the social media. We took its printout. It was in Hindi and had to be converted into English to use it for publication in ISSUES & CONCERNS. The video goes like this, and we quote.

“Shridhar Vembu= ZOHO CORPORATION is the subject of debate in public space. His uniqueness is to make possible what is apparently impossible. Long ago he had the vision of going back home to India from San Francisco in the U.S. . Here is the reflection of his simplicity.

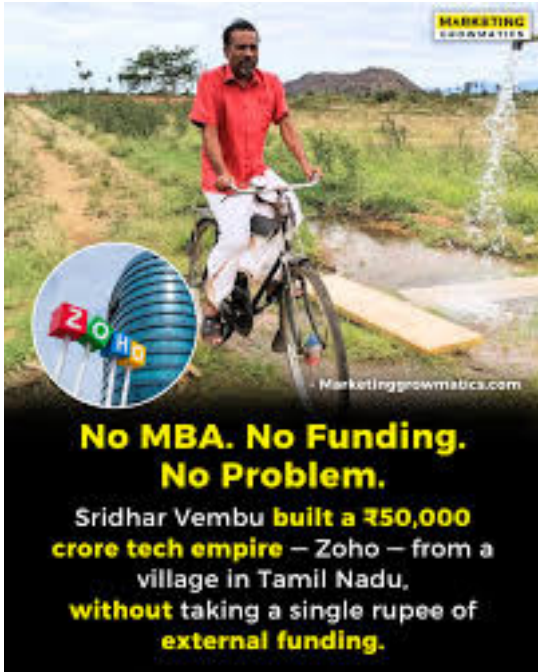
If he wanted he could buy a pri-

vate jet, instead he bought a cycle. By the way if someone is worth Rs 18,000 crores, then buying a 300 crore private jet will not be a problem.

Shridhar Vembu, the CEO of ZOHO CORPORATION is an embodiment of both Saraswathi and Laxmi. That's a blessing. Money has not killed the man in Shridhar Vembu. He has been a successful entrepreneur in the U.S. but his heart was always back in India, in Chennai. At the height of his success he decides to shift his baby ZOHO CORPORATION to a village in Tamil Nadu, some 13000 kilometres

away from San Francisco. The logic was “if Delta, Cisco, Apple or Microsoft can have their office and research centres in India, why not ZOHO CORPORATION!” Thus the IIT Madras engineer Shridhar has come back to Madras, the present Chennai.

Before 2019, itself Shridhar had acquired 4 acres of land in village Tankasi planning Tankasi as the global headquarters of ZOHO. The question arises, what prompted Shridhar to shift to Chennai, India from San Francisco! Was it some pressure of competition, pressure from



ment concept. He told this Forbes magazine that he wants to connect the village with satellite and that is his goal. 'It will not only remove distance but can ensure better delivery from the village itself, including the so-called software,' was his considered opinion.

The picture in the video shows Shridhar as a simple person with lungi and bush shirt riding a bicycle. He commutes from his residence to school and to ZOHU CORPORATION office not in any four wheeled automobile, but on a bicycle. That is simplicity

renamed ZOHU CORPORATION, where he focused on providing SaaS support to Customer Relationship Management Services. The decade 2009 to 2019 marked ZOHU CORPORATIONS transformation into a major global SaaS player, characterized by building a deep proprietary tech stack, emphasizing privacy, fostering a unique rural centric talent model and offering affordable integrated software solutions without venture capital participation or any other form of external funding. ZOHU remained 100%bootstrapped prioritizing R&D and customer privacy over traditional sales and marketing.

In 2019, Shridhar moved to Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu, India, where he had already acquired four acres of land to have the headquarters of ZOHU CORPORATION. As envisioned earlier Shridhar had already set up ZOHU SCHOOLS OF LEARNING in 2005 to provide vocational software development education to rural students as an alternative to formal university qualification. A statement from his company states that 15 to 20 percent of its engineers have no formal college degree but have received adequate vocational education and training from ZOHU SCHOOL.

banks! None of them. There were no negative reasons for the decision to come to Chennai, India. In fact when ZOHU CORPORATION was set up, Shridhar had decided that if the venture succeeds, a major portion of surplus would be routed to India for investment. The idea was to create infrastructure for village children's education in villages outside Chennai, to expose them to modern high-tech education. The plan was to start from schools to colleges to universities to create world class engineers of the future, who otherwise had to travel far and wide in search of educational qualification and then find useful occupation/employment etc. But with ZOHU CORPORATION shifting its headquarters, even jobs will be made available in the village itself! What an incredibly idealistic vision for anybody!

A person with Rs 18000 crores personal wealth, is not interested in increasing his wealth, but trying to increase societal wealth. In his interview with Forbes magazine he told, that, 'if technology is made available in village itself, there will be no migration. There is enough and more talent and intelligence in villages'. An entirely self-sustaining develop-

at its best. His vision is to spread global services to non-urban areas with all urban facilities, like sewer systems, cleaning apparatus, modern hospitals, modern skill centers etc. Isn't it appropriate that we need to know the man who changed the thinking, 'what a highly successful technocrat can do for the society, when there are many others who are only chasing their personal success and therefore personal name, fame and fortune!'

Shridhar Vembu was born in 1968 in a middle class Indian family in Umavalpuram village in Thanjavoor district, Tamil Nadu. He graduated with B.E in Electrical Engineering from I.I.T. Madras in 1989 and went to Princeton University, New Jersey, U.S. and earned his M.S and PhD in Electrical Engineering.

According to sources in public space, Shridhar launched his professional career as a wireless engineer working for Qualcomm in San Diego, California. Later he moved to San Francisco Bay Area. In 1996, Shridhar founded a Software development outfit called AdventNet. In 2009, AdventNet was

MADE IN INDIA

SWITCH TO HOMEGROWN APPS

BEST ZOHU APPS THAT WORKS SMOOTHLY

Instead of:		Use this:
	→	
	→	
	→	
	→	

SUPPORT MADE IN INDIA APPS



In 2020, Shridhar set up rural school start up focused on free primary education, extending further his vision of accessible, skill oriented learning.

Shridhar's offbeat approach to social engineering earned him both national and global acknowledgment. In 2021, he received Padma Shree, India's 4th highest civilian award and was appointed to the National Security Advising Board of Government of India. In 2024, Forbes magazine ranked him the 39th richest Indian with a net worth of \$ 5.85 billion.

Shridhar's career demonstrated that technical expertise, combined with unconventional vision can reshape both business and community landscapes. For aspiring entrepreneurs and students, his story offers a blueprint, the intersection of rigorous education, global exposure and commitment to social entrepreneurship that can redefine the possibilities of impact.

What Shridhar demonstrated by his unconventional methods and social engineering is, it is eminently possible that a profound commit-

ment to ethical and grass root empowerment can be the foundation for a billion \$ world-class enterprise, that needs to be replicated in different parts of India with huge Indian diaspora among whom there are many very successful stories who can share their success with Indians back home. This possibility has huge potential for exponential growth to make the 2047 as the VIKSIT BHARATH dream, a reality.

While we are about it, the story of Shridhar has also shown abundantly his love for his mother land and no wonder he has become a toast to RSS with his thoughts and actions. He should be promoted in public space as an example of dedication to the national causes. RSS being an influential organization in the present governmental set-up, he can even be made a Rajya Sabha member for his intellectual inputs in parliament debates. Hope it happens.

Zoho Schools of Learning : A Pathway to Career Success



**ZOHO SCHOOLS
OF LEARNING**

CONTEXTUAL - RELEVANT - EXPERIENTIAL

In an era where skill-based learning is taking center stage, Zoho Corporation has emerged as a pioneer with its unique initiative — Zoho Schools of Learning. Designed to provide an alternative to traditional

college education, Zoho Academy offers young learners the opportunity to build strong careers in technology and business through hands-on, industry-relevant training

What is Zoho Academy?

Zoho Academy, officially known as Zoho Schools of Learning, is an in-house training program run by Zoho Corporation, one of India's top software product companies.

Launched in 2005, the academy focuses on nurturing talented students who are passionate about learning and innovation, regardless of their educational background.

Students who join the program are trained in fields such as:

- Software Programming
- Design and UX
- Business Administration



- Content Writing
- Marketing and Sales

Upon successful completion of training, participants are offered full-time roles at Zoho Corporation based on their performance.

Eligibility Criteria

Zoho Academy welcomes:

- Students who have completed Class 12 or Diploma (no mandatory college degree required).
- Candidates aged 17–20 years who are eager to learn and explore tech or business careers.
- Those with strong communication skills, curiosity, and problem-solving ability.

No entrance exam or coding degree is required — selection is based on aptitude tests and personal interviews.

Admission Process: Step-by-Step

Visit the Official Website: <https://www.zohoschools.com/zestober>

1. Choose a Stream:
Select from one of the specialized schools:
 - o Zoho School of Technology
 - o Zoho School of Design
 - o Zoho School of Business
2. Submit the Application Form:
Fill in your details, including academic background, interests, and

contact information.

3. Take the Online Test:

Shortlisted candidates are invited to take an aptitude or creative test (depending on the chosen stream).

4. Attend the Interview:

Those who qualify are called for a personal interview (online or in-person at Zoho’s Chennai campus).

5. Start the Training:

Selected candidates join the academy as paid trainees — Zoho offers a monthly stipend during training, along with free learning materials.

Duration & Benefits

- Training Duration: 12 to 18 months
- Monthly Stipend: Rs 10,000 – Rs 15,000 (approx.)
- Employment Opportunity: Successful trainees are absorbed into full-time roles at Zoho Corporation.

The program emphasizes practical learning over rote academics, with students working on real-world projects alongside Zoho’s development teams.

Why Choose Zoho Academy?

- No tuition fees — the training is completely free.
- Opportunity to earn while learning.
- Direct path to a career at Zoho Corporation.
- Curriculum focuses on real-world problem-solving, design thinking, and communication.

A Zoho spokesperson said, “We believe talent can come from anywhere — not just from elite colleges. Zoho Schools is our way of empowering young minds with practical skills and confidence.”

Key Takeaways

- No college degree needed — only curiosity, logic, and dedication.
- Application mode: Online via <https://www.zohoschools.com>.



FOX NUTS & DIABETES

Makhanas or fox nuts or lotus seeds, are widely known for their anti-diabetic effects. They help improve glucose levels and control cholesterol levels in the body. Fox nuts also have radical scavenging activity that prevents the risk of diabetes complications. This aquatic cash crop seeds are mainly found in the Northern part of India. Though it has high nutritional value, its importance is often ignored. In the treatment and management of diabetes, the benefits of fox nuts are, however, reported in

many studies. In this article, we will discuss the association between fox nuts and diabetes. Take a look.

Antioxidants in fox nuts (Makhanas)

■The primary reason for the anti-diabetic effect of makhanas is the presence of antioxidants. Diabetes is mainly caused when the free radicals increase in number and cause beta-cell dysfunction of the pancreas.

■As insulin is synthesized and secreted by the beta-cells located in the pancreatic islets, damage to those

in the body and prevent any damage to the pancreas.

■Also, in diabetics, complications such as high cholesterol and heart diseases are common. The antioxidant properties of fox nuts help prevent these complications and assure the proper management of the condition.

Anti-fatigue effect of fox nuts

Fatigue is defined as a feeling of tiredness, lethargic and lack of energy. Though there are multiple causes of fatigue such as stress, workout, lack of sleep, boredom, overweight and medications, an increase in free radicals is also considered a main cause of fatigue.

Fatigue is one of the primary symptoms of diabetes. As in diabetes, insulin production is reduced or the body cells are unable to utilise insulin for the conversion of glucose into energy, diabetics get tired easily after a mild physical activity which may affect their day-to-day life.

In a study, it was found that phenolic compounds such as gallic acid in makhanas, may help alleviate fatigue by reducing the free radicals and by controlling the blood glucose levels.

Therefore, including makhanas as a part of the daily diet can help in the management of diabetes.



cells cause an obstruction in the secretion of insulin and lead to hyperglycemia or diabetes.

The presence of antioxidants such as catalase, superoxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase in makhanas assist in scavenging free radicals

GINGER AS A REMEDY

People everywhere are battling with excess body fat, particularly on their mid-rib, hips and thighs sections. This article has got the best answer for this issue. Ginger water is considered to be one of the best formulas to improve your well-being and also burn the excess fat from the hips, thighs and mid-rib regions. You can prepare ginger water in your own kitchen easily. This beverage will help detoxify your entire body and will help dissolve the fat from it. So, have a look at the ingredients

required, the method of preparation and other properties of the drink, which are as given out below.

Ingredients: Thin bits of ginger, 5 litres of water, Lemon.

Planning: Heat up the water, include the ginger cuts and cook the blend on low warmth for 15 minutes. Let the mixture cool for sometime. Later, strain the fluid and your ginger drink is ready.

Other properties of this drink:

It also battles the free radicals in the body. These need to be disposed

off, as they can cause harm to the cells. Further, due to the viable cell reinforcement and calming properties, ginger water can keep the advancement of growth of cancer-causing cells controlled rapidly.

• Drinking ginger water all the time will help to ease swelling, joint uneasiness and aggravation that are brought about by osteoarthritis and other ailments. A recent study has also shown that ginger is an incredible calming agent that can diminish the swelling in all aspects of the



body.

This drink also has several other benefits. It mainly helps in managing cholesterol. Drinking ginger water will help in diminishing the cholesterol levels. It will also diminish the circulatory

strain and thins your blood.

Drinking a glass of ginger water every day will also help in strengthening the digestive system and prevent indigestion, nausea and heartburn. This drink also reduces the risk of kidney damage and even lowers the effects of diabetes. This root is a rich source of zinc that plays a role in the secretion of insulin.

BENEFITS OF APRICOTS

Apricots are often overlooked in the fruit aisle, yet these small, velvety stone fruits are nutritional powerhouses. Whether you enjoy them fresh during their brief summer season or dried throughout the year, apricots offer a concentrated dose of vitamins and antioxidants that support everything from your vision to your gut health.

A vision-boosting superfood

Apricots are exceptionally high in Vitamin A and betacarotene, the pigment responsible for their orange hue.

Retinal health:

They contain lutein and zeaxanthin, antioxidants that act as “natural sunglasses” for your eyes, filtering harmful blue light and protecting the retina.

Age-related protection:

Regular consumption is linked to a lower risk of cataracts and age-re-

lated macular degeneration (AMD).

The ultimate “Glow” fruit for skin

If you want radiant skin, look no further. Apricots provide a dual-action approach to skincare from the inside out:

Collagen production: The high Vitamin C content is essential for building collagen, which keeps your skin firm and bouncy.

Environmental shield: Vitamins C and E work together to neutralize free radicals caused by UV rays and pollution, helping to prevent premature wrinkles and sun damage. Digestive harmony and gut health

Apricots are an excellent source of both soluble and insoluble fiber.

Regularity: The insoluble fiber adds bulk to your stool, preventing constipation and ensuring smooth transit.

Prebiotic effect: The soluble fiber feeds the beneficial bacteria in

your gut microbiome, which is crucial for a strong immune system and mental clarity.

Natural laxative: Like prunes, apricots contain sorbitol, a sugar alcohol that can help ease digestion naturally.

Heart and blood pressure support

The combination of fiber and potassium makes apricots a heart-healthy choice:

Blood pressure regulation:

Potassium is an electrolyte that counteracts the effects of sodium, helping to relax blood vessels and lower blood pressure.

Cholesterol management: The soluble fiber binds to bile acids in the gut, helping to lower “bad” LDL cholesterol levels.

Quick pointers for your daily routine Don’t peel them: The skin contains the highest concentration of fiber and antioxidants.

Pair with fat: Since Vitamin A and E are fat-soluble, eating apricots with a few almonds or a dollop of Greek yogurt helps your body absorb the nutrients better.

Watch for sulfites: When buying dried apricots, the bright orange ones usually contain sulfur dioxide as a preservative. If you have sensitivities, look for organic, brown-colored dried apricots—they are unsulfured.

Portion control: For dried apricots, stick to a serving of about 3-4 pieces to keep sugar intake in check.



Relieve symptoms of asthma & tuberculosis

Helps in formation of blood

Maintains electrolyte balance

Good for bones

Improves digestion

THE RAT RACE & MANUFACTURED POVERTY

You wake up at 6:00 a.m. to get to work by 8:00 a.m. You work 8 hours a day to pay bills that arrive every month. On the weekend, you recover energy to repeat everything on Monday. This routine will last 40 years until you retire and then you die. This is literally the life of 90% of the people on the planet. But here is the brutal truth that no one tells you. This prison did not start with your first job. It started on the first day of school. The educational system was not created to free you. It was designed to domesticate you.

While your parents believed they were giving you opportunities, you were being processed in a factory of conformity. And we will dissect here exactly how this happens. From the first school desk to the last working day of your life, every morning millions of children enter buildings called schools believing they will learn about the world. In fact, they are being processed in a factory of conformity. What we call education is in reality a system of behavioral conditioning so efficient that we don't even realize we are being moulded.

Observe the structure. Children sitting in rows, all looking in the same direction, receiving the same

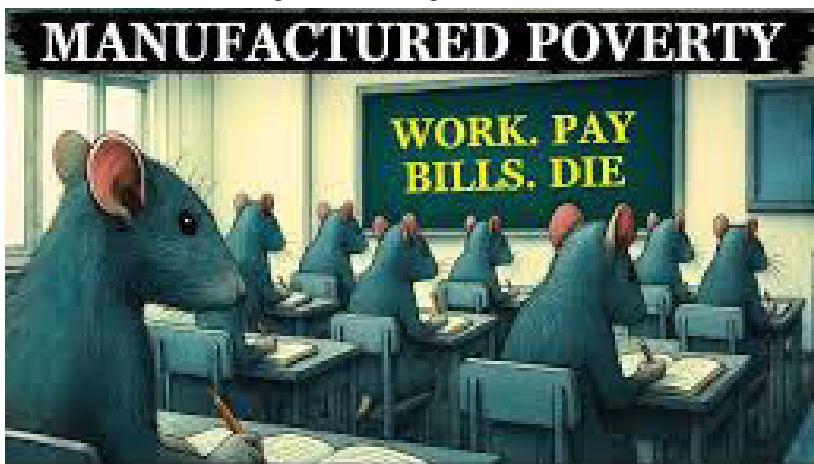
information, at the same pace evaluated by the same criteria. This is not teaching. It's mass domestication. Nietzsche has already warned 'what does not kill me makes me stronger'. But the school system does exactly the opposite. It does not kill you physically, but it annihilates your ability to question, to think for yourself, to be truly free. The process is subtle and systematic. From the earliest years, the child learns that there is a right answer to every question and that answer has already been decided by someone else. They don't need to discover. They need to memorize. They don't need to create. They need to copy. They don't need to question. They need to accept each lesson is a small dose of intellectual subordination. The teachers, most of the time without realizing it, become agents of this machine. They themselves have been conditioned by the same system and now reproduce the pattern. They reward obedience and punish originality.

They value those who deliver exactly what was asked and punish those who dare to think differently. The classroom becomes a behavior laboratory where the reward goes to whoever best imitates the expected pattern. And it works. It works so

well that little by little the child stops asking inconvenient questions. They stop questioning why they need to be there. Why they need to memorize information that they will forget in a few months. Why their natural curiosity is considered indiscipline. They learn the first and most important lesson of the system. Their function is not to think, it is to obey. Adults who expect someone to tell them what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. Adults who look for jobs where they receive clear orders, defined goals and regular evaluations. Just like in school, the transition is perfect because it is not a transition at all. It is continuity. The conditioning is so deep that most don't even realize they are living, reproducing the same patterns learned between the ages of 6 and 18. math, English, history, science.

The school curriculum seems innocent until you realize what is really being taught through these subjects. It's not just content being transmitted, but a specific way of seeing and relating to the world, the perspective of the subordinate. In mathematics, you learn that there is only one correct answer to each problem. And that answer has already been defined by a higher authority. $2 + 2$ is four. And there is no room for interpretation, creativity, or questioning.

This programs your mind to accept that in life there is also always only one right way to do things, the way the system approves. You don't learn to think mathematically. You learn to reproduce operations. In English or any language, you don't learn to express yourself authentically. You learn to follow strict grammatical rules to write essays with a predefined structure to interpret texts in the correct way that is the



way the teacher expects. Your individual voice is gradually suppressed in favor of an acceptable standard of communication. Language which should be a tool for liberation becomes an instrument of standardization. The history they teach you is the history of the victors told from a perspective that justifies the current status quo. You learn about great leaders, important dates and official events, but never about how systems of power are maintained, how resistance is suppressed, or how alternatives to the current model have been silenced.

History becomes propaganda disguised as knowledge. More important than any specific content is the hierarchical structure that permeates all disciplines. The teacher holds the knowledge and you must passively receive it. Questioning authority is insubordination. Thinking outside the box is a mistake. Schopenhauer observed that all truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed, then violently opposed and finally accepted as self-evident. But the school system ensures that you never even reach the first stage. The hidden curriculum is even more powerful than the official one.

You learn to compete with your peers for limited resources, grades, teacher approval, recognition. You learn that your value is determined by external metrics. You learn that there are naturally superior people, teachers, principals, authorities, and that your role is to serve them. These lessons are not in any book, but they are the most lasting. Subjects like philosophy, art and critical thinking, when they exist, are treated as secondary, less important than math and languages. The message is clear. Thinking deeply about life, questioning foundations and expressing yourself creatively have no real value in the adult world. The system is already preparing you to accept jobs where these capabili-

ties will be not only unnecessary but undesirable. The first time a child receives a grade, something fundamental changes in their relationship with learning and with themselves. Until that moment, they learned out of natural curiosity, for pleasure, for discovery. From the first evaluation, they learn that knowledge has no intrinsic value.

It only has exchange value. Grades become the first currency of life. Good grades mean approval, parental love, social recognition. Bad grades mean disappointment, punishment, shame. The child quickly understands that their value as a person is directly linked to these numbers on a piece of paper. Their self-esteem becomes dependent on external validation, a pattern they will carry for the rest of their adult life. This is the first lesson of the rat race.

You are worth what you produce, measured by external criteria established by others. It doesn't matter if you really understood the content, or if you developed critical thinking, or if you grew as a person. Only the metric that the system has defined as relevant, matters. Learning ceases to be a journey and becomes a product. Prizes and medals amplify this dynamic. The student of the month, the honor role, the competitions between classes, all of this teaches that life is a constant competition where few win and many lose, and that winning

means pleasing those in power. Following the rules perfectly, being better than your peers in criteria that you did not choose, collaboration becomes a threat. The other becomes a competitor. Observe the language used, performance, ranking, classification, achievement, goal. These are the same terms that you will later find in the corporate world. School is literally training your mind to think in terms of productivity, competition, and external evaluation. You are being conditioned for the race before you even know it exists.

The pressure for results creates chronic anxiety. Children develop a fear of making mistakes, a fear of disappointing, a fear of not doing enough. This fear becomes the fuel that will drive their entire adult life. Fear of losing their job, fear of not paying the bills, fear of not meeting expectations. The system planted this anxiety in you when you were 8 years old and you will carry it until you die. The most perverse thing is that this system disguises itself as meritocracy. They sell you the idea that whoever works harder gets better results.

But what is really being measured is not intelligence, creativity or potential. It is the ability to subordinate and conform to established standards. The best student is rarely the most intelligent. They are the most obedient. Every child is born an



artist, a philosopher, and a scientist. They question everything, constantly experiment, create unusual solutions to simple problems. In a few years of school, this natural curiosity is systematically extinguished and replaced by intellectual conformity.

The process is so efficient that parents themselves celebrate when the child is finally behaving. The process started subtly. The teacher asks for a drawing of the family and corrects the boy who painted his father blue, people are not blue, dear. The girl who writes a story where animals talk is instructed to be more realistic. The boy who questions why he needs to memorize the multiplication table instead of understanding the mathematical patterns is reprimanded for disrupting the class.

Each intervention seems small, but the cumulative effect is devastating. Each correction, each that's not quite right, each do it like everyone else, is a small death of originality. The child quickly learns that thinking differently brings problems, that being creative is inconvenient, that questioning is disrespectful. Their imagination, which should be cultivated as the greatest human treasure, is treated as a defect to be corrected. The system has sophisticated tools for this. Standardized activities ensure that everyone reaches the same result by the same path.

Templates for school assignments eliminate any possibility of individual expression. Multiple/choice tests reduce complex thinking to a choice between predefined alternatives. Creativity is literally trained out of the child. Bonhofer, the film, warned about stupidity as a sociological phenomenon. Stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice. It is possible to protest against evil. Against stupidity, we are defenseless. The school system produces exactly that.

Not malicious people, but people incapable of thinking critically, of

questioning structures, of imagining alternatives. Systematic stupidity disguised as education. Creativity becomes something reserved for art classes, a compartment separate from serious life, as if the ability to create, innovate, and see beyond the obvious were not fundamental in all areas of human existence. This prepares the child to accept jobs where their function is to perform repetitive tasks without questioning their purpose or seeking better ways to do them.

The most creative teachers are often the most frustrated in the system. They see the potential being wasted but are pressured by rigid curricular passing goals and a bureaucracy that punishes those who dare to be different. They end up becoming reluctant accomplices to a process that goes against their deepest pedagogical instincts. The system destroys both students and educators. The end result, adults who cannot imagine alternatives to the life they lead, who accept unsatisfactory jobs because that's how things work, who do not question social structures because they have lost the ability to see different possibilities.

Creativity killed in school is missed throughout adult life. School sells the most dangerous narrative of all, the idea that success is a direct result of individual effort and failure is a result of the lack thereof. This lie not only justifies existing inequalities but programs future victims of the system to accept their own exploitation. It is the psychological preparation for a life of guilt and resignation.

If you try hard, you can achieve anything. This phrase repeated endlessly by well-intentioned teachers is one of the greatest psychological violences committed against children. It completely ignores differences in social class, family resources, cultural capital and available opportunities. It's like saying that in a race where some start 500 m ahead, the

difference is only an effort. A child who arrives at school without having had breakfast does not have the same ability to concentrate as another who comes from a structured family.

A student whose parents cannot read does not receive the same support at home as another whose parents are university graduates. But the system treats everyone as if they were starting from the same starting line. Structural inequality is masked as a difference in personal effort. The best schools are concentrated in wealthy neighborhoods. The best teachers gravitate towards institutions that offer better conditions. Technological resources and quality libraries are the privilege of a few.

But when a student from the periphery can't keep up, it's their fault. They didn't try hard enough. The system was designed to produce this result and then blame the victim for it. This perverse logic extends to adult life. When someone can't get a good job, it's their inadequate training that's to blame. When they can't pay the bills, it's because they didn't qualify enough. When they live stressed in the rat race, it's because they didn't make the right choices.

The system creates the problems and then sells the solution. More education, more qualification, more individual effort. The system creates a hierarchy based on apparent merit, but sustained by real privileges. The best students are often those with better conditions, not necessarily the most intelligent or hardworking. But this hierarchy becomes the basis for all future social organization. The rich kid who got good grades becomes the executive who exploits the poor kid who had bad grades. Even more cruel, when a few manage to win despite the disadvantages, they are used as an example to prove that the system works.

He made it. Why can't you? These exceptional cases do not prove that the system is fair. They prove

exactly the opposite, showing how extraordinary it is necessary to overcome structural barriers. The exception is used to justify the rule. School meritocracy prepares the mind to accept corporate meritocracy, where your salary supposedly reflects your worth, where your hierarchical position is deserved and where questioning these structures is seen as resentment from those who failed to win.

The system teaches you to be your own jailer, internalizing the blame for your failure in a game that was rigged from the start. The transition from school to work is so smooth that it goes unnoticed. It's not a life change. It's the natural continuation of a conditioning that started at age six. The structures are identical just with different names. The educational system is literally a training ground for corporate life. The school desk becomes an office desk.

The bell that controlled your time at school becomes the electronic clock that monitors your workday.

From the Rat Race to Financial Freedom

A Common Man's Journey...

3RD Edition



The report card becomes the performance evaluation. The daily roll call becomes attendance control. The school uniform becomes the corporate dress code. The 15-minute recess becomes the coffee break. The architecture is the same. Control, hierarchy, and standardization. More importantly, the mindset remains exactly the same. You expect someone to tell you what to do, how to do it and when to do it. You seek approval from authority figures. You compete with colleagues for limited resources, promotions, raises and recognition. You measure your worth by external metrics defined by others. Your mind has been shaped to function perfectly in this environment. The boss replaces the teacher as a source of validation and punishment. Corporate goals replace grades as a measure of success. The fear of being held back, fired, replaces the fear of repeating the year. The hierarchical structure remains intact. There is always someone above dictating rules and someone below to obey them. You spent 12 years training for this. School taught you to trade time for approval. Work teaches you to trade time for money. School conditioned you to accept repetitive and meaningless tasks. Work offers exactly that. School trained you not to question authority. The corporate environment severely punishes those who dare to challenge the hierarchy. The preparation was perfect. Even the language is identical, reports, deadlines, performance, feedback, goals, the same terms you heard in school.

The difference is that now instead of failing, you get fired. Instead of low grades, you have low pay. Instead of detention, you have a meeting with HR. The system has become more sophisticated, but the essence has remained. The cycle closes when you, exhausted from the race, start dreaming of retirement, which is nothing more than the promise of finally being freed from the prison you helped build. But then you will discover that you have spent your whole life preparing to live, and now you no longer remember how to do it.

Schopenhauer observed that life oscillates between boredom and suffering. The system ensures you have both in abundance. The brutal truth is that most people live lives they didn't choose in jobs they don't like, buying things they don't need with money they don't have, to impress people they don't even know and it all started on the first day of school when they accepted that their role in life was to obey, compete and produce to sustain a system that consumes them. The conditioning was so successful that the victim themselves defends the system that enslaves them. And most tragically of all, they make a point of putting their children in the same system, perpetuating the cycle because they have been conditioned to believe that this is the only way to give opportunities to the children. The system perpetuates itself through its own victims who have become its most fervent defenders. Before we say goodbye, can you see now how your own education has shaped the life you are living today?

... from pg 27 **11 year old fastest ...**

in Class II. He quickly progressed from a typical child's fascination to a deeper drive fuelled by challenges.

During a summer vacation in Bengaluru, Eeshan received a basic drone as a gift from his uncle. After multiple attempts to fly it and a failed repair request for the damaged

drone, Eeshan's determination sparked. This was the moment he decided to build his own drone from scratch, he said.

Encouraged by his father, Eeshan began gathering drone parts and soon set his sights on creating a high-performance freestyle drone rather than a basic one. Through

diligent research online, he sourced top-quality parts at competitive prices.

Beyond building drones, Eeshan dreams of sharing his talent with rural govt school students by conducting demos and workshops. He aspires to design drones that can assist the Indian Army in surveillance and enemy detection.

THE PARTITION OF INDIA

PAKISTAN AND THE MALAISE

NATIONAL FRUSTRATION



Dr. B R Ambedkar

EXAMINED BY MAJOR ORMSBY-GORE.

Q. 3806. - You appear on behalf of the Moslem League-that is, on behalf of the only widely extended Mohammedan organisation in India? - Yes.

Q. 3807. - I was very much struck by the fact that neither in your answers to the questions nor in your opening speech this morning did you make any reference to the special interest of the Mohammedans in India: is that because you did not wish to say anything? - No, but because I take it the Southborough Committee have accepted that, and I left it to the members of the Committee to put any questions they wanted to. I took a very prominent part in the settlement of Lucknow. I was representing the Mussalmans on that occasion.

Q. 3809. - On behalf of the All-India Moslem League, you ask this Committee to reject the proposal of the Government of India? - I am authorised to say that - to ask you to reject the proposal of the Government of India with regard to Bengal [i.e. to give the Bengal Muslims more representation than was given them by the Lucknow Pact].

Q. 3810. - You said you spoke from the point of view of India. You speak really as an Indian Nationalist? - I do.

Q. 3811. - Holding that view, do you contemplate the early disappearance of separate communal representation of the Mohammedan community? - I think so.

Q. 3812. - That is to say, at the earliest possible moment you wish to do away in political life with any distinction between Moham-

medans and Hindus? - Yes. Nothing will please more than when that day comes.

Q. 3813. - You do not think it is true to say that the Mohammedans of India have many special political interests not merely in India but outside India, which they are always particularly anxious to press as a distinct Mohammedan community? - There are two things. In India the Mohammedans have very few things really which you can call matters of special interest for them - I mean secular things.

Q. 3814. - I am only referring to them, of course? - And therefore that is why I really hope and expect that the day is not very far distant when these separate electorates will disappear.

Q. 3815. - It is true, at the same time, that the Mohammedans in India take a special interest in the foreign policy of the Government of India? - They do: a very. - No, because what you propose to do is to frame very keen interest and the large majority of them hold very strong sentiments and very strong views.

Q. 3816. - Is that one of the reasons why you, speaking on behalf of the Mohammedan community, are so anxious to get the Government of India more responsible to an electorate? - No.

Q. 3817. - Do you think it is possible, consistently with remaining in the British Empire, for India to have one foreign policy and for His Majesty, as advised by his Ministers in London, to have another? - Let me make it clear. It is not a question of foreign policy at all. What the Moslems of India feel is that it is a very difficult position

for them. Spiritually, the Sultan or the Khalif is their head.

Q. 3818. Of one community? - Of the Sunni sect, but that is the largest; it is in an overwhelming majority all over India. The Khalif is the only rightful custodian of the Holy Places according to our view, and nobody else has a right. What the Moslems feel very keenly is this, that the Holy Places should not be severed from the Ottoman Empire - that they should remain with the Ottoman Empire under the Sultan.

Q. 3819. - I do not want to get away from the Reform Bill on to foreign policy. - I say it has nothing to do with foreign policy. Your point is whether in India the Moslems will adopt a certain attitude with regard to foreign policy in matters concerning Moslems all over the world.

Q. 3820. - My point is, are they seeking for some control over the Central Government in order to impress their views on foreign policy on the Government of India? - No.

EXAMINED BY MR. BENNETT

Q. 3853.-..... Would it not be an advantage in the case of an occurrence of that kind [i.e. a 'communal riot] if the maintenance of law and order were left with the executive side of the Government? - I do not think so, if you ask me, but I do not want to go into unpleasant matters, as you say.

Q. 3854. - It is with no desire to bring up old troubles that I ask the question; I would like to forget them? - If you ask me, very often these riots are based on some misunderstanding, and it is because the police have taken one side or the

other, and that has enraged one side or the other. I know very well that in the Indian States you hardly ever hear of any Hindu-Mohammedan riots, and I do not mind telling the Committee, without mentioning the name, that I happened to ask one of the ruling Princes, "How do you account for this?" and he told me, As soon as there is some trouble we have invariably traced it to the police, through the police taking one side or the other, and the only remedy we have found is that as soon as we come to know we move that police officer from that place, and there is an end of it."

Q. 3855. - That is a useful piece of information, but the fact remains that these riots have been inter-racial, Hindu on the one side and Mohammedan on the other. Would it be an advantage at a time like that the Minister, the representative of one community or the other, should be in charge of the maintenance of law and order? - Certainly.

Q. 3856. - It would? If I thought otherwise I should be casting a reflection on myself. If I was the Minister, I would make bold to say that nothing would weigh with me except justice, and what is right.

Q. 3857. - I can understand that you would do more than justice to the other side; but even then, there is what might be called the subjective side. It is not only that there is impartiality. but there is the view which may be entertained by the public, who may harbour some feeling of suspicion? - With regard to one section or the other, you mean they would feel that an injustice was done to them, or that justice would not be done?

Q. 3858. Yes: that is quite apart from the objective part of it? - My answer is this: That these difficulties are fast disappearing. Even recently, in the whole district of Thana, Bombay, every officer was

an Indian officer from top to bottom, and I do not think there was a single Mohammedan-they were all Hindus and I never heard any complaint. Recently that has been so. I quite agree with you that ten years ago there was that feeling what you are now suggesting to me, but it is fast disappearing.

EXAMINED BY LORD ISLINGTON

Q. 3892 - You said just NOW about the communal representation, I think in answer to Major Ormsby-Gore, that you hope in a very few years you would be able to extinguish communal representation, which was at present proposed to be established and is established in order that Mohammedans may have their representation with Hindus. You said you desired to see that. How soon do you think that happy state of affairs is likely to be realized? - I can only give you certain facts: I cannot say anything more than that: I can give you this, which will give you some idea: that in 1913, at the All-India Moslem League sessions at Agra, we put this matter to the test whether separate electorates should be insisted upon or not by the Mussalmans, and we got a division, and that division is based upon Provinces; only a certain number of votes represent each Province, and the division came to 40 in favour of doing away with the separate electorate, and 80 odd- I do not remember the exact number were for keeping the separate electorate. That was in 1913. Since then I have had many opportunities of discussing this matter with various Mussalman leaders; and they are changing their angle of vision with regard to this matter. I cannot give you the period, but I think it cannot last very long. Perhaps the next inquiry may hear something about it.

O. 3893. You think at the next

inquiry the Mahommedans will ask to be absorbed into the whole? - Yes, I think the next inquiry will probably bear something about it.

Although Mr. Jinnah appeared as a witness on behalf of the Muslim League, he did not allow his membership of the League to come in the way of his loyalty to other political organizations in the country. Besides being a member of the Muslim League, Mr. Jinnah was a member of the Home Rule League and also of the Congress. As he said in his evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, he was a member of all three bodies although he openly disagreed with the Congress, with the Muslim League and that there were some views which the Home Rule League held which he did not share. That he was an independent but a nationalist is shown by his relationship with the Khilafatist Musalmans. In 1920 the Musalmans organized the Khilafat Conference. It became so powerful organization that the Muslim League went under and lived in a state of suspended animation till 1924. During these years no Muslim leader could speak to the Muslim masses from a Muslim platform unless he was a member of the Khilafat Conference. That was the only platform for Muslims to meet Muslims. Even then Mr. Jinnah refused to join the Khilafat Conference. This was no doubt due to the fact that then he was only a statutory Musalman with none of the religious fire of the orthodox which he now says is burning within him. But the real reason why he did not join the Khilafat was because he was opposed to the Indian Musalmans engaging themselves in extra-territorial affairs relating to Muslims outside India.

to be contd...

OSAAT completes projects to upgrade govt schools in DK



Mangaluru: Non-profit organization OSAAT (One School at a Time) has rolled out two major infrastructure projects to upgrade govt schools in Dakshina Kannada. On 30th, Nov the organisation held a groundbreaking ceremony to construct three large classrooms, two regular classrooms, a girls' toilet block, and a pink room at Govt Junior College (high school section) in Venur, Belthangady, benefiting over 563 students. The project is expected to cost approximately Rs 1.5 crore.

Earlier in the month, OSAAT unveiled a new school building worth Rs 1 crore at Govt PU College in

Sullia, supporting 638 students and 18 teachers. The projects aim to create safer, modern learning spaces and strengthen academic and holistic development in rural govt schools. Giving the details, Balakrishna Rao, one of the members of the NGO, said that on Sunday, OSAAT launched its 127th school project with a groundbreaking ceremony. It will construct three large classrooms, two regular classrooms, a girls' toilet block, and a pink room at Govt Junior College (high school section) at Venur. He said the school's teachers, headmaster, and the SDMC president are active and have shown great interest in developing the school, adding they maintain good control, and the teaching quality is commendable.

OSAAT has raised the required

funds for this project from its donors, Vijaya and Vasantharam Somayaji, USA, and an anonymous donor also from USA. The organisation plans to start the construction with the groundbreaking ceremony and expects to complete the construction in 10 months.

Explaining the Sullia project, he said that it is OSAAT's 115th school building. Sandhya and Guru Pangal, USA, and Nirmala Jay Pullur, Bengaluru, donated it. Construction of new classrooms at the school began on Nov 20, 2024. The project was completed on Nov 11, 2025, at a cost of Rs 1 crore.

"The project aimed at ensuring a safe and functional environment, allowing the school to focus on academic excellence and holistic student development. With 638 students and 18 teachers, this addition will significantly support the school's growth," he said. So far, OSAAT has taken up four projects in Dakshina Kannada.

Decided in 2018, MCC fails to provide homes to homeless

Mangaluru: In 2018, the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) council adopted a resolution to allot sites to over 30 homeless Koraga families at Vamanjoor in Kudupu village. However, no action has yet been taken to allot the sites.

The Karnataka Adivasi Hakkugala Samanvaya Samiti Vamanjoor Unit has been urging the city corporation and people's representatives to sanction sites to Koraga families.

Samiti state coordinator Krishnappa Konchady said that officials have been citing technical issues, including clearance from

the environment and forest department, for the delay.

"The process of bidding to build houses, which began recently, was not completed due to the issues. The resolution envisioned assigning plots and constructing permanent houses for the 33 Koraga community families. In the Kudupu village, the 9.8 acres donated in 1930 by Venkoji Rao, a disciple of social reformer Kudmul Ranga Rao, for the development of the Koraga community, has not been distributed even after 95 years," he said.

Rs 2.7 crore project approved by Muda



A Rs 2.7 crore project to develop basic facilities, including roads and drainage, has been approved by the Mangaluru Urban Development Authority (Muda). Though the work began about nine months ago, it has not been completed yet. The govt sanctioned Rs 4 lakh to construct houses, and the families will have

YEH MERA INDIA

to arrange the remaining funds. Families are in dire situations as the cost of all construction materials, including laterite stones and sand, has increased drastically, he said.

Kariya K, the president of the samiti Vamanjoor unit, said that

for the past eight years, families have been continuously fighting for their rights.

“We have shared our grievances with the representatives, but there are no representatives left in this district who are willing to listen to us,” he said.

Samiti staged a protest a week ago.

The samiti held a protest condemning the delay in front of the MCC office a week ago.

An official from the MCC said that the city corporation has been taking steps to expedite the project.

Palliative care

New Delhi: A new study warns that thousands of patients across north India -including Delhi - continue to endure avoidable pain simply because palliative care is widely misunderstood, underused and poorly integrated into routine healthcare. Yet the same study also offers rare, encouraging proof that the crisis can be reversed quickly if doctors and nurses receive structured training and consistent institutional support.

For millions of Indians living with cancer, organ failure, dementia or chronic pain, palliative care is what helps them breathe easier, sleep better and live with dignity. But the need far outweighs availability. India sees an estimated 7-10 million people requiring palliative care every year yet fewer than 4% receive it. In north India and the NCR, the gap is even wider, with most referrals coming very late.

A major reason, according to

researchers, is the widespread belief that palliative care is only for the final days of life. This misunderstanding delays access to support that could ease suffering far earlier. A recent meta-analysis estimated India's palliative-care need at 6.2 per 1,000 population, underscoring the scale of unmet demand.

The new multicentre study, led by AIIMS Delhi, evaluated a three-phase palliative-care capacity-building programme run across north India from 2023 to 2025. The objective was to strengthen provider skills and expand access in a region where 12% of older adults require palliative care.

Across nine centres of excellence and 90 district hospitals - including Delhi, Jammu, Srinagar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Udaipur-doctors and nurses were trained in pain relief, symptom management and communication. Hospitals reported smoother workflows, better documentation and more confident providers, translating into faster relief for patients.

The project brought together AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Rishikesh, AIMS Nagpur, NCI-Jhajjar, the Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, medical colleges in Jodhpur,

Udaipur, Ludhiana, Varanasi and Chandigarh, as well as govt hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, and specialists at Apollo Hospitals in Delhi demonstrating that a unified training model can work across varied settings.

But the study also flags risks. Knowledge levels dipped during follow-up, showing that skills fade without reinforcement. Some hospitals also struggled with data recording, limiting insights into who is receiving palliative care and why.

Principal investigator of the project, Dr Sushma Bhatnagar, former chief of IRCH and head of Palliative Medicine at AIIMS, said continued follow-up and on-ground support are essential to sustaining progress. “In the next phase, we aim to integrate palliative care in a structured manner within emergency departments so that district-level doctors can manage pain and symptoms locally,” she said. “This will reduce unnecessary referrals and allow patients to receive comfort and dignity at homes, close to their families, rather than spending their final days in ICUs,” she added. Published in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, the study offers a clear message: training can transform palliative care, but only strong systems can sustain it.



Young woman ‘marries’ dead body

A 21-year-old woman showed how deeply she was in love with her boyfriend, who was allegedly killed by her father and two

siblings, by “marrying” his corpse in Maharashtra's Nanded district.

Videos of Aanchal Mamidwar's act at the deceased's home and her

call for her kin to be hanged for the killing went viral on social media.

According to police, her boyfriend Saksham Tate (20) was



Maharashtra:
Woman performs ritual 'marriage' with partner's body after family allegedly kills him over caste

standing with his friends in the old Ganj area an evening when a fight erupted between him and Aanchal's brother Himesh Mamidwar.

Himesh allegedly fired at Saksham, the bullet piercing his ribs, and then smashed a tile on his head, killing him on the spot, the official said. Himesh, his brother Sahil (25) and their father Gajanan Mamidwar (45) were arrested soon after, he added.

On the next evening, Aanchal arrived at Saksham's house while preparations were on for his final rites. A distraught Aanchal then "married" his body claiming it would make their love "immortal", eye-witnesses said.

Later, speaking to reporters,

she also sought capital punishment for her father and brothers for murdering Saksham.

"I was in love with Saksham for the past three years but my father opposed our relationship over caste differences. My family often threatened to kill Saksham and now my father and brothers Himesh and Sahil have done it. I want justice. I want the accused to be hanged," Aanchal said.

She also told reporters that she planned to stay in Saksham's house from here on.

Caste bias bane of our universities

Belagavi: Sujata Pol, a PhD scholar who attempted suicide after she was allegedly denied her degree during the convocation of Rani Channamma University (RCU), has decided to take her grievance to Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot.

Sujata, who had consumed sleeping pills, is under-going treatment at the Chikodi govt hospital and has been said to be out of danger.

Speaking to the media, the 34-year-old levelled serious allegations of caste-based discrimination against her by vice-chancellor Prof CM Thyagaraja and registrar Santosh Kamagouda.

"The VC and registrar have been targeting me ever since I filed

harassment charges against my PhD guide, KLN Murthy. Despite my complaint, they continued to shield him. Action was taken only after the issue was raised before the syndicate, which suspended the guide. But now, the same officials are targeting me," she alleged.

She claimed she was "deliberately" denied her PhD certificate during the convocation despite the governor having approved it. Responding to Sujata's allegations, the university said her PhD degree was with-held because the inquiry into her earlier complaint against her research guide was still pending. The university syndicate would take a final decision based on the explanations submitted by both

the parties, it added.

"I had worked for five years on my research. Yet, they shattered my dream. I am going to write to the governor and will wait for his response before deciding on my next step," Sujata said. She further said driven by the mental harassment inflicted on her by the VC and the registrar, she had decided to end her life, but managed to survive.

"Even now, I am not at peace. If anything happens to me, the vice-chancellor and registrar will be responsible," she said.



11 year old fastest in building drone

Mangaluru: A Class VI student at DPS MRPL Mangaluru, Eeshan Vikram Palthady, 11, achieved



a record for the 'Fastest to Build a Freestyle FPV Drone (Teenager),' building a fully equipped

drone with GPS, camera, and FPV goggles in just one hour.

On Sept 8, Eeshan's accomplishment was officially recognised, and later, on Sept 19, the International Book of Records honoured him with the title of 'Super Talented Kid' and the distinguished recognition 'One in a Million.' Eeshan is the son of Vikram Palthady, an employee at MRPL, and Sushma Palthady, and elder brother to Eevan.

According to his father, Eeshan's passion for machinery began early. He was famously known as the 'JCB boy' with a huge collection of toy JCBs since childhood. Unlike other children, Eeshan's curiosity was fuelled less by play and more by science and engineering. In Class I, he was exposed to drone technology, and with his grandmother's support, he received his first toy drone **to pg 22 ...**

Judiciary must evolve with changing times: Judges



Bengaluru: With cybercrimes surging in scale and complexity—from AI-generated deepfakes to cross-border fraud - judges said courts must rapidly evolve to meet challenges relating to impact-based jurisdiction, accountability of digital platforms, and stricter scrutiny of electronic evidence, as such cases increasingly dominate trial court dockets.

The concerns were flagged during a meet on cybercrimes and digital forensics as part of a conference on law and technology organised by National Judicial Academy in collaboration with Karnataka high court and Karnataka Judicial Academy. Giving an example of a young banker, Justice Aravind Kumar of Supreme Court said: “A bank manager was duped into transferring money after receiving a call and WhatsApp voice note that perfectly mimicked her regional manager. Later, it was discovered to be an AI-generated deep-fake created using just 18 seconds of public speech. This is not fiction; it is the new architecture of cybercrime.”

He added: “Courts are now called

upon to determine when an intermediary crosses the line from neutrality to active participation—a question that is deeply fact-sensitive and technologically nuanced - while also evaluating complex digital evidence such as hash values, metadata, and chain-of-custody records. We must avoid treating electronic evidence as either inherently unreliable or infallible merely because it is technological, and approach it with fairness, and informed scepticism.

Cybercrime will soon form a substantial part of every court’s docket, digital forensics will be the backbone of fact-finding, and intermediaries will stand at the heart of accountability,” he added.

Justice Rajiv Shakhder, former Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh high court, said. “Cyber-crime today operates entirely in the virtual world through computers, networks, and devices that, when misused, lead to serious criminal misconduct courts must deal with. Offences now range from counterfeiting and forgery to grave violations of personality rights, sexual exploitation, and venge pornography that frequently targets estranged couples.”

He added: “Deepfakes, which are altered or manipulated images, audio, or videos, are increasingly be-

ing cited as a defence, with accused persons claiming genuine footage is fake a phenomenon known as the ‘liar’s dividend’. Courts must, therefore, rely on forensic analysis of meta data, pixel consistency, and audio anomalies to separate manipulated content from authentic evidence. Judicial training is essential to deal with these challenges as trial courts are the first responders. Earlier we believed that seeing was believing; today, judges must learn to think before they believe.”

Rising graph of cybercrimes

The latest available data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is for 2023. It shows that cyber-crime cases rose 31.2% in 2023, reaching 86,420 cases as against 65,893 cases in 2022, with the cyber-crime rate increasing from 4.8% to 6.2% during the period.

Of all cybercrime cases registered in 2023, some 68.9% were related to fraud (59,526 cases), followed by sexual exploitation at 4.9% (4,199 cases) and extortion at 3.8% (3,326 cases).

Further, 44,327 offences were registered under the IT Act alone. Cybercrimes against children totalled 1,902 cases, of which 1,499 involved cyber pornography or publishing obscene sexual material depicting children, while 19,510 cases of cybercrimes against women were recorded during that year.

Naxalites surrender

Thirty-seven Naxalites, 27 of them collectively carrying a reward of Rs 65 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh’s Dantewada district, police said. The cadres, including 12 women, turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials here as part of the “Poona Margem” (from rehabilitation to social reintegration) initiative,

Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai said.

The key cadres among those who surrendered include Kumali alias Anita Mandavi, Geeta alias Lakshmi Madkam, Ranjan alias Soma Mandavi and Bhima alias Jahaj Kalmu. All of them carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh each, the official said. Inspired by the surrender and rehabilitation



policies of the Centre and the state govt, more than 2,200 Naxalites have surrendered in Chhattisgarh in the past 23 months.

Paralysed engineer heads web firm

Mangaluru: A freak accident in 2012 left Aditya Kalluraya, now 35, paralysed from waist downwards. He was bedridden for three years. However, not the type to be cowed down by circumstances, this engineering student rebuilt his life from a scratch, honing his skills in software development.

Today, Kalluraya heads a 40-member team at The Web People, a website and app Development Company, proving that determination can outgrow even the harshest of obstacles.

Kalluraya had cleared the Air Force selection process barely a month before his accident - a dream once within reach, only to slip away forever. Yet, instead of being crushed by the life he might have had, he forged ahead, tightening his resolve for the life he would build. Speaking to media, he said that on May 19, 2012, a tree fell on him accidentally during road construction, crushing his bike and

grievously injuring him.

The accident left the electronics and communication engineering student with a severe spinal cord injury, resulting in paraplegia. For the next three years, he was completely bedridden.

“But I never wanted pity,” Kalluraya recalls. Confined to bed, he turned to self-learning.

With mobility severely restricted, Kalluraya taught himself software development and completed his engineering exams the following year.

However, back then, there

was no work-from-home option, making it difficult for him to secure a job.

Along with his classmate Sharath Shrinivas from Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology, Kalluraya co-founded The Web People, a digital transformation company based in Puttur.

Starting out of a rented house in 2017, the venture matured rapidly. Today, the company caters to clients across the globe with a full-fledged digital marketing and development team.

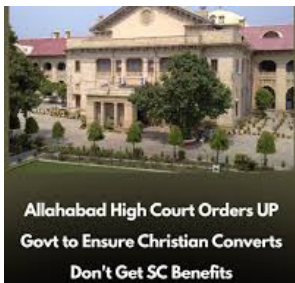
Despite his success, mobility continues to be a challenge.

“Accessibility is still a big issue. So, I have to often inform people in advance that I’m on a wheelchair. Visiting clients is still difficult,” Kalluraya said.

Looking back, Kalluraya says the accident took away his mobility, not his momentum, and he still has dreams to chase.



Scheduled caste benefits must end after conversion



Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has directed the UP govt to ensure that anyone who converts to Christianity automatically forfeits all Scheduled Caste benefits, failing which it would be construed as a “fraud on the Constitution and contrary to the ethos of reservation policies”. Justice Praveen Kumar Giri’s Nov 21 order cites Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, specifying that

nobody other than a Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist can be deemed a member of an SC community.

The court directed the principal secretary of the minorities welfare department to take appropriate steps to ensure that the distinction between minority and SC status was strictly enforced. The court said retention of SC status after conversion would amount to fraudulently claiming benefits since there is no caste system in Christianity. It fixed a timeline of four months for all district magistrates to act in accordance with the law to identify and prevent such occurrences.

Justice Giri passed the order while dismissing a plea filed by a man accused of “mocking Hindu deities” and promoting enmity.

The appellant, Jitendra Sahani, had petitioned the court to quash the charge sheet in the case on the ground that he had sought permission from the authorities to “preach the words of Jesus Christ on my land”.

Justice Giri noted that Sahani mentioned his religion as “Hindu” in his affidavit, although he had converted to Christianity. It transpired that the appellant was from the SC community before his conversion. A witness in the case alleged that Sahani ridiculed the Hindu faith by claiming it offered no respect due to caste hierarchies, whereas embracing Christianity would lead to “jobs, business growth and financial benefits from the missionaries”.

12 maoists dead in gunfight



A daylong gunfight in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region left at least 12 Maoists and three District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel dead. Another DRG constable was wounded but was said to be out of danger. The clash erupted around 9am in the forests of Gangaloor near Dantewada and intermittent firing continued through the day across West Bastar division during a joint operation involving DRG teams from Dantewada and Bijapur, state

police's STF, and CoBRA units of CRPF.

With the day's killings, the number of Maoists shot dead in security actions across Chhattisgarh this year rose to 268-239 in Bastar alone, 27 in Gariyaband under Raipur division, and two in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki in Durg. Union home minister Amit Shah has set a March 2026 deadline for eliminating the Maoist insurgency nationwide.

Bastar range IGP Sundarraj said 12 bodies were retrieved from the site. "Weapons like SLR rifles, .303 rifles and other arms and ammunition have been found," he said.

DRG lost head constable Monu

Vadadi and constables Dukaru Gonde and Ramesh Sori, while their wounded colleague Somdev Yadav has been admitted to hospital.

Forces continued combing the dense jungles along the Dantewada-Bijapur axis, where Maoist formations have long attempted to re-group. "Since the operation is still in progress, detailed information cannot be shared. Further details, including the identity and rank of the slain Maoists, will be confirmed after search and clearance," Sundarraj said. Bijapur SP Jitendra Yadav described the operation as a "decisive and aggressive action" and said the area had been fully cordoned off. Reinforcements were deployed to sweep for more Maoist insurgents.

Termination order set aside for 32,000 teachers



Kolkata: In a relief to 32,000 primary school teachers in West Bengal, a division bench of Calcutta high court

set aside a single bench order that annulled their appointments, and observed that "a group of unsuccessful candidates should not be allowed to damage the entire system". The bench also said it is not inclined to uphold the single bench order as irregularities have not been proven in all recruitments, and that termination of services cannot be based only on ongoing

criminal proceeding.

The appointments were challenged by a group of unsuccessful candidates who alleged recruitment fraud. The termination of employment after nine years would have a huge impact on teachers and their families, and innocent teachers would also "suffer great ignominy and stigma", the HC said.

CISF Cop shoots hungry minor



A 17-year-old slum dweller who gate-crashed a wedding ceremony in search of food was allegedly shot dead by a Central Industrial Security Force head constable in Delhi's Shahdara. According to police, the incident occurred during a wedding procession.

The accused is a CISF head constable, posted in UP's Kanpur

"He was traced and apprehended. A pistol suspected to have been used in the incident was seized from his possession", a police officer said

"We got to know that the victim came to eat food after he witnessed a function was going on. He was first stopped by locals. The CISF head constable was also there, and in a fit of rage, he shot him dead," he said.

When parents went to jail to give ganja to children

Mysuru: Three persons, including a couple, were arrested by Mandi police for allegedly trying to supply ganja inside the jail to their children. The parents are now cooling their heels in jail.

Police seized ganja in the form of paste that was packed in carbon paper and placed inside two pairs of jeans that were to be given to their children, who are in judicial custody at Mysuru Central Prison. The accused were charged under the provisions of the NDPS Act and The Prisons Act.

According to a release from the office of the Chief Superintendent of prisons, a woman identified as Roopa, wife of Umesh, visited the prison on Dec 12 to meet their son and undertrial, Akash, and to give him clothes. KSISF personnel, who were assigned for security and inspection at the prison entrance, examined the clothes brought for them. During inspection, they confiscated the banned items stuffed inside two pairs of jeans. A suspicious substance resembling a paste of marijuana, wrapped in carbon paper and stuffed in six plastic packets, was identified and seized.

Upon questioning, Roopa said Suresh M, son of C Madhu, had asked her to deliver these items inside the prison. Subsequently, Suresh was summoned to the entrance to the prison via a phone call. As the items are prohibited within the prison, they, along with Roopa, her husband, and Suresh, were handed over to Mandi police station.

Team formed to trace source of ganja

A team was formed to trace the source of the ganja, and other accused, if any, behind the incident. Earlier in Shivamogga, similar attempts were made thrice to smuggle ganja inside the jail by stuffing the substance inside the banana stem, waistbelt, and undergarment of an employee, but were caught by the alert prison guards.



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...from pg 34 lot of money from visiting Bedouin tribes. Mohammad said that there was only one God. This cut at the very roots of profits from these shrines. And what was even worse, Mohammad preached a strict morality to a licentious people. None of this was to make Mohammad popular in the city of his birth.

Under the circumstances, he had to leave Mecca when he was 53 years old in the year AD 623. His migration from Mecca to Medina is called Hijrat. It is from the year of the migration that the Islamic calendar begins.

Medina was originally known as Yathrib. The people of Yathrib had been impressed by Mohammad's teachings and invited him over. Mohammad's journey to Yathrib was an important turning point in history. Its citizens were so pleased and felt so honoured that they changed the name of the city to Medinat un Nabi-the City of the Prophet. It later came to be known as Medina.

In Mecca Mohammad was known only as a firebrand preacher. In Medina he became the ruler of a state. A small state, it is true, but a state nevertheless and Mohammad distinguished himself as an administrator and a law-giver.

In A.D. 630 Mohammad took Mecca without so much as a fight. The Prophet entered the city without striking a blow. He overturned the idols in the Ka'bah. "Truth has come", he proclaimed, "and error scattered". Then he returned to Medina. In AD 632 Mohammad returned to Mecca with 90,000 pilgrims to perform rites that had become fixed in Islam: the wearing of the simple pilgrim dress of the ihram and the entry into a state of taboo, the seven circumambulations at two different paces round the Ka'bah of Abraham, the veneration of the Black Stone, the running between the hills of al-Safa and al-Marwah in memory of Hagar and Ishmael and so on.

Mohammad himself preached from Mount Arafat and exhorted the Arabs to remain united in Islam after his death. "O Moslems" he said, "remember that all Moslems are brothers unto one another. You are one."

Mohammad had built a small mosque in Medina. Since then it has become the second holiest mosque for Muslims all over the world.

The spread of Islam was accompanied by bloodshed. In A.D. 627, for example, the Jewish tribe of Qurayza was raided by Mohammad and some 800 men were beheaded, and all the women and children were sold as slaves. Two years later the Jews of Khaybar were put to the sword. By AD 630 Islam had become well-established and its message accepted by Arabian tribes. In AD 632 Mohammad made, as stated earlier, one last pilgrimage to Mecca and then returned to Medina. Three months later he fell ill and on 8 June 632 he died. Stilled was the Voice of Allah.

In my next letter I shall write about the holy book of the Muslims, the Quran.

-Your loving Ajja

Accused managing Mangalore jail



Mangaluru: Undertrials at the Mangaluru District Prison were accused of assaulting fellow inmates, instigating unrest, abusing officials, and disrupting prison duties. Early this month in the Mangaluru District Jail, it was reported that undertrial prisoners in the ‘A’ block were shouting loudly at the on-duty staff and obstructing them from locking and sealing the unit. Upon receiving this information, Sharanabasappa, Superintendent of the District Prison, Mangaluru, went to the ‘A’ block. He heard undertrial prisoners abusing and

threatening the duty staff in loud voices.

The complainant advised some of the inmates present that such behaviour was unacceptable. However, Mohammad Asif, housed in Room No. 4 of the ‘A’ block, began shouting at the complainant, saying “If you have the courage, come upstairs!” He was then joined by Moiyuddin Faraz, son of Ismail, Ibrahim Khalil, Nisar Hussain, and Mohammad Afeez. Together, these inmates abused the complainant and the duty staff using obscene language, obstructed official duties, and issued threats.

Meanwhile, on Nov 29, around 4.45 pm, prisoners of the ‘A’ block were shouting loudly in front of the office of the superintendent of the District Prison, Mangaluru. When the complainant

immediately came out to enquire, one of the inmates, Mohammad Asif, shouted, “Prove whom I have assaulted”. He continued to yell and instigate all prisoners of the ‘A’ block to come out, attempting to gather them in front of the office and create a disturbance. The complainant, with the help of staff, sent all the other prisoners back to the ‘A’ block and secured it with a lock.

It was later found that Mohammad Asif assaulted three undertrial prisoners who work in the prison kitchen, including Umesh, Ramesh, and Prakash. It was revealed that Asif assaulted them with the intention of escalating the issue and provoking unrest. He not only obstructed the complainant and prison staff from performing their duties, but also abused them using obscene language. He is said to be responsible for an incident that occurred earlier this month. Cases have been registered at the Barke police station.

Height ‘grows’ after recruitment rejection

Chandigarh: A judicial scrutiny by Punjab and Haryana high court (HC) has found that a woman candidate, rejected during Haryana Police recruitments for being “too short”, was actually taller than the prescribed criteria, raising



questions over the accuracy of physical

measurement tests.

The petition was filed by Lalita, a constable post candidate, who was declared unqualified after recruiting staff measured her height at 156.9cm, short of the required 158cm. Insisting that she met the height criteria, Lalita moved HC, claiming that the measurement was incorrect.

Justice Jagmohan Bansal took cognisance of her plea and directed

Chandigarh-based Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) to constitute a board of doctors and conduct a fresh measurement.

The medical board certified the height with millimetre-level precision, leaving no room for dispute, and recorded Lalita’s height as 158.1cm, a millimetre above the qualifying standard.

Fake political donations to avoid tax

New Delhi: The tax department has found that huge amounts of bogus claims have been made on account of donations to registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) or charitable institutions to reduce tax obligations and also claim bogus refunds. Evidence gathered from enforcement actions indicated that RUPPs, many of which were non-filers, non-operational at

their registered addresses, and were not engaged in any political activity were being used as conduits for routing funds, hawala transactions, cross border remittances and issuing bogus receipts for donations. The central board of direct taxes (CBDT) carried out follow up searches against some of these RUPPs and trusts and gathered incriminating evidence of bogus donations.

The tax department said that it recently acted upon many intermediaries who were involved in filing I-T returns with bogus claims. The data analytics indicated that many taxpayers are suspected to have indulged in claiming deductions for donations made to suspicious entities or have not provided relevant/information to ascertain genuineness of entities.

The Advent of Islam and the Life of Mohammad

My dear Gauri

One cannot think of religions in India without considering Islam. The followers of Islam—we can call them Muslims or Mohammadans are the single largest minority in India. In fact, after Indonesia, India has the second largest Muslim population in the world.

The founder of Islam is the Prophet Mohammad. Among Muslims it is customary to say, whenever his name is invoked: “Peace be upon him”. Mohammad was born in AD. 570 in the sacred city of Mecca. The people of Mecca had their own gods, as indeed all people everywhere have had theirs.

Mohammad was born in a noble family and belonged to the famous tribe of Quraish. He was a posthumous child, his father, Abdullah, having died a few months before he was born. His mother’s name was Amina.

In his childhood Mohammad was brought up by his uncle Abu Talib, his mother having died when he was barely six and his grandfather, who cared for him after his mother’s death, having died when he was nine. Mohammad knew tragedy while still a boy. By the time Abu Talib took young Mohammad in his family, his fortunes were declining and the young orphan had to work hard minding his uncle’s flocks. For all that Mohammad was received with great affection in his uncle’s household.

From his very early days Mohammad showed that there was something special about him. The angels of God, we are told, were opening out Mohammad’s heart and filling it with light. Mohammad was pure-hearted from the very beginning and his disposition was sweet and gentle. His early bereavements had made him sensitive to human suffering—something he had in common with the Buddha. He was always ready to help the weak and the oppressed. And as he grew up, his sense of honour, duty and fidelity grew, too, and people would call him “The True One”, “The Upright One” and “The Trustworthy One”.

The tribes in and around Mecca were constantly fighting each other and their quarrels disgusted Mohammad. As a result, he became inward-looking and frequently fell into silence. No doubt, at that impressionable age, he was looking for heavenly guidance.

As he grew into maturity, he took up the caravan business and at the age of twenty-five entered the service of a wealthy widow named Khadija. His prudence and integrity impressed her greatly and gradually their relation deepened into affection and love. She was fifteen years his senior, but love conquered all and they were married. It was a happy marriage. Khadija stood by Mohammad through thick and thin.

Deeply spiritual, Mohammad



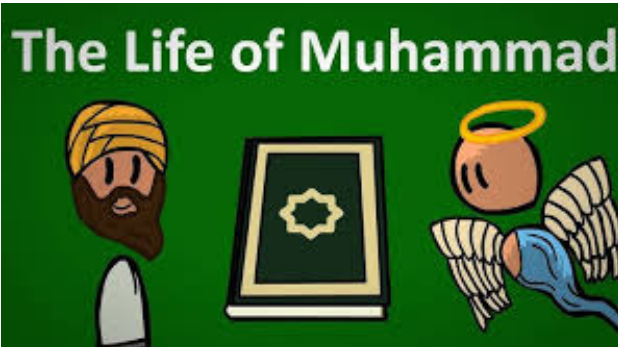
Dr. M. V. Kamath

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

preached the message of God as he heard it but the time was not ripe for the people to receive his message. He was persecuted, ridiculed, humbled and made to suffer but he was not deterred. He would say: “God has not sent me to work wonders. He has sent me to preach to you”. He refused to glamourise himself. He would say: “I never said that Allah’s treasures are in my hand... that I knew the hidden things, or that I am an angel...I am only a preacher of God’s words, the bringer of God’s message to mankind.”

The people of Mecca did not like what Mohammad said. He was preaching that in the eyes of God, all men were equal. The Meccans had at that time several shrines for their Gods and made a



would often go to a cave somewhere near Mecca to contemplate and it was here that he received God’s revelation: *La ilaha illa Allah*: There is no God but Allah.

Mohammad

to pg 32...

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