

# ISSUES & CONCERNS

Towards a purposeful regimen

VOL - 26

No - 308

NOVEMBER - 2025

Rs 35/-

*I&C*

[www.issuesandconcerns.co.in](http://www.issuesandconcerns.co.in)



# PM MODI TURNS

# 75

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[www.issuesandconcerns.co.in](http://www.issuesandconcerns.co.in)

[www.issuesandconcern.blogspot.com](http://www.issuesandconcern.blogspot.com)

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### Printed at:

Diganta Mudrana Ltd.,Mangalore

### Cover Page Designed by:

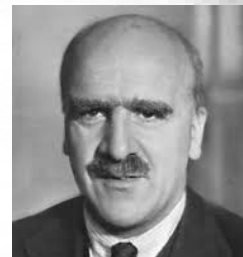
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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



**If the laws could speak  
for themselves, they would  
complain of the lawyers in  
the first place.  
-John B.S. Haldane**





Friends,

Another November and another reminder that ISSUES & CONCERNS has made the beginning of another year. This October 2025, ISSUES & CONCERNS has completed 25 years, or a quarter century in the print media. Looking back over the shoulder it makes us feel very satisfied that having begun in November 2000 we remained at it without fail, every month, month after month, to reach out to our committed readers, who have been a source of inspiration. So once again, a VERY BIG THANQ TO ALL OUR READERS, PATRONS AND WELL WISHERS, who kept us alive and kicking in the print media despite discouraging unsolicited vibes that came our way.

Yes, this November, marks the beginning of 26th year in the world of letters. We intend to be around for the foreseeable future and request our readers, well-wishers and patrons to continue their unstinted support.

Month-in-Perspective is as usual. However what is left uncovered, some of them are covered here.

9th October marked the release of 25th year edition of I&C (vol 25 - No 307). We have covered the formal event separately on the following pages with all details. The edition 307 completes the 25th year of I&C. Thus 308 will be the beginning of 26th year and volume 26.

On the occasion of the 25th year edition release, a cheque of Rs 5,00,000/- collected in memory of young Harshith, a student of 8th standard in a local school, who left for his heavenly abode under tragic circumstances, was given to the parents - Sudhakar Devadiga & family. I&C wishes the family financial stability without their only son.

Report in print media informs "Arrest dip 5%, acquittal up 22% in 2023." Dips in the instance of arrest is a good sign that crime is coming down in the country. But 22% rise in the acquittal shows either victims/accused were wrongly convicted/accused or it was based on some circumstantial evidence. Surely there appears room for police to make arrest only as a last resort. The National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) had released its report for 2023, which gave the above details. NCRB had also reported that corruption cases were down by 1.7% but cybercrime increased by 31%, which is alarming. People in general should be vary of falling victim to cyber frauds. Public should refrain from chasing money which is not truly deserved.

Government servants getting caught in financial wrong doing, getting jail term and getting it reversed has been happening all over India, due to the judicial infirmities by different levels in the judiciary. A village accountant from Badami in Karnataka was finally compulsorily retired as the government wanted, by the Karnataka High Court, after Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal reversed an earlier order after a departmental enquiry had him compulsorily retired after having been caught accepting bribe. There should be no tolerance of corruption in the government corridor especially when it comes to poor villagers.

In a heartwarming development a Muslim girl has performed at the Kerala Kalamandalam in Thrissur. Sabri, a 16 year old, is first Muslim girl in the history of this deemed university to have performed, since 95 years, established in 1931. Daughter of professional photographer Nizam Ammar, Sabri performed Krishna Vesham in her debut performance along with some of her classmates. It's a very positive development for the social harmony. Two cheers to Nizam and Sabri.

As is the norm, all governments in India, whether state or central are increasingly proving as staff unfriendly in their approach to benefits to staff. Here is a case of a soldier of Dogra Regiment, having suffered severe frostbite in snow bound areas of Kargil. In Feb 1989 Army Forces Tribunal (AFT) classified it as a "battle casualty" and recommended retirement and pension benefits. But the Defense Ministry challenged it stating it was 'not battle injury', forgetting that it happened 'while on duty'. Fortunately Punjab & Haryana court confirmed the AFT order.

Here is an example, how crooked people can get to make some fast money. Six people, five men and a woman, had managed to insure a physically challenged Gangadhar for some Rs 5 crore some time ago and arranged a hit-and-run accident, where Gangadhar got killed. They wanted to claim the insurance by one of them faking as his wife. However his real wife complained to the police and the police found the accident as arranged killing and arrested all 6 of them. Thank god they were caught looting the system or may be state owned LIC. It happened in Hosapete, Vijayanagar, Karnataka.

The issue of toxic cough syrup that killed 16 children in Madhya Pradesh has been in production since 14 years, and the manufacturer was marked for its wayward unhygienic production practices many years earlier as well. But somebody, somewhere within the system, didn't do their job of correcting the situation for whatever consideration, and completely avoidable children's death happened in Madhya Pradesh. How its going to be accounted for? Just closing the unit of Sresan pharmaceuticals, Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu enough?! First, they should have detained immediately, the chemist owner-manufacturer of the killer cough syrup. In fact adulteration in medicines or medicinal preparations should attract death sentences, no less. Only then message will go across, to be honest in their manufacturing practices.

Karnataka governments initiative to create skill hubs and job fairs to boost overseas employment is surely a people friendly step. Migration centers with skill development hubs should go a long way in preparing youngsters for competencies needed in foreign countries. Of course, these hubs should be country specific. What is good for middle-eastern countries may not be good for Europe or U.S. Hope there is professional approach in these skill learning centres.

Cricket is not an issues of concern at I&C. However the semi final, between India and Australia Women's ODI World Cup brought to the limelight an individual brilliance, unparalleled even in men's cricket events. 25 year old Indian opener Jemimah Rodrigues, faced the first ball of the 50 Overs match and remained at the crease to face the last ball of the 50th over to score winning run. That was an incredible feat of endurance and application. That she scored 127 not out is less important than she satyed put for the entire match is "Reply's Believe it or not!". Salute to young Jemimah for her sterling performance.

That Prime Minister Narendra Modi had his 75th birthday on 17th September is not merely a news, but an event of multiple dimension. We have tried to reflect on his journey of 3/4th of a century in service of his motherland with his own share of positives and negatives, in the Focus. Wonder how our readers would take it. Do revert with your take on it. We do value them.

**N.B:**

All those who advertised greetings on 25th year edition release are requested to remit the due to: a/c no: 351700300027301, ISSUES & CONCERNS, at Karnataka Bank, Iddya/Surathkal, IFS Code: KARB0000351.



## MONTH-IN-PERSPECTIVE

### MAHARASHTRA: BAIL OR JAIL!

**We have been witnessing since many years about the debate in public space whether to jail a criminal or to grant bail. Our courts have always defended the bail before the jail, for some valid reasons.**

While it is agreeable that accused deserves all the consideration prior to establishing his or her guilt, it's really a dicey option.

It is true that bail has proved a better option in many instances, however the opposite experience is not few and far between. A report datelined Navi Mumbai, "Convict on bail strangles GF after drunken spat", conveys the enormity of giving the benefit of consideration to the accused.

According to the report, a 36 year old man, who was serving a life term for killing his girlfriend's uncle in 2018, killed his girlfriend after being released on bail. Accused Dattaram Nagu Pingla and victim is Archana Chandrakant Naik, a 30 year old woman of Revdanda.

Both the accused and the victim were in relationship since 2005, but the uncle of the victim opposed their relationship and got Archana married to another person after some years. In 2018, Dattaram killed Archana's uncle and was convicted for life imprisonment for the crime. After spending some years in jail, he appealed to Bombay High Court (BHC) to reconsider his life imprisonment. BHC considered it positively and granted Dattaram bail until a final decision is taken.



In the meanwhile Archana reportedly abandoned her husband and their children and returned to her mother's house. Having come out and finding Archana back with her mother, Dattaram started to visit Archana and spend time with her. Sometime early September they were together in Archana's house, when her mother was away and both got drunk. In a drunken brawl, to make Archana keep quite Dattaram tied a rope to her neck, without realizing, how tight he had tied. He had left her on the ground as she remained motionless. Thinking she fell asleep, he too slept next to her and left home in the morning.

Archana's sister, who came calling in the morning found Archana dead. She informed police in Revdanda. Having learnt of the death of Archana, Dattaram vanished into nearby woods. Police managed to nab him by the same night and remanded him to police custody.

The question that persisted, was it because bail was granted despite the person being a murder convict that led to the repeat of the crime!? While granting bail may still be a better option, can the conditions for enjoying the bail be regulated to avoid any repeat of criminal activity by the accused presently on bail?! These questions need to be appreciated in the larger context of bail instead of jail.

### NEW DELHI: SUICIDES IN INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING

**We are all privy to the knowledge that many institutes of higher learning like IIM, IIT, NIT etc. have been witnessing young students committing suicides for varieties of reasons. Authorities could and should have taken up the issue to address the causes that led to so many unnatural deaths in education campuses across the country.**

According to a report datelined

### SC WARNS IITS, IIMS: COOPERATE IN STUDENT SUICIDE SURVEY



New Delhi, "SC warns IITs, IIMs: Join suicide survey or face adverse order", there were some close to 100, to be specific 98, students who have taken their lives since 2018, in these institutions of higher learning. Of these 98, IITs had 38 of them, 25 from NITs, 25 from Central Universities, 4 from IIMs.

Concerned about the increasing suicide incidents in educational institutions, Apex court had set up a National Task Force (NTF) in March 2025 headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, after a petition was filed by families of IIT Delhi students. The objective of NTF was to study and investigate the causes of suicides by students. As was known in public space, it was academic pressure, caste based discrimination, ragging and harassment, financial issues, mental health and lack of support for such health issues, were reasons that led to students taking decisions to end their life. The Supreme Court had instructed all educational institutes to co-operate with NTF to come up with some comprehensive report on the matter.

There were some 58,000 institutions across the country included in the survey to respond to NTF questionnaire. But until Oct 2025, only about 3500 had responded. So reportedly over 54,000 institutes have not responded which included 117 IITs and 15 IIMS, 16 AIIMS and 24 NITs. Thus naturally the highest court of the land was upset that such a large number of educational institutions have not co-operated with NTF, despite being reminded four times by the central government.

The bench of Justices JB Pardiwala



## MONTH-IN-PERSPECTIVE

and R Mahadevan stated that “This entire exercise is being undertaken in the interest of students and it is expected of all these institutes to render their full co-operation and assistance to enable the NTF to finalize its interim report on the subject”. Reportedly, the bench has requested the Union government to act seriously with the erring institutes, while stating “we would like to give one last chance to all these institutes to co-operate and join the survey, failing which we may have to pass orders which these institutes may not like and may bring bad name to institutes and Union of India should accordingly issue circulars to the effect to all these erring institutes.”

Report informed that the panel headed by Justice S. Rvindra Bhat is consisting of experts in psychiatry and clinical psychology. While being on the issue of suicides, the apex court also raised the issue of non-payment and delay in payment of scholarship to scheduled caste students despite having been sanctioned.

Prima facie the highest adjudicator of the land appeared keen in addressing the issue of suicides among students of institutes of higher learning in all seriousness. Hope and wish the apex court’s NTF comes up with some road map to nip in the bud of all likely incidents in future, of students wanting to end their life out of desperation, which is possible to be tackled head-on by every institute.

### **KARNATAKA: SUICIDE & NON-PAYMENT OF SALARY**

**There was this report in the print datelined Kalaburgi “Librarian ends life over unpaid salary”. Reportedly, Bhagyavathi Aggimath, all of 40 years, worked as a librarian in this state run Arivu Centre Library in Mulakheda village in Kalaburgi district. She has been working since six years. However, according to the report she had not received her salary for July, August and September and that had caused her severe financial**



**distress. Its not clear, if she was the only earning member of the family of four. But, sadly because she could not manage household expenses and pay school fees for her two children she felt deeply distressed and ended her life, informs the note she left behind. We do know that salary could be the only source income for a family and if it does not come in time it can cause completely avoidable tragedies, as is evident in this case. It happened in Kalaburgi district, where incharge minister is Priyank Kharge, who apparently had no-time for such issues in his full time politics.**

While we are about it, there is this little known information which people in general should know. There is a branch of Mangalore City library in the Mangalooru suburb of Surathkal. It has three staff, all women, one on regular government pay with proper basic+d.a. and other allowances. Other two are on some kind of honorarium, who are also working full time like the one with regular government pay. Of the two one is a qualified librarian and has been working since last 24 years and she gets 12000/- p.m., ¼ of regular government pay and the other is getting some 7000/- per month, being a helper. She has been working since 11 years. Clearly both these salary figures represent the bankruptcy of the state government. According to some sources there is something as minimum pay. This government has failed to honour the minimum also, for both these staff. Some social worker, reliably understood, has even arranged payment of Rs 25,000/- to the librarian and Rs 10,000/- to the helper as a gesture of help to these two, suffering the highly inadequate government salaries. This is clearly sad and bad, and none seem to be

doing anything about it and the suffering of the duo continues.

It is quite likely that there must be many such staff working in different libraries across the state who quietly suffer the governmental and politician’s indifference. This is Yeh Mera India.

### **NEW DELHI: BMW CARS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS: BIZARRE !**

**There was this report in the print media, “Lokpal floats tender for 7 cars worth Rs.5 cr.” which made a curious reading.**

The institution of Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in India established under Lokpal Act of 2013 to enquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries. It’s an anti-corruption authority who represents public interest in India and covers a whole gamut of officials connected with union government at all levels from legislature, executive, judiciary and organizations set up under central legislations. Therefore it’s functioning is funded by budgetary allocations under union budgets every financial year. These funds are variously collected by agencies of central government from individuals, corporations, trading, marketing and manufacturing houses under heads like income tax, general sales tax, excise and customs duties and other levies. Thus its clear that its funded by Indians of all hues.

From the above it’s clear that



**Lokpal wants 7 BMWs worth around Rs 5 crore, floats tender**



even Lokpal gets its funding to remain functional from people's contributions to the central kitty.

Every government agency to remain functional needs automobiles to keep moving to deliver on its expected roles. It's very fair that all those who are responsible to perform as part of Lokpal need to buy cars. So there need not be any news dimension to the Act of buying cars. But in this particular case it becomes a news and that too in first page of newspapers because the vehicle happened to be a luxury brand from Europe.

BMW is a German automobile giant catering to high-end users. In other words BMW cars are driven by rich aristocratic users not meant for Indian government functionaries. India is not a rich country and therefore cannot afford this opulence. It's unthinkable that an agency like Lokpal could think to splurge public money on such luxury and float open tender for 7 BMW cars costing Rs. 5 crores.

Central government should immediately direct Central Vigilance Commission to investigate the matter and stop this excess by those responsible for floating the tender and fix persons and possibly recommend suspension of official immediately pending final decision. The message has to go that NONE CAN PLAY WITH PUBLIC MONEY IRRESPONSIBLY.

#### **NEW DELHI: SHOE GATE AT APEX COURT**

**The report in the media "Lawyer tries to hurl shoe at CJI in court, suspended", certainly made disturbing reading. But as expected there were mixed reactions galore. The cause and effect syndrome of the incident may have to be studied to arrive at a just conclusion.**

The 71 year old lawyer Rakesh Kishor is the alleged accused. His shoe however had missed the target. He was reportedly soon over-powered by the security and handed over to the police, who after interrogating him for

some hours left him, since no formal complaint was lodged. CJI took the incident in his stride and did not fuss about it. Bar Council reportedly suspended the lawyer immediately, which means he cannot practice until the suspension is withdrawn. There have been many who expressed shock at what happened at the bench of CJI and Justice Vinod Chandran. Politicians of all hues jumped into the bandwagon to condemn the lawyer Rakesh Kishor who was found shouting "Sanaatan Dharm ka apmaan nahee sahega Hindustan".

Thus the issue was left open to be interpreted. Apparently because Rakesh Kishor claiming himself to be a Sanaatani was settling a score. But was he right in hurling his shoe at the CJI who allegedly has insulted Sanaathan Dharma? Besides many, Justice Mankandeya Katju, a former Supreme Court judge comes into the murky scene and reportedly remarks "CJI Justice BR Gavai invited that shoe and deserved it".

A former apex court judge justifying the shoe attack has thrown this entire unwholesome episode wide open to debate.

Hence, it is very pertinent to go into the details of why Rakesh Kishor hurled his shoe at CJI and dubbed it revenge for the ostensible insult CJI flung at Sanathana Dharma.

On September 16 2025, while dismissing a PIL CJI had reportedly made fun of the petitioner, "Go and ask God himself to act". CJI was hearing the petition "to restore a headless seven-foot-tall Lord Vishnu idol at Javari temple in Khajuraho, which is a protected monument under the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). Expectedly there were numerous critical response to the remark by CJI. CJI reportedly clarified his remark just to clear the muddied air. All that CJI could have done was to ask the petitioner to approach ASI, since the subject idol is a protected monument and the matter would have settled then and there.

In the event however, CJI BR Gavai exposed his one-up-manship by making a completely avoidable derogatory remarks like "Go and ask the deity himself to do something. If you say that you are a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu, then pray and meditate". "Why don't you go tell that idol to fix its own head?" Prima facie he has insulted the feelings of all Hindus by his tasteless irresponsible remarks. BR Gavai being the CJI had all the responsibility to avoid making such funny remarks, instead reduced his august position to a petty politician looking for brownie points. Therefore what Justice Katju remarked is a fitting finale to what Rakesh Kishor started. As a matter of fact Justice BR Gavai can be legally proceeded against for his remarks which has the potential of disturbing social/communal peace.

While being on the issue of this SHOE GATE, it may not be out of place to reproduce some details on CJI Justice BR Gavai, making rounds in social media.

According to a post in social media circulating, informs that R.S. Gavai, the founder of Republican Party of India was the 15th Governor of Kerala (2008-2011) besides being a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament. His son B.R. Gavai is a BA, B.Com, LLB, who largely practiced in Nagpur High Court and in 2003 was made Additional Judge of Bombay High Court. In 2019, he was appointed to Supreme Court of India, elevated as CJI in May 2025. It appears that Justice B.R. Gavai had a fairly easy

professional growth, unlike many.

The same social media post carried details of Rakesh Kishor where it informs that he is an MSc. Gold Medalist, plus LLM and a PhD. Of course he did not have an influential politician parent, unlike CJI B.R Gavai, hence innumerable educated Indians like Rakesh Kishor couldn't go too far professionally. May be he felt Justice BR Gavai is an upstart.

**NEW DELHI: AYUSH & MBBS PAY PARITY**

**The issue of pay between Allopathy doctors with qualifications like MBBS, which expands as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and those with BAMS-Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medical Systems and others like Yoga & Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Siddha collectively called as AYUSH, has been an object of debate for a long time. Those with MBBS always rejected the parity in pay scales, service conditions and retirement age etc.**

There have been different and sometimes conflicting judicial decisions in practice among different state authorities. "Can AYUSH docs seek pay and service parity with MBBS docs?" was a report datelined New Delhi, in pursuance of a decision by the bench of CJI BR Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandra to refer it to a larger bench for an authoritative judgment. Bench did admit that there is ambiguity in the area of parity or otherwise of terms of engagement of these different medical practitioners.

While stating and accepting that only MBBS doctors can handle critical care, surgeries and post-mortems, parity will have to be decided after taking into account the qualification, the treatment practices, the functions, work and duties among different practitioners.

Bench clearly observed that "It is MBBS doctors, the allopathy practitioners who are dealing with critical care, immediate life saving measures, invasive procedures

**AYUSH Doctors Can't Claim Parity with MBBS Doctors in Retirement Age and Pay Without Proving Equal Work**



including surgeries and even post-mortem. None of these can be carried out by any of the other practitioners of indigenous system of medicine".

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Rajasthan govt, which had different retirement ages for AYUSH and MBBS doctors ostensibly for public good so also to solve the shortage of allopathy doctors.

While there is no doubt that MBBS and other allopathy doctors should get better payment. Other terms like longer period, leave, terminal and retirement benefits can be similar or same to all, since all benefits are based on basic pay and other allowances. There can be separate provisions for critical care, casualty, trauma management and emergency interventional procedures. Here it is pertinent to reproduce a post being circulated in public space, and we quote, "Being associated with allopathic health care industry I agree with the following. I do consult for emergency allopathy but for wellness and preventive it is Ayurveda, the way forward and future is integrated medicine – both allopathy and alternative medicine combined to treat patients.

Most of the metabolic diseases which had only management in allopathy is now reversible with intervention of alternative medicine, be it Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha or Unani. Each have to co-exist for better disease management. Ayurveda is currently being coded for evidence based practices by World Health Organization (WHO) and most of the negative propaganda would be

silenced in days ahead. In fact WHO global head office for alternative medicine is now in India". Unquote.

**MAHARASHTRA: LIC/ADANI NEXUS: CONGRESS CHARGE**

**After having stated publicly that "India is a dead economy" by U.S. President Donald Trump, which has been proved comprehensively wrong by facts comes this story in Washington Post about the nexus between Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and Adani group. As expected Congress has gone to town crying hoarse demanding Parliament's Public Accounts Committee to go into the public sector giant, LIC having invested in Adani group exactly as Rahul Gandhi mimicked the Trump nonsense.**

Reportedly an Indian, Ravi Nair, had co-authored a piece in Washington Post alleging nexus between Adani group and LIC in investing funds in Adani by LIC.

The report datelined Mumbai "LIC denies Washington Post report of plan to steer \$4Bn to Adani Group", has reportedly set right the matter. According to the report in print media LIC has released a detailed rebuttal to the Washington Post article.

The state owned life insurance behemoth has called the claims of Washington Post false, baseless and far from truth while stating that there has been no document ever been prepared within the organization for infusing funds into the Adani group. LIC stated that its investment decisions are taken independently based on Board approved policies and after detailed due diligence. According to LIC, Department of Financial Services (DFS) or any other central government agency or external body does not play any role in these decisions. It stressed that it follows highest standard of due diligence and all decisions on investment are made in line with the regulatory provisions and statutory guidelines



to protect the interest of its stakeholders. LIC stated that the statements in Washington Post report appeared to have been intended to undermine its well established decision-making process and damage the reputation of LIC along with the credibility of India's financial sector framework. Such allegations misrepresented its investment management and looks intended to tarnish the corporations image, it stated in the rebuttal.

The state owned corporation has comprehensively denied all charges levelled by U.S. media articles claiming financial wrongdoings. Here it is pertinent to recollect the Hindenburg Research witch hunt in the past, which were dismissed by SEBI, the controlling agency for Indian listed securities.

**NEW DELHI: THOUSANDS OF JOBLESS TEACHERS**

**Probably India that is Bharat is the only country in the world which can have a news report “8000 schools. 20000 teachers. Students? Zero.” This report datelined New Delhi made a highly disturbing dimension of our developmental approach in general and primary education in particular.**

According to the report Union Ministry of Education has come up with statistics that 7993 schools across the country had zero enrolment in 2024-25. The same figure for the previous year, the report informs was 12954, that is 4961 less in the following year. In principle this is a positive development. However the news is alarming all the same. The other part of the report has another mind blowing news of 20817 teachers employed in the above 7993 zero enrollment schools.

Shockingly West Bengal has

the dubious distinction of being at the top as it accounted for 17,995 such teachers along with similarly highest number of schools with zero enrolment at 3812. That leaves 2822 schools in rest of the country. Pleasantly surprising is states like Haryana, Maharashtra, Goa, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura had no school with zero enrolment. So also Union Territories of Pudicherry, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman & Diu and Chandigarh too do not have such zero enrollment schools, besides Delhi.

Union Education Ministry has maintained that education is a state subject and states have been told to address the issue of zero enrolment of schools. Some states have accordingly



merged some schools for optimum utilization of resources such as infrastructure as well as staff.

Report further states that Telangana had the second highest number of school at 2245 with 1016 teachers employed in these schools followed by Madhya Pradesh with 463 zero enrolment schools with 223 teachers in these schools. UP had 81 such schools. Reportedly UP has initiated derecognition of such schools for zero enrolment during 3 consecutive years.

Another side of the story informs the report that “over 33 lakh students across the country are enrolled in more than 1 lakh single teacher schools with Andhra Pradesh recording the highest number of these schools followed by UP, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Lakshadweep. But when it comes to student enrolment in schools with single teacher, UP tops

the list, followed by Jharkhand, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

Thus, it is clear the situation is pretty murky and clearly state government should be made accountable for their sloppy handling of an important issue like primary education. That is rather bad or could this be some kind of scam involving big money!?

**NEW DELHI: SLOW JUSTICE KILLED TTE**

**How a Rs 50/- of alleged bribe by a TTE in 1988 could take 29 years in the legal process and tragically the accused who was cleared of the bribe charges by the Supreme Court had died in the meanwhile without experiencing the joy of his name being cleared!? This is sadly an Indian dimension and we say Mera Bharath Mahan.**

In fact its not 29 years, its 37 years since he was allegedly caught accepting the bribe in 1988. But was terminated in 1996 after the departmental inquiry, which took 8 years. That a bribe charge of Rs 50/- against a TTE (Travelling Ticket Examiner) could take 8 long years for Railway Ministry is a poor reflection of the way things are attended to in our Yeh Mera India.

In 2002, after 6 years of dismissal, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) directed the railways to reinstate the TTE, but sadly the Railway Ministry had all the time and resources at their disposal to challenge a poor TTEs restoration of the job. Can you visualize the priorities of government agencies?! The Bombay High Court (BHC) too took another 15 long years to squash the CAT order in 2017 and upheld the dismissal of TTE, during which period TTE sadly passed away, without clearing his honor.



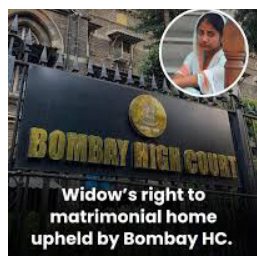
The family of TTE took it up with the BHC and then with Supreme Court. It took another 8 years. Mercifully for the family of TTE, whose name is not available in the report, the highest court of the land concluded that it was a made up case and hence gave a clean chit to the TTE. At long last, after 37 years, the family could smile at the restoration of TTEs honor and therefore the family honor.

**MAHARASHTRA: WIDOW’S RIGHT**

**A report datelined Nagpur, “HC: Widow has right to reside in matrimonial home,” has made a kind of happy reading, trying to reach out to a widow in distress. It’s distressing that a lady who lost her husband had to approach court to come to her rescue.**

A woman, whose details are not available in the report, married in 1990s and lived with her husband in the family home of husband, in Nagpur. In 2004, the couple temporarily shifted to Pune. In 2017, the husband started constructing rooms on the first floor of the family house in Nagpur, since his mother had willed it. Sadly in 2008, husband died leaving behind wife and a teenage son. Widow with her son wanted to move into the Nagpur home, but her brother-in-law (B-i-L) or the elder brother of her late husband refused to accommodate them stating that they had not lived there since 2004. Aggrieved widow approached the local magistrate and won a favorable order. Maybe B-i-L approached sessions court, there too she won her case. Again the judgment was challenged in Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Urmila Joshi Phalke dismissed the appeal by B-i-L upholding the Section 17 of Protection against domestic violence to Women Act of 2005, which grants a statutory right of



residence to every woman in a shared household regardless of her having lived there continuously

or not. If that right is denied then she becomes an aggrieved person and she cannot be evicted”, court observed.

However what is important in this particular case, the widow has every right of her deceased husband, who inherited the share in the property. So there are double issues which stood to protect the widow in distress.

Besides court also held that denying the widow access to the property amounted to “economic abuse under Domestic Violence Act” too.

Hope B-i-L has accepted the BHC ruling after having lost his case for the third time, and the widow and her teenage son would live in peace in the same house without any hassle.

**TAMIL NADU: EMPOWERING VILLAGES**

**That a Union Cabinet Minister can be meandering the Western Ghats, prima facie, is unthinkable. But that’s exactly what has happened. Probably unannounced he landed in the foot hills of Western Ghats on the side of Tamil Nadu around the Tirunalveli region. Tirunalveli city is known as the ‘Oxford of South India’ for its many educational institutions. About 66 km north west of Tirunalveli is a town Tenkasi, which means South Kasi.**

Dharmendra Pradhan, an M.A. from Utkal University is the Union Minister of Education in NDA government in Delhi, came calling to see for himself the newest socio-economic revolution in Tenkasi, where rural youth are being empowered without leaving their rural surrounding.

Surely the educated qualified youth of Tirunalveli have travelled far and wide in search of future after their qualifications obtained in the ‘Oxford of South India’. But an inspired technocrat made a beginning of making the rural talent being harnessed for better future for them without leaving their rural setup.

Sridhar Vembu, born in 1968, an IIT Madras Electrical Engineer and a PhD from Princeton University, started his working career in California in the U.S. Then moved to Pleasanton. In 1996 he started on his own, but moved

to India in 2019 with a vision to pursue altruism. He chose Tenkasi district as his Karma Bhoomi. He started ZOHO with a vision to empower the educated rural youth through a revenue driven steady growth that would eventually uplift millions from poverty. It was, in the words of Subramanya Bharati who envisioned a self-reliant India with villages thrived with industry and



dignity though work and knowledge. Zoho’s rural revolution feels like a living tribute to the great poet, technology nurturing villages not draining them”.

Zoho, making Mathalanparai Village in Tenkasi district as its base to transform villages to become towns by decentralizing technology from Urban India. Zoho’s campus in the outskirts of Tenkasi district houses Zoho Schools of Learning, which follows a model of skilling and paid internships, where young men and women from nearby villages join for hands-on training in technology, earning as they keep learning. Another is an innovative school, where the children from nearby villages receive free education with their mothers cooking for their children and feed them, so also tend gardens, where children learn and grow at no cost, just grace dignity and love. Karuvi, the mechatronics startup, enables young engineers build industrial power tools powering rural revolution. It equips local youth with skills, confidence and reason to stay rooted turning into empowerment away from migration and poverty. Zoho has proved that world class innovation can thrive in rural India revitalizing villages instead of emptying them. Zoho creator Sridhar Vembu deserves national recognition not just Padma Shri. Hope the visit by Union Minister Pradhan translates Tankasi as an inspirational model of for pan-India growth.

**J.Shriyan**

**ISSUES & CONCERNS - 25TH YEAR EDITION RELEASE**

Here's wishing you all the best for the launch of the Silver Jubilee year edition of Issues & Concerns. Your work over the years has been fearless, balanced and decisive. The silver jubilee is an appropriate moment to celebrate these values and your contributions to independent journalism. May we say that 25 years of publication is an amazing achievement. Anita and I send you our best wishes for the successful release of the 25th year edition and wish you many more memorable milestones in the years ahead.

**-Dr Ravishankar Rao and Dr Anita Ravishankar**

Issues and Concerns is an excellent example of investigative journalism, with every issue digging into a wide spectrum of topics that span the good - Paramjeet Singh's initiative of transforming one of Mumbai's poorest sections, while not sparing the ugly, like rats in some Mumbai BMC Hospitals. Great job. Congratulations as I&C celebrates 25th year of continuous publication.

**-Rajnikanth Shastri**

Better late than never. Believe me I read last few days silver jubilee issue somehow reached safely n promptly. I read word byword and page by page. It is interesting one and meaningful and worth reading again and again and preserving.

**-Vishwanath Shenava**



**Date With Time...  
...from pg 22**

by our-selves becoming the role models? How can the country change if we don't do that? When someone is writing pages and pages about the problems in our society and if we don't even read it at all. The Issues & Concerns is not only of Jayaram Shiryan or its editorial board, Why there isn't social awareness in us? Why don't we follow the rules of the country? Why do we allow kids who are under 18 to ride a bike and why don't we have the confidence to stop them? Why don't stop kids of 13-14 years riding a car and happily record it instead? Every year in NITTE we lose children, in most cases they were not wearing helmet and they were drunk. Who do you blame? And they come and tell that he didn't have license and ask for help to get insurance. There are genuine issues which should have our concerns but we are not responsible for ourselves.

At least let us who have gathered here make a promise that I will be the reason of change for the world. Sajjanara Nishkriyatey Durjanara nishkriyate ginta hecchu apaayakari. Our country has no shortage of good people. But we don't work. When I was in army and during weapon training ustad used to say a word that

we have to learn to fire from our own shoulder. When the democracy was made it was said that It was made by the people, of the people and for the people. Is it by the people? Issues & Concerns. With some educated people what is the voting percentage? Why are we so irresponsible and we want everything to be so neat and fine. In almost all of his ISSUES & CONCERNS article he tries to enlighten the same thing. Since the magazine has completed 25 years and then I asked how will he continue this magazine and it is his only concern that why should he continue or how should he continue. Do we who have gathered feel like do we need this magazine? When I asked him how much magazine gets printed, he says the highest was 2000 and now its 700 and if it goes on it may stop. Stop thinking about your children or you grandchildren, think about the future generations. How will they survive here? The difference of opinions is the essence of democracy. When 10 people share their opinion the perfect one and the one which is suited for all gets selected. But today these differences has been used to divide the society, caste, sub-caste, language, touchables, untouchable, upper class, lower class, rich, poor, educated, uneducated. Why are we like this? Now the old Vasudaiva Kutambakam is

being used in the G20 summit. Why have our ancestors made this? What view did they have? From that top we have come to the bottom. Where have we gone wrong? Principals are there. What have you been teaching in your institutions? What values have we allowed our children to embine from life experiences? Don't you think these are genuine issues and concerns that should bother us. Mr Shriyan compliments to you at least in these 25 years genuinely you have tried to show us some light. How many of us have tried to use it I don't knw. Because somebody has defined that education is all about enlightenment. When you are Enlighted you are lighted within, when you have light within, there cannot be darkness, there cannot be shadows. Do you think our education system enlightens us? Some youngsters went to Soretys, they asked you are so performed and you can enlighten the whole world. So when you pray every morning what is it do you ask the god? What we ask is how we can skip exams, hope that he gets good education, gets good marks. So the Soretys said my young friends my prayer is very simple. My pray is one single sentence that make me beautiful from within. Do we have genuine concern for the society we are living.?



# PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI @ 75

Prashant Kishor was a political strategist before he became a full time politician with his own political party Jan Suraaj. Ever since he became a politician, he is in greater circulation both in social media as well as in main stream print media. His recent social media posts carry his 'wise' remarks on many issues around in the country and the one was on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to him 'the biggest strength of PM Modi, is his unique experience mix of 45 years before he became the Prime Minister of India. First 15

years he spent as RSS pracharak, where he had the opportunity to work with society at the grass roots without being distracted with anything else. Then the next 15 years as a BJP organizer, as the party functionary, where he understood and managed party affairs, the way a political party and cadre works. Then the last 15 years as the Chief Minister of Gujarath. If you put together these 45 years, it presents a unique combination of experience of understanding society, political organization and political governance, unlike any

individual in the country and that is his biggest strength. Besides his gift of the gab, coupled with his capacity to listen. He is a great listener. He can frustrate you with his patience to listen. Also he is quite disciplined.'

From the above description by Prashant Kishor, it is abundantly clear that PM Narendra Modi has many advantages over his political contemporaries. Besides, as is well known, he does not have desire for the eternal 3 Ws, Wealth, Wine and Woman. Thus he is a unique leader with equally unique qualities.



# Biggest match fixing in Indian history



**Patel sir score:12, Netru score: 0**

To understand his persona, it is important that we need to go through the details of his 15x3 parts of his evolution from Narendra Damodardas Modi to Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister.

Readers may be curious to know why we should know Shri Narendra Modi or just Narendra Modi (NaMo). First and the foremost is his being the Prime Minister of India for the third term. So in all probability NaMo will be there as Prime Minister of India for 15 long years. Only Jawaharlal Nehru was the Indian PM for close to 17 years. But then Jawaharlal Nehru was not the first elected Prime Minister of India. He was forced by the machinations of Gandhiji, who despite Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel having been voted as the first Prime Minister of India, with 12 votes from the 15 provincial presidents of Congress Party, hoisted Nehru who got zero (0) votes, other 3 votes having been won by other two candidates. This was one of the major injustice committed by Gandhiji on unsuspecting Indians. Thus unlike Nehru, NaMo had a blemishless election, as the Prime Minister

of India. This makes him singularly eligible to be at the top. Of course there are positives and negatives in his leadership of the country, as is with all who had occupied the position of executive head of the nation.

**Early Years:**

Every journey begins with a first step. Born on 17th September 1950, to Damodardas Mulchad Modi and Hiraben Modi, young Narendra

had uneventful childhood. His father had a tea stall in Vadnagar Railway station, in the then Bombay state, where only few trains used to halt due to lack of infrastructure. Those days children helping in family business was the in-thing and hence was not surprising that boy Narednra was also working, reportedly infrequently, in his father's tea stall. According to sources in public space, when he was only 8 years old he was introduced to Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS). By 1967 he finished his higher secondary education (SSLC) and was an average student with a gifted debating skill and love for reading. A year later in 1968, he was married off to Joshoda-ben but young Narendra abandoned his wife soon thereafter and left home to travel. Inspired by Swami Vivekananda's speeches, he lands at Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, in mid-1968. He travelled all over West Bengal and Assam. Then he visited Ramakrishna Mission, Almora in Uttarakhand. He travelled to Delhi and Rajasthan on his way back to Vadnagar. For a while he

kept himself busy working for his uncle in his canteen at the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation and gave up his job to become a full time Prachaarak with R.S.S. in 1971.

Prachaarak literally means a canvasser or a person engaged in propaganda. But in R.S.S. parlance Prachaarak is a full time dedicated missionary to spread the vision of nationalism among Indians. According to RSS the sole aim of Prachaarak is to devote his entire life to make India a glorious nation upholding Indian culture and spread the ideology of Hindu Rashtra. The life of an RSS Prachaarak is very difficult and tough, and is full time. He has to leave his home and family to devote full time to spread the ideology of RSS. The role of an RSS Prachaarak demands high level of devotion and dedication. Its always nation before the self for an RSS Prachaarak. He is always punctual valuing time.

Coming to young Narendra, the habits of getting up at 4:30 in the morning, working 18/20 hours are qualities acquired during his RSS grooming. Conversation without confrontation to arrive at consensus on different ideological points also has stemmed from RSS grooming. However young Narendra had developed serious reading habits which exposed him to varieties of knowledge sources unlike many in the RSS cadre. According to sources in public space he developed as a youngster a deep understanding of nationalism, serving the society etc, due to long sessions of meetings called in RSS parlance as Baithaks in RSS organization. As Prachaarak he travelled length and breadth of India trying to know its people and

**Tea stall in Vadnagar Railway Station**





With Lok Sabha election approaching in 2014, and the national BJP leadership of Vajpayee (90), Advani (87), Joshi (80) growing older, all of them over 80, the then BJP president Rajnath Singh engineered the emergence of Narendra Modi, a far younger leader, to be the face of PM candidate for 2014. **ABKI BAAR MODI SARKAR** became the tagline for 2014 Lok Sabha election.

issues plaguing the nation. Thus it has given him firsthand knowledge unlike many of his contemporaries. In the meanwhile in 1978 he completed his B.A. from Delhi University and M.A. in 1983, from Gujarat University, as per sources in public space. However, there have been unanswered questions on the same.

**Political Life:**

In 1985, he was assigned to BJP by RSS to work full time for understanding working at Bharatiya Janata Party, the political wing of RSS. His organizational skills developed while being with RSS helped him in his political assignment. In 1988, he was made the General Secretary of BJP's Gujarat Unit. While being in Gujarat, he was instrumental in BJP winning first ever victory in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. In 1995, he played a decisive role in State Assembly election which led to BJP forming its first government in Gujarat. Realizing the potential of Narendra Modi, BJP Central Leadership made him National Secretary in 1995 and was transferred to New Delhi. In 1998, he was made the General Secretary (Organization). He continued in the same role until 2001, when he was made the Chief Minister of Gujarat replacing Keshubhai Patel.

The then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Keshubhai Patel's health was falling besides there were allegations

of corruption, poor administration, bad handling of Bhuj earthquake in 2001 etc. BJP leadership of Vajpayee-Advani, thought of making NaMo as Deputy CM under Patel. But NaMo declined, saying "either fully responsible or not at all". He was probably confident that he can perform. Left with no choice Vajpayee/Advani duo replaced Patel with NaMo on 3rd October 2001, as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. NaMo won the by-election soon thereafter as an MLA of Gujarat assembly from Rajkot.

However in February 2002, burning of train compartment in Godhra consisting of pilgrims from Ayodhya after the demolition of Babri Masjid was the lowest point of communal conflagration in India. Some 60 were burnt alive with hundreds suffering burns injuries. The resultant riot caused hundreds of deaths of both Muslims and Hindus. Good part

established Special Investigation Team (SIT) gave NaMo clean chit for any personal culpability for the loss of life and property in the riot, post Godhra carnage. Post Godhra violence, what followed was a completely senseless death of some 2000 people, most of them so remotely connected has made Ahmedabad violence a completely disproportionate reaction. His approach to compensation to the victims was of double standard, for those who lost life in Godhra 2 lakhs and those in the after math Rs 1 lakh, like whites would do to non-whites & blacks in South Africa, or Arabs to Non-Arabs or Non-Muslims. Its true he was a performing Chief Minister without any visible weakness and was a decisive top man.

International reactions were on expected lines. United States of America denied NaMo visit visa. UK and European Union (EU) refused

Come May 2014, Indian electorates, across the nation, spoke loud and clear. The Congress, the leading national party then, was reduced to 44 seats from over 200 in the Lok Sabha. So were other opposition parties like NCP, SP and BSP. Former two got just 5 seats each and BSP zero. But BJP leaped from 106 seats in the outgoing Lok Sabha, emerged as the single largest party with 284 seats, a clear majority on its own. Thus BJP became the first party in over 25 years to get a single party majority mandate. The slogan "ABKI BAAR MODI SARKAR" had won the battle of wits and Narendra Modi emerged as the undisputed leader of BJP in the Lok Sabha and an unthinkable event had happened. Country took an incredibly sharp right turn. It was unprecedented. In the words of Lord Meghnad Desai "it was an event of transformational significance".



of the world blamed Narendra Modi for his alleged complicity in the riot. But rarely anybody spoke about burning alive of Hindu pilgrims as the main cause of the retaliatory violence. Despite organized attempts at fixing NaMo, Supreme Court es-

him entry. It continued until 2007, the end of his second term as Gujarat Chief Minister. The election that followed, BJP again won the election with 122 of the 182 assembly seats. However it was less by 5 seats as compared to his 2002 election, despite NaMo leadership performing



better in anti-corruption drive and many developmental initiatives. The high watermark of his Chief Ministership was his 2007 Vibrant Gujarat investment summit, which attracted unprecedented investment deals. NaMo leadership earned a reputation for rapid growth combined with inclusive developments influencing national policies. However the story of rich becoming richer and poor stagnating at best, continued. Come 2012, NaMo wins another election to Gujarat assembly. But reduced by another 7 seats at 115 of 182 seats. Water conservation and electrification of villages in Gujarat was prioritized. NaMo government finished the process of electrification of every village in Gujarat started by his predecessor Keshubhai Patel. Popularity of NaMo grew despite media feeding negatives.

With Loksabha election approaching in 2014, and the national BJP leadership of Vajpayee (90), Advani (87), Joshi (80) growing older, all of them over 80, the then BJP president Rajnath Singh engineered the emergence of Narendra Modi,



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significance”.

In 1984, Rajiv Gandhi had won 414 seats on the sympathy wave over the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi. But he lost it all in just 5 years. Congress couldn't get even a simple majority. From then on coalition came to stay. In the process everybody helped themselves and country came a cropper. It had to change. AAP came along with a big hope but failed to sustain the hope. A go-getter in the political firmament emerged. Rajnath Singh, the then President of BJP in 2014 was obviously convinced that Narendra Modi could be the horse that he could bet on and that he had the potential to turn the table. And turn the table, he did, so very

Came 15th August 2014 and the address to the nation followed from the ramparts of Red Fort. Prime Minister Narendra Modi mesmerized the audience. He inspired everybody to stand-up and be counted in the task of nation building, by taking everybody along. He shocked Delhites by referring to Delhi's work culture, of coming late, of absenteeism and infighting within the department and between departments. He signaled his priorities. Swachh Bhaarath Abhiyaan, separate toilets for girls and boys in all schools. It was pleasantly surprising, his *beite noire*, The Hindu, on its 16th Aug editorial has observed “If his speech, shown of hype but full of hope, is any indication, Mr Modi looks ready to make the transition from a skilled political orator to an able administrator”. That indeed was a certificate that he will lead the nation from front. He called himself a Prime servant rather than Prime Minister. While it is true that he or his government was not involved in any scam, but his stubbornness, his refusal to see the point of the other side is not healthy for a consensual relationship among the government, opposition and the governed. That he needs to recognize. He told how each MLA/MP can adopt one village which in turn can upgrade 5000 villages across the nation. He asked citizens to counsel boys and men so that women can be safe and do better everywhere. Come October 2nd, Gandhi Shastri Jayanti Divas and he launches Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and spoke on the scourge of open defecation. Suddenly clean India became the national consciousness, since filth and squalor has been our national malaise.

thinkable event had happened. Country took an incredibly sharp right turn. It was unprecedented. In the words of Lord Meghnad Desai “it was an event of transformational



magnificently, like no one else could have done. All national parties were devastated at the completely unexpected victory of Narendra Modi led BJP and NDA combine.

Has the victory at national level hustings for the first time made Narendra Modi humble! Probably yes. The spectacle of Narendra Modi bowing and touching his forehead on the steps leading to the parliament house has won him millions of hearts who witnessed it. The acceptance speech that he made in the central hall of the parliament has sent clear signal of taking everybody along. He was gracious in saying “there are no enemies in politics. It is our responsibility to take everybody along”. Although some 69% voters did not vote for him he sent a message by his humility that they need not fear him. His being a single man without any family obligation and any visible weakness put him at a unique advantage unlike anybody else in the entire national political spectrum. His invite to SAARC heads of state was a diplomatic master stroke. Happily Modi gave a clear indication of flexibility of co-operative co-existence.

The Modi effect on the corridors of power did not take long to be seen to be believed. Suddenly a new culture had gripped the corridors of government offices. All those babus and their bosses who were used to come to office at 11:00/11:30 were on their seat at 9:00 am sharp. The age old unclean corners and stinking toilets became a thing of the past. 75 years of age became the norm to deny ministership to all those who were above 75. As new administration rolled came a morale booster for common man. In a far reaching effect on the administration across the country, the PMO issued a communication to all union ministries and state governments to replace the practice of affidavits and attestations by gazetted officers and instead allowed self-certification by citizens themselves, thus enhanced the morale of citizens

by taking them on their face value as honest, but will also mean penal action if citizens misrepresent the truth thus forcing them to be responsible. It was a kind of master stroke by the Modi government, indicating the out-of-box management approach of the newest PM.

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Come October 2nd, Gandhi Shas-tri Jayanti Divas and he launches



Swacch Bharat Abhiyan and spoke on the scourge of open defecation. Suddenly clean India became the national consciousness, since filth and squalor has been our national malaise.

Planning Commission was disbanded to usher NITI AYOOG. PM Modi demanded from bureaucrats the status of all pending developmental projects. Clearly PM Modi was working overtime to give a result oriented governance. As years rolled, initiatives like Jan Dhan Yojana, Bank a/c for all, subsidized insurance and pension schemes have been people friendly, so is the direct cash transfer of subsidies to Aadhar card Holders is a huge achievement. Of course, the 15 lakhs, from black money recovery, into every a/c turned out to be only poll promise and may remain so for the foreseeable future due to the complexities involved.

Like Lal Bhadur Shastri never got his due from the country, so was Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. To do justice to his memory, Prime Minister Modi took upon himself to create a memorial that would be matchless. ‘Statue of Unity’ planned as a monument to Sardar Patel would have cost with all the paraphernalia over 1000 crores. Its lot of money for a statue. Of course major share came from Gujarat Government so also Gujaratis world over with just 200 crores from the central kitty. Could this be the reflection of ‘ego’ as many have claimed?!

Although transparency and anti-corruption rhetoric has been the forte

A very sad development ever since NaMo's rise in national politics is that BJP cadre have become bolder and life of Dalits have become difficult. Violence and atrocities against Dalits increased everywhere where BJP is in power that is rather bad and sad. This has the potential to damage all the credit the NaMo leadership earned. Among the decision NaMo government at the centre has taken the most controversial is the demonetization or the summary stopping the circulation of Rs 500/- and Rs 1000/- denomination from the midnight of 8th Nov 2016, announced the same day. Although it was apparently well intentioned it was arguably the most disruptive policy innovation. It lasted until 30th Dec 2016, for full 50 days. Millions of faceless Indians suffered due to this unplanned decision. History may not forgive PM Modi for this probable error of judgment despite some benefits the country had.

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of PM Modi, his party which includes himself never appointed an Internal Lokpal for the party. In fact, one of their senior leader Shanta Kumar, a former CM of Himachal Pradesh was actually snubbed for demanding the Lokpal for the party. His promise of 'Acche Din' remained a promise for a long time. However it is true that there have been improvement in many of the socio-economic areas.

It is true that he is a better salesman unlike any former Prime Minister of India, when it comes to foreign relation.

But he needs to also recognize that back home, its poverty, malnutrition and unemployment are still our major scourges even after 78 years of so-called planned economic development. A society guided only by invisible hands of market is not only imperfect but also unjust. Like Pope Francis I tells "Human rights are violated not only by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structure that create huge inequalities". Opening of FDI has to be people centric. An

FDI which cannot help India achieve better Human Development Index (HDI) is bound to fail in the long run. The idea of governance should be to achieve a JUST SOCIETY leading to the empowerment of the last man on the development ladder. While it is true that back in 2012, US had refused visa to him, the same U.S. post 2014 election as Prime Minister, gave him repeated standing ovation when he addressed the joint session of U.S. Congress in June 2016.

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Among the decision NaMo government at the centre has taken the most controversial is the demonetization or the summary stopping the circulation of Rs 500/- and Rs 1000/- denomination from the midnight of

According to some media thinkers, what the Modi government has sought to achieve over the past decade is to give Hindus a conscious sense of empowerment. There was first, the judicial resolution of the Ayodhya dispute which many feel was facilitated by the Modi government. This was followed by Ram Janma Bhoomi Trust embarking and completing the construction of a grand temple in Ayodhya, Abolition of article 370 and enactment of common civil code. However common civil code is a work-in-progress. The same writer writes "The leadership of Modi has not been disappointing so far."

Another writer wrote "Before the launch of Swachh Bharath only 38.4% rural households had toilets in 2013-14 and this touched 84.3% in 2017-18 and 98.5% in 2019-20. Similarly Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana made clean cooking gas to rural and deprived households and liberated poor women from the scourge of smoke from coal and cow dung fire." "A karmayogi driven by the duality of public purpose and private conviction" wrote another writer.

A journalist based in New Delhi wrote "NDA under Modi retooled processes to bring unprecedented transparency and accountability. Whether it is Aadhar, Direct Benefit Transfers, toilets, cooking gas, all of them are schemes that existed in the past. Unfortunately due to lack of political will and administrative weakness these remained broken promises. Successive government since Independence had promised them but failed to walk the talk. It's a case of they talked and NDA walked, under Narendra Modi. The results are staggering. In the last decade the government has provided a) over 50 crore new bank a/c s, b) toilets built for 12 crore households, c) cooking gas connection extended to over 10 crore families, d) Electrification of almost every village. The result over 40 crore people escaped abject poverty. The number of poor at present is less than 5% from around 40% two decades ago."

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He is completely oblivious to political consequences when it comes to

deciding on national interest. He has no other focus except his deeply embedded patriotism and the awareness for India to become a secure power is an absolute must. His emphasis on human resource development, indigenization of defence production, emphasis on technology in defense are all aimed at making India strong and secure. He wants Indian people to be proud of their past, resolute in their present imbued with high hopes for the future" stated another security analyst.

**All these writings on these pages probably is incomplete**

**account of NaMo's journey of 75 years, especially his political journey from Gandhinagar to New Delhi, more importantly his last over 11 years that he presided over national governance. Readers are welcome to add their inputs both positives and negatives. We have tried to be balanced but surely all Indians would have his or her own take on the issue. Do kindly revert.**

**J.Shriyan**

### **RELEASE FUNCTION**

## **A DATE WITH TIME – 9th OCTOBER 2025**

On 9th October 2025, ISSUES & CONCERNS formely released its 25th year edition at Lions Club Surathkal. Function was presided over by Capt. Ganesh Karnik, in place of Dr. N. Vinay Hegde, who could not take part due to some pressing issues. Fr Sudeep Paul, president of Sandesha Foundation was the Guest of Honour. Mr. J. Shiryan, the editor presented a perspective of the journey of ISSUES & CONCERNS reaching 25th milestone. On the occasion a cheque of Rs 5,00,000/- collected through contributions from readers of ISSUES & CONCERNS, towards Master Harshith Memorial Fund, handed over to Shri Sudhakar Devadiga & Family, parents of 14 year old Master Harshith, a student of a local school, who passed away under tragic circumstances.



I am Indeed honoured to be sharing some of my deepest thoughts on our honest media effort, ISSUES &

CONCERNS, as it arrived at the 25th milestone

Among the joys of life is a sense of perspective looking back over the shoulder, the labyrinth you journeyed to cover the distance. As we look back, it s indeed a matter deep satisfaction that we managed to remain vibrant and alive, despite little support in the competitive media world and that we managed to leave our footprints on the sands of time, in our own quite way. Despite nay sayers, there were souls, very generous,

who were both graceful and kind. To all of them it is a very big thank you.

There were many, who asked as to WHY ISSUES & CONCERNS? as we started off in Nov. 2000.

On Jan12, 2006, one ALISTER PAREIRA, a son of a rich and therefore a powerful man, in the early hours of that fateful day, driving his limousine under the influence of alcohol, well past midnight, runs over 15 labourers sleeping on the pavement near Liberty Cinema, in South Mumbai. Seven of them were crushed to death.

A police panchanama, an FIR, court case followed. Exactly 15 months later, on 15th April 2007 the Session Court in Mumbai sentenced this inebriated young killer of 7 hap-

less poor men for a mere 6 months in jail. So it was not even one month punishment per killing or can we call it murder! Can you comprehend the cruelty not just insensitivity of this judgement? Do you think it is difficult to surmise that this young murderer must have paid thru' his nose to get this judgement? There were 3 parties to the case, the victims, who were poor and therefore defenceless and hence cannot fight, the state police, who could have made a case of culpable homicide, but didn't. Then the judiciary, with the full knowledge of what happened and how it happened, and seven innocents paid with their life on a wagabondish life of a spoilt brat. But the court decided to play the ball, on the letter,

rather than the spirit, of the law, and compromised such a serious heinous crime as mere 'reckless driving', and reduced the punishment to a joke by giving 6 months in jail-for the gruesome killing of 7. Are you shocked?!

Even more shocking was, this drunken spoilt driver challenged even that 6 months conviction. But Bombay High Court on Sept. 6, 2007 confirms his conviction and enhance the jail term to 3 years. More aggrieved, money bags of Pareira family, knocks at Supreme Court, and Apex Court too confirms, 3 years jail term, with a remark that "Sentence could not be enhanced as Maharashtra government had not filed any appeal to increase the jail term".

Culpable homicide attracts a jail term of 10 years. At the end of it all when this drunk driver surrendered before the session court, to undergo, the remaining 2 years and 11 months of the 3 years imprisonment, he was sent back home. Do you know why? "a certified copy of the Supreme Court order cancelling his bail had not reached the police or court in Mumbai". I am asking, Where is our 24x7 media?

This is Yeh Mera india where officially government weeps for the aam aadmi, the poor man, but otherwise always side the rich.

A drunken youth kills 7 poor men. With 8 seriously injured, under the influence of alcohol. In all fairness, he should have been made to pay for it, not merely in cash but also by suffering a long jail term with hard work, to make him realize, what it means to kill somebody by his wanton act. In the event police and Judiciary, joins hands to commit a judicial hara-kiri. However when the highest court of the land decide to take the call, it passes the buck on the state, which conveniently kept quite, and failed to make this Alister Pariera pay for his sins. May be he is well connected, and after all, who were the killed ones? Poor, faceless, defenceless & voiceless, even 24x7

media, the watchdog, ignored them. It was, as if, all were working for this powerful moneyed accused probably for a price! Is our media alive only to sensation and titillation!

And we are a democracy-of the people, by the people and for the people. The state did not even enforce a modicum of fairness even in compensations for the victims. So what right we have of accusing Union Carbide and its chief Warren Andreson for not paying enough compensation to the victims of world's worst industrial disaster, when we are naked in our own backyard?! Haven't our state and the judiciary even then, 40 years ago, erred in favour of the powerful and the moneyed by returning the verdict of mere 'NEGLECT' by the then CJI, Justice AM Ahmedi, instead of man-slaughter, where some 20000 were killed with half a million maimed in different degrees. And a grateful Union Carbide made Justice Ahmedi the chairman for life of its trust to distribute hand-outs to the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy. This is judiciary for you. Did the 24x7 main stream media keep the issue alive in the public consciousness!?

Sometime in 2006, one Mr Bharath Jagdev, from British Guyana visited India. He was coming to see his ancestral home and his people. His grand father Ram Jiyawan from the backward Lonia Community was sent to British Guyana, as an indentured labour in 1912. Three generation down the line, this Mr Jagdev had come to India to look for his roots. In 1912, this Lonias in Nawawa village in North West Bihar were only 2 households, in the intervening almost 100 years, it multiplied to 25 households. They were landless labourers then, and they were still landless labourers in 2006 as well. Ten Development plans left them untouched. Nothing had really changed for this community, except their increased number. But of course, this Mr Bharath Jagdev, who came calling on India from half

the globe away, was the president of British Guyana. For the 1st citizen of British Guyana, it was an absolute embarrassment seeing the distance covered by him, in the realization of his own human potential, and the lot of his own people who were, like other millions of Indians, caught in the time warp, we can broadly call as 'miserable failure of governance in India', where our being 133 in the United Nations-Human Development Index, compared to tiny Cuba at 56, does not make news in the 24x7 media. Are you confused?!

And this Rajdeep Sandesai from our 24x7 media made a story of 'The Greatest Indian after Gandhiji'. Our so called eminent Jury finalises a list of probables. This eminent Jury, probably under a bout of amnesia, forgets to include in a list of 50 probable's the most decent and most honest honest politician the independent India ever had, Bharat Ratna Late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, which believe it or not, even this 'all knowing' Rajdeep Sandesai too did not have in this list of 100! And come to think of it, both Shastriji & Gandhiji share the same birthday! Another shocker is, 10 have been shortlisted from the 50, and our J.P., Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, equally decent and honest, couldn't make it to the top 10.

Doesn't this represent the intellectual impoverishment or bankruptcy of our so called elites. where Lata Mangeshkar, the Indian nightingale gets a poor 20 votes and placed at the bottom at 10th place, Indira Gandhi gets a mere 49 votes and placed at 9th, Nehru gets 57 votes and placed at 8th, JRD Tata gets 102 and placed at 7th, and Mother Theresa gets 168 and placed at 6th, but Tendulkar gets a whopping 309 votes and placed at 5th. And he was the same Tendulkar who was caught by Mumbai RTO for registering his motor vehicle from Navi Mumbai, on some slum address, just to save few thousands in registration cost. Where are we In-

dians heading, as a nation without a sense of proportion!?

Questions are many but answer are few and far between. Has media, the 4th estate, the watchdog, played its role in positive nation building? It is a question begging for answer. And this one is a 'Ripley's believe it or not'. Come 11th Oct. our 24x7 media is agog with birthday felicitations for Mega star Amitabh Bachchan and they are so well informed and they even remark, 'how ironic that actress Rekha was born a day later on 12th Oct.' But this, all knowing, omniscient media has lost its sense of historical perspective that Jayaprakash Narayan, the father of the Original Sampurna Kraanti, which gave birth to Janata Party and changed completely the arithmetic of politics in this country for ever, that JP too was born on 11 Oct, like Bachchan, but our omniscient media did not know it, or is it that they did not

care to know it!

What an irony, isn't it? This is the main stream media for you. Surely while I can go on and on, 'on what constitutes priority for the main stream media, we felt there existed a space for some meaningful convergence of thoughts on issues that concerns us all. Thus was born ISSUES & CONCERNS. Yes, like John F. Kennedy said "Job on hand may not be complete in 100 days not even in 1000 days, not perhaps in our whole life time, but we have to make the beginning". To get to anywhere is to start from where you are. Having started, we kept at it non-stop for all these past 25 years, from November 2000 to October 2025.

Friends there are number of stories of monumental bungling, for all the 78 years of post-independent India. Even as recent as last month, how the state government in Bengaluru invited full blown controversy

during the Nada Habba inauguration. We all know Baanu Mushtaq got the International Bookers Award along with Deepa Bisht. But State government invited only Baanu Mushtaq and therefore did injustice to Deepa Bisht. None in the media spoke about this injustice, not even Baanu Mushtaq. In all fairness Baanu Mushtaq could have insisted that Deepa Bisht should also be invited, but she didn't. Such stories, my friends, need to be told and retold by the media, so that someday, the awakened section of of the society, take the call, "Towards a fair and just society". As we complete this 25th year, we do hope and pray that we shall continue as the Tennyson's 'Brook', "Men may come and men may go, but ISSUES & CONCERNS go on forever" in service of this Mother India and Indians.

Jai Hind



**Fr Sudeep Paul**

So today we gather not only to mark a milestone of time, but to celebrate a vision that became a voice, a voice that has spoken gently, courageously and consistently for 25 long years ISSUES & CONCERNS completes a remarkable journey, a quarter century of independent thought, fearless dialogue and a commitment to truth and justice. This is more than a silver jubilee, it's a golden testimony to perseverance, passion and purpose. At the heart of this story there stands a man whose name has become synonymous with integrity in journalism Mr J Shriyan. He has not just published a magazine. He has sustained a mission. 25 years ago when digital media was still in its infancy and printed word carried the pulse of public discourse. ISSUES & CONCERNS was born in Mangalore. It began not as a commercial enterprise

but as a citizens voice, a humble attempt to raise meaningful questions in a world flooded with superficial answers. At a time when the main-stream media often followed trends, ISSUES & CONCERNS dared to ask what are the real issues that effect our society and what should concern us as responsible citizens. That single question became the heartbeat of its journey and over these years this magazine has remained faithful to that call of conscience. Few publications can claim to be the lifes work of one person. Mr Shriyan stands as a quite example of commitment, courage and conviction. For 25 years he has played every role in this magazine-editor, writer, publisher, distributor and sometimes even the critic of his own work. His dedication has been tireless, his motivation selfless, guided not by profit but by principle. He has kept the flame of ISSUES & CONCERNS burning brightly even in the face of challenges. In every issue, in every editorial we sense his sincerity, his belief that

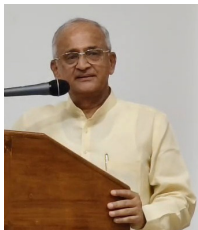
journalism must serve the people and not please the powerfull. Through his pen he has given voice to the voiceless, space to the thinkers and courage to those who believe in reason and conscience. In an age where the loudest voices often drowns out the wisest, he has chosen depth over drama, reflection over reaction and tide of over judicial. Over these 25 years ISSUES & CONCERNS has grown much more than a periodical. It has become a model compass, a mirror held up to the society. He has reflected our struggles, celebrated our progress and reminded us of our shared responsibilities as citizens. His pages have addressed issues that truly mattered, education and youth formation, media ethics, governance, justice, environment, inter religious slabbery and human rights, each theme has not been treated, not only as a headline but as a heartfelt concern. There is no sensationalism in ISSUES & CONCERNS only substance, no noise only fluence. Its strength lies in its capacity to provoke

thought without provoking hostility, to criticize without condemning and to encourage without preaching. Publishing a magazine for 25 continuous years is an achievement worthy of admiration. Behind each edition, have seen labour, the long nights of writing, editing, proofing, printing and distributing. These were surely moment of fatigue, types of resources were scarce and encouragement few, and yet month after month, issue after issue, ISSUES & CONCERNS reached its readers, carrying within it the quite conviction through however small platform must be spoken. This perseverance is not just endurance, it is faith in the written word, faith in the power of honest journalism. In a world often divided by ideology and interest, ISSUES & COCNERNS has stood for balance, dialogue and reason. He does believe that journalism is not about breaking news, but about printing awareness. He has reminded us that press is a duty not purely to reform but also to transform. This

magazine has given a platform to writers, educators and citizens who care deeply about the direction our society is taking. It has fostered a culture of constructive engagement, one that values truth over ideology and empathy over ego. Mangalore has long been known for its literacy, culture and civic consciousness. ISSUES & CONCERNS has added every chapter to that legacy.

It has shown that a small city can produce big ideas that reflection is as vital as reporting and that conscience is as important as circulation. Through its simple yet profound presence it has celebrated public discourse and reminded us that journalism can still be noble, thoughtful and humane. In its quite way it has built bridges between thinkers and doers, between faith and reason, between concern and action. As you celebrate this silver jubilee and you look forward to the future, the media landscape has changed dramatically. We live in an age of instant opinions, fleeting trends and digital noise. But

the need for honest, reflective and compassionate journalism has never been greater. The future of ISSUES & COCERNS may include probably digital platforms, podcasts or online readership, but it must be rooted in what it has always stood for—clarity, credibility and conscience. Let this jubilee be not an ending but a renewal, an invitation for younger writers, scholars and citizens to carry forward the torch what Mr Shriyan has so faithfully held afloat. On this special occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr J Shiryman for his courage to think, his perseverance to publish and his passion to inform. Sir, you have proved that one persons conviction can inspire a generations conscience. Your quite service has spoken louder than the noise of many headlines. We also offer gratitude to every contributor, reader, printer and supporter who stood by this mission you have helped nurture a space for truth, in time of confusion and for dialog in time of division.



**Capt Karnik**

After listening to Jayaram Shiryman I just got a feeling, he is a person who has genuine concern for issues that is bothering

all of us, so I request you all to give him a big applaud for this wonderful completion of 25 years. Genuinely heartfelt compliments Shiryman sir.

I was thinking about, role of each one of us in our society, this model of governance called democracy is meant for very enlightening citizen with these enlightening citizen is only enlightening leadership. I don't only mean political leadership I mean all sorts of life. Enlightened leadership, there is accountability, responsibility which will bring him actual perfection. 78 years is not a small time in our nation's history. 25 years presents a big milestone for this magazine.

Looking back, if I am sounding pessimistic, negative please bear with me. We have become a non-thinking, impractical, dishonest, corrupt, lazy, indisciplined, intolerant nation. I was coming with one soldier from Mangalore who is naxals in Chattisgarh and he was asking me questions why we are like this? Why we don't follow rules? This is the concern of a very young soldier. On the 15th of August 2014, honble Prime Minister made his first address from the ramparts of the Red Fort. When he spoke about the mentality of our nation, from the last 67 years country's mentality has become such a way that every man thinks that what he has in it, what profit do I have and the message of the parliament election was, the country wanted a change, if we have to change the mentality of this country. If you all don't decide there need to be a change then how will it happen? He continued saying, if you change the country, we together

should leave the mentality of 'what do I have' and if we start to think 'what is my responsibility in developing the nation'.

Like most of us, when we earn enough money, we are like, our work is done and now I will rest. But Shriyan has genuine concern for the issues that is nagging all of us. Can we make it? When we were discussing about it, 25 years who will take it forward. And every article I have not read but atleast I can say that I have gone through the titles and some interesting articles I have read. We don't read and then say the children don't read. When we send children to nursery or primary school we as parents ask, if there is a smart board there? Do they teach computer? When do we raise our kids to become a responsible citizen? All the basic values of ISSUES & CONCERNS that Shriyan is trying to bring out, are we trying to integrate those values in our children

**to pg 12....**

# THE PARTITION OF INDIA PAKISTAN AND THE MALAISE NATIONAL FRUSTRATION



Dr. B R Ambedkar

Mr. Gandhi took up the threads as soon as he came out of the gaol. In November 1924 informal discussions were held in Bombay. As a result of these discussions, an All-Parties Conference was constituted and a committee was appointed to deal with the question of bringing about unity. The Conference was truly an All-Parties Conference inasmuch as the representatives were drawn from the Congress, the Hindu Maha Sabha, the Justice Party, Liberal Federation, Indian Christians, Muslim League, etc. On the 23rd January 1925, a meeting of the committee appointed by the All-Parties Conference was held in Delhi at the Western Hotel. Mr. Gandhi presided. On the 24th January the committee appointed a representative sub-committee consisting of 40 members (a) to frame such recommendations as would enable all parties to join the Congress, (b) to frame a scheme for the representation of all communities, races and sub-divisions on the legislative and other elective bodies under Swaraj and recommended the best method of securing a just and proper representation of the communities in the services without detriment to efficiency, and (c) to frame a scheme of Swaraj that will meet the present needs of the country. The committee was instructed to report on or before the 15th February. In the interest of expediting the work some members formed themselves into a smaller committee for drawing up a scheme of Swaraj leaving the work of framing the scheme of communal representation to the main committee. The Swaraj sub-committee un-

der the chairmanship of Mrs. Besant succeeded in framing its report on the constitution and submitted the same to the general committee of the All-Parties Conference. But the sub-committee appointed to frame a scheme of communal representation met at Delhi on the 1st March and adjourned sine die without coming to any conclusion. This was due to the fact that Lala Lajpat Rai and other representatives of the Hindus would not attend the meeting of the sub-committee. Mr. Gandhi and Pandit Motilal Nehru issued the following statement:-

“Lala Lajpat Rai had asked for a postponement by reason of the inability of Messrs. Jayakar, Srinivas Iyengar and Jai Ram Das to attend. We were unable to postpone the meeting on our own responsibility. We, therefore, informed Lala Lajpat Rai that the question of postponement be placed before the meeting. This was consequently done but apart from the absence of Lala Lajpat Rai and of the gentlemen named by him the attendance was otherwise also too meagre for coming to any decision. In our opinion there was moreover no material for coming to any definite conclusions nor is there likelihood of any being reached in the near future.....”

There is no doubt that this statement truly summed up the state of mind of the parties concerned. The late Lala Lajpat Rai, the spokesman of the Hindus on the committee, had already said in an article in the Leader of Allahabad that there was no immediate hurry for a fresh pact and that he declined to accept the

view that a Hindu majority in some provinces and a Muslim majority in others was the only way to Hindu-Muslim unity.

The question of Hindu-Muslim unity was again taken up in 1927. This attempt was made just prior to the Simon Commission inquiry, in the hope that it would be successful as the attempt made prior to the Montagu-Chelmsford inquiry in 1916 and which had fructified in the Lucknow Pact. As a preliminary, a conference of leading Muslims was held in Delhi on the 20th March 1927 at which certain proposals for safeguarding the interest of the Muslims were considered. These proposals, which were known as the Delhi proposals, were considered by the Congress at its session held in Madras in December 1927. At the same time, the Congress passed a resolution authorizing its Working Committee to confer with similar committees to be appointed by other organizations to draft a Swaraj constitution for India. The Liberal Federation and the Muslim League passed similar resolutions appointing their representatives to join in the deliberations. Other organizations were also invited by the Congress Working Committee to send their spokesmen. The All-Parties Conference, as the committee came to be called, met on 12th February 1928 and appointed a sub-committee to frame a constitution. The committee prepared a report with a draft of the constitution which is known as the Nehru Report. The report was placed before the All-Parties Convention which met under the presidency of Dr. Ansari on

22nd December 1928 at Calcutta just prior to the Congress session. On the 1st January 1929 the Convention adjourned sine die without coming to any agreement, on any question, not even on the communal question.

This is rather surprising because the points of difference between the Muslim proposals and the proposals made in the Nehru Committee report were not substantial. This is quite obvious from the speech of Mr. Jinnah in the All Parties Convention in support of his amendments. Mr. Jinnah wanted four amendments to be made in the report of the Nehru Committee. Speaking on his first amendment relating to the Muslim demand for 33.4 percent representation in the Central Legislature, Mr. Jinnah said:-

“The Nehru Report has stated that according to the scheme which they propose the Muslims are likely to get one-third in the Central Legislature and perhaps more, and it is argued that the Punjab and Bengal will get much more than their population proportion. What we feel is this. If one-third is going to be obtained by Muslims, then the method which you have adopted is not quite fair to the provinces where the Muslims are in a minority because the Punjab and Bengal will obtain more than their population basis in the Central Legislature. You are going to give to the rich more and keeping the poor according to population. It may be sound reasoning but it is not wisdom....

“Therefore, if the Muslims are, as the Nehru Report suggest, to get one-third, or more, they cannot give the Punjab or Bengal more, but let six or seven extra seats be distributed among provinces which are already in a very small minority, such as, Madras and Bombay, because, remember, if Sind is separated, the Bombay Province will be reduced

to something like 8 per cent. There are other provinces where we have small minorities. This is the reason why we say, fix one-third and let it be distributed among Muslims according to our own adjustment.”

His second amendment related to the reservation of seats on population basis in the Punjab and in Bengal, i.e. the claim to a statutory majority. On this Mr. Jinnah said:-

“You remember that originally proposals emanated from certain Muslim leaders in March 1927 known as the ‘Delhi Proposals. They were dealt with by the A. I. C. C. in Bombay and at the Madras Congress and the Muslim League in Calcutta last year substantially endorsed at least this part of the proposal. I am not going into the detailed arguments. It really reduces itself into one proposition, that the voting strength of Mahomedans in the Punjab and Bengal, although they are in a majority, is not in proportion to their population. That was one of the reasons. The Nehru Report has now found a substitute and they say that if adult franchise is established then there is no need for reservation, but in the event of its not being established we want to have no doubt that in that case there should be reservation for Muslims in the Punjab and Bengal, according to their population, but they shall not be entitled to additional seats.”

His third amendment was in regard to residuary powers which the Nehru Committee had vested in the Central Government. In moving his amendment that they should be lodged in the Provincial Governments Mr. Jinnah pleaded:-

“Gentlemen, this is purely a constitutional question and has nothing to do with the communal aspect. We strongly hold-I know Hindus will say Muslims are carried away by

communal consideration-we strongly hold the view that, if you examine this question carefully, we submit that the residuary powers should rest with the provinces.”

His fourth amendment was concerned with the separation of Sind. The Nehru Committee had agreed to the separation of Sind but had subjected it to one proviso, namely, that the separation should come “only on the establishment of the system of government outlined in the report.” Mr. Jinnah in moving for the deletion of the proviso said:-

“We feel this difficulty... Suppose the Government choose, within the next six months, or a year or two years, to separate Sind before the establishment of a government under this constitution, are the Mahomedans to say, ‘we do not want it’.... So long as this clause stands its meaning is that Mahomedans should oppose its separation until simultaneously a government is established under this constitution. We say delete these words and I am supporting my argument by the fact that you do not make such a remark about the N.-W. F. Province....The Committee says it cannot accept it as the resolution records an agreement arrived at by parties who signed at Lucknow. With the utmost deference to the members of the Committee I venture to say that that is not valid ground.... Are we bound, in this Convention, bound because a particular resolution was passed by an agreement between certain persons?”

These amendments show that the gulf between the Hindus and Muslims was not in any way a wide one. Yet there was no desire to bridge the same. It was left to the British Government to do what the Hindus and the Muslims failed to do and it did it by the Communal Award.

**to be contd.....**

# Accident victim's kin gets Rs 60L



The Supreme Court has enhanced the compensation in a two-decade-old motor accident case by awarding over Rs 60 lakh to the family of a 20-year-old youth who was left completely paraplegic and disabled after being run over by a car in 2001. Sharad Singh, a 20-year-old final-year B Com student, eventually succumbed to illness in 2021 after two decades of immobility. His mother, acting as his legal representative, pursued the appeal before the apex court.

A bench comprising Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, allowed the plea of his mother. The victim sustained a fracture of the cervical vertebrae (C4-C5) after a car, driven rashly and negligently, hit the motorcycle on which he was riding pillion. The accident left him paraplegic with 100 percent permanent disability, confining him to bed for the rest of his life.

“The aspirations of the young man were shattered by the accident which left him paraplegic and fighting for breath, which also prompted the parents to relocate to another part of the country. We are of the opinion that even if he had not obtained the certificate as a Chartered Accountant, upon graduation, he could have been employed as an Accountant, who would have, on any reasonable estimate, received an amount of Rs.5,000/- as monthly income in the year 2001, if the minimum wages prescribed for a skilled worker was Rs.3,352,” the bench said.

One of the major issues before the bench was the reimbursement of medical expenses. The insurance firm contested bills amounting to several lakhs, arguing that some predated the High Court appeal’s disposal and others were from hospitals outside Delhi, the victim’s permanent residence.

Rejecting the contention, Justice Chandaran, writing the judgement, said the insurer, with offices across India, could not evade verification. The court accepted the family’s explanation that the victim had to be shifted to Goa due to Delhi’s adverse climatic conditions, which aggravated his recurring pneumonia.

Following verification, the insurance firm admitted medical bills worth Rs 21 lakh as genuine.

After accounting for Rs 1 lakh already granted by the High Court, the apex court directed an additional payment of Rs 20 lakh towards medical expenses incurred between 2001 and 2021.

On the issue of loss of income, the bench said the total loss was at Rs 15.1 lakh. It added Rs 14 lakh under heads such as attendant charges, loss of amenities, pain and suffering, loss of marriage prospects, and disfigurement, along with Rs 11.2 lakh in medical expenses.

It enhanced the total award to Rs 40.3 lakh with an interest at 9% per annum from the date of filing of the claim petition.

In addition, the bench ordered the insurance company to pay Rs 20 lakh towards medical expenses incurred by the parents during the victim’s bedridden years.

The apex court modified the high court’s award of Rs 32.4 lakh, substantially increasing it to over Rs 60 lakh inclusive of future medical costs. The bench directed that the entire amount be disbursed to the victim’s mother, the substituted appellant, within four months.

## ITI with 5 students & 7 teaching staff

Twelve years after its inauguration, the (ITI) in Uttarkashi district’s Chinyalisaur Banchaura—built at a cost of several crores—continues to operate with just one trade course. Despite initial approval for fitter, electrician, and welder trades, only the fitter course is functional. Presently, five students are enrolled in the institute with seven staff members training them.

The institute, established in

2013, aimed to provide and boost self-employment opportunities for local youth. However, as the handful of students prepare to appear for their final exams, the building is expected to get vacant again with uncertainty of future admissions looming over the facility.

Locals and officials expressed disappointment over the situa-



tion. “If the institute is run properly and all trade courses are offered, the youth will find better, and local women will also be able

to start their own businesses after training,” said Vivek Bisht, a social activist. Rajendra Singh Rangad, a local resident, added, “The ITI has become a mere show-piece. If the govt truly wants to stop migration from rural areas, then operating the institute at full capacity with preferred and approved trades will turn it into a major employment hub for the

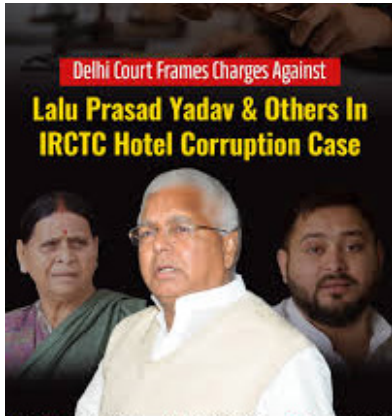
youth of the region.”

Despite changes in public representatives, residents of the area say that no one has raised this issue so far and the problem has persisted over the years. Locals are now demanding that the govt immediately introduce all trade and new employment-oriented courses, so that the institute can become the hub for skill develop-

ment as it was envisioned to be.

Principal of ITI Chynyalisaur Banchaura, Neelam Saini, when queried, said, “Currently, the facility is affiliated with the State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT). We have sent a proposal to the state govt for National Council on Vocational Training (NCVT) affiliation, seeking better trade courses.

## Railway contracts scam during Lalu as Railway Minister



New Delhi: Terming former Railways minister Lalu Prasad as “fountainhead of criminal conspiracy” in alleged IRCTC land-for-hotels scam case, a Delhi court framed charges against RJD chief, his wife and former CM Rabri Devi and their son Tejashwi Yadav, just weeks ahead of Bihar assembly polls.

In a setback to the Yadav family, Special Judge Vishal Gogne paved the way for the day-to-day trial of the case against the three members of Yadav family and 11 others from Oct 27 under various provisions of IPC and Prevention of Corruption

Act for offences including the criminal conspiracy, cheating, abusing their official position and criminal misconduct by public servants.

In his 244-page order, the judge flagged the “quid-pro quo” aspect in the case after CBI accused the Yadav family of manipulating Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) tenders and illegal land transfers.

Lalu Prasad, 77, is accused of hatching a criminal conspiracy during his tenure as Railways minister with Kochhar brothers - Vijay Kochhar, Vinay Kochhar, (both Directors of M/s. Sujata Hotel Private Limited, owners of Hotel Chanakya, Patna), and others to extend undue favours to the firm in awarding contracts for sub-leasing the Railway’s BNR Hotels at Ranchi and Puri.

In return, the Kochhars allegedly sold a prime plot of land in Patna to a company controlled by Lalu Prasad’s close aide, Prem Chand Gupta, and his associates and this company was later taken

over by Yadav’s family members, transferring the valuable property to them at a nominal price, according to the CBI chargesheet.

Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, Tejashwi pleaded “not guilty” and claimed trial after the charges were read over to them by the judge.

The two-phase assembly elections in Bihar will be held on Nov 6 and 11. RJD, headed by Lalu, is one of the major political parties in the state, and heads the opposition alliance Mahagathbandhan in which Congress is also a constituent.

“Tejashwi is going to change Bihar with the charge of 420 (Section 420 of the erstwhile criminal code IPC referred to cheating) being framed against him by a competent court,” senior BJP functionary Ravi Shankar Prasad told a press conference.

RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha claimed that a “miscarriage of justice” driven by political rivalry has undermined the rule of law and eroded public trust in democratic institutions.

## 25 crore import through Hawala

In a major breakthrough under ‘Operation Deep Manifest’, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has unearthed a cross-border import scam involving 39 containers of dry dates, allegedly of Pakistani

origin but routed through Dubai to bypass trade restrictions. The investigation has led to a powerful syndicate of businessmen allegedly from Navi Mumbai’s Agricultural Produce Market Committee

(APMC).

The consignment, officially valued at Rs9 crore and imported by Vortex Speciality Foods LLP and Purav Enterprises, was found to be worth nearly Rs25 crore.



**OPERATION DEEP MANIFEST: DRI PROBE REVEALS APMC TRADERS SYNDICATE LINKED TO ₹25 CORE PAKISTAN-ORIGIN DRY DATES ROUTED VIA DUBAI**

Investigators said the network used under-invoicing, misdeclaration of origin, and hawala payments to

facilitate the illegal imports.

Harshit Shah, proprietor of Vortex, is in judicial custody. He was also secretly operating Purav Enterprises to conceal his involvement. Shah is now revealing key details about past consignments, hawala handlers, and cross-border fund flows, sources said.

DRI officials revealed that Rs17 crore was laundered via hawala by APMC-based traders, routed first to Dubai, then to Pakistani exporters. “The declared value was a smokescreen. Payments were made in advance by a group of Sindhi traders from the APMC. The

entire operation bypassed banking and customs channels,” said a senior enforcement officer.

To dodge scrutiny, the dry dates were shipped from Pakistan to Dubai and then repackaged in bags labelled ‘Product of UAE’ before being sent to India, avoiding Pakistani markings.

The consignment was meant for APMC, where it would be sold at market value. Officials are now identifying more persons linked to this network, which allegedly handled multiple such shipments using the same modus operandi. Further arrests and seizures are likely in the case.

## Rupa Publication accused of copying



The Delhi high court has restrained Rupa Publications India Pvt.

Ltd. from publishing or selling its red-and-black coat-pocket edition of the Constitution of India, after finding it “prima facie” similar to the same book published by Eastern Book Company.

Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora passed the interim injunction on a suit filed by Eastern Book Company (EBC), saying both

publications makes it “prima facie evident” that the Rupa’s trade dress or design was “deceptively similar” to the one adopted by the EBC.

The judge restrained Rupa from manufacturing, publishing, marketing, selling, or advertising its red-black edition of the Constitution and directed it to remove and recall all its unsold inventory of the edition from the market.

## Fake currency notes delivered online

Counterfeit notes, once carrying the shadowy currency of stealth, now appear to be available through courier service. The Ahmedabad crime branch has arrested Aman Sharma, 19, who had 373 counterfeit notes delivered to his home recently.

The notes are in denomination of Rs 100, and their face value is Rs 37,300, crime branch officers said, describing paper quality and size “dodgy”. The arrest followed a tip-off about circulation of fake currency. The notes were sent to Ahmedabad from Noida, they said.

According to the officers, Sharma procured the notes through Naman, a person he came across on social media. The order was placed not long after the

two got to know each other, the officers said. Naman, the suspected racket mastermind, is absconding.

The notes were delivered by a well-known courier. Sharma even used some of the counterfeit currency in a crowded market before he was arrested following tip-off, the officers said.

The case was filed following the tip-off and a formal complaint by Bharatsinh Amarsinh, a head constable of the crime branch, under several BNS sections. These include 178 (counterfeiting coins, govt stamps, currency notes, or bank notes), and 179 (using forged notes as



genuine).

The crime branch officers said the tip-off was precise and specific in details, saying a person was in possession of counterfeit notes and his location was in Nana Chiloda’s Nobelnagar. Sharma was picked up soon after from the Ahmedabad neighbourhood.

# Child dies after getting polio drops



Hyderabad: A three-month-old boy in Telangana's Sanga-reddy died within hours of receiving pulse polio drops, raising initial concerns over the vaccine. District health officials said the death was most

likely caused by aspiration leading to asphyxia and was not linked to vaccination.

The baby was brought to local polio booth by his parents around noon. He was given polio drops and kept under observation until 12.30pm, said Kangti primary health centre (PHC) medical officer.

Around 1pm, the parents returned reporting incessant crying and one episode of vomiting, an

initial report said. Health officials said the mother had given the baby bottled milk after returning home.

The child was referred to PHC for medical attention, but the parents took him to a private doctor who called PHC medical officer who rushed there. The local doctor declared the infant dead around 2.15pm. "The stomach contents have been sent for test, and report is awaited," probe report said.

# Stray dog menace cost woman her ear

Thrissur (Kerala): A 52-year-old woman was severely injured after a stray dog bit off part of her ear in Guruvayur, health officials said.

Wahida was clearing weeds in front of her house when the stray dog suddenly attacked her without provocation at around 5.30 pm.

Hearing her cries, neighbours rushed to the spot, chased the



dog away and shifted her to Kunnamkulam Taluk Government

Hospital.

The woman was later referred to the Thrissur Government Medical College for further treatment.

Hospital authorities said Wahida's condition was stable.

Local residents said that at least three stray dog attacks had been reported in the area recently

# KHC increases compensation from Rs 77k to Rs 22.8 lakhs

Holding that bachelors do contribute to family income and for its overall development, the high court recently increased compensation to the family of a 24-year-old pigmy collector, who died in the line of duty in North Karnataka, from Rs 77,000 to Rs 22.8 lakh.

A division bench of Karnataka High Court (KHC) comprising Justices HP Sandesh and TM Nadaf noted in its order that in Indian society, "even bachelors also contribute their income for the family and the same is considered as family income for social developments, so also for the upliftment of status in society... The same is also beneficial to the family consisting of sisters and brothers as

well as parents."

Roshan Dhargi was returning from Humnabad to Kalaburagi in a car along with his friends after attending work entrusted by the vehicle's owner Shrinath. The accident occurred near Kudremukha Guddha around 12.30am when the car driven by Shrinath rammmed a truck on Jan 23, 2020. Roshan sustained serious injuries and died on way to hospital.

The boy's parents Eshwar and Kalpana moved Motor Accident Claims Tribunal at Kalaburagi for compensation. On July 11, 2023, the tribunal awarded Rs 77,000, pointing out that the father of the



deceased, Eshwar, was a govt employee earning Rs 34,000 a month.

Kalpana, who could have been considered a dependent, died during the proceedings. Hence, no compensation could be awarded for loss of dependency.

Eshwar challenged the order, with two daughters and another son joining the proceedings in high

court. It was contended that the brothers and sisters of the deceased, as legal representatives, can seek compensation.

Royal Sundaram Insurance Company, the insurer of the car, defended the tribunal's decision, arguing that the father, a govt

official, cannot claim compensation for loss of dependency.

The division bench noted that it "is important to take note of the fact that the deceased was a bachelor and they lost love and affection; they are also entitled to compensation under the head of loss of consortium".

"Dependency on the contribution should be taken even though not entirely dependent on the income of the deceased," the bench said, quantifying Rs 20.79 lakh as compensation under loss of dependency.

## Maharaj, Princess titles out: Rajasthan Highcourt



Jaipur: Princely states are long gone but the Maharaj lingered. Now, Rajasthan high court has drawn a line through the titles.

In a sharp order that cuts to the remnants of India's regal past, Justice Mahendra Kumar Goyal directed descendants of the former

Jaipur royal family to strip the prefixes "Maharaj" and "Princess" from their ongoing petitions or see their 24-year-old case dismissed.

"One week's time is granted to the petitioners to file a correct amended cause title deleting the prefix Maharaj and Princess from the names of petitioners and respondent," Justice Goyal said, setting Oct 13 as the final deadline.

Failure to comply, the court warned, would mean automatic dismissal "without reference to the court".

The directive came while 2001 by legal heirs of late Jagat Singh and Prithviraj Singh, descendants of the erstwhile Jaipur royal family, challenging the collection of house tax by municipal authorities.

The judge questioned the

relevance of royal honorifics in today's republic, pointing out that princely privileges were abolished decades ago. The court asked bluntly why such titles should continue to appear in legal proceedings.

The issue has surfaced before. In Jan 2022, the Jaipur bench had raised similar objections in a related case, seeking responses from both the Union and Rajasthan govts over the continued use of royal designations. Earlier, Jodhpur principal seat of the high court had also flagged the same concern in multiple petitions.

With the latest order, the high court has made its stand clear in law, there are no princes-only petitioners.

## App shortcut lands family of six into floodwaters

A shortcut suggested by an app-based navigation system turned into a nightmare for a family of six from Kalyan after its cars got trapped in rising floodwaters in Bhiwandi during heavy rain. Bhiwandi fire brigade personnel rescued them in under an hour via a boat as the water started filling the cars.

The group, which included a child and three women, had set off from Khadakpada in Kalyan for Vikhroli in two cars to attend an

event. Certain that it would get stuck in heavy traffic caused by a Navratri fair at Durgadi, it relied on an alternative route suggested by Google Maps that took it through a narrow village road near Lonad in Bhiwandi taluka's Bangaon.



What the app couldn't show, however, was that the engorged Ulhas river had submerged all

nullahs in that area. Google Maps doesn't provide real-time flood data and can only show traffic jams and delays, which could include road closures due to flooding.

As water levels rose, both cars got stranded mid-way through the area. Attempts to turn back were unsuccessful as the road behind got flooded quickly. Panic set in when water began to enter the

cars, leaving the family with no escape route.

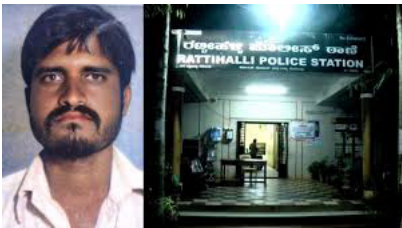
The group quickly reached out to the Thane disaster control room, which dispatched a rescue unit from the Bhiwandi fire department. A seven-member team led by duty officer Motilal Koli rushed to the spot with a boat. "By the time we arrived, floodwaters had already entered both cars. In the darkness,

we managed to safely rescue all passengers with the help of our boat," said Koli.

The fire official said the family got stranded because of its decision to skip the main road and take the shortcut via a narrow road during heavy rain.

After being rescued, the family was sheltered and provided food at a nearby company's premises.

## Games people play in the name of life insurance



Haveri: Four suspects are in police net over the murder of a farmer to usurp his property and claim the insurance benefits arising out of his death. The accused persons were remanded in judicial custody after being presented in court. A car, a bike, and mobile phones were seized from them.

The body of the victim, Basavaraj Bommappa Puttannanavar, 38, a bachelor who lived alone, was discovered on the night of Sept 27, after what appeared to be an accident on Chikkayadachi Road

in Rattihalli.

However, investigation revealed it was a murder and led to the arrest of the four suspects - Raghavendra Malagondar (a relative of the victim), Siddanagouda Karegoudar alias Halageri, Praveen, and Malatesh.

Basavaraj was the sole owner of approximately 12 acres of land. A police officer said preliminary investigation suggested taking over the land was the primary motive behind the murder. However, later it came to light that an accident insurance policy with a Rs 500 premium was taken out from a post office in Basavaraj's name prior to his death, with Raghavendra named as the nominee.

"Basavaraj was an alcoholic, and Raghavendra, who lived across the farmer's house, used to

occasionally supply him with liquor. Raghavendra and Siddanagouda both had their eyes on Basavaraj's property," additional SP Lakshman Shirakol revealed.

After intoxicating Basavaraj, the duo took him to the sub-registrar's office and had a will made in their favour. "They conspired to murder him, enlisting the help of Praveen and Malatesh," the police officer further explained.

On Sept 27, the suspects let Basavaraj consume alcohol and then made him sit on the road. They then rammed him with a car, killing him on the spot.

"The suspects thought if Basavaraj died in an accident, they would receive the insurance money, and the property as well," the ASP further said.

## CCTVs must in interrogation rooms in police stations

New Delhi: The SC asked the Rajasthan govt why no CCTV cameras are installed in the interrogation room of police stations. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed that interrogation room of a police station is the "main place" where CCTV cameras have to be there.

"As per your affidavit, there is no camera in the interrogation room which is the main place where

cameras have to be there," the bench said.

The top court said installing CCTV cameras would entail cost but "it is a question of human rights". It also asked the state how it proposes to have an oversight mechanism. The bench was hearing a suo motu matter concerning lack of functional CCTVs in police stations.

On Sept 4, the apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of a

media report which stated that 11 lives were lost in police



custody in Rajasthan in the first eight months of 2025, of which seven incidents occurred in the Udaipur division. The apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses.

# Airstrip was 'sold' & case dragged for 30 years

Believe it or not, this piece of news seems to be the same as that of a 1984 classic flick titled Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho! This comical satire takes on the system where decisions are kept pending for decades.

**IN REALITY:** Punjab police booked a woman and her son for allegedly selling a World War II era IAF airstrip, located in Ferozepur district, fraudulently in connivance with the revenue officials, about 28 years ago. The investigating officer, DSP Karan Sharma told media that while accused Usha Ansal is said to have passed away, police would be questioning her son Naveen Chand. "Also, since the investigation is still in progress, more accused are likely to be nominated in the case", the IO said. The airstrip, located in Ferozepur's village Fattuwalla near Pakistan border, which was used by IAF in 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars, was allegedly sold in 1997 by Usha Ansal and her son Naveen Chand Ansal, residents of village Demniwalla village, district Ferozepur, currently based in New Delhi. The issue was first flagged by a Ferozepur revenue department's retired "kanungo", Nishan Singh, who also submitted a complaint to the vigilance bureau (VB) - and now after 28 years, an FIR has been registered against Usha and Naveen for cheating (Section 420), forgery (sections 465 and 467) and criminal conspiracy (120-B). While the commandant, Halwara Air Force station, had sent in 2021 a complaint to the Ferozepur deputy commissioner (DC) and sought an investigation in the matter. Anguished over the delay, Nishan Singh moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court over the inordinate delay in the case following which the court directed the DC in December 2023, to conclude the inquiry within six months.

The DC reported to court that the land was still with the Indian Army. However, not satisfied with the DC's report, Nishan filed another petition alleging that several facts were being concealed and that the mutation of the said land was executed in the favour of private persons in 2001 in connivance with revenue officials. Meanwhile, the commandant, Ferozepur, moved another application in 2024, to the Punjab governor demanding CBI inquiry into the matter, subsequent to which the latter wrote to the chief minister to get the matter looked into. However, the airstrip



was restored to the ministry of defence in May this year, after an inquiry conducted by district administration, the high court has been informed.

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Editor

# Biological life in outer planet

Space scientists have found new but tentative evidence that a faraway world orbiting another star may be home to life. Reuter and BBC reported that team studying the atmosphere of a planet

called K2-18b has detected signs of molecules which on Earth are only produced by simple organisms. The discovery was possible through the James Webb Space Telescope which detected chemical fingerprints of gases that on Earth are produced only by biological processes. The two gases - dimethyl sulfide, or DMS, and dimethyl disulfide, or DMDS - involved in Webb's observations of the planet named K2-18 b are generated on Earth by living organisms, primarily microbial life such as marine phytoplankton - algae.

This suggests the planet may be teeming with microbial life, the researchers said. They stressed, however, that they are not announcing the discovery of actual living organisms but rather a possible biosignature - an indicator of a biological process - and that the findings should be viewed cautiously, with more observations needed. K2-18 b is 8.6 times as massive as Earth and has a diameter about 2.6 times as large as our planet. It orbits in the "habitable zone" - a distance where liquid water, a key ingredient for life, can exist on a planetary surface - around a red dwarf star smaller and less luminous than our sun, located about 124 light-years from Earth in the constellation Leo. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km). One other planet also has been identified orbiting this star.

These are the first hints of an alien world that is possibly inhabited, said astrophysicist Nikku Madhusudhan of the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy, lead author of the study

published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters. "This is a transformational moment in the search for life beyond the solar system, where we have demonstrated that it is possible to detect biosignatures in potentially habitable planets with

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current facilities. We have entered the era of observational astrobiology,” Madhusudhan said. He did his Btech from IITBHU in 2002. Madhusudhan noted that there are various efforts underway searching for signs of life in our solar system, including various

claims of environments that might be conducive to life in places like Mars, Venus and various icy moons.

Madhusudhan said that with hycean worlds, if they exist, “we are talking about microbial life, possibly like what we see in the Earth’s oceans.”

Their oceans are hypothesized to be warmer than Earth’s. Asked about possible multicellular organisms or even intelligent life, Madhusudhan said, “We won’t be able to answer this question at this stage.”

## Doorbell prank: boy fatally shot



An 11-year-old boy was fatally shot in Houston after a prank in which he rang the doorbell of a home and ran away, police said.

The boy had been ringing doorbells as a prank late Saturday

evening, the Houston Police Department said in a statement. Commonly referred to as “ding dong ditching,” the prank involves fleeing before someone inside the home opens the door. The boy, who has not yet been identified, died of his wounds police said.

Police spokesperson Shay Awosiyani said that officers were still investigating and had not arrested anybody in connection with the boy’s death as of Sunday evening.

Other “ding dong ditch” pranks have turned deadly in the past. In 2023, a Southern California man was convicted on three counts of first-degree murder for killing three teenage boys by intentionally ramming their car after they rang his door-bell as a prank.

And in May, a Virginia man was charged with second-degree murder for fatally shooting an 18-year-old who had rung his door-bell while a filming a TikTok video of the prank, the New York Times reported.

## Cry clubs replace laughter clubs!

In this day and age, unconventional is the new norm. Mumbaikars are now paying Rs499 to cry their hearts out by participating in cry clubs, which are being organised across the city every weekend. Living up to its much-touted spirit, Mumbai, once again, has left behind other metro cities when it comes to even crying. The inhabitants of ‘the city of dreams’ have turned out to be the most enthusiastic to join such cry clubs. Inspired from ‘ruikatsu’, Japan’s tear-seeking gatherings, a cry club aim is to provide a judgement-free environment for emotional release. Small World, a Bengaluru-based event curating firm, has been organising these cry clubs across India. Over the past two months, these cry clubs have been quietly popping up in metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai. While the major portion of the attendees include millennials and Gen Z adults, it has also been seeing participation across all age groups as well as professions.

According to Small World, the cry clubs have received the best response in Mumbai among all the other metro cities. The organisers have been hosting sessions in Lower Parel, Khar, Saki Naka and Goregaon. Notably, the data showed that Mumbaikars have been the most enthusiastic to pay for a good crying session. What happens at the club is that the host sets the tone of the event and given a chance to everyone to rant about their issues. These cry clubs have become a safe, judgement-free space for emotional detox where people shed their emotional burden, one tear at a time. The idea is simple but radical in a country where mental health has long carried stigma, especially crying which is often seen as a sign of weakness. The rise of these clubs reflect deeper social shifts in the post-Covid world where mental health has become a mainstream conversation. Simultaneously, the loneliness of urban living, amplified by digital dependence and nuclear family structures, has also

created a craving for human connection. Talking to media, Saurav Arya, Small World founder, said, “Mumbai is the biggest metropolitan city in India where we have people from across the country and most of them live away from their families and hence they are comfortable being around strangers. On the other hand, a city like Chennai did not see as much adoption (of the initiative) as I believe most of the people there live with their families and have a strong cultural connect.”

# Designing of India's National Flag

My dear Gauri,

And now I come to the designing of our national tricolour when the great day arrived, i.e., 15 August 1947.

By then a Constituent Assembly had been set up to shape a Constitution for the new Republic to be born and this assembly appointed a committee to design a national flag. Suggestions were, understandably, invited. One of the suggestions put forward by Veer Savarkar was that the charkha should be supplanted by a chakra a wheel. After much discussion, the committee designed the flag and the Constituent Assembly accepted it. On 22 July 1947 it was resolved that the National Flag of India shall be a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band there shall be a wheel in navy blue to represent the chakra. The design of the wheel shall be that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka...

Only a minor change had been made in the old national flag, the charkha being replaced by the chakra—the wheel of dharma. The colours of our national flag have no communal significance. The saffron colour, said Dr S. Radhakrishnan, represents the spirit of renunciation. He quoted an old Sanskrit saying: Sarve tyage rajadharmasu drishta, meaning all forms of renunciation are to be embodied in Raja Dharma.



Dr Radhakrishnan explained the white band as representing the sun's rays. He said. "The white means the path of light, the light of truth. We cannot gain our goal of truth, unless we walk in the path of virtue"

In the same way, Dr Radhakrishnan explained the significance of green. He said. "The green is there—our relation to the soil, our relation to the plant life on which all other life depends. We must build our paradise here on this green earth"

But the green reminded a member of the Constituent Assembly, Seth Govind Das, of the War of Independence of 1857. He said: "At that time the colour of our flag was green and under it we fought the battle. It was at that time not the colour of Muslims alone or of Hindus but of all those who fought the war of independence."

The chakra against a white background was explained by Dr Radhakrishnan in his own characteristic way. He said: "Asoka's wheel represents to us the Wheel of the Law, the Wheel of the dharma.... It also tells us that the dharma is something that is perpetually moving.... There is life in movement...." Sayyid Mohammed Saadullah, from Assam, said that the decision to replace the charkha with the chakra was "really a heavenly-born inspiration".

The Ashoka wheel is not his own creation though. It is an old Indian symbol standing for the sun. According to the Satapatha Brahmana, a gold disc was used as a symbol for the sun. It is the wheel of samsara.

The wheel is described in Buddhism as bhagavato dhamma chaam and represents dharma, the eternal



*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**

law. It has also been compared to the discus of Vishnu, i.e., the Sudharshana Chakra is the cosmic circle within which everything exists—akhanda mandalakaram uyaptam yena charaacharam.

Though it was the Constituent Assembly which finally okayed the design of the national flag—and the national emblem—credit for visualising it should go to Badruddin Tyabji, an ICS officer who drafted the resolution. The only thing he failed to get accepted was the colour of the wheel. He had suggested black but it was finally agreed that it should be blue. And blue it is.

In my next letter I shall write about how Buddhism lost out to Hinduism in India.

- Your loving Ajja

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