



ऊर्जा विभाग अंतर्गत

मुख्यमंत्री ऊर्जा खुशहाली योजना

हर माह
200
यूनिट
बिजली मुफ्तजे.बी.वी.एन.एल से
व्हाट्सएप नंबर पर जुड़ें
9431135503200 यूनिट तक बिजली उपभोग करने वाले
उपभोक्ताओं का बकाया बिजली बिल माफ

मुख्य बिन्दु

- आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को इस योजना का लाभ मिलेगा।
- 200 यूनिट प्रति माह मुफ्त बिजली योजना के तहत सभी तरह के शुल्क यथा **Energy Charge, Fixed Charge, Electric Duty, FPPPA Charge** आदि की छूट 200 यूनिट तक मासिक खपत करने वाले घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को प्रदान की जाएगी।
- यह योजना **जुलाई 2024** के बिलिंग माह से लागू की जाएगी।
- 33,07,294 ग्रामीण घरेलू उपभोक्ता लाभान्वित होंगे।
- 6,37,095 शहरी घरेलू उपभोक्ता लाभान्वित होंगे।
- 200 यूनिट प्रति माह मुफ्त बिजली योजना हेतु झारखण्ड सरकार प्रतिमाह लगभग **₹350 करोड़ सब्सिडी** के रूप में झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड को उपलब्ध करायेगी।
- करीब **40 लाख** घरेलू उपभोक्ता को लाभान्वित करने का लक्ष्य।

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हेमन्त सोरेन
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड



OPINION 6
SEXISM IN POLITICS:
THE UNFINISHED BATTLE

WORLD 8
ISRAELI FORCES APPEAR TO
WITHDRAW FROM JENIN

MONEY 10
RUPEE RISES TWO PAISE TO SETTLE
AT 83.95 AGAINST US DOLLAR

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कोल्ड स्टोरेज खोलने का

2024 तक आप में से किसी को

मिला क्या?

WHEN GOLDEN HOUR IS LOST IN A STUCK AMBULANCE

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

My father was in the ambulance, as he had just suffered a severe asthma attack. We were rushing to a hospital in South Delhi, hoping every second that we would make it in time. But as we got onto the main road, we realised we were trapped. The heavy rains in the morning had caused massive water-logging, and the traffic was completely stuck. The ambulance couldn't move an inch. "Though, we eventually reached the hospital, the delay could have been fatal," said Ramesh Verma, echoing the helplessness of a family member stuck in a dire situation due to water-logging induced traffic snarls in the national capital. His case is just one among many in the similar situation, highlighting systemic issues with emergency response and infrastructure, particularly during the monsoon season when water-logging is the common feature at various stretches.

Despite the ongoing problems plaguing the city for years as climate change induced erratic weather plays truant, authorities continue to shift responsibility, leaving the situation unresolved year after year. There have been cases of people dying in rain-related incidents as the capital has been witnessing heavy rainfall every other day, bringing it to a standstill with streets flooded, traffic in chaos and some commuters stranded on roads. Even upscale areas of Lutyens' Delhi, arterial lanes and key tunnels like the one at Pragati Maidan were closed due to flooding. Clearly, this reflects a broader issue where emergency services are frequently hindered by inadequate infrastructure. Incidentally, while writing this, Sawati Das Gupta, a commuter, called up in distress. "I am stuck up at a severe traffic snarl at Bharat Mandapam near Supreme Court due to water-logging, which is also blocking two ambulances.

"The vehicles with sirens blaring are honking consistently, but there's no space to move. I just can't imagine the distress of patients and their families inside the vehicle, trapped in gridlocked traffic. It's heart-wrenching. The pressure and fear of not knowing if they'll make it in time only add to their agony. The situation is further compounded by the fact that outside the vehicle, people seem unaware of the urgency," she said. Dasgupta asserted that such a situation is unacceptable and no one should have to endure this kind of helplessness. "We need better emergency management and infrastructure to prevent such incidents," she strongly emphasised. Drivers from Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS), the State Government's medical emergency services too expressed their frustration, noting that their best strategy is to avoid known water-logged areas and stay updated via contacts and newspapers. Much also depends on the driving skill of



the occupant behind the steering wheel, they agreed. Jeetu (name changed), a CATS driver, emphasised the importance of the 'Golden Hour'—the critical first hour following an accident for improving survival chances. The 'Golden Hour' principle, supported by WHO, stresses the importance of timely medical intervention to increase survival rates. Currently, traffic congestion often delays ambulances, with journeys that should take 15-20 minutes extending over an hour. The CATS vehicles are categorised into patient transport ambulances, basic life-support ambulances, and advanced life-support ambulances. He also shared that CATS is in the process of updating its fleet, with plans to add over 400 new vehicles equipped with advanced facilities. The Government has also taken the services of a private firm which is playing the vehicles as 'Rakshak' Suraj (name changed), another driver with the CAT, lamented that while the population has increased, infrastructure improvements have

lagged, putting critical patients at greater risk. Requesting anonymity, a senior official from the CATS department maintained that the old fleets are on the way out. A tender has been passed in this regard and we are looking forward to adding the new vehicles equipped with improved and sophisticated facilities including at least three Oxygen cylinders. Soon there would be more than 400 vehicles. The official admitted that roads are constructed without properly assessing actual needs, and issues like inadequate sewage management and insufficient desilting contribute to the chaos. Ultimately, it is the people and patients who suffer as a result. Jeetu chipped in saying that most critical are especially those injured in road accidents, while on the way to hospitals. "I have been lucky that no patient has died in my ambulance due to heavy traffic on the road resulting in the ambulances getting stuck in traffic jams."



SC asks HP collegium to reconsider its recommendations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the collegium of the Himachal Pradesh High Court to reconsider the names of two senior-most district and sessions judges for elevation as judges of the High Court. The top court observed that the High Court chief justice could not individually reconsider a recommendation and it could only be done by a High Court collegium, acting collectively. A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra delivered its verdict on a plea filed by the two senior-most district and sessions judges, alleging that their merit and seniority were not considered by the High Court collegium in the selection of names for High Court judgeship. "There was no collective consultation and deliberation by the members of the High Court collegium," the bench said while pronouncing its judgment. "In light of the above, the high court collegium should now reconsider the names of Chirag Bhanu Singh and Arvind Malhotra for elevation as judges of the high court, following the Supreme Court collegium decision dated January 4, 2024..." it said. While pronouncing its verdict, the top court bench said, "The decision of the chief justice of the High Court on the suitability of the two petitioners, as conveyed in his letter dated March 6, 2024, appears to be an individual decision. The same stands vitiated, both procedurally and substantially." It said the writ petition filed by the petitioners was maintainable as it questioned the lack of effective consultation.

Sensex nosedives, vapourises investors' INR five lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth plummeted by ₹5.49 lakh crore on Friday as markets faced a massive correction tracking a weak trend in global peers and fresh foreign fund outflows. Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at ₹81,183.93. During the day, it plunged 1,219.23 points or 1.48 per cent to ₹80,981.93. The BSE benchmark had hit its all-time high of ₹82,725.28 on Monday. Following the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped by ₹5,49,925.16 crore to ₹4,60,18,976.09 crore (USD 5.48 trillion). "Markets witnessed intense profit-booking after the recent upsurge and key benchmark indices crumbled on fears a subdued US economic data could push



Fed chairman to postpone rate cut decision. "Investors trimmed their bullish bets ahead of the US jobs report, as any uptick in the numbers could prompt the Fed to maintain the status quo on interest rates," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Among the 30 Sensex firms, State Bank of India tanked over 4 per cent. ICICI Bank, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, ITC, Axis Bank and Adani Ports were the major laggards. Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, JSW Steel and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading in the red. The US markets ended mostly in the negative territory on Thursday.

BJP J and K manifesto: 370 is a thing of past says HM

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Exuding confidence that the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) will form the next government on its own, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday unveiled the party's Sankalp Patra (manifesto) asserting its resolve to build a peaceful, secure, developed, and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. Ahead of releasing the party's "Sankalp Patra", Shah said, "Article 370 is part of history and will never come back. The people of the



Home Minister Amit Shah releases the party's election manifesto ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir elections. PTI

country and the state respect the abrogation of Article 370." Referring to the list of 25 promises made by the party in its manifesto, Shah said "wiping out terrorism and separatism in the state" figure high on our agenda, followed by prioritising and enhancing women's financial security and self-reliance. The Home Minister also promised to bring a white paper to fix the responsibility of those involved in the emergence of terrorism in the region.

INDIA CLAIMS SIXTH GOLD



Parveen Kumar shattered the Asian record jump of 2.08 m to win the T64 finals at Paris Paralympics 2024

Phogat, Punia join Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joined the Congress on Friday ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls. Phogat on Friday resigned from the Indian Railways, citing personal reasons. Both of them met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his 10, Rajaji Marg, residence.

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Punjab farmers end protest after CM Mann's assurance on agriculture policy

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers protesting against the alleged delay in implementation of Punjab's new agriculture policy ended their strike on Friday...



Joginder Singh Ugrahan said they had urged the state government to make the agriculture policy public...

The draft of the policy is ready but it will be finalised only after due deliberations with the farmers, the chief minister had said...

SC dismisses Bombay HC order for drinking water at Mumbai cricket grounds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea challenging the Bombay High Court's order which had disposed of a petition seeking directions to provide drinking water and other facilities to cricket players during practice or unofficial matches on public grounds in Mumbai...



Playing in these conditions, these grounds in Mumbai have given greatest cricketers," the apex court observed. The bench also asked the petitioner whether he was predominantly a cricketer or a lawyer...

Army being roped in to plug Budameru breaches in Vijayawada, says Andhra CM

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said that Army teams are being roped in to plug the Budameru rivulet breaches to control the flood situation in Vijayawada...



Nadda inaugurates Regional Institute of Ophthalmology at Patna

PTI ■ PATNA

Union Health minister J P Nadda inaugurated the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology on the campus of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) and also the institute's extended building here on Friday...

foundation stone of several health projects, including health sub-centre (HSC), additional primary health centre (APHC), health and wellness centre (HWC), community health centre, worth Rs 850 crore at the IGIMS...

India, Japan discuss cooperation in railways, IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw discussed further enhancing cooperation with Japan in the field of railways, innovation in the digital landscape and focusing on futuristic technological advancements during his visit to Tokyo...



Vaishnaw also met Taro Kono, the minister for digital transformation of Japan, to discuss strengthening India-Japan digital ties.

Two CRPF personnel killed in lightning strike at training centre in Chhattisgarh

PTI ■ DANTEWADA

Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed in a lightning strike at an anti-Naxalite training centre of the paramilitary force in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Friday, police said...

The duo were shifted to Dantewada hospital in an ambulance, and after examination, doctors declared them dead, the official said.

Houses in Bageshwar villages develop cracks, residents blame soapstone mining

PTI ■ PITHORAGARH (UKHAND)

Cracks similar to those in Joshimath have appeared on the walls and ceilings of houses in more than two dozen villages of Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, sending residents in a state of alarm...

conducting mining rehabilitation as landslides were endangering their habitation.



temple region of Kapkot were closed two years ago but the cracks are still occurring in houses," Bisht, the mining officer, said.

studying the effects of soapstone mining in Bageshwar's villages.

Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja has joined BJP, says MLA wife Rivaba

PTI ■ JAMNAGAR

Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during its ongoing membership drive, his wife and party MLA Rivaba Jadeja has said.



This year. "The BJP has become a large banyan tree over the years and eventually became the world's largest party through its membership drive.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

India the peacemaker

With Putin now suggesting that India could mediate in peace talks, India's role on the global stage continues to grow

The Russia-Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, with no clear end in sight. What began as a territorial conflict over Ukraine's desire to align itself more closely with Western institutions like NATO and the European Union has turned into a prolonged military engagement with Russia, leading to mass displacement, thousands of casualties, and significant global economic disruptions. In recent months, efforts to find a peaceful resolution have gained renewed attention. One potential pathway for peace emerged when Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that countries like India, China, and Brazil could act as mediators in peace talks. This proposal points to a potential role for these major Global South nations in shaping the future of negotiations. Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent remarks on peace efforts are significant, especially in light of earlier failed negotiations. In the initial weeks of the war, a preliminary agreement was reached between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators during talks in Istanbul.



Now, Putin suggests that this could serve as a basis for future discussions, with mediation from nations like India, China, and Brazil, which have historically maintained neutral or balanced positions in the conflict. These nations, particularly India, could bring fresh perspectives to the table. India's long-standing policy of non-alignment and its diplomatic clout as a leader among Global South countries make it a credible mediator in a highly polarised international arena. India has consistently advocated for peace in the ongoing conflict, calling for both Russia and Ukraine to engage in dialogue.

Prime Minister Modi's diplomatic stance has been underscored by his visit to Ukraine last month. During this historic visit, PM Modi met with Zelenskyy, who proposed that India could host the second Ukraine peace summit. This proposal, Zelenskyy said, was due to India's position as a major democracy and its efforts to remain neutral in the conflict. India's position as a potential mediator offers several advantages. First, India's diplomatic relations with both Russia and Ukraine have been strong over the years. Second, India's neutrality in the conflict positions it as an acceptable mediator to both sides, which have faced varying degrees of global isolation and support. For Russia, India remains a crucial partner, and for Ukraine, India's growing global influence makes it a key player in any future peace talks. Third, India's active participation in global multilateral forums, including the G20 and BRICS, gives it a platform to influence discussions on peace efforts at a broader level. While the potential for peace talks with India, China, and Brazil as mediators is promising, challenges remain. The conflict has seen entrenched positions from both sides, with Ukraine's territorial integrity at the center of any resolution. The success of such mediation will ultimately depend on the willingness of both Russia and Ukraine to make compromises and find common ground for peace.

PICTALK



Giant panda cub Katyusha, the first panda bear born in Russia plays with her mother at a zoo in Moscow. AP/PTI

The death of window shopping: How e-commerce stole the joy

Spontaneity has given way to algorithms, and the sensory delights of browsing have been replaced by sterile scrolling

Once upon a time, I was a passionate window-shopper. I could spend hours gawking in a mall or a market, viewing and trying out things I didn't need, but often ended up purchasing. Not any longer.

During my latest visit to a mall this week after several months, I realised how my appetite for browsing and buying had nearly died. Our family now happily gets everything delivered to our doorstep: from Apple to Android phones. Shopping had long been a cherished ritual, offering an experience that transcended mere transactions. It tapped into emotions and senses, creating memories, fostering relationships, and offering solace in unexpected ways.

Yet, the rise of e-commerce has drastically altered this landscape, leading to the erosion of the joys of traditional shopping. The sensory overload of colours, smells, and sounds has been replaced by the sterile, one-dimensional world of online shopping. We now scroll through product images on a screen, devoid of any real human interaction. Shopping was



once an opportunity to step out of our daily routines, to wander through aisles with no particular destination in mind, and to let our imaginations run wild as we browsed items we didn't know we needed until we saw them. This spontaneity is all but lost in the algorithm-driven world of e-commerce, where every click is tracked and every recommendation is based on past behaviour, leaving little room for surprise or serendipity.

Moreover, shopping in physical stores offered a tactile connection to the products we bought. We could feel the fabric of a garment, test the weight of a book in our hands, or smell the aroma of freshly baked bread before making a decision. These sensory experiences are deeply rooted in our memo-

ries and play a significant role in our attachment to the items we purchase. Online shopping, in contrast, offers a purely visual experience, reducing our interaction with products to mere images on a screen. The absence of this tangible connection often leads to a lack of emotional attachment to the items we buy, turning shopping into a mechanical process rather than an enjoyable pastime. In the past, shopping was as much about the experience as it was about the purchase. The thrill of discovery, the joy of window shopping, and the satisfaction of finding that perfect item after hours of searching were all part of the journey. However, it would be unfair to dismiss the advantages of e-commerce entirely. The convenience of shopping from the comfort of our homes and the ability to compare prices across multiple retailers are undeniable benefits. For those with busy schedules or physical limitations, online shopping has been a game-changer, providing opportunities that would have been unimaginable a few decades ago.

Yet, as we embrace these conveniences, we must also consider what we are losing in the process. The act of shopping is not just a means to an end but a valuable experience in itself. It is a chance to connect with our communities, indulge our senses, and find joy in the unexpected. As we move towards a digital future, it is worth considering how we can preserve these intangible aspects of shopping that bring richness and depth to our lives. In the end, the choice is not about rejecting technology or clinging to the past, but about finding a balance that allows us to enjoy the best of both worlds. We can find ways to reintroduce the joy of discovery, the pleasure of the tactile, and the warmth of human connection into our shopping experiences, even as we click our way through the digital aisles. In my case, I attribute my loss of interest to a feeling of satiety, a recognition that I have more than I need and it's time for me to stop indulging in senseless accumulation of material things. Period.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Sexism in politics: The unfinished battle

The recent disparaging remarks by Donald Trump against Kamala Harris have once again spotlighted the rampant sexism entrenched in politics



ARCHANA DATTA

The Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's recent disparaging comments against her Democratic rival, Vice President Harris about her 'appearance', re-established the fact that 'sexism is very much alive in American politics'. His party, however, had denied that 'it had anything to do with race or gender'. Harris, on the other hand, urged Trump to commit to debating her, 'if he got something to say'. Such sexist vilification, many believe, is on the expected lines in a country that had no women, and only one person of colour as president, which is now, for the first time, having a woman of colour running for the presidency on a major party ticket. Harris' entry into the presidential battle has unleashed a wave of misogyny, and personal attacks on her marriage and stepchildren. She is also accused of leaning into 'being Black for political expediency'. Republican vice-presidential nominee Cyrus Vance's remarks that the Democratic Party is dominated by 'childless cat ladies', with no 'direct stake' in America's future, is also a dig at Harris' life choices.

While, early this year, Nikki Haley, the first woman governor of South Carolina, when encountered the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, she was dismissed as a 'token' candidate, and her achievements hardly got any attention. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had to undergo similar ordeals with apprehensions about her health and integrity, and even for her political ambitions. In 2008, Sarah Palin wasn't spared, she was constantly jeered at for her looks, personal life and intelligence, while her policy positions and records were overlooked. While only a relatively small share of the US adults (18%) consider that it is important that a woman be elected as president in their lifetime, most (64%) say this is not too or not at all important or that the president's gender doesn't matter. Overall, 62% of Americans believe that the media focuses too much on the physical appearance of women contesting for high elected offices, and there is not enough attentiveness to their views on key policy matters (Pew



Research Centre). Along the party lines, 25 per cent of Republicans are of the view that 'men generally make better leaders than women, only 4 percent said that women are better suited to lead'. While, Democrats, were found to be 'more likely to say women were better leaders than men' (August, 22, Perry/Udem survey). Many of the politicians may be progressive in their policy beliefs, but, when it comes to equity, their socialisation around gender stereotypes and expectations is quite stubborn', commented Kelly Dittmar, professor of political science, at Rutgers University. In the USA, women hold only 27.9 per cent of seats in Congress, while, there is currently no Black woman in the Senate. A 2016 IPU study on the experiences of fifty-five women members of national parliaments from 39 countries across the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Arab countries, confirmed that 'sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians are very real and rampant'. While, psychological violence, the most widely spread, and, now, more on social media, affected 81.8 per cent of the respondents surveyed. A majority (61.5 per cent) believed that



HARRIS' ENTRY INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL BATTLE HAS UNLEASHED A WAVE OF MISOGYNY, AND PERSONAL ATTACKS ON HER MARRIAGE AND STEPCHILDREN. SHE IS ALSO ACCUSED OF LEANING INTO 'BEING BLACK FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY'

such behaviour and/or violence was intended primarily to dissuade them from continuing in politics. While 'young and feminist women parliamentarians are particularly targeted', said an Asian parliamentarian. A parliamentarian from sub-Saharan Africa underscored that 'men need to be educated about the benefits of women's presence in parliament'. While, many opined that an increase in the number of women in parliament and solidarity among them, can help change such a political culture. While, in India, women parliamentarians, a minuscule minority, just 13.63% of the elected strength of the Lower House, much less than the 33% that the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, proposes to put into effect, face sexist comments from all corners, their colleagues, rivals or voters, and their achievements reduced to their gender only, rued a women's rights activist. An erstwhile woman Union minister lamented that 'when a woman is attacked, she gets attacked for her character, but never for her policymaking'. Women politicians, cutting across party lines, seem to agree on the issue of character assassination, and consider that it 'reflects the larger psyche of the society'. Many also complain that 'women politi-

cians aren't taken seriously... and male members have been often preferred for speaking on serious issues, while, women are only expected to raise soft issues'. Outright misogynist remarks are quite the norm in political discourse. Recently, a senior woman Rajya Sabha MP expressed discomfort with her identity being tied to her husband's name by the Chair. Globally, only 26.9 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses are now women (IPU). Many countries have resorted to women's quotas and reserved shares. But, that's not enough. What is needed is a nuanced approach to addressing the issues of sexism and double standards existing within the political parties and parliament. Political parties must have an internal assessment mechanism to look into the gaps in all areas of internal practices and operations. A parliament must also ensure inclusivity in its work processes and outputs, with the help of a strong regulatory framework. Gender parity and pluralism are essential in electoral politics for the greater good.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan, All India Radio; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FALL FROM GRACE

Madam — Malayalam film industry has been in a crisis since the release of Hema Committee report which has recorded sexual exploitation by senior artistes/technicians over the women artistes/technicians. The women artiste/technicians in their enthusiasm/eagerness/greed approach the other side for a favor, over looking the others who score over them on merits in the industry and offer /submit to them with what would please them for grabbing the chance. If the person who is the so called perpetrator of the crime which is sexual exploitation in this case is wrong the lady who has approached him for favor of a chance and offering/accepting to entertain him is considered an abettor of the crime. It is a quid pro quo though apart from crime also unethical on the part of the grantor of the chance. Such quid pro quos exist not only in film industry and every other industry and in fact it is a universal phenomenon in today's world. While this affects the only individuals concerned and to a limited extent the industry or the corporate concerned, the political leaders /parties accepting bribes in any form say organized /un organized methods including through the electoral bonds route is also a quid pro even as per SC ruling and more harmful as it harms the nation as a whole.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

TEACHERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Madam — The interruption of the Covid had been epochal and served to direct our focus on education, across the globe. It would be a great pity should we fail to subsequently comprehend the vital role of teachers, *pe se*. A greater tragedy if we still look to stitch up patchwork approach in education that is rendered more complex as the stakeholder base is vast. So are its key elements of content, quality and efficiency of transmission. In each of these there

Eco-friendly Ganesha



With environmental concerns gaining too much ground, many of the well-wishers of Lord Ganesha in the city have

started to conduct environmentally friendly Ganesha Utsav celebrations this year. So it is our earnest desire to avoid pollution. Paint from Ganesha Idols could form a deadly cocktail with oil spill on the sea may cause environmental problems after Ganpati immersion on Anant Chaturdashi day. The oil paint contains carcinogenic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and chromium which have an adverse effect on marine life as well. Despite caution, people prefer POP idols instead of clay. It is time to have a broader outlook on this subject. This responsibility rests with each and every one of us. The civic body should have proper planning and the pick and choose method to make sure the festivity achieves a religious objective rather than making it a politicised one with maximum pollution level.

Jayanthy Ramaswamy | Mumbai

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOTBALL

Madam — Rarely do our politicians talk sense. It was heartwarming therefore, to hear the CM of UP, Yogi Adityanath, announce that a number of football stadia as well as a large number of football grounds will be prepared to give a boost to the "beautiful game". This is far better than sponsoring temples that cater only to a particular religious constituency. To quote Nelson Mandela, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." Yogi's done well, in bending it like Beckham.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

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FIRST COLUMN

FINDING PEACE
AMIDST THE CHAOEmbrace divine shelter to
overcome life's struggles

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

It may sound very insulting, but this is what most of us, if not almost all of us routinely do. Because it is so natural to do. We have a deep desire for something considered most dear. Or, we may not want to lose something considered crucial for our existence. So what do we do? We keep on thinking about it. Yes, we also do whatever we can to ensure it or should. What happens in most cases? We fall short because we are small, and helpless in the ultimate sense.

God keeps control of Himself regarding the fruits of our actions. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 2.47) We have only been given the right to desire and do. (2.47) But we either don't give up trying by ourselves or with the help of others, if we choose to do that. Now worry sets in because we have set our hearts on it. And we hurt ourselves both in terms of mental health and physical health because they are so intertwined. Are we doomed? No, we are not, if we choose to do what we are expected to do, which is to approach God. That is why our scriptures, especially the Bhagavad-Geeta, persuade us to do that. I will cite some verses in this connection. The verse #18.62 goes like this, "In all respects take shelter of God only. By His mercy, you will achieve supreme peace." What does this mean? We will not suffer from mental problems, by which a quarter and more in the world are suffering. (9.22) Isn't what we want? You get started on this path and start becoming deserving. God will respond suitably. But our natures won't allow us to do what God wants us to do to qualify for His 'kripa' (grace).

Even if we somehow curb our natures, our egos come in the way. For



us human beings, our egos are everything; we cannot imagine taking unconditional shelter from anyone including God of course. So we remain in the shelter of worry. Exalted personalities have surrendered to God and reaped all kinds of benefits from Him. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame illuminates, "Where there is the yogeshwar Shri Krishna and where there is a devotee of God (as Arjuna was), there will be opulence (saubhagya), victory (success), wealth and definite principles (dharma)." (18.78) God is unlimited and He can give what we cannot even imagine. Swami Vivekananda went to America in 1843. Not only did Swami give an iconic speech on Hinduism at the World's Religious in Chicago on September 11, 1843, but introduced Hinduism and Indian spirituality to the Western world.

We just have to get started and achieve what these exalted personalities achieved after several lives. It is not so difficult, but requires determination. What is so difficult to pray? All we have to ensure that whatever we pray for is according to dharma. God will respond in a way He decides about what we deserve. Then, doing 'naman' (namaskar) to a Deity of God in a temple shouldn't be so difficult. God, being what He is, cannot be a debtor ever. He will give something, again what He feels is good for us. What is wrong with chanting God's names? This activity appears so innocuous but people of all religions for ages have been chanting Ohm and God's names. It must be useful, otherwise it would have been discontinued a long time back. What is so difficult to thank God if something good happens? We know how thanking helps us to make friends even with strangers. Then, how it must benefit if we thank God. 'Dhyan' (meditation) is catching attention worldwide. Why? Because it is extremely useful. Remembering God is another spiritual activity, for which God rewards handsomely. I can go on. Believe that these spiritual acts are highly beneficial, and can be done by one and all. Spiritual acts help in this regard and change us for the better. Then, why take shelter from worry, anxiety, depression, sadness, etc.? Take shelter from the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, controller and owner of the Creation and say goodbye to negative emotions.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views expressed are personal)

Bangladesh: Terrorism
redivivus?Some developments since the installation of the interim
Government provides cause for concern

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR



Several developments in Bangladesh since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina raise the question: Is that country set to become a fundamentalist Islamist state and a cradle and exporter of Islamist terrorism? As of now, none of what the students who led the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM) have said indicates that they support fundamentalist Islam or terrorism. It is, however, not clear what they stand for. A report in the *Dhaka Tribune* (datelined August 16, 2024) quoted Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the ADSM and an advisor in the interim government, as saying, "The spirit of the movement was to create a new Bangladesh, one where no fascist or autocrat can return." The same reported quoted him as saying that structural reforms were needed to achieve this aim, and that would require time.

One does not know what structural reforms they have in mind and the policies they intend to pursue. *The Tribune* report in question quotes Tahmid Chowdhury, another student leader, as saying that they were still working out their programme, which would be rooted in secularism and free speech. Reuters reported on August 16, 2024, that the students were contemplating forming their own party to carry their movement forward and bring a closure on the history of the last three decades when Bangladesh was governed either by the Awami League or the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Not much has been heard about the matter since then. The question is whether the overwhelming majority of them share their leader's views. One needs to ask this as fundamentalist Islamist and terrorist organisations have been increasingly spreading their tentacles inside Bangladesh's colleges and universities. Consider the case of North South University (NSU), one of that country's best-known private universities. Professor Gias Uddin Ahsan, Dean of the School of Health and Life Sciences, and acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, was arrested on July 16, 2016, along with two of his associates, for renting out his flat, and not informing the police about the fact of its being rented out and details of the tenants—which he was required to do. The flat was subsequently used by the



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perpetrators of the terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka on July 1, 2016. The University has suspended Professor Ahsan after his arrest. Earlier, it had dismissed four teachers for their links with the terrorist outfit, Hizbut Tahrir.

Nibras Islam, one of the six identified as those attacking the Holey Artisan Bakery and killed by the police in the encounter that followed, was one of its students. Abir Rahman, one of those who attacked a police post guarding Bangladesh's largest eid prayer congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj on July 7, 2016, and was killed, was a student of NSU. The attack, which was repelled, led to three deaths. Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, who, in 2012, was convicted on the charge of attempting to blow up the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and of coming to the United States for waging jihad, had also been a student of NSU. Besides, all the young men—Sadman Yasir Mamun, Faisal Bin Nayeem Dwip, Ehsan Reza Rumman, Maksudul Hasan Anik, Nayeem Irad and Nafiz Intiaz—arrested for killing the blogger and Ganajagan Mancha activist, Ahmed Rajib Haidar, in 2013, were its students.

There has been large-scale irregular inundation of educational institutions by fundamentalist elements. A report by Ekramul Huq Bulbul and Masud Milad in the *Bengali daily Pratham* Alo of August 12, 2004, states, "The allegation has been levelled of the jama'atification of the Chittagong University by violating all rules. Most applicants were not appointed as teachers despite getting four first classes in their educational life. Yet there has been the unprecedented occurrence of appointment of the supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner in the present four-party coalition government headed by Begum Khaleda

Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) despite their being without a single first class." The report further stated that investigations by Pratham also revealed that of the 122 teachers appointed during this period, 57 had been appointed by ignoring the recommendations of the Departmental Planning Committee and the number of posts advertised.

Whether all this has caused a significant section of students to be influenced by militant fundamentalist Islam need to be seen, given the continued operations of terrorist organisations. A number of Bangladeshis had fought the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. The Soviet Union's defeat at the hands of the Mujahideen and withdrawal from the country in February, 1989, had boosted their morale as also that of militant Islamists the world over. Osama bin-Laden, who had been involved in the jihad and who harboured the vision of establishing sharia rule worldwide, helped the establishment of the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB) in 1992. The formation of Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), followed.

Pressure from the United States and other Western countries following the large-scale violence unleashed by these organisations, compelled the Khaleda Zia government to act against them. More resolute action followed the ascent to power of the second Awami League-led government, with Sheikh Hasina as prime minister, in 2009. Nine Islamist terrorist groups were banned during her prime minister-ship. These included the JMB, Shahadat-e-al-Hikma, Hizb-ut-Tahrir, HuJI-B, Ansarullah Bangla Team and the last-named's subsequent reincarnation, Ansar al-Islam. The list also included Jamaat

Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya formed in 2018. Another seven Islamic extremist groups were blacklisted during her regime. These were Ulama Anjuman E Al Bayyinat, Neo-JMB, Dawlatul Islam Bangladesh, Hezbut Tawheed, At-Tamkin, Tamiruddin-Bangladesh and Towhidi Trust.

Particularly active among these was the Ansar al-Islam, which played a major role in the murder of the bloggers, which began with the killing of Ahmed Rajib Haider in Dhaka on February 15, 2013 and continued until 2015. The Neo-JMB, however, is believed to have been behind the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery which killed 23 persons, including three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian.

The tough measures that followed, had kept Islamist terrorism more and less under control. Following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (Hijb-ut) has been staging processions in different parts of Bangladesh and putting up posters articulating its ideology. On August 9, 2024, it held a rally in Dhaka demanding the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Bangladesh. Also, the statues of two police officers who died fighting the terrorists at the Holey Artisan Bakery, have been destroyed and a Hijb-ut Tahrir poster has been found at the site. On its part, the interim government has released Jashimuddin Rahmani, the chief of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, now Ansar al-Islam. Neither all this nor the very cordial meeting of Muhammad Yunus has had with leaders of the Jama'at and Hefazat-e-Islam, of course, indicates that the interim government supports Islamist militancy. Nevertheless, skating on thin ice is better avoided.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views are personal)

The United Nations' struggle for relevance in a changing global order

The United Nations faces unprecedented challenges that threaten its relevance in the modern world writes NAND KISHOR and AMAL CHANDRA

The United Nations (UN), a symbol of global cooperation since its founding in 1945, now finds itself at a pivotal moment. Established to promote international peace, security, and development, the organization faces growing pressure to reform in response to the ever-changing global landscape. However, despite widespread recognition of the need for restructuring, numerous obstacles hinder the reform process. Political, institutional, financial, legal, and socio-cultural barriers make consensus among member states difficult to achieve, thus stalling efforts to enhance the UN's relevance and effectiveness. Three critical areas demand attention—representation, effectiveness, and operational efficiency. Without

addressing these, meaningful reform remains elusive. One of the most significant barriers to UN reform is the veto power held by the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This power enables any of these nations to block resolutions, including those aimed at restructuring the UN. The P5's vested interest in maintaining their influential status has led to repeated failures to expand the Security Council to include new permanent members, such as India, which is the world's largest democracy. India's exclusion from permanent membership, despite its growing global influence, highlights a major flaw in the

UN's current structure. Similarly, other responsible powers, such as Japan and Germany, have long called for permanent seats on the Council. The reluctance of the P5 to share their privileged status stifles efforts to make the UN more representative of today's geopolitical realities. Another complicating factor is the principle of state sovereignty enshrined in the UN Charter. Many member states, particularly smaller or less powerful nations, are wary of reforms that they perceive as infringing on their sovereignty. These states fear that in a restructured UN, their voices might be drowned out by larger, more powerful countries. This divergence in priorities complicates efforts to build the broad consensus

necessary for substantial reform. While some states advocate for a more democratic and inclusive Security Council, others focus on regional issues or specific conflicts, making agreement difficult. The UN's effectiveness in addressing global challenges has been called into question, further complicating the reform debate. Public opinion and trust in the organization are crucial to its ability to implement meaningful changes. However, repeated failures to effectively address major crises, such as those in Afghanistan and Palestine, have eroded public confidence in the UN's capacity to respond to contemporary challenges. UN peacekeeping missions, a cornerstone of the organiza-



tion's efforts to maintain global peace, have also come under fire. Critics argue that these missions have often failed to prevent conflicts or protect civilians adequately. To enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, reforms must focus on improving the mandates, training, and resources available to peacekeepers. Additionally, addressing allegations of misconduct, including sexual

abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers, is essential to restoring the organization's credibility and ensuring accountability. These limitations highlight the urgent need for innovation and reform within the UN. Building and maintaining public trust is essential to securing the political and financial support necessary for any restructuring efforts. Efforts to improve the UN's operational efficiency, such as those initiated by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, have demonstrated the institutional challenges of reform. While some administrative changes have been implemented, resistance from within the organization and differing priorities among member states have limited the

scope of these reforms. The UN's extensive bureaucracy presents a major obstacle to meaningful change. Established procedures and norms are deeply ingrained, making it difficult to implement significant reforms. Bureaucratic inertia often leads to resistance from within the organization, as staff and officials may be reluctant to change familiar processes and structures. Moreover, the UN's broad mandate, which covers peace and security, development, and human rights, adds complexity to any reform effort. This wide scope can lead to overlapping functions and responsibilities among different UN bodies, resulting in inefficiencies. Reforming the UN also involves navigating a com-

plex web of international law. Any proposed changes must comply with existing legal frameworks and secure broad international support. This legal complexity adds another layer of difficulty, as reforms must be not only politically acceptable but also legally sound. While the need for reform is widely acknowledged, the path to achieving it remains fraught with challenges. Political dynamics, institutional inertia, financial limitations, and legal hurdles all contribute to the slow pace of change.

(Dr Kishor is the HoD of Politics and International Studies, at Pondicherry University and Chandra is an author, political analyst and columnist. Views expressed are personal)

Israeli forces appear to withdraw from Jenin

AP ■ JENIN REFUGEE CAMP
Israeli forces appeared to have withdrawn from three refugee camps in the occupied West Bank by Friday morning...

milantins in Jenin, Tulkarem and the Al-Faraa refugee camps in an attempt to curb recent attacks against Israeli civilians...

Hamas war began, evacuating the wounded have been slowed on their way to nearby hospitals, as Israeli soldiers search for militants...

During the operation, Israeli forces sent military bulldozers into the camp, ripping up roads in search of buried explosives...

mage through the rubble of destroyed buildings and take stock of the damage. Twisted rebar protruded from the concrete of collapsed buildings...

In the morning outside a United Nations health centre in Khan Younis to receive the vaccine, which was being administered by local health care crews...

Telegram CEO addresses French charges

Paris (AP): Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov promised to step up efforts to fight criminality on the messaging app...

post said. "Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools..."

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PUBLIC NOTICE
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CORRIGENDUM
CORRIGENDUM TO PUBLICATION OF APPENDIX IV-A DATED 23.08.2024 ISSUED UNDER RULE 8(6) AND RULE 9(1) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Public Notice
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book Form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal...

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Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@gmasserv.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN (Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address...

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NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the 51st Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the members of Modi Rubber Limited ("Company") will be held on Monday, the 30th September, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing ('VC')/Other Audio Visual Means ('OAVM') facility provided by Mas Services Limited to transact the business set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

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Regd. Office: DSC-319, DLF SOUTH COURT, SAKET NEW DELHI 110017

NOTICE OF 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AYUSHMAN INFRATECH LTD
This is to inform the members of the Company that the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Monday, 30th day of September, 2024 at 12:00 PM at registered office of the Company situated at DSC-319, DLF South Court, Saket, New Delhi-110017, to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of AGM.

THE STORY BEHIND KABINI ON MY MIND

AN AUTHOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Discover the inspirations, experiences and insights behind **VIKRAM NANJAPPA'S** compelling wildlife narratives in *Kabini on my Mind: Musings of a Naturalist*

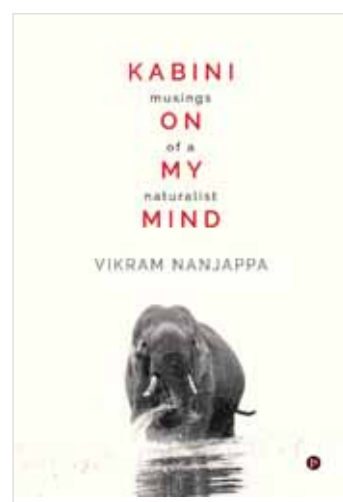
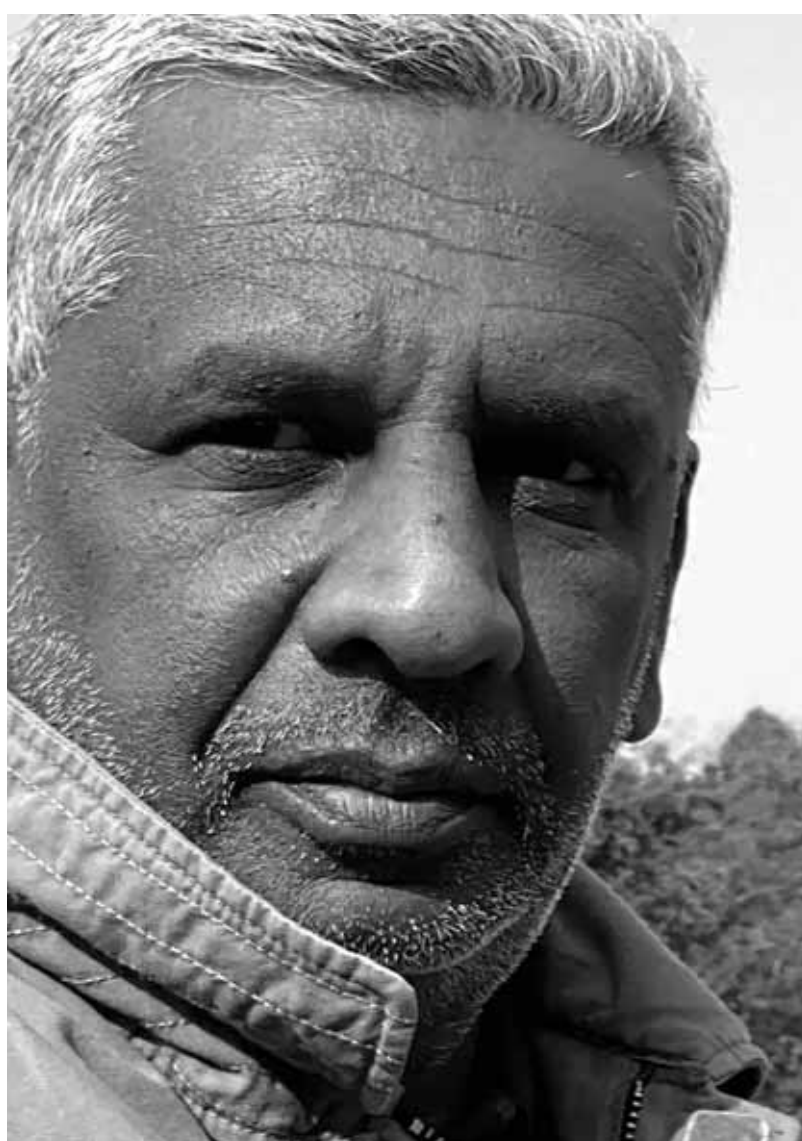
BY **SHARMILA CHAND**

Vikram Nanjappa likes to be described as an interested and well-informed amateur. He draws inspiration from the band of men called the Orientalists, most of whom were amateurs. Like them, his field of inquiry is 'Man and Nature; (with an emphasis on Nature) whatever is performed by the one or produced by the other'. Vikram's first exposure to wildlife came through the shikhar tales he had heard from his friends while studying at Mayo College in Ajmer in Rajasthan, one of the country's oldest and celebrated institutions of learning. Vikram cites the writings of Billy Arjan Singh and Jim Corbett as having played a pivotal role in inclining him passionately and committedly towards wildlife. After completing his Bachelor's in History and Political Science from St. Stephen's College in New Delhi, Vikram joined the tea plantations. It was during the thirteen years he spent in Kerala and the Duars of West Bengal that he found the opportunity to hone his twin hobbies of wildlife and photography. In 2002 he moved to Kabini and took up organizing wildlife tours full time. He is one of those rare gems who managed to turn his passion into a rewarding and fulfilling vocation. After leaving Kabini, in a manner of natural progression, Vikram ventured into the field of wildlife conservation (Non-profit Organization Management) with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation for a few

years. He also explored the world of fashion as a freelance writer and as a photographer. His current avatar is that of a marketing professional. Vikram avers that traditional knowledge and field skills coupled with good science and common sense is the best way to understand, expose and preserve our wildlife, which is alarmingly on the decline. He strongly disapproves of what he calls the 'tabloid portrayal' of wildlife, where aberrant animal behaviour is highlighted to reinforce false myths and stereotypes. This has to be eclipsed by an attitude of respect and reverence for the animal kingdom if we are to continue enjoying sightings of our wild brethren in their natural habitats.

In an informal chat, he talks about his book and more

Firstly, let's hear about your book....
In the winter of 2002-03 I found myself in Kabini managing a farmhouse that was taking its first baby steps towards becoming a wildlife resort and if you had asked me a year earlier if that was where I saw myself a year hence, I would have laughed in your face. As the 1900s turned to the 2000s I was happily living on the Bhutan border, managing a tea estate and indulging in my love of photography and wildlife. I did not know then that the previously dreaded but now forgotten Y2K problem would culminate in me reaching Kabini in the middle of the night to discover that my quarters had an outdoor toilet without a door. Not wishing to make a fuss, I decided to tackle the problem in the morning



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book : 'Kabini on my Mind: Musings of a Naturalist' by **VIKRAM NANJAPPA**
Publisher : Notionpress

they occurred and accurately reflect my mood, opinions and emotions as the incidents played out. A lot of water has flowed by since but I have resisted the temptation to 'update' them as I feel hindsight is not always a good thing – it can be unfair to those who actually lived through the moment.

How did you get the idea or let's say inspiration behind the book?

During my childhood my interest in wildlife was fueled by wildlife books written by various authors. Most of these books were written by western authors and were mostly about Africa. As I grew up, I realized that a lot of researchers from the west were writing and publishing 'popular' books about their research experiences while at the same time imparting knowledge on wildlife in a very easy to absorb manner. This unfortunately was missing in India and information on Indian wildlife was difficult to get. Sometime ago I realized that instead of complaining maybe I should write a book on my experiences as a naturalist in Kabini.

What is the target audience for the book?

The book is a compilation of various incidents that occurred during my stint and written in a very easy to read manner – the aim was to cater to both young adults and adults. It is also targeted at those who are not into wildlife as well as those who are. It's not really targeted at hardcore wild lifers – but I am sure they will enjoy the stories.

Any specific aim of writing on this subject?

The idea is to get young people interested in wildlife by presenting facts in an easy to read format. The chapters are independent of each other and easy to digest, the book can be read at leisure – it's not a heavy and laborious read. With today's declining attention span this was a deliberate move on my part.

Your favorite chapters?

I love elephants and I think that comes out very strongly in the book. My favorite parts are the ones about elephants – the following chapters in particular:

- Spirit of Kabini
- A Trunk Full of Tales
- A Tale of Two Giants
- The Amphitheatre of Life and Death

You had mentioned the book is not tiger centric?

I have purposely not focused too much on the tiger – I feel that too our tourism industry is too tiger centric to the detriment of other species. There is much more to Indian wildlife and therefore I have given more

attention to other lesser known and charismatic species.

Any personal opinions / beliefs you have shared in the book?

Yes, I have also touched upon my personal beliefs which are not quite conventional but at the same time tried not to sensationalize aberrant animal behavior reinforce false myths and stereotypes.

Are you a Critique of current trends in wildlife guiding?

It ends with a mild critique (Last Chapter: The Mystic Naturalist) of the current trends in wildlife guiding which I feel is getting too 'professional' 'with scripted storytelling and more. I hope that this critique will be taken in the spirit it is intended and lead to a more mindful approach to guiding.

Is this your first book? Were you always into writing? You wanted to be an author?

Yes, it's my first book. I have always enjoyed writing and maintaining an online blog for a long time. I also briefly freelanced as a writer, writing articles on wildlife and men's style. Also dreamt of writing a book so one dream was fulfilled.

Why Kabini?

I spent nearly ten years of my life in kabini. I know it very well and it's my home jungle. It's my karma Bhoomi as far as wildlife goes

How and when did you become a naturalist?

I became a naturalist in 2003 when I decided to quit my job as a tea planter and work in the wildlife field. As I was not 'qualified' to do research it was the only viable option for me.

How has your journey been as a Naturalist? Pls share a couple of milestones or anecdotes to share.

It was great. The biggest learning was when my boss Krishan Prasad or KP for short who is a great wildlifer himself advised me to ditch my camera for a pair of binoculars. Best advice I ever received- the learning that followed was stupendous. Also getting the opportunity to interact with Dr Ullas Karanth and other such greats. My outlook and philosophy towards wildlife was formed and greatly influenced by these individuals.

What did you enjoy the most about the book?

Writing it. I love to write.

What next? Which book? What subject?

Nothing definitive but I would like to write something from a foresters perspective about the day to day challenges of managing a national park in India.

NEW ARRIVALS

September Releases by Aleph Book Company



The Third Eye of Indian Art: Aesthetics as Vedanta
By HARSHA V. DEHEJIA (INR-499, PP-240)

The Third Eye of Indian Art delves into how Indian art offers more than just visual pleasure by inviting deeper, contemplative experiences. Harsha V. Dehejia introduces the 'third eye,' a concept for perceiving art not only objectively but through a serene, inner perspective. This book guides readers in appreciating art's spiritual and subjective dimensions, encouraging a profound understanding of beauty and truth. Dehejia, a physician and Indic studies professor with dual doctorates, offers insights drawn from his extensive expertise in Indian aesthetics.

A Wonderland of Words: Around the World in 101 Essays
By Shashi Tharoor (INR-999, PP-472)

Words possess extraordinary power. They can move, entertain and reveal the world in profound ways. In this captivating book, renowned wordsmith Shashi Tharoor invites readers into the fascinating realm of the English language. He unravels punctuation, spelling and grammar, while exploring the richness of acronyms, oxymorons, metaphors, idioms and more. Tharoor's engaging prose offers insights into English's history, regional variations and literary brilliance, making *A Wonderland of Words* a delightful read for language enthusiasts.

Unlocking Wealth: Secrets to Getting Rich at Any Age
By ROHIT SARIN (INR-599, PP-224)

Unlocking Wealth reveals how individuals and families can grip India's economic growth to build substantial wealth. Rohit Sarin, a seasoned banker and entrepreneur, offers practical strategies for smart saving, sound investments, and risk-taking, emphasising that it's never too early or late to start. The book is both a guide for personal wealth creation and a broader vision for societal advancement, showing how increased wealth can benefit all Indians. With nearly three decades of wealth management experience, Sarin provides clear, actionable advice for creating and growing wealth at any age.

Journey of Self-Discovery and Courage

Niharika Nigam's debut novel, *Joy of Missing Out*, explores the transformative journey of Nanki Mehta, a young woman searching for meaning and fulfillment beyond societal expectations. Through an unexpected adventure, Nanki learns to embrace uncertainty, redefine purpose and take a leap of faith towards a more authentic life, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Joy of Missing Out by Niharika Nigam is a deeply engaging novel that explores the themes of self-discovery, existentialism and the quest for a meaningful life. Nigam, an entrepreneur with years of experience in the adventure sports industry, brings a unique perspective to her storytelling, blending personal insights with a broader commentary on modern life. The novel centers around Nanki Mehta, a thirty-two-year-old brand strategist from Delhi, whose seemingly perfect life feels increasingly unfulfilling. Nanki's struggle is relatable, she grapples with societal expectations and a sense of stagnation in her career, marriage and personal life. Nigam paints a vivid portrait of a woman in crisis, yearning for something more than the mundane routines that have come to define her existence. Her portrayal of Nanki's internal conflict is rich and nuanced, making her journey of self-discovery both engaging and thought-provoking.

A turning point in the novel comes when Nanki stumbles upon a Bungy Jumping ad for Rishikesh, a place tied to her childhood memories. This ad becomes the catalyst for Nanki's journey towards transformation. Her interactions with River, a Bungy Jump Master, add a fresh dimension to her life. River's outsider perspective challenges Nanki to reconsider her own beliefs, offering new ways of thinking about purpose and fulfillment. This friendship serves as a mirror for Nanki's own soul-searching, encouraging readers to reflect on their own lives. One of the novel's most effective elements is its use of Bungy



Jumping as a metaphor for Nanki's leap of faith. What begins as a simple adventure turns into a powerful symbol of courage, trust and the willingness to embrace the unknown. This metaphor is woven throughout the narrative, providing a poignant backdrop to Nanki's internal transformation and reinforcing the novel's central themes of risk, renewal, and self-discovery.

Nigam's own experience in the adventure sports sector gives the book an authentic feel, especially in the scenes set in Rishikesh. Her understanding of courage, risk and the human desire for freedom adds depth and realism to Nanki's journey. The novel also delves into the challenges of social



entrepreneurship, showing how Nanki uses her business acumen to support a local NGO, blending purpose with practicality. The emotional core of the story is further enriched by Nanki's relationship with her grandfather, Nanu, whose illness and eventual death force her to confront her fears and redefine her understanding of loss and resilience. This subplot adds emotional weight to the narrative, making Nanki's journey even more

compelling. *Joy of Missing Out* is a novel that challenges readers to reflect on their own paths and the choices they make. It captures the tension between societal expectations and personal fulfillment, urging readers to take their own leaps of faith. Nigam's writing is insightful and empathetic, making this a book that resonates with anyone who has ever felt the need to step away from the familiar in search of a deeper sense of purpose.

ABOUT THE BOOK

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