



# TVESHHA

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## Mangalore dasara: devotees throng Kudroli temple



The streets near Kudroli Gokarnanatha temple were illuminated colourfully for the festival.

**Jeslin**

**MANGALORE:** Bright colourful lights all the way from across the street till the temple, thousands of devotees gathering to be part of the poojas and bhajans and the impeccably decorated idol of goddesses Sharada and Navadurga idols have transformed the night into an ethereal bliss in celebrations of Navaratri Utsav at Shree Gokarnanatha temple, Kudroli. The season of festival started on September 29 with 'Mahanavami Utsav' and 'Nava Durga and Sharada Pratistapana', and will end on October 9 with 'goddess Sharada visarjane'.

"This dasara, we put up lightings upto 10kms. There is a special Shiva pooja where women, especially widows, can be a part of. We also serve lunch to everyone, irrespective of their caste or creed. As part of goddess Sharada shobhayatre, we have over 25 floats leaving from our temple on October 8," said Mohan Shetty, one of the organisers of Kudroli

Dasara 2019.

As part of the 'Dasara Navasiri Kala Sambrama-2019', the temple has organised evening events such as hula hoop dance, kathak and bharatanatyam, bhaktirasamanjari, nagehaniyajadoovismaya, yakshagana, dance form of shree Krishna leele, kolaluvadana, sugamasangeeta along with few other songs and dance performances by well-known professionals.

"I have been coming to this temple since my childhood days, as I was born in Kudroli itself. Those days there was only Lord Eeshwara's shrine, but now the temple looks more beautiful after the establishment of other shrines like that of Lord Hanuman and Sai Baba. As all the shrines are here, one doesn't have to go from place to place to pay their respects during Navaratri. I am a firm believer of Lord Eeshwara and always wait for dasara to take part in the Lord's poojas and bhajans," said Vimala, a devotee from Kudroli.

During the first nine days of the

festival, homas, special poojas and bhajans are conducted. The last two days there will be goddess Sharada shobhayatre where the idol of goddess Sharada will be taken in a procession passing through several parts of the city such as Lalbagh, Ladyhill, K S Rao Road, Hampankatta and back to Kudroli.

"I have been a regular visitor to the temple. One of the many reasons for me visiting the temple would be because of the beautifully designed architecture, especially the golden paintings. I also like the evening atmosphere where one can get a feeling of relaxation.

The different idols of gods that are placed here are all unique and each has some divinity. Many temples have divinity; yet the aura, the environment and climate of the Kudroli temple are always memorable to visit during dasara," said Subrhmonya GS., another devotee from Mangalore.

## Human rights activist talks on 'India at its tipping point'

**Anjana, Aswathy**

**MANGALORE:** Well known human rights activist Fr Cedrick Prakash said that India is at its tipping point and the present political system is trying to change the history of India.

He was speaking on the topic 'India at its tipping point' at Roshini Nilaya on October 14. The talk was organized by the Citizen Forum for Mangalore Development in association with School

of Social Work, Roshini Nilaya. Fr Prakash started the session by giving various explanations for the term 'tipping point'.

"Tipping point is the point where everything collapses.

It is when people take law and order in their hands. This is what happened to Gauri Lankesh," Fr Cedrick said.

He also added that "nowadays the media is not allowed to write what they want to say. Fortunately, some editorials and op-eds

are still writing something."

"Tipping point is when somebody says there should be one language in India and that should be Hindi," he added.

During the programme, there was an interactive session with the audience. In the concluding part, Fr Prakash urged citizens to save the nation to get out of the tipping point. Students from St Aloysius College, along with students from Roshini Nilaya and other institutions too participate.

## Radio Sarang celebrates national award with visually impaired listeners

**Aswathy, Arjun**

**CAMPUS:** Radio Sarang 107.8 at SAC organised a special programme on September 29 to celebrate the national award it had won for 'Antar Belaku', a programme about blind people. Many who were part of the programme and other such listeners came to attend the programme along with their care takers.

The chief guests of the programme were prominent television anchor, orator and teacher Bhaskar Rai Kukuvalli and Tulu scholar Dr Ganesh Amin Sankamar. Rector of SAC Fr Dionysius Vas SJ, director of Radio Sarang Dr Melwyn Pinto SJ, Radio Sarang staff and other guests were present.

A passionate listener of Sarang, Ramaswamy M K, said: "I have been listening to Radio Sarang since 2013 and it has motivated me a lot to overcome my disability and I am so happy to hear that

cook was not of that quality.

After listening to Sarang, I get to know that my cereals are cooked to perfection as it helps me in keeping a watch on the time." The couple also added that they marked their timing of daily routine according to the programmes that they listened on Sarang.

Another blind listener, Daniel D'Souza, said: "Radio Sarang has motivated us instead of showing sympathy like others do."

While addressing the gathering Prof. Rai said, "Radio Sarang has achieved mammoth of a task by reaching out to the hearts of commoners.

It is the only radio which has encouraged and opened the doors for public."

He also acknowledged the effort of the Sarang team and the College administration for winning the national award for the programme in the most creative/innovative category.

Harshita



Fourteen visually impaired radio listeners were present.

Sarang has won a national award for this programme."

Another blind couple Shiv-ananjaiah and Pushpavathi from Madikeri, said that their daily routine is fixed according to Sarang programmes.

Pushpavathi said that after listening to Radio Sarang she had not only become a fan of its programmes.

It had also helped her to maintain time accordingly. She said, "Before, due to wrong judgement of timing, the food that I used to

All the gathered blind listeners were gifted with a token of love and were felicitated for their immense support to Radio Sarang.

Radio Sarang has over 2.5 lakh listeners all over Dakshina Knana, Kasaragod, Mangalore and Udupi. It helps in bringing various communities together and it also addresses the environmental and health issues especially of women and children. Since its inception in 2009, Radio Sarang has won three national awards for various programmes.

## Students offer helping hand to flood victims at Belthangady



Students engaged in cleaning process at Belthangady.

**Arya, Shalini**

**BELTHANGADY:** A group of 30 students and two staff members of SAC visited the flood affected areas of Belthangady on August 15 and 16.

The students took this as an opportunity to serve people whose houses and property were severely affected by the floods. They helped re-habilitating and re-building houses and property.

The students started from the college in the morning and were guided to Christaraj Navachetan Special School, Venur, Belthangady. Most of the roads

were washed off due to the heavy rainfall. They could only travel on foot and in certain places by small jeeps. There were many marks left by the rising water on the walls and such other still standing structures. Trees and other debris blocked the path in most places. Other organisations were seen distributing food, water and clothes to the survivors.

Many of the inhabitants were affected with different water-borne diseases. Carcasses of dead animals were seen floating on the water. Police officials and several political members also made their visit to the place offering help.

The students were given instructions and precautions as to how they should work efficiently. They were given food and special accommodation in the schools nearby. They also had the opportunity to meet the rehabilitants at the relief camps.

They had food with them while they listened to the heart-wrenching stories of the flood victims. .

"The floods made us realise the true value of togetherness, humanity, love and sharing," said Jyothi, One of the inhabitants in the relief camp. It took almost two days for the students to remove the dirt and waste from the houses in that locality.

"This visit made us experience real struggles of people in society and also helped us to offer them a helping hand," said Harshitha, a student of SAC.

"SAC has always been sensitive to people's needs and the students are always prepared to involve in such social activities; the management also insists the students to take part in such works and be active in society," said Shwetha Rasquinha, HOD of MSW department and coordinator of the programme.

## Cyclothon held in Mangalore

**Rashmi**

**MANGALORE:** Decathlon sports utsav in association with Mangalore Cycling Club organised Cyclothon on October 6. This sports utsav started in India in 2009.

They have 17 stores over India. They conduct this event every year on October 6 and October 13. They also conduct running competition for the members of the Mangalore Cycling Club as well.

30 km and 100 km cycling were the major parts of the event, where the 30 km cycling was based on entertainment and 100 km on brevet.

Almost 55 participants attended the event and they were encouraged to cover a distance from decathlon Bharath mall till Udipi in

minimum time. Kaushik Boloor who completed the event in 3 hours 20 mins was announced as the winner.



Mangalore cycling club members setting out on Cyclothon.

There were multiple categories for the events such as 3 km, 5 km, 10 km and 21 km.

Every category had a sub category of 20 and open, but for the 3 km event the subcategory was for 18 and open. Almost 400 people attended the event and received a

medal as token of love from decathlon.

Basically decathlon is a sports retail organisation first started in

France in 1976. In India the store was started in 2009, and in 2018 the new branch was opened in Mangalore.

"The main objective of the event was to help sports lovers to bring out their talents," said Jayakanth, manager of decathlon.

## Suicide awareness programme at SAC brings together like-minded groups

**Aswathy, Anjana**

**MANGALORE:** On account of suicide awareness and prevention month, an awareness programme was conducted on October 6 by Centre for Community Mental Health in association with other organisations.

In addition, as part of the programme, a walkathon and a bicycle rally were also held by Susheg Lifeline, a 24x7 suicide prevention helpline and Mangalore Bicycle Club (MBC) respectively.

The walkathon started from St Agnes College, Bendore at 7 a.m. and ended at St Aloysius College at 7.45 a.m.

About 40 members of MBC participated in the cycle rally which started from Indian Medical Association House.

A stage programme was held at SAC in which Vedavyasa Kamath, MLA, Mangalore south constituency and U.T. Khader, MLA, Mangalore constituency launched Susheg helpline portal.

"I think suicide is something preventive. According to research, a large number of adolescents are at risk of depression.

Usually the outcome of depression is suicide. The thought of committing suicide can be overcome if they receive the correct guidance and counselling," said, Dr Shalini Aiyappa, HOD, department of Psychology, SAC.

Gurukiran, singer and director said, "Everyone has gone through the thought of committing suicide at least once in life. Physical illness is seen by others, but mental illness is what the person goes through."

He also acknowledged the initiative taken by the respective organisers for creating awareness about suicide among people.

There was prize distribution for the winners of poster making competition held in different educational institutions as part of this awareness programme.

"This suicide helpline helps a lot of people and creates awareness among people in this area. It has also motivated people to help others from the thought of com-



Inauguration of the web portal on suicide prevention.

mitting suicide.

This is a very good step towards saving life," said, Hilda Pius, a participant of the programme. Earlier, members of Mangalore Bicycle Club took out a cycle rally in the city creating awareness on the suicide issue. A walkathon was also arranged.

Gurukiran, singer and music director, Dr A. Jagadish, consultant psychiatrist, Abhaya hospital, Dr Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, Vice Chancellor, NITTE, Fr Dionysius Vaz, Rector, SAC, Fr Melwyn Pinto, HOD, department of Journalism and Mass Communication, SAC, Dr Santhosh Prabhu, from the department of Psychiatry, K. S Hedge Medical Academy were also present.

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## Student entrepreneur

**Rachel Noronha inspires students to be adventurous and risk-taking**

Anusree

In the hustle of finding a space for oneself in this competitive world, making a choice between career and passion seems to ultimately end up in giving up on one's passion. But building your career and pursuing your passion can go hand in hand.

The only difficulty is today there is a misconception that being successful is only making lots of money.

Although adhering to one's passion has become a herculean task, there are young entrepreneurs like Rachael Noronha from Pachanadi, Mangalore who transformed her hobby into a lucrative business.

Rachael, a II year B Com stu-

John Rodrigues



Rachel Noronha

dent of St Aloysius College, Mangalore, makes handcrafted jewelry, home decor, bridal bouquets, key chains, phone cases etc. for her customers. After her PUC

she attended fashion designing classes, as it was her dream to start something on her own.

"It feels so good to be an entrepreneur, but it is even more special for me because I bought my bike with my own earnings," says Rachael. "I started this business after my dad passed away. It's not that I was financially down, but I wanted to be independent and do something of my own," holds Rachael beaming with a smile.

It's been a year since she started this business. She manages both her studies and preparing products as per the orders. She has made schedules for each of them so that she can concentrate on both. She also loves bike riding and powerlifting.

What makes her happy is the sense of self contentment she gains through this work with the constant support from her mother and sister.

She says that every student must start something of his/her own, not for a money making business, but rather for the fact that it brings self-satisfaction. "It helps me a lot as a person, because I have now a recognition for myself," avers Rachel.

Besides being an entrepreneur, she is also a two time national powerlifting champion.

## One-armed inspiration

**Two-time cancer survivor uses cycle to explore the world**

Nayana

Annett

In today's busy world people lack patience, persistence and perseverance. They tend to look into easy ways to deal with their problems. If people don't find an easy way they decide to give up on everything.

Have you ever thought of walking away from your problems? Here is a one-armed inspiration whom we can emulate in times of distress.

Rachit Kulshrestha, from Pune is a one-armed cyclist and two times cancer survivor.

At the age of five, Rachit was diagnosed with cancer and at the age of six his doctors had to amputate his left arm up to his collarbone. Again in 2014 he survived through cancer for the second time.

His childhood was also not hunky dory either; he faced many challenges to acquire opportunities. "As a student I was fond of football and trained myself to play football.

I was selected for the inter-school football team and won the match by 4-2. That was the day of validation for me – that if I really try, nothing is a limitation. That is when the journey started," says Mr Kulshrestha.

Rachit Kulshrestha's first ex-



Rachit Kulshrestha has beaten all odds to set new goals.

ploration by cycle was in 2010 to Khir Ganga in the Parvathi valley of Himachal Pradesh.

He has completed several bicycle races, including the one from Manali to Khardung La 550 km track and the 530-km-long Nilgiri route.

Apart from being adventurous, Mr Kulshrestha has worked at a call centre, as a hotel manager and even had a brief stint in bartending.

He used to travel a lot and when he was in Goa he wrote poems. He has also worked as assistant director for a movie named Candy Flip. Later he started his own company called 'Secret Locators', a post film production house.

In a world where most are suffering due to global warming, pollution and many such environmental problems.

Mr Kulshrestha says that his primary goal is to save the planet by joining hands with people and plant more trees.

He says, "Though I have made many horrible mistakes in the past, I have learnt from my mistakes and have made peace with things that were bogging me down earlier. Will, focus, commitment are the mantras of my life. Now I'm living my life to the fullest and have no regrets in life."

Mr Kulshrestha is indeed an inspiration for all those who complain of minor deficiencies.

## Magic is in his blood!

**Tale of a passionate magician**

Jeslin

Magic has always amazed us and kept us wanting for more. One cannot help but be in awe of the creative tricks or interesting costumes and props used by the magician.

Swarna Sunder, president of the 'Mangala magic circle', has been one daring magician and an illusionist to perform as simple as coin tricks, to making light bulbs disappear by 'swallowing' them in whole.

Born in Padubidri (Udupi district), Mr Sunder's family suffered hardships after his father's untimely death when he was barely a child. This did not deter Sunder from achieving his goals.

"During my childhood days, there were many who believed in superstitions and magical powers.

I was always curious to find out if these kinds of things were indeed true or not.

Persistence in exploring all these aspects is what brought me to the world of magic," he says.

During his college days, Mr Sunder liked to take part in many stage dramas which later encouraged him to perform stage magic shows.

After a few years, he moved to Avinashi in Tamilnadu where he enrolled for training sessions under renowned magician Ap-

padura. "Magic is all about practice and persistence. When I was sure of pursuing magic, nothing would stop me.

There was a time when I even spent a whole night in a graveyard, to have a little chat with the supernatural. Of course, nothing and no one showed up," he says with a chuckle.

Mr Sunder initially faced many difficulties in putting together shows, as there weren't many equipments or gadgets available at the time.

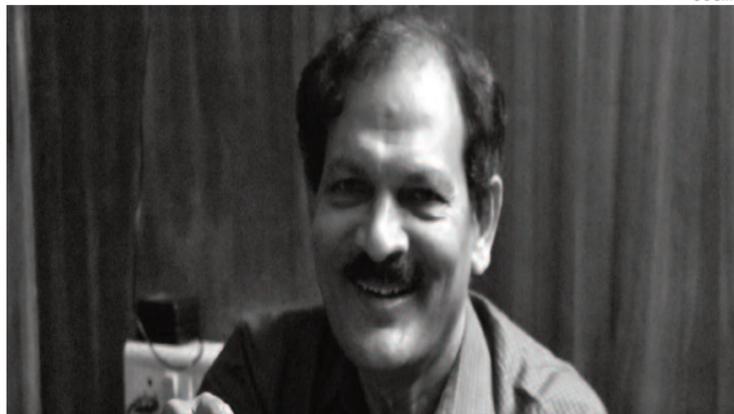
Despite such difficulties, he worked hard in preparing the equipments himself and has performed a variety of tricks such as floating body, cutting an assistant in half, tearing an object and then making it whole again.

Making something appear out of thin air, altering an object's form or properties, predicting an audience member's choice, vanishing, driving a scooter blindfolded, swallowing bulbs and walking on fire with bare feet.

"There were many times when I got hurt after a difficult performance. But my passion for magic helped me get over the pain.

After a show in one city, another would call me to perform.

Although it was tiring moving places, I could not bring myself to let my audience down," adds Mr



Swarna Sunder

Sunder.

Mr Sunder now owns Dinky Dine restaurant and the Dinky Dine ice cream factory, which is very popular among Mangaloreans.

Although he no longer performs magic shows due to time constraints, he is the backbone of 'Mangala magic circle' magicians' group in Mangalore. Currently over 55 magicians from Daskshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasargod, including men, women and children from all walks of life exhibit shows across various states of India.

In 2015, as part of 'Clean Mangaluru' campaign and national magicians' day, the group made news after magician Sagar performed a stunt of breaking out of buried ice.

They are known for performing

stage illusions, parlour magic, close-up magic, children's magic, street magic, shock magic, escapology and mentalism.

One of the magicians of the group well known for his stage name 'Magic Mahesh', currently performing for psychogenic mentalism shows says, "I joined the group in 2010.

I have grown a lot since then. From performing for small get-together shows, I now perform for corporate shows.

Mr Sunder has always encouraged me in keeping the art of magic alive.

Although the food business keeps him busy, he always has time for magic and the group.

He asks us to be brave, persistent and to believe in ourselves first."

## Students to go for rural immersion

Arya, Jeslin

**CAMPUS:** SAC is organising a rural immersion programme for the PG students in November. As part of this rural exposure, students will visit Mundogod and Hangal in Uttar Kannada district and Wayanad Social Service Society in Mananthavady, Wayanad Nilgiris Tribal Welfare Society in Tamilnadu and Sahajeevanam in Kannur.

The programme intends to create awareness on health, hygiene, higher education, substance abuse, early marriage and other social evils prevalent in those local communities. Students will live with rural and tribal people, learning their lifestyle and culture, understanding organic farming, connecting with nature, among other things.

"This is a good opportunity for all the students as they will be able to understand the people, their cultures and their way of life. It will also help the villagers in making certain changes in their lifestyle," said Shwetha Rasquinha, HOD of MSW department and coordinator of this programme.

This year for the first time, the students are being sent to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Several districts of Kerala were affected due to the flood situation recently.



TVESHA

## No water to Pakistan!

Can PM Modi go against a bilateral treaty?

Addressing his election rally in Haryana PM Modi made an outlandish statement that 'Modi will not share river waters with Pakistan' rather the river waters will only be given to the farmers of Haryana and Rajasthan. The question here is what makes one claim possession over a natural resource which has its course flowing through various regions? There is an Indus river treaty signed by India and Pakistan, according to which India is bound to release water to Pakistan. Common people who are not much aware of the facts will be easily impressed by the spontaneous statements made by politicians, now that the elections are around the corner; but one must take a step back and introspect whether one must stretch election promises to the extremes.

Water is a very emotional issue for Haryana, which is predominantly an agricultural state where 80 per cent of the population depends on agriculture according to the union agriculture

ministry and it gets water from the Indus drainage system. The present promise made by Modi is bound to generate favorable image for the BJP in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections. However, it is anybody's guess if the promise will be kept up by MP Modi, given the bilateral complexities involved. If the government goes ahead and fulfills its claims and restricts the flow of water to Pakistan to an extent without affecting the treaty, it will speak volumes about India's attitude towards international politics.

Unfortunately, real issues are never highlighted at political discourses during elections. Due to the economic slowdown many people are losing jobs and creating mass panic. Empty promises will only mislead the youth and make them vulnerable to manipulations. It is important that politicians make responsible statements and focus their attention on critical issues that the country is facing and instill hope among youth.

## Letters to the Editor

### Gandhian Journalism

Mahatma Gandhi as a journalist has less significance in today's scenario. To some extent Gandhian journalism which was rooted in truth and objectivity has become a faraway dream. Gandhi never eluded from the responsibility of serving the public.

The purpose of a newspaper is to inform the readers the events that take place in society. Readers judge the quality of a newspaper in relation to its news content.

Nowadays, objectivity and truthfulness in newspapers is slowly declining with reportage becoming partisan and biased at times. New media seems to be having an eye on profits only. Present day newspapers which deal with market-driven products and company sponsored news are misleading people. In a society where media shape the attitude of people, there is a need to go back to the relevance of Gandhian journalism.

- Anjana

### Open-defecation free India?

On October 2, marking 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi, PM Modi declared rural India to be open defecation free.

Modi claimed that in 60 months, 600 million people have been given access to toilets and that more than 110 million toilets had been built. On the other hand, two Dalit children - Roshni Valmiki, 12, and her 10-year-old nephew, Avinash - were beaten to death in a village in Madhya Pradesh for defecating in the open.

All this keeps one thinking, have we really succeeded? The is-

sues much larger than an open-defecation free India.

A huge behavioural change is required among people, because not only in rural areas, we often find people even in cities not bothering to find a public toilet to urinate. Most people don't take it seriously and also have grown immune to doing their business in the open. One probable solution for this could be to treat it as an entrepreneurial opportunity by declaring sanitation as an industry and providing facilities and encouraging start ups.

- Durga

# The tale of a drying river

Abhimithra

Yes! The river Cauvery like many other rivers in India has been mentioned in Hindu mythology. Every river in India is a mother deity spawning spirituality in its human forms; each of them has a clear identity of a woman, depicting style, appearance and her spirit. But then, again like every woman in this country, the rivers are also harassed, misused and exploited.

River Cauvery originates in the Brahmagiri hills in Kodagu, in a place called Talakaveri (head of Cauvery.) It starts its journey from the small pond called Kundike pond. Later the two tributaries known as Kanake and Sujyoti join in. All these three rivers meet at a point called Bhagamandala. The river is approximately 760 km long. It flows in the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu merges into Bay

of Bengal.

The river has been supporting large amount of wildlife. Millions of people in south India are heavily dependent on its waters, especially the tribal population. Its water is widely used for irrigation and for power supply. The hydroelectric plant built on the left Sivasamudra Falls on the Cauvery was the first hydroelectric plant in Karnataka. Presently

though, the river has been polluted very badly according to a study. "The Arkavathis and Cauvery rivers were found to be polluted due to higher count of faecal coliform in water, attributed to open excretion and requires vigilance from the concerned organisations in the state to prevent pollution," the CPCB (Central pollution control board) report says.



Abhimithra

## Article 370 and after..

Jeslin

Article 370 that granted special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir was abrogated on August 5, 2019 as per the bill passed by the Lok Sabha. The article was adopted in 1950 to win the hearts and minds of the people of J&K.

has bifurcated the state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Ladakh without legislature.

The unexpected move has no doubt affected the life and sentiments of the people. However, the set of restrictions imposed on the people of J&K, right after the ar-

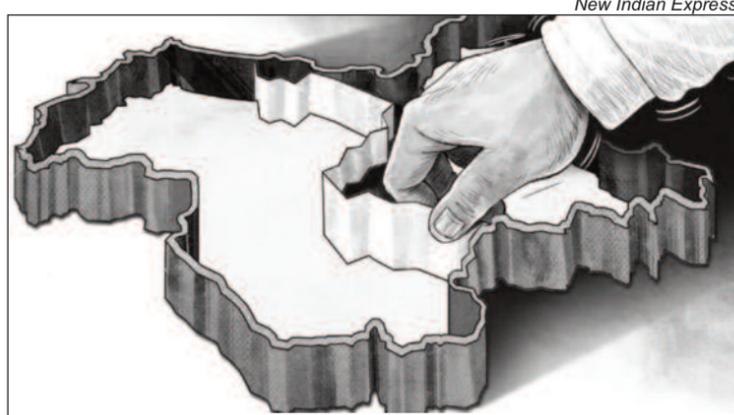
had turned into a city of barricades. The special status of Jammu and Kashmir was meant to end, but only with the acceptance of its people. It is a well known factor that the special status to J&K was given for critical historical reasons that emerged after the partition of India. When the government interpret those reason in the present, it was important to analyse if those reasons were anachronistic in the current scenario. The central governments' hasty decision only distressed the people more as total communication blackout was inflicted with mobile phones, landline, internet and other messaging tools being cut off in the valley.

This decision has perhaps brought forward more emotions than any other event in the country. The government could have approached it after a common consent for the removal of the article.

The local people could have perhaps been taken into confidence through educative campaigns about the benefits of this decision over a period of time. There needed to be a stepwise approach instead of a rushed one.

The impact of the centre's decision will only be known in the months

ahead. However, the message that the central regime has tried to communicate is that 'we have absolute power and we will take hard decisions'. And the powers that be do not seem to worry about the consequences of such 'hard decisions'.



The People of J&K enjoyed the special status for historical reasons had their own constitution, in addition to the Constitution of India, the article granted its own definition of permanent residents where citizens of other Indian states could not own property and had the privilege of not having most of the central laws applicable to its territory. The separate laws for the state's residents also included those related to citizenship and fundamental rights. Except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, the parliament needed the state government's acceptance for applying other laws.

Under article 370 the central government had no power to declare financial emergency in the state. However, emergency could only be declared in the case of war. Modi government has now revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status of article 370 and

ticle's abrogation seemed to be a never ending nightmare. One can comprehend why it upset majority of the residents. The restrictions appeared to be a well-enforced lockdown with enhanced security

**The local people could have perhaps been taken into confidence through educative campaigns about the benefits of this decision over a period of time. There needed to be a stepwise approach instead of a rushed one.**

measures and a massive deployment of troops. Section 144 was also in force since the night of August 4, prohibiting assembly of more than four persons. Roads were blocked for vehicular traffic across several locations. In some parts of the city, pedestrian movement was also restrained. Srinagar

# “Society should change their thought towards transgender community”

Nayana, Anusree

**K**ajal Bramhavar is Karnataka's first transwoman RJ at a popular community Radio Sarang in Mangalore. She was born as a male in Mandya district of Karnataka.

RJ Kajal speaks about the misconceptions associated with the transgender community. She uses radio as a platform to demand rights to empower the transgender community and help them to live equal and dignified life.

Kajal has received several awards ever since she has become an RJ and has been invited to speak on various transgender forums.

Team Tvesha personally met RJ Kajal at her place in Bramhavar near Udupi where she has been living for more than 10 years and had an exclusive interview with her.

**Q. How was your early life? Did you receive any backlash from your friends and family?**

I was biologically male at birth, at the age of 7-8. I suffered from the distress of gender dysphoria. I always knew I was different. I could never fit among boys of my age.

I loved to sit with girls chatting, singing and dancing to film songs. I knew from within that I was a girl.

Growing up I couldn't discuss my problem with friends and family. So I decided to interact with transgender community. I met Mahadevi, a senior transgender activist in Mandya when I was in 7th standard.

I was mesmerised looking the way she wore saree and her shoulder length hair. I kept questioning myself why can't I wear a saree and be the way that I prefer. Initially my father didn't accept me but my mother was my constant support.

But now I have made them understand about transgender community. I have explained to them that it is not a type of illness to overcome and my family has accepted me.

**Q. At the age of 10, you left Mandya and went to Mumbai, how was the life of Mumbai?**

I knew that village will not accept me for who I am.

So I went to Mumbai and settled in suburban Malad, Malwani. I underwent sex reassignment surgery at the age of 13 and I completed my 10th grade in Mumbai itself. Life in Mumbai was tough.

There was no work for a transwomen. If we beg we are cursed. If we opt to become a sex worker we are threatened with knives and are beaten up. I worked as a bar dancer.

I was also a side dancer in Bollywood movies. Later I came to my village as a woman and wrote my PUC exams and scored a distinction with 85%.

**Q. Which was the turning point of your life that changed your way of thinking about life?**

After returning to village from Mumbai, people there didn't accept me. Later I moved to Udupi where I was accepted. Here at first

my journey as an RJ at Radio Sarang. More than being colleagues, they were a family to me.

**Q. What are the facilities transgender community seek from the government? What more do you expect from the government?**

Government is not much of a help to the transgender community. Every government that comes into force promises to pro-

a decision that should be made by the individuals.

No one has the right to comment on the choice of people in this matter.

So this was definitely a great step taken by the government. After this happened, there are some changes in the way society looks at transgender community. Some wrong notions people had have changed.



Nayana in conversation with RJ Kajal at the latter's residence.

I worked as a project manager in an NGO Ashraya Samudaya that offered counseling to HIV positive people.

The work was so satisfying that it made me think in a positive way of life and encouraged me to do more service to the needy.

**Q. How did you become an RJ? How was your journey as an RJ?**

I was invited to speak at a function celebrating Transgender's Day at Roshini Nilaya College in Mangalore.

I spoke about my life. Abhishek Shetty, an RJ from Radio Sarang heard my speech and requested me to come for an interview.

When I was in the radio station for the interview he asked me, "What would happen if I told you, you are going to be an RJ in our Radio Sarang?" I was overwhelmed at that moment of time. This was a new beginning for me.

As an RJ I did a show called 'Shubhamangala' that aired on the community radio Sarang every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m.

I used this platform to speak about the equality for transgender community and raised issues faced by transgenders. I enjoyed

vide employment opportunities but before they fulfill them the government will change and we people as usual don't get any opportunities.

However, some days back a meeting was conducted with the DC regarding this issue and we are looking forward to a positive response.

We don't expect higher position in jobs; many of the transgenders are educated, so according to our education we expect them to provide jobs.

We are the people who have ac-

**“People should think broadly about these aspects and should stop being stereotypical towards transgender society. Transgenders are not physically or mentally ill people... We are also like men and women who have our own tastes and choices.”**

tually seen all sorts of struggles in life.

Hence we know the value of employment and do the given job sincerely.

**Q. Did dicriminalising of Section 377 of IPC have any impact on your life?**

Sexual conduct between the adults is a very private matter. It is

**Q. How do you deal with the people who disguise themselves into transgenders and earn money?**

In every city transgenders register themselves so that the whole transgender community can have a count.

When other people disguise and do certain activities like begging, roll calling or creating problems we get to know, because of the count we have.

When we get to know about such people we make sure these things will not repeat. But in big cities like Mumbai and Bangalore keeping the count is a tough task

**Q. Rather than respecting, society fears transgenders. What do you want to say about this?**

When it comes to the matter of respect each and everything in this world deserves respect.

But the stereotypical people of our society make choice while respecting. They respect old aged people, but if they are poor or physically challenged people don't respect them.

They love the animals that are beautiful and hate the stray animals. But when it comes to transgenders we don't even get respect that an animal gets.

Even for beggars this society shows some concern by giving water and food; but when we beg for our living, people treat us worse than animals.

So without having any other choice we fight for our respect and living. Instead of fearing or measuring while respecting, if society loves, cares and respects transgender community, we all can live a peaceful life.

**Q. What do you want to tell the people who are undergoing hormonal change?**

Firstly, I would like to say that more than hormonal change we go through lots for psychological changes. During this transitional time, boys feel like doing girly things and their taste and preference will lean towards wearing woman's outfits, putting on makeup, and girls will feel vice versa.

When I was going through such transition people couldn't understand and thought this to be a disease.

But now time has changed and people are a bit open minded and they should understand about their children who go through such a phase.

In any sort of situation, parents should accept their child and be a constant support. No one should be thrown out or no one should decide to move out of their house. Whatever it is, both child and family should face it together.

Anusree

## Film screening held to spread 'smiles through cinema' at White Doves

Anusree

**MANGALORE:** PG department of Journalism and Mass Communication(MAJMC), St Aloysius College organised film screening for the residents of White Doves Psychiatric Nursing and Destitute home, Kulashekara, on Thursday, Octo-

initiative.”

It was indeed a joyous occasion for the residents of the home who watched the movie with enthusiasm. They were shown the 2017 animated feature film *Coco*, portraying a young boy who pursues his love for music in spite of his family's disapproval.

Annett



The audience at the film show at White Doves.

ber 17 with the motif of spreading 'Smiles through cinema'.

The programme was a part of the upcoming department film festival 'Chrysalis'.

The programme was inaugurated by Mrs Corrine Rasquinha, founder of White Doves Psychiatric Nursing and Destitute home, Fr Denis Moras, spiritual director and Dr (Fr) Melwyn Pinto SJ, Director, Radio Sarang and HOD of MAJMC department. Fr Anil Fernandes, from II year MAJMC, welcomed the gathering.

Mr Vishal Nayak, assistant professor of MAJMC department, other members of the home, caretakers of the residents were also present during the programme.

Dr (Fr) Pinto addressed the gathering. He said: "The main purpose of cinema is to spread joy and laughter and this is what we hope to achieve through this

Referring to the context of the film, Fr Pinto also quoted Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, "Dream is not what you see while sleeping; it is something that does not let you sleep."

"Everyone here are used to the habit of watching films but today what amazed me was, even though most of the people follow only Kannada or other regional languages they could follow the film quite well, they were not just laughing at the comic elements of the film but could also enjoy the essence of it," said Mrs Corrine Rasquinha.

Fr Denis Moras said: "Whenever they are bored they either sleep or just walk around. Therefore screening films for them is an excellent way to keep them engaged in something and will make them more active."

Vaishali Puthran, student coordinator of Chrysalis film festival, rendered vote of thanks.

## Evolution of Indian rock n' roll

Anandhu

Arjun

The oriental trends of rock n' roll was introduced in India in late 60s and 70s. In mid 60s to early 70s many 'beat' groups from India started composing and performing British invasion influenced songs. Some of them were the Mystiks from Bombay and Flintstone from Calcutta.

These bands regularly performed at the Indian university and college music circles. R&B singer Usha Uthup emerged as successful singer in this period by doing covers of western music.

Some bands had their EP (extended play) and LP (long play) releases during this time. The trend of covering western rock continued till 1970s and the trend of composing originals came up. All rock n' roll scenes were followed by JS (Junior Statesman) a magazine started in 1965.

Then Indian musicians like any other western musicians started fusing rock music with traditional Indian music.

Those were mainly used for producing Bollywood 'filmi' kind of music including sub genres of rock like funk rock, pop rock, psychedelic rock and raga rock.

The songs like "yeh mera dil pyar ka diwana" in the movie *Don* were considered as early Indian rock songs.

Many notable western rock musicians and bands were influenced by Indian classical music. The bands such as The Beatles, The Rolling stones and the Doors were some of them.

They included the essence of psychedelia through Indian classical music textures in their compositions. The Indian music scene later gave rise to one of the most admired rock stars of all time Freddie Mercury, singer of the rock band 'Queen'.

His original name was Far-



The Signatures band performing live at Palakkad, Kerala.

rookh Bulsara whose initial musical influence was Indian Bollywood singer Lata Mangeshkar. Freddie Mercury's music career as a teenager started in Mumbai and later he went to England and co-founded the most famous rock band Queen.

Post MTV era

In 1990's with the arrival of MTV, the musical tastes of people started changing. People now encouraged bands to harden their style and more focus was given on underground style such as death metal, alternative metal, progressive rock and thrash metal. Many Indian western bands such as Rock Machine, now known as Indus Creed, started altering their styles and leaned towards metal music.

In 1990's many others were influenced by growing split between sub genres like Britpop, punk and thrash. Similar to that, Indian bands blended Indian musical traditions with rock music and formed another sub genre called 'raga rock'. Later bands like 'Euphoria' gave birth to yet another genre called 'Hindi Rock' which was commercially well accepted.

The current rock scenes are comparatively doing well, even

though they are still marginalised by Bollywood music and electronic music. Indian rock and metal artists are playing a major role in shaping International rock n' roll. Bands like 'Godless', 'Bloodywood', 'TDT' and 'Kryptos' have gained international attention. Some of the pioneer South Indian bands like 'Avial' and 'Motherjane' still continue with all their glory in Indian rock music industry.

The current active rock n' roll and metal bands include 'Parikrama', 'Fossils', 'Motherjane', 'Avial', 'Demonic resurrection', 'Thaikudam Bridge' and 'Local train'. "The scene in India is still in a very nascent stage.

There are a lot of bands here, but it's very difficult to get regular gigs since metal is still in an underground form of music in India," says Kryptos, one of the leading bands in India.

"Rock n' roll and metal will never fade away from music scene. Though it is becoming less popular as the electronic music is taking over, the musicians are trying hard to keep metal in mainstream by blending it with EDM. Rock n' roll never dies!" opines Ajiit Sathyan, metal head and vocalist/guitarist, Prayaan.

## Nurturing of thoughts is hallmark of democracy: G. N. Devy

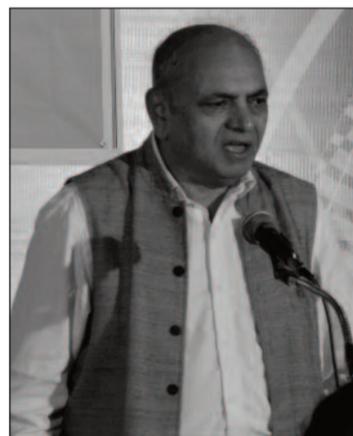
Harshita

Harshita

**MANGALORE:** "The burning of thoughts is the hallmark of fascism and the nurturing of thoughts is the hallmark of democracy," said noted thinker and academician Ganesh N. Devy here on October 21.

He was speaking at a programme titled 'Conversations on Gandhi', organised by the Nehru Study Centre, Mangalagangothri. The talk which took place at the University College Mangalore was centered around the topic Gandhi, democracy and dissent.

While initiating the discussion, Prof. Devy said that Gandhi's idea of democracy was about 'Aparigraha' and not accumulation of wealth. In the light of recent events he said that it was important for citizens to stand up and say 'I feel pain today because chil-



Ganesh N. Devy was in city recently speaking on 'Conversations on Gandhi'.

dren of my age are robbed of all types of conversation in Jammu and Kashmir'.

He reminded the audience that the country is not a shadow but rather it is a civilization with a great history. Lives were lost and

great sacrifices were made. "I want the citizens of our country to ask themselves if they are willing to go to jail against NRC that the government is about to prepare," he said.

Responding to Prof Devy, Prof Valerian Rodrigues, a political theorist said, "The problem with Gandhi was that he subscribed to truth and said it should be open ended and ultimately non-violence and Swaraj became the only truth for him. I don't think that we are in a state to think that Swaraj is the key idea of democracy other than for a romantic picturisation of the future."

Prof Ganesh N. Devy is a thinker, cultural activist and institutional builder, best known for The Peoples Linguistic survey of India and the Adivasi academy that he has created.

Shweta



## This short film is about sense over reason

Anjana

“Life is an experience of senses. Go for those experiences of senses rather than reason,” says Arun Jose, script writer of ‘Re-sense’. The 3.30 minute video titled ‘re-sense’ speaks about the conflict between reason and sense through the perspective of a man.

Literally, reason is the mind’s power to think in a logical way, while sense is something that the body experiences. “Human beings have a tendency to find reason for everything we experience in our life. There is a misconception that we want something to be happy. So we are trying to find happiness somewhere in the physical world. If we depend on our senses, life would be an amazing experience,” Mr Jose says. For him happiness is a sense.

All have one life to enjoy, expe-



Re-sense short film

rience and explore. But sometimes people get stuck and frustrated in the middle of problems. Healing it by senses helps a person to discover happiness. “Take a look at the world around us. There are many things to see, touch, smell, hear and taste. Then why are we concentrating on reasons?” says Anto Vincent, an actor in the film Re-sense. Anto has

worked in a concept video titled ‘Why do some men hold hands in India?’ earlier with a Bangalore based YouTube channel meen fried chicken curry.

Like the conflict that takes place between heart and brain while taking decisions, there is a conflict between sense and reason. Re-sense took inspiration from a philosophical idea of ‘Being happy for no reason’.

It is an experience of most that at some point in life, it will be impossible to find reason for everything. Let the thoughts flow until it reaches the sea of happiness seems to be the message of this short film.

Attitude towards life really matters. The film urges people to re-programme the mind and experience life through senses. The film has already been viewed by thousands of people.

## Insects on campus come under the “lens”

Aswathy, Anjana

The insects at St Aloysius (SAC) campus seem to have become photogenic these days what with a researcher auditing them through photography. Vineeth Kumar K, assistant professor in the department of Zoology, along with his students, is working on a survey of the number of insects present in the campus, the pictures of which have been brought out in a CD called “insects on the campus.” The team started this work as a part of the national conference on “current trends in entomology and plant-insect interaction,” held on September 11 and 12.



Vineeth Kumar

“We went around the campus randomly whenever we got free time and have recorded almost 150 species of insects, photographed them and got them identified,” says Mr Vineeth.

The CD is about 15 minutes in length and is mainly in the form of photographs along with the family name of the insects. It includes



Propallidia fasciata (Paper wasp)

small introduction about insects and green cover in the campus.

“The different groups of insects found in the campus were dragon flies, butterflies, moths, bees, beetles, bugs, wasps, plant hopper and many more. This is an ongoing study and we are planning of publishing this as a book in the future,” Mr Vineeth added.

He informed that it was his curiosity for insects led to this study. Also the campus being at the centre of Mangalore, “there is a possibility to find almost all the varieties of insects in this place.”

“Are they still able to thrive in such a highly dense campus, is a significant question to ask. It is sure that urbanisation will result in the reduction of all these insects. We can use this data as a baseline for the future. The data is not complete and it is an ongoing work. We have done a preliminary work



Troides minos (Southern birdwing)

Vineeth Kumar

only,” Mr Vineeth holds.

Joel Correa and Akshar of III year CBZ have also helped Mr Vineeth on this study. They have already recorded hundred species of moths in the campus.

## A Geisha story of hope and grit

Book: Memoirs of Geisha

Author: Arthur Golden

Year of publication: 27 September 1997

Publisher: Vintage UK Random House

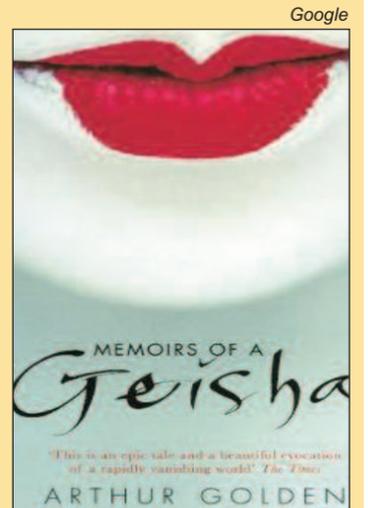
Durga Prabhu

This book is an attempt by Arthur Golden to show us how little Chiyo transformed into Sayuri. This book is not about fighting against all odds, neither is it about giving up; it maintains a delicate balance of accepting life as it is and cherishing the blossom of new hopes and dreams.

This is a story of a famous Geisha from Kyoto and her life story of hardships she faced as an apprentice till she became the most successful Geisha. The author has become Sayuri’s voice in this book, narrating all her experiences. Geisha translates to ‘artist’ or ‘artisan’, as in this book we can see how women carefully render hours to put on their porcelain make-up, care for their kimonos or to mesmerise men with their clever conversations.

The story starts with little Chiyo who lives in Yoroido. She is often compared to her mother due to her light grey eye colour. Her father being a fisherman cannot provide for his daughters and a sick wife so he sells both his daughters off to a local businessman Mr Tanaka. Chiyo is then sent off to Kyoto, to live in an okiya- a geisha boarding house.

The house holds many interesting characters: granny - an old geisha; mother - a businesswoman who only cares for money; auntie - a failed geisha; Pumpkin - a trainee of Chiyo’s age and Hatsumomo - the house geisha who is constantly feeling



threatened by Chiyo’s beauty and wants to get rid of her.

Chiyo is treated as a servant, but she also starts her training to be a Geisha along with Pumpkin, and thus takes us on a journey full of fascinating encounters on Chiyo’s transition to Sayuri. The author has tried his best to keep the authenticity alive and is successful in grabbing readers’ attention, be it by blaming Chiyo’s older sister for abandoning her or to hate Hatsumomo for her ill treatment towards Chiyo.

One might feel that this is a romantic novel; but I believe it is not. It is a simple story of a girl who comes a long way from someone who had no say when she was sold at 9 and being treated as a slave to choosing her danna to one of the most celebrated geishas of Kyoto. This book is a must read to anyone who believes that every dark cloud comes with a silver lining and has the courage to face any adversity with determination.

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## It rains biriyani in this restaurant!

*Varieties of bamboo biriyanis are served here.*

**Mufidha**

Everyone likes good food, and a foodie cannot say no to a good plate of hot biriyani. In fact, India is a land that thrives on biriyani even in regular diet. And biriyani does not make distinction between vegetarians and non-vegetarians. There is even a biriyani called 'vegetable biriyani', which some feel is an oxymoron. Most people share a bond with biriyani, one of the best places to have biriyani in Mangalore is Bamboo Restaurants.

It is one of the first restaurants to bring bamboo biriyani into Mangalore. Even though it is of recent origin, family and students find it as one of the best places to spend a Sunday evening.

The restaurant is actually really famous for their Bamboo biriyani.

It is called bamboo biriyani because the rice is stuffed inside bamboo shoot and cooked on charcoal, and is of different varieties such as chicken, mutton, and fish.

Then they have kizhi biriyani. Here the biriyani is wrapped in a banana leaf, like a pouch, which also has different varieties like



Mufidha

**Mutton bamboo biriyani at Bamboo restaurant.**

mutton, fish, chicken etc. They also serve mandi which is an Arabian dish.

The restaurant also has different varieties of fish, chicken, prawns and mutton.

We tried their most famous bamboo mutton biriyani and kizhi fish biriyani. The kizhi biriyani was well cooked and had a beautiful aroma emanating from the banana leaf.

The fish was roasted perfectly going well with rice blending with the masala as well as the flavour of the fish. Whereas the bamboo

mutton biriyani tasted good, it has a good flavour.

The restaurant is worth trying and the prices are reasonable. One plate of biriyani is enough for three people.

In fact, the restaurant is frequented by people from different walks of life. In fact, one can see groups of students huddled together relishing 'bowl-ful' of biriyani.

For all the biriyani lovers out there, do try bamboo biriyani for a different food experience.

## A moving tale in a 'pink' colour

**Shweta**

*The sky is pink (2019)*

**Genre : Drama/Romance**

**Duration : 2h 24m**

**Director : Shonali Bose**

**Starring : Priyanka Chopra, Zaira Wasim, Farhan Akhtar, Rohit Saraf**

The film is directed by Shonali Bose, inspired by a true life event of late Aisha Chaudhary played by Zaira Wasim. Her parents Niran and Aditi Chaudhary are played by well known actors Farhan Akhtar and Priyanka Chopra, and brother Ishaan is played by Rohit Saraf.

Every good film has at least one strong aspect which holds the audience to their seats and the 'hero' of this film is 'emotion'. The film talks about the life of Aisha. The sky is pink, is not so much about death as it is about different shades of sorrows. It shows the love and struggle of parents to save their daughter's life even though they knew that she is going to die.

The film will instantly form a connect between the audience and the film characters.

The confident and fiery actress Priyanka Chopra has made a mark for herself nationally and interna-

tionally. "Each person's sky has a different colour. And you decide the colour of your sky."

This line by Priyanka Chopra is one of the many brilliant lines that you'll hear in this beautiful film. Aisha teaches to be strong and happy with all the flaws.

An upbeat voiceover by the de-



ceased child tells us not to drift ourselves with her sickness or her death, rather focus on the two people responsible for bringing her into the world - that is her parents and how they grew strong in their marriage together despite the storms.

Even though the Chaudhary family is facing many issues due to the sickness, just like the sun they keep rising everyday without giving up.

"Our Age of Anxiety is, in great part, the result of trying to do today's jobs with yesterday's tools!"

-Marshall McLuhan



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