

# Dreaming Reels and Frames

Mekhnha Achu Koshy

Mr. Sajan K. Mathew is a reputed film director from Malayalam movie industry. He is an advocate by profession who chose cinema as his career in 2011. In 2016, he directed his debut movie Oru Murai Vandh Parthaya. He resides in Kochi along with his wife Advocate Hema and two vibrant boys, Jayanth and Sidhanth.

When did you realize cinema is your call for action?

From a very early age, cinema did fascinate me. When I was around 10, I thought it is the producer who is the master mind behind movies. Later, I understood that producer is a person who arranges a wall for the artist to paint, and that it is the director who is the actual artist.

I remember in my school days I would direct and coordinate skits and dramas for youth festivals without even realizing that it was direction. Even though I wanted to be a director, since I was born in a very orthodox Christian business family, I had never even once told about this inner passion of mine to anyone. Cinema was a forbidden fruit for me. But after pursuing LLB and MBA, I chose to follow my call. And in 2006, I left behind all other engagements and stepped into the world of movies.

Other than the successful name card of a film director, you are an advocate by profession and so how do you see the #metoo campaign and casting couch allegations?

When the #metoo campaign sprouted out in US, I had a great opinion for it because it covered almost all spheres of society there. From business industries to educational institutions, those women who were suffering from physical harassments and patriarchal injustices, had a place to open up. The movement was very genuine. But now it has degraded into a mere weapon that many women use for selfish purposes. I don't support that tendency.

Regarding casting couch, there was a time when our industry had this evil trend. But right now, I don't think it exists anymore. Because now, almost every director cast actors on the basis of true acting skills and not personal interests. I think the real focus should be on those women who willingly do anything for a role and then later after years use this against someone for cheap publicity. I doubt how



genuine such allegations are. I strongly suggest that those who come up with #metoo allegations, instead of resorting to newspapers or Facebook channels, why don't they file a proper police complaint when the constitution offers legal remedies for them? Why do they opt for press conferences and other cheap publicities claiming that they have been molested than choose the proper legal manner?

Allegations can be manifested by anyone against anyone. We must think how false allegations may have created huge turmoil in an innocent person's life. I am no one to say whether the campaign is right or wrong. I do respect and understand the guts of anyone who revealed about the traumatic conditions they have undergone. But what I am concerned is why they choose media over court for allegations. It is a very generalized opinion and I'm not pointing on to any particular person.

Do you think that there is a need for Internal Complaint Cell (ICC) in every film set?

ICC as a forum may be good, if it works efficiently in meeting, discussing and solving the problems of men and women in a film set. But I wonder whether these harassments are present only in film industry? It is present everywhere. Wherever power resides, men have a dirty tendency to exploit women who come to them or works under them. It is there in IT offices, educational institutions and almost everywhere. Why do we focus only on movies? I appreciate the introduction of ICC in

sets, but I prefer it be introduced into other areas of society too. #Metoo is not just about film industry it is about the whole society.

To what extend do you think cinema can influence people?

Cinema is a popular art and so it does have an impact on people. But I don't think the influence is so immense. We often talk about the negative influence of movies on society. But have you ever seen a good message from movies that have made a huge positive change in the society? No; we may say that it is a socially relevant movie, but we never exercise its message into our life or society. Then how can we conclude that cinema has an influence on us? It is not cinema that is influencing us. It is our mind that chooses only to adopt negatives and leave behind positives. Changes are a personal choice.

Do you think that the director has a commitment toward society?

Cinema is the expression of a director. His duty is not to meet audience's expectations or interests. He must be committed and sincere to the subject he chooses. The subject must be present in a convincing manner in an appropriate narrative style. Maybe it may take time for the audience to adapt to it. He must also be committed to the producer of his movie, if it is a commercial subject. This is my approach in film making as for me, the audience is a dynamic group. They may sometimes make a bad movie into a blockbuster and a good movie into a theatre flop. I try to remain committed to my subject and producer than the

audience.

Regarding the censorship rules in India, don't you think it is unfair and high time to update the age old rules of censorship based on a group of people's biased and narrow ideologies?

I don't believe I am someone to comment on the censorship body and their actions. Because right now I may say that art must me seen for art's sake and that it shouldn't be censored. But the same me, in another 15 years may say that every interactive medium requires a censoring, it is a dynamic thing. It may change from time to time and people to people. Our country is very delicate when considering its ethnicity. There are all types of people here and so my rights may sometimes sound wrong to another and vice versa. We don't have a common norm or uniform characteristics. So, a popular art form like cinema's impact on the large mass is a sensitive topic for the governments. Some may be liberal in their ideologies whereas some very conservative. It keeps on changing depending on the board members. But we do have a Supreme Court as an appellate to justify ourselves. As long as we have a natural justice I don't think censorship is a big menace. We have an alternative opportunity provided by our constitution to meet our grievances.

What are your future projects?

Currently I am working on the pre-production chores of some project which will hit the theatres next year.

## Creative with strategy, subliminal and spiritual

Anugraha Maraim

Advertisements play an important role in this techy world. Ads help us in understanding what's new in the market, which all products are good, what all to use and what not. They make it creative visually, printed and audio. The advertisement agencies work hard to make each ad catchy to the reader. But sometimes as consumers we tend to get fooled by these ads, this is called misleading advertisements.

Advertisements use unethical practices to sell their product and to make it more interesting. This can be forms of exaggeration, not saying as it is told, showing subliminal images etc. There are many advertisements that do the unethical practice of advertising. One such ad is the Axe ad which has a theme 'Even the angels will fall'. This theme exaggerates the ad, Axe a men's deodorant spray which was introduced in 1983. This brand comes up with male grooming products. The ad is a ninety seconds ad. The ad starts with some common people noticing something falling from the sky and then understands that they are angels. The angels walk in a particular direction they break the circle disked on their heads to pieces. Now they walk towards a charming male and gets attracted in him. The charming men used Axe spray and even the angels can't resist the smell.

Even though the advertisers are exaggerating the ad there are a lot of questions that pop up in the viewers mind. Will angels really fall from the sky?, Will I become that much attracted? Will women notice me more? This ad is banned in South Africa. According to Christianity angels are men and in this ad they are portrayed as women, angels are the messengers of God. In this ad Angels are also the given a sexual identity.

Every youth wants to feel charming and attractive, so making the ad with a touch of sex appeal makes it increase viewers and attractive. So using women as an attractive object gets the male attention and that is the main aim of the ad as it is a male product. The brand is trying to prove that they are better than the other deodorant brands.

## A War Against Childhood

Soniya Anthony

“All wars, whether just or unjust, disastrous or victorious, are waged against the child.”- Eglantyne Jebb

From the beginning war and conflicts have taken a massive toll on children. Be it be Syria, Yemen, Myanmar or Ukraine, this is the worst time to be a child as one in every six children are in a conflict-affected area. Approximately two million children have been killed and twelve million more have been uprooted from their homes.

The war robs the innocent childhood from children. The children are confronted with violence, danger, physical and mental harm. While there are international laws to provide a standard for protection of the child in war, these are not enforced adequately. Children are worst affected by the food shortage and water contamination at the war front. While most children are civilian casualties, many are recruited as soldiers. The data by UNICEF finds that thousands of children under the age of 16 have fought in wars in 25 countries recently. Many organisations like the United Nations agencies, Save the Children and Red Cross are doing programmes to help the victims, their powers and help are limited to the victims of war. World leaders should come together to stop violence against children and to make sure that they are protected from exploitation.

The problem cannot be seen in isolation. Without wars, there is no loophole to exploit and abuse children. Therefore, political leaders should stop pursuing self-interests that trigger conflicts. But helping to reintegrate those who have already been exploited is crucial to the long-term prospects for peace and security in their societies.



Sadly ever after

More on PG: 02



Brazil's right choice?

More on PG: 04



Explore the Unknown

More on PG: 07

## Less Stress, More Yes!

Teenu Franklin

It can be called as an exaggerated fact, but this situation is actually happening at its worst. Mental trauma among people has increased a lot. Young people are the major victims. Stress, work load, expectations are being loaded on their backs. Stress victims and mental patients are increasing. More than the physical injuries, it's the mental injuries which are bothering a lot now.

People tend to give very less importance to mental health. And they will just come up or approach doctors when the situation becomes worse. Rates of anxiety and depression have shot up in the last few decades.

“The current era shows an increase in the stress level of students. Many factors have led to that. One of the reasons can be the social media. Students tend to put in a lot of effort to create an attractive social image among others; by impressing their followers, peeping into other accounts and trying to adapt their style and actions. All these consume their time and energy, which gives them less time to focus on their studies. Ultimately, they are forced to be stressed”, said Sonu A. F, an IT professional working at TCS.

According to the statistic from a health survey conducted by National Institute of Mental Health(NIMH), it is noted that among students, it is women who are being depressed than men. The reasons are not clear. It is said it can be due to the biological reactions that happen. Stress leads to Improper menstrual cycle a common symptom among women.

“These days many students go into depression because of the competition present in our education system. Many understand how to cope with it while still fighting against it. These can be overcome by talking to them and also by being open about mental healthcare”, said Rohini Vasudevan, a design student, MSU, Vadodara.

As students, they themselves are creating a space to be worried, for achieving many things, and for competing with other students. This itself creates a base for stress.

“Mental health issues have been so overlooked that people are not even sure even when they are going through it. Owing to ignorance and lack of awareness about these issues in the past has led our older generation to thinking these are non-existent, pretentious things”, adds Karene Vaguez, Data Associate, and Amazon.

With the help of family, friends, and maybe campus stress-management resources, many students are able to keep their stress levels relatively under control or even thrive in the college setting. But, for some students, the challenges and frustrations of campus life appear to lead to severe trauma. In midst of studies, they have lots of other things which go inside their head like relationship issues, family problems and many other hurdles. At certain times, youngsters feel they are forced to take up some jobs, simply for the sake of getting a job, as now getting a job after our studies is something very essential, as the people around them are highly competitive.

It is the students, youngsters and the youth who carves the future. So, it is necessary for them to have well-being. The institutions and the family should take some initiatives to improve their mental health, and hereby increasing the productivity.



## Froth At Bellandur Lake; Residents Frustrated at Govt inaction

Deepthi Gabriela

The Bellandur Lake, which has been in the news for all the wrong reasons, has a rich glorious history falling back thousands of years from now. Today's froth and fume spewing lake was once the most revered waterbody, the foundation that was laid by two individuals: Nagatara and Siriyamayya.

Bellandur Lake is one of the oldest and largest lakes of Bengaluru, and was the lifeline for the surrounding 18 villages a few decades ago. Old time residents of Bellandur village recall their good old times when the lake was full and all the land next to it was fertile (till the late 1970s). People used to cultivate paddy, grow substantial vegetables like cauliflower and tomatoes in

abundance and also go fishing. Apparently, over 300-400 fishing families were living in this fume choking neighbourhood. The lake water then was used for irrigation purpose as well as for drinking. People of Bellandur and of the nearby villages used to celebrate their annual boat festival 'Theppotsava' on this now infamous and highly polluted lake.

The Bellandur Lake of Bengaluru is now spurring froth on the roads once again after the heavy flooding rain. Known for its high pollution levels, the froth has become a regular thing during the monsoons for the locals. “Every time heavy rain hits the city, the froth rises up to dangerous levels where it even covers the entire road. The froth has risen close to

about 10 feet. The continuous dumping of sewage and solid waste has converted this one time historic lake into a stinking puddle of sewage mess.” complained Rajamma, a frustrated resident of the area.

The formation of foam is a cause of concern among the localites. The authorities claim to have done and still be doing their best to resolve the problems. Fed up with the lethargic attitude of the authorities' over the resolving issue, the residents and activists have decided to launch a massive group campaign to fix their problem once and for all. They say that if this is not fixed now, it is going to be impossible to continue living in the highly contaminated neighbourhood.

As per the research conducted by the KC Valley Sewage treatment Plant, water samples were collected from multiple locations and a total of six heavy metals were analysed as per standard methods and level of contamination was recorded. All of the six metals were above the standard levels in two treatment outlets of KC Valley Sewage treatment Plant.

The report cautioned that the heavy metals detected will eventually be transported to plants, animals and humans causing health hazards, if left unresolved. The once historic and ever glorious lake is now the most dangerous and threatened lake in the city of Bengaluru.

# There are just potholes out here

Soniya Antony

Residents and commuters of Hennur-Bagalur road in east Bengaluru were back in trouble as the road has been ravaged all over even after it was re-laid a few months back. Riding through the road is becoming a nightmare for travellers, especially for two-wheeler riders.

Mustafa, an autorickshaw driver and resident of the road said: “the road was beautiful before, but now it poses difficulties to the drivers and discomforts the travellers." A stretch of five kilometers of the road is left dug up because of the pipelines that were recently laid. The pipes for gas, water and sewage have also been laid in different phases. Though the road was dug up long ago and pipelines were laid, authorities seem to be in no hurry to improve the condition of the road.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bangalore Development Minister G Parameshwara recently claimed that the majority of the potholes have been fixed, but a ride through Hennur-Bagalur Road (also known as New Airport Road) paints a different picture.

Ashish Verma, Department of Civil Engineering, IISC, said that roads are supposed to last upwards of five years and the poor state of our streets is the result of a three-pronged problem. She said, “Current road engineering clearly shows corruption and sheer ignorance of the engineers. Roads wear off after a monsoon season. This is a way for contractors and people connected to the road projects to make money. Lack of proper drainage is also another major issue. Stagnant water destroys roads and leads to potholes. Another problem is that BBMP engineers themselves do not follow basic road design guidelines.”

Even though residents and travellers are equally affected by the reconstruction of roads a fast pace development can nullify all problems of them.



# ALARMING RISE IN CHILD MARRIAGES

Mekhna Achu Koshy

Arranged marriage have historically been prominent in many cultures as it all began as a way of uniting and maintaining upper caste families and this eventually, spread to the lower caste where it was used for the same purpose. Every week four or five calls reaches various NGOs in Bengaluru city and its outskirts reporting child marriages .

According to the records of Child Rights Trust (CRT) which is associated with UNICEF, areas such as Lingarajapuram, Whitefield, Banaswadi, Banashankari and Kanakapura are reported with the most number of child marriages. Often girls of 14 to 17 are married off to much older men here.

According to APSA (Association for Promoting Social Action), child marriages are not just confined to lower socioeconomic groups.

"In rural areas, they conduct child marriages because of ignorance of the law; but in cities, we observed that parents are scared of their children



eloping or they believe that the marriage of minors is a part of their religious tradition ." says Vishalakshi, a childline coordinator of APSA.

Sarath, a student volunteer said that once a girl dialled to his number and reported that she is a minor but her parents are marrying her off.

Together with the NGO administrators he traced her out and helped her out of the situation. He has received eight calls in three months of

his active participation in his NGO.

He added that the regular procedure they follow is by counselling the parents and children and the unwilling members are booked under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006.

The punishment is up to two years of imprisonment and two lakh rupee as a penalty. Even after the world is technologically running forward child marriage is a serious infectious threat on the progress of mankind.

# NETFLIX- Addiction Meringue

Teenu Franklin

It's the era of netizens. The present scenario is that the people are now impressed with modern technological developments, especially with the usage of Internet.

With Netflix being a prominent platform on the Internet, people are just crazy about its usage. Hours and hours are continuously spent by many in watching sitcoms on Netflix.

A new term called 'netflixzen" can be given to Netflix addicts. Sitting for long stretch of time will lead to various health issues like heart disease, diabetes, obesity, cancer, etc.

Recently, the Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) clinic at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) in Bengaluru received its first case of 'Netflix addiction', as per a report in The Hindu. The victim, a 26-year-old man, turned to Netflix to stay away from reality for more than six months, said the report.

According to Manoj Kumar Sharma, professor of clinical psychology, Nimhans, who heads the SHUT clinic, , the man, who was also unemployed, started spending more than seven hours a day binge-watching films and shows on Netflix, which helped him

feel good. “Whenever his family pressurised him to earn a living, or when he saw his friends doing well, he would watch the shows on offer continuously.

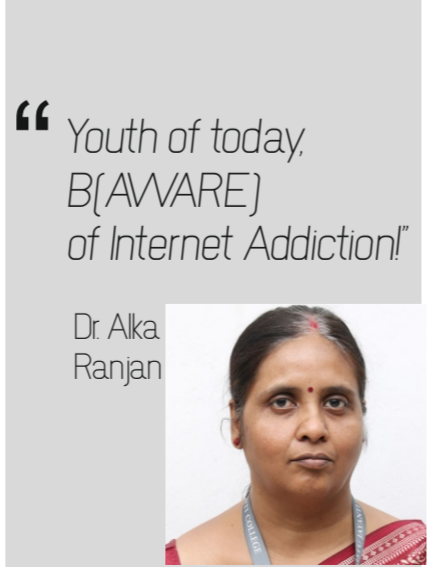
It was a method of escapism. He could forget about his problems, and he derived immense pleasure from it,” Dr Sharma was quoted as saying in the newspaper.

The report said that the first thing he did as soon as he woke up was to turn on the TV. This resulted in eye strain, fatigue, and disturbed sleeping pattern. To help this person overcome his addiction problem, doctors are treating him using therapy, prescribing relaxation exercises, said the report.

“Netflix addiction makes one overestimate things and underestimate one's value”, as in you overestimate people's life their income, way of life, etc.

We don't realize that it's just a way of attracting people and different from the real world, and hence underestimate oneself” says Maneesha Joy, Law student, CUSAT.

This is not the case of Netflix alone, this applies to all the internet addictions. With the excessive usage of internet, and its easy accessibility, people are being an internet fanatic.



# Escaping Never Felt This Better



Jenna George

Chikkamangalur, a picturesque destination, is situated 3400 feet above the sea level in western Karnataaka. Famous for its coffee plantation and cool pleasant climate, it is a favourite tourist spot for people from across the country. Bababudan Giri ranges is another tourist attraction. It is known for its shrine of Sufi saint Hazrat Dada Hayat Khalander. It is a sacred place for Muslims, Hindus and Parsis, this could be a best example for religious harmony.

It was one of the unexplored cites in the state, due to its

topography and flora this hill station changed to a prominent tourist's destination. The verbatim meaning for Chikkamangalur, “Land of the younger daughter”.

There is a rich heritage history that hides behind the name Chikkamangalur. Years ago, a legendary chief who ruled Sakrepatna - Rukmangada gave this district of the state as dowry to his younger daughter. It is thus this place got its name. Chikkamangalur places an important role in the coffee culture of our country. The locals here believe that Babu Budan, who was a Muslim saint from Yemen, brought the

coffee seeds in 1670 and cultivated them here.

It is a perfect place who like to experience and explore through the thick grown coffee plantations. Chikkamangalur has a great circuit of many mountain ranges and misty hills. It is an apt place for natural enthusiast's, explorers and trekkers.

Mullayanagari, the highest peak in Karnataka stands at a height of 2000 meters. It is famous for trekking and other sporting activities. This place is 12 kms away from Chikkamangalur. The best time to visit Mullayanagiri is during the spring season. Among all the other tourists' destinations in

# THE SECRET- Rhonda Byrne

BOOK REVIEW

Ria Elizabeth Eapen

The Secret by Rhonda Byrne is not just an inspirational book but also reveals 'the ultimate truth' to us. The title of the book itself shows that 'the secret' has been revealed. The book was published on 26 November, 2006. There are other parts such as Power, Magic, Hero etc. Each of these books have a purpose. The main idea that the book follows is the 'law of attraction'. It shows us that everything that we attract in this life is the outcome of our thoughts. Hence it focuses on the power of both positive and negative thoughts in our minds. The dominant ones will be attracted according to this law.

This book has a great impact on people since it takes examples from religion as well as other prominent people making it easier to relate. This book has quoted the bible as well. One of the verses mentioned is Mark 11:24: 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them'. It talks exactly about the concept the book follows and hence proves that it is true. While explaining the power of our minds, Michael Bernard Beckwith's quote has been taken. 'You attract to you the predominant thoughts that you're holding in your awareness, whether those thoughts are conscious or unconscious. That's the rub'. People of all ages can relate to this book.

Another interesting part about this book is how well organized it is. Even if we skip the first few chapters we can easily understand the other ones. It is well explained in every single page. There are different chapters like the secret to money, the secret to health, the secret to relationships etc. Anyone who wants to know more about a particular topic can easily read about it directly. There are many real life stories given as examples in all the chapters. This helps us to relate much more. The simplicity of the content has made it this popular. Anyone can apply it. It mainly follows three steps: Ask, Believe and Receive.

The entire book has stories of people and quotes by many famous people proving its concept more clearly. This book gives an amazing vibe through each sentence. It makes us understand situations and even problems fully. The secret to life is revealed. Everything is easy to understand. It is about the things we face in our everyday life and the importance of attracting positive thoughts is mentioned everywhere. 'You can use the law of attraction to create your whole life in advance, right down to the next thing you are doing today'.

# A garbage culture out here!

The charm of the city which used to attract people from all states has started to diminish. Traffic and garbage issues are the ones that make Bangalore city substandard. In that, garbage problem is one of the crucial issues that need to be addressed.

Many have given complaints to BBMP regarding this issue, but no actions are taken on this. Due to the piles and heaps of garbage seen on the road, the cows and dogs wander at these areas surrounded by garbage. This creates chaos, as animals walk onto the road to eat garbage, causing traffic.

“Due to the garbage in the road, many dogs are coming to eat it, and it is difficult to walk in between those dogs. And I find it difficult to go to office,” says a resident of Mahadevapura. Many cases of dog bites have been reported in Bengaluru. Dogs are gathering at the places where garbage is piled.

With this single issue resolved, many other issues like traffic jams and cases of dog bites can be avoided.

“BBMP should take necessary actions immediately to cleanse the city. The whole area of Bengaluru is stacked with garbage”, says Rahul, an IT professional, working at Cognizant.

As of recent reports, the BBMP have started initiatives in the garbage cleaning. Strict actions are planned now. If anyone dumps garbage on the road, they must pay a hefty fine.

# Literacy: A bridge from misery to hope!

Sreenanth K

India's literacy rate is rising when compared to the British era; the number of literate people in the country is very high. The government has considered literacy as one of the prime factors and education as a basic need and fundamental right.

According to the 2015 census results, 80.94% of men and 62.98% of women in India are literate. The overall literacy rate is 71.96%. However, the rest 28.04 percent of people are still unable to read or write their name.

The difference between literacy ratio of urban areas and rural areas is stark. Illiteracy is very low in the cities when compared to the villages. This is stopping India from gaining a place amongst the developed

countries. One out of five people from the rural areas are illiterate. Though there are primary schools and other platforms made for the betterment of the villagers, many are not using it.

Compared to the olden days people are showing much more interest in educating their children. This is reflected in the adult literacy rate as well. But problems like child labor still exist in the rural sides of the nation, though the politicians and the officials often speak about abolishing child labor. Children are still



forced to go out and find a job to earn bread for a family. Older people, who may not have been educated before should also get basic education. This will help them know about their rights and utilize government plans schemes which are offered to them.

Many farmers and below poverty line (BPL) ration card holders do not know how to make use of their Kisan card and ration card. This is because they cannot decode the official notices and announcements. Even if they know about these, they have to depend on mediators and most of the time

mediators will look to make a profit out of this.

This issue is also taken into consideration by the government and needful arrangements are being implemented across the country. Since older people do not learn as quickly as children, educating them takes more time.

There are several things that prevent these people from getting basic education at an older age, though many people still believe that education can only be achieved by going to school since childhood. Going to work is more important to them rather than going to school, because they need money to make ends meet.

To eradicate these problems, the government and the educated people in society should work hand in hand.

# Let them learn; not earn

Jerin K Tomy

Child labour is a serious socio-economic issue because it destroys the life of children as they are forced to work for long hours in tough conditions. It is poverty that forces a child to earn money to support a family. In some cases, children migrate to rural areas or to cities with their families or alone to do labour. Though it is prevalent across our country, the problem is profound in socio-economically weaker states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, and the North East. While commenting on causes of child labour, it is not only poverty, but also lack of social security, insufficient funds in social sector, and illiteracy that should also be examined. Children who do not studied are more likely to be affected by the evils of our society. Denationalization of basic services or needs and low paying economic policies can also be considered as a cause of child labour. These mainly affect children more than any other group in our society. The entry of multi-national corporations without any proper mechanism led to the use of child labour. The utilization of child labour in India is in various places of production and service, like small scale industry, restaurants, domestic aid, shops, masonry, book binding, and in almost every house-hold industry. Child labour in India is mostly in the agricultural sector but in recent times can be seen in other sectors as well. Children who are forced to work in agriculture sector, are affected by the toxic pesticides, poisonous chemicals, which are used in the fields and causes their health to deteriorate at an early age. They need to use dangerous tools and sometimes they have to carry heavy loads without many safety measures. The threat faced in the case of domestic work is that, they may have to live away from their family and work long hours, and they are often made to work without food, with very low wages. They may also be subjected to physical or emotional harassment. This hinders their potential and often it leads them to turn to crime.



Lack of education denies children the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and psychologically. The worst form of child labour is, child slavery, trafficking of children, child prostitution and their use in pornography. Use of children for drug trafficking, and exposure to any work which is likely to harm the health is another evil that is prevalent. In many instances, girls are

used in domestic labour within their own homes. Children who are bonded with their family are often found in agricultural sector or assisting their families. In India, the bonded labourers are mostly migrant workers, which leads them to be exploited more. They are psychologically and mentally disturbed and are unable to gain many social or survival skills. Providing nutrition, education and health care to

children are challenges for India as a developing country. The fundamental rights and Directive Principles of State Policy of our constitution prohibits child labour. In India, any child below 14 cannot be employed in any sectors according to the laws. But this is generally ignored and, India tops the list of countries with of child labourers in the world. The government should ensure that every child gets an

opportunity to go to school and the laws that are existing need to be enforced. The worst crime is neglecting children life from young age. The problem of child labour continues to pose a challenge to the nation. So, it's an urgent need to make people aware about the ill-effects of child labour. Some effective rules are needed from the government in order to wipe out child labour from our country.

# Rays Of Hope- Home for the Homeless



Soniya Antony

Home is the place where you find and build yourself. But if there is no one to look after your feelings and care for you, then you will remain as the most desperate orphan for life. But “Rays of Hope” makes a difference here. The ministry is an indigenous humanitarian NGO, in its humble beginning stage here in India, with a vision and calling. People of all age groups who are gripped with solitude can find a home here. “One who cries a lot can make others smile” is simply true in the life of Mr Graciya

Alexander, who is the founder of this charitable trust. He becomes father for the children nurtured with heap of dreams and a son for all the elder parents who were thrown into the desolate orphan days. His wife, Mrs Annam Alexander, also joined his venture after resigning from her job. It provides Hope to the Hopeless and a Home to the destitute and takes care another soul as of its own. “No money could bring the happiness we get here” said Mr Sailesh, who manages the trust. He was so enthusiastic in unfolding his story from an eighth standard drug addict boy to a

happy youngster who dedicates himself to take care of children and parents there. This trust started with two children and has grown to 25 children in in just three years. They were all admitted to the nearby CBSE School. “We provide quality education to students and make them dream high. We don't want anything back from them but wish them to be torch bearers for those like them” he added. They were also inspired to make best use of their education and bring best out of them by conducting skill development activities. Identifying yourself in others will make you a

## Should we pay for the paid news

Sruthy Vijayan

Media considered being the fourth pillar of our democratic system. A vibrant and diverse media helps to shape public opinion and facilitates adherence to democratic standards. Indian media is infamous for paid news the practice of charging a fee, in cash or equity, from politicians, celebrities, businessmen for presenting biased and one-sided news items to be passed off as a news coverage. The phenomenon is very high during the election which is a black mark in our democratic system. Nowadays, media houses are acting like social media influencers taking money from a brand to say nice things about them. Cobra Post, an investigative news site headquartered in New Delhi carried out a secret investigation named 'operation 136' to bring out the truth in media objectivity. The recent revelations by Cobra post are a serious

indication of the death of media ethics. Operation 136 exposed the flimsy ethics of some popular media houses who agreed to run political campaigns with Hindutva agenda for electoral gain as content for a payment in cash. The video exposed top Hindi news marketing executive accepting cash to promote the Hindutva agenda in the run-up to the 2019 elections. There has been a rising trend in circulating fake news on social media and other portals. The situation is so that sometimes even big media organisations do not check the credibility of the news. The Election Commission of India detected several cases where politicians paid newspapers or television channels for carrying favorable reports about them. One of the recent examples for paid news scandal is the disqualification of Madhya Pradesh minister

Narottam Mishra. Election Commission of India disqualified this BJP leader for participating election for 3 years. ECI took action in response to a complaint filed by the Congress leader Rajendra Bharati who loses to Mishra in 2008 assembly election. ECI identified 42 cases of paid news in Mishra's constituency's newspaper that contributed his victory. The phenomenon of political paid news became evident during the 2009 general election. paid news allegation made against Ashok Chavan during the election was the first one. During the 2014 elections to the 16th Lok Sabha, the ECI has issued 3100 notices to individual candidates for having indulged in 'paid news' and out of which it has confirmed 787 cases as those of paid news. The basic objective of mass media is unbiased reporting but nowadays, they are selling

their news spaces. The flow of black money is very often involved in paid news. From 2010 media certification and monitoring committee (MIMC) set up in district and state levels to check the paid news ahead of the election. But the fact is that there is no regulatory mechanism for controlling these paid media articles. There is no law against this corrupted system because the mass media is always under the control of conglomerates and few political parties who are willing to dilute ethics for business gain. Both media outlets and politicians are guilty and answerable for the profound damage done to the democratic process. When the watchdog becomes lap dog and indulges in corrupted practices during election campaigns, how it can uphold the rights and values of citizens? Self-regulation is the best

### BBMP run on solar power

Bangalore city will hopefully witness solar powered buses and cars soon say BESCOM. "We are working on electric charging points that generate electricity for vehicles. The project is on its initial stage", says Managing Director of BESCOM, C.Shiksha. In an event titled BAMBOOS (Bengaluru Apartments Making Bengaluru Operationally Outstanding and Sustainable), Srikanth Narasimhan, general secretary of BAF said, "The primary reason we must all turn to solar power is that the power of solar panels are coming down. There is an increasing need of more environmental friendly measures and more over it also makes sense commercially." Despite the high initial investment, the absence of tailpipe exhaust fumes, silent running, and lower idling motor energy losses at bus stops or traffic signals could make the electric bus one of those technological options for urban India.

## Fifty Feet above the Ground Aerial feast now a reality in Bangalore

Deepthi Gabriela M

A surrealist gourmet adventure of dinner is what 'Fly Dining' all about. Bengaluru has become the first city in the country that can have a fly dining experience in gourmet pleasures and made a child's dream come true: a flying dinner table baptized the dinner in the sky which is served as the venue for young restaurant owners to don their chef's hat. Located at House of Life, Nagawara, Near Manyata Tech Park Bengaluru it provides a fusion of two most favourite components: Food and Adventure. It is an ecstasy of adventure that escalates an adrenaline driven experience and great for an alternate get together or to spice up a celebration.



'Fly dining' stands as a planning pillar to make the culinary experience an unforgettable memory. It redefines fine dining to an exquisite display. To add a dab of adventure and adrenaline to your dining experience, they fly you to a platform that seats around 22 people, all seated around the periphery of the diner and consists of five hosts at the centre.

The crane lifts the platform to a height of about 50 feet to give an exhilarating view of the skyline thus keeping one's spirit sky high. Walking through the path of the last few decades, the food and beverage industry has evolved much in India to see many innovative products that have developed and concepts that people took on to with wide warm open arms.

With cumulative background in various fields the need to replace the regular mundane weekend activities was made through with the breath taking gatherings the immortal memory would take to the grave. Levitation has always been a concept that amazes people and touching the sky experience always fascinates all.

### Go Green To Breathe Clean

Sruthy Vijayan

Save a life!

Bengaluru, the garden city and the fourth most populated city in India, is slowly choking without clean good air. The decreasing quality of air across Bengaluru is due to urbanization and the increasing number of vehicles. Bengaluru has a lower level of dust pollutants because it has a larger green cover than any other metros in the country. Recent IISC study revealed that the tree ratio is not adequate and if the city loses more of its green cover it will be inhabitable by 2025. Garden city of India is transforming into the most polluted cities in the country. “Air pollution in Bengaluru is severe, resulted in different kind of respiratory problems and it is very serious because India has the highest rate of death from respiratory disorders," said Shwetha, an activist. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) also launched an app known as “green app” to protect the greenery of the city. It has grown 16 different variety of saplings which will be given free of cost to citizens. Through this app, the citizens can order the saplings online. This initiative hopes to bring about a change in the city. According to the latest report of the central pollution control board (CPCB), Delhi and Bengaluru top the list of major polluted cities in India. In a social experiment conducted in the city, artist Avril Stormy Unger demonstrated the poor quality of the air we breathe in. The giant lungs made from HEPA filter (material from the anti-pollution mask) installed at the Old Madras Road turned from pristine white to charcoal black in a month's time. A recent study by a senior pulmonologist revealed Bengaluru's air pollution was to blame for 21% of the chronic cough cases in children below 18 years in years in 2017. They are prone to several respiratory disorders like asthma, bronchitis, emphysema. The Horticulture Department plans to install air purifiers at Cubbon Park to mitigate the problem. If the initial trial run is successful, the government will take a call on installing more such machines in the city.

“A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself.”  
— Arthur Miller

Far-right candidate a threat to Brazil?

For the first time since it re-established democracy, Brazil, the eight largest economic power in the world, elected a far right-wing candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, as its president. Rising crime rate, political corruption, failing health care and unemployment made Brazilians desperate for a change, choosing Bolsonaro's conservative Social Liberal Party (PSL) over the leftist Workers' Party. A controversial figure, Jair Bolsonaro has made heads turn with his misogynistic, sexist and homophobic comments. He considers women and black people as minorities who do not deserve equal pay. On one occasion, he stated that having a daughter is a 'weakness'. He even insulted a Congresswoman, saying that he would not rape her since she was ugly. Bolsonaro was always a vocal critic of homosexuality as well. He once said having to see his son die in an accident would be better than being gay.



Earning the nickname 'Trump of the Tropics', Bolsonaro proved that he is an extremist in his views. His contribution to the military dictatorship era of Brazil as Army Captain is also a matter of concern. Bolsonaro's knack for violence earned him the nickname “ the military evil” by former military-dictator Ernesto Geisel. When the country became a democracy in 1985, he joined politics. Bolsonaro promised to end corruption and violence in a country where security was spiralling out of hand. Brazil witnessed 60,000 murders, a record average of 175 homicides a day last year. His 'tough-on-crime' plans include letting police to be more violent with criminals and using the Army to fight crime. It gained him many supporters, who are looking for a change in the country.

It is not just his authoritarian statements that raised eyebrows. During his campaign, Bolsonaro appreciated Donald Trump about the US decision to withdraw from the Paris Treaty. He also declared his plans of Brazil withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement, scrapping the Environment Ministry and stopping the creation of indigenous reserves for the lungs of the world- the Amazon Rainforest. This would be a backlash for Brazil as a global environmental leader. If these plans are implemented; the Amazon rainforest will be a goldmine for the capitalist and industrialist, and Brazil, the world's sixth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, will not be able to meet its emissions reductions targets under the Paris Agreement. Currently, the country is the deadliest place for environmental activists and the future does not look green under Bolsonaro's term.

The global power has observed a shift in its axis to the right and conservative ideas. Conservative groups and ideologies have been gaining influence worldwide at a rapid pace – from the USA to Poland to Thailand to India and now Brazil. Many credits the populist uprise to the causality of progressive politics of the liberal and centre-left parties. This trend also raises concern about the narrowing gap between extreme and radical right ideology and authoritarianism as a threat to global democracy. Brazil had made a choice and only time will prove if Jair Bolsonaro is a political hero or an intolerant dictator.

Statue of unity or Sense of unity?

Jerin K Tomy

What a proud moment for us! The world's tallest statue is now in our country. Reminds every individual about the freedom struggle and also inspire people to inculcate Sardar Patel's visionary ideologies of unity and patriotism. The iconic 182-meter and the base of the statue is 240 meters and includes a memorial, a visitor center, a convention center, a garden and an amusement park. It is four times than the Christ redeemer in Rio de Janeiro. The statue is a tribute to 'Iron man of India' - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875-1950), for his role in bringing about the merger of the princely states post-independence. Surely, this statue is a symbol of respect to the first deputy Prime Minister of India, a farmer's leader, social reformer and freedom fighter. But was this statue necessary as a tribute for a person who had always spoken against the practice of buildings and statue built to glorify individuals? The entire cost of statue of unity is around Rs. 3000 crores. The tallest statue in the world before this was the Buddha statue of spring temple in China. Now, this became second tallest statue

and the entire cost of this project was just around Rs. 400 crores. While comparing the cost of world's tallest and second tallest statue, we can see a huge difference. And if we compare the heights, then statue of unity stands tall at 182m whereas the height of spring temple, Buddha statue is 128m. So, the difference in their height is just 54m but production cost is nearly eight times more than the second tallest statue. The construction of spring temple Buddha was completed in 2008. If you look at both the statues exteriorly there isn't any significant difference as well. India's most popular and visited tourist attraction is the Taj Mahal. It attracts millions of tourists from around the world every year. But only about 20- 25 crores are generated yearly as the revenue from that. So, in the case of statue of Unity, it will take many years to reach at least the cost of production. So, even if one million tourists visit yearly, it would take eight to nine decades to cover just the cost of production. Statue of Unity

becoming an important tourist destination is quite unbelievable. When spring temple Buddha was the world's tallest statue, it did not even make into the top tourist attraction in China. This monument was planned as a significant tourist place in India. The worlds famous attractions are always near some famous cities. Statue of Unity is located on a river island facing the Sardar Sarovar dam (tribal dominated area) on the river Narmada, Gujarat. Which means, far away from the main cities like Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi. Due to this reason, the number of tourists visiting this place will be less. Will people prefer Red Fort, Taj Mahal or this statue. It is an irony that, the Iron Man of India's statue is devoid of any expression or artistic touch that symbolize unity. The saddest part of this project is, the farmer's right activist Sardar Patel's statue is erected in agriculture land. As many as 75,000 people from at least 72 villages have been affected by this and had to leave their land for the

construction of this statue. Some villagers had written letters to PM Narendra Modi regarding this issue and some others protested. People's hard-earned money is being wasted on projects like statue of Unity though several villagers of the area are still deprived of basic facilities like schools, hospitals and drinking water. Later if someone asks what our Prime Minister has done in the last 5 years, it can be said that world's tallest statue was constructed by him. When floods happened in Kerala, a state needs more than Rs. 20000 crores to stand on its feet, his government gave 600 crores, and now he can spend 3000 crores to build a statue. Despite spending Rs. 3000 crores to build a statue of unity, how united we Indians are today? Every day one can hear different stories of violence in the name of religion, politics etc. So think, what do Indians lack today is - the 'sense of unity' and what do Indians have today is - the 'statue of unity'!

Dark face of Bangalore

Anuraha Mariam

Even though Bangalore is Metropolitan and developed city there is another side to it the rural city. The slums are increasing day by day in Bangalore. In 2013 the Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) the state has more than 2,796 slums housing 40.5 lakh people. The people in the slums work hard to earn or feed their hunger each day. The people dwelling in the slums are drivers, street vendors, migrant workers, construction workers etc. They do not have proper housing, water or electricity and not available to basic amenities. Shanthamma a slum dweller said “It is really hard for us to live here, especially during the rainy season our houses get leaked. We do not have any access to the basic amenities. The government should provide some betterment for our livelihood.” The KSDB and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) planned in

building housing plans for slum dwellers, but the plan got dropped due to financial crisis. India is country that provides free education till tenth standard, but the children in the slums they don't even have access to education. This is another major problem that arises. Slum children are seen picking plastics and other wastes, begging, selling foods, balloons, pens and as child workers. This is a very disturbing scene. These children start to work from their small age for a living. The government should provide some initiatives to bring up these children. Many politicians use the slums as a source of vote banks when it comes to the time of elections, the dwellers cry and tell their pathetic conditions to these politicians in order if they can help but the politicians in return gives them false promises for making them vote. This should stop, but it never will. More developmental programs should be arranged for the

Taxi business in the change lane

Sreenanth K

The taxi business in India followed a fairly simple structure for about five and a half decades. Taxi stands were common throughout the nation and individual licensed vehicles operated in most of them. Certain entrepreneurs used to own five or six cabs, and place drivers for daily wages. Most cab owners had tie-ups with big hotels and restaurants. This later evolved and the operators brought premium cars and established themselves for high-end business travelers. As time progressed, transportation network companies like Ola cabs and Uber with a completely different model and operating style established their presence in Indian cities. They had centralized call centers and mobile application through which customers could book a cab. This took the convenience of booking cabs to a whole new level. If the olden day radio cabs were charging around Rs 20 per kilometer, Ola and Uber were offering

rides at a half price. In spite of the low fare, they also provided special incentives to drivers to join hands with them. Delivering the best at an affordable rate made these online cabs favorite among people. A percentage from their daily earnings should be given to the respective organizations. “In the current scenario, you cannot wait in the taxi stand all day long waiting for your turn to come. By registering our cars in services like Ola and Uber we could roam around the city and catch our trips. And at the end of the day you'll be completing a fair amount of trips which makes your pocket and mind happy,” says Muralidharan who drives Swift Dzire for Uber in Bengaluru. Because of this easy and effective system, lots of new drivers are coming to this field. Both the commuters and drivers welcomed these services and are making better use of it. Ola and Uber's pool services are of great demand in mornings and evenings as many people prefer it. Unfortunately the same



cannot be said for the taxi drivers, who still run privately and in the taxi stands. Many of them still spend an entire day and earn a little. Online taxis are mainly giving priorities to internet and net banking; many of the old drivers are not well versed with this. That is why majority of them still sticks on to the taxi stands. Only a very few drivers out of them have got regular customers. “I've been driving taxis for more than 25 years. During my early days, I worked for travel and I was able to make a good income from that. It took me

only 4 years to buy this Ambassador car, which was the dream of every taxi driver at that time,” says K.N Sharma, a private taxi driver. “A taxi is totally different from a cab. Passengers always have a special feeling and attachment to the drivers and vice-versa, which is absent in the nowadays online cabs,” he added. If the story continuous likes this the private taxi drivers might be forced to register themselves in any of these online services, because at the end of the day what they need to meet the ends is a steady income.

The uncertainty of fuel price

Jenna George

Petrol is expensive in India than other countries. Even the neighbouring countries such as China, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka are also bearing this price hike. There is an impact of the external factors which had contributed to the price hike in the country.

Rising International crude prices, depreciation of rupees vs the US dollar and BJP's overconfidence has led to the snatching of money to feed the engines.

The drift in fuel prices is due to high excise duty imposed on transportation of fuel in the country and hike in the cost of crude oil. The cost of crude oil in global markets determines the petroleum prices. Saudi Arabia has decided to reduce oil production. Saudi Arabia cut its oil production by an average of 2, 00,000 barrels per day in the month of July. According to many experts this move may create oil shortage in global market.

A prediction of having a higher crude oil demand for the rest of the year keeps the price even higher. US sanctions on Iran and there is a price hike in the fuel price as a result the International markets are under pressure. The exchange rate of Indian rupee has fallen to fresh record low of 71 against the US dollar, depreciating Rs 2.5 in a month.

A hike in fuel prices had widened inflation in the economy, pressurising the Central Bank to increase the interest rates to withstand the inflation and also to prompt public demand for a lowered tax rates by the government, reducing social spending resources. But the central government has refused to cut the rates of taxes to lower the fuel prices. VAT on petrol and diesel differs and varies from state to state. Maharashtra government imposes the highest VAT among all other states in the country. After including excise duty, dealer's commission and VAT the

retail price or the selling price gets nearly doubled. Recently the government has cut out the excise duty on petrol and diesel as a relief for the hike of the fuel prices.

According to the Finance ministry's revenue estimate, the central government is expecting more than Rs. 2.579 lakh crore by imposing taxes on the petroleum products. This has badly affected the middle class and the lower strata people.

A mid violent protests rose across the country over raging fuel prices while the government and the oppositions are busy occupied blaming each other which costs the layman to pay the price over their stupidity.

Being the fourth largest consumer of energy in the world, the country has a registered growth of 5% and in order to meet up the increasing demand the government simply gives the public the task of paying extra cash.



Jerin K Tomy