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Slums: Stories from the other side

Sreya Ann Mathew

Bangalore: Around 2804 slums are located in Karnataka, according to a survey conducted by the Karnataka Slum development Board. Where Bangalore has the greatest percentage of slums and it is recognised for its business openings, it has drawn a lot of visitors from the neighbouring regions, as well as those from India's Southern States, particularly those from Andhra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Poor people migrate to Bangalore from a variety of nearby rural Karnataka districts as well as from the neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Additionally, the city draws people from the middle class and professionals around the nation. Agricultural labourers and small-scale farmers who were compelled to leave their home villages due to poverty and seek work in Bangalore city have made up the majority of migrants.

People were drawn to the city to hunt for employment possibilities due to the expansion of private sector activity, particularly the IT sector and its ancillary sectors. The city does not, however, appear to have been successful in providing the necessary services and infrastructure for the expanding population. Poor migrants have been compelled to settle down in slums or squatter colonies in the city, in part because there is a shortage of cheap housing. Bangalore has seen an increase in the number of slum



A scene from one of the slums in Bangalore. Photo: Sreya Ann Mathew

dwellers over the past ten years as a result.

Moreover, many of them were staying without any help from the side of government. And some children are not going to school because of their situation. Among them one boy of age twenty said that he had completed his education till eighth standard and now he is working in construction sites. He earns eighty Rupee's a day, through this he supports his family. Everyone there are helping each other for their survival, but none are unhappy there because they are happy with what they have.

not been counted, with more than half of them being migrants from different regions of Karnataka and other states. These slum dwellers struggle with poverty and poor social status; therefore, they typically turn to construction jobs and informal labour to make ends meet. The bulk of the population struggles to find enough food for one day, a place to live, and a safe environment for their family as multinational corporations continue to acquire more land and achieve new milestones while competing for the top spot on lists of the world's richest individuals.

Unhygienic or unhealthy living conditions are another significant effect of the rise in slum inhabitants. Most of them do not have adequate housing, which has a severe influence on urban equity and inclusion, health and safety, and other essentials. That is the living conditions are miserable for these individuals due to the lack of basic municipal services like drinking water, sanitation, garbage disposal, drainage systems, and toilets. The slums of Bangalore have turned into a hotbed of avoidable and vector-borne diseases like tuberculosis, diabetes, malaria, and dengue due to under provision and pronounced inequitable distribution of primary healthcare services. The lives of the poor people, especially pregnant women and children who require more care than others, are at risk due to the dangerous health practices that are prevalent in urban slums and the lack of health-seeking behavior. This opens the reality yet an unfamiliar truth of Bangalore.

A group of four people are staying happily in a tent like home in a private land where they have to pay for the rent. They didn't have a proper waste disposal system and lavatory. They are not aware of the term cleanliness and hygiene.

Bangalore's expanding technological sector and quick infrastructural development have made many people extremely wealthy, yet around a quarter of its 8.4 million residents still live in poverty. This poor population lives in at least 600 slums throughout the city and hundreds more that have

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Students at risk due to potholes

Shivangi Kashyap

Bengaluru: Every student's worst nightmare is crossing K Narayanpura Road to get to the Kristu Jayanti College. Each corner of the road is covered in potholes, making it challenging for the student to walk or cross the street safely. The manner the cars are driven makes it difficult to cross the road.

Arun Kuriakose, a student of Kristu Jayanti College who often commutes on the road, said, "Because of the existing potholes, riding a bike is challenging; to make matters worse, when it rains, the craters and potholes fill with water. Few days ago I met with an accident due to the potholes present in this area."

In response to the issue, another student, Upasana Das, said, "I have seen accidents happen due of these potholes. Additionally, when potholes are filled with water, cars spray water, which makes it difficult to simply walk along the footpath.

In other places, the edges of the carriageways are covered in silt, sand, and debris, forcing drivers to move into the middle of the road, which is also dotted with potholes. Traffic jams are common in K Narayanpura as a result of potholes, particularly during college hours. When the Kristu Jayanti College was founded



Potholes in the road Picture courtesy: Shivangi Kashyap

in 1999, the neighbourhood had already grown considerably. For the convenience of the students, various stores, food stands, restaurants, and cafes have been built, however the state of the roads is deteriorating daily. The students at KJC are facing problems since a very long time.

All students and inhabitants in K Narayanpura are in danger, hence the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike should check into the situation. The safety of the general public will enhance with safer roads.

Happiness is a journey, not destination

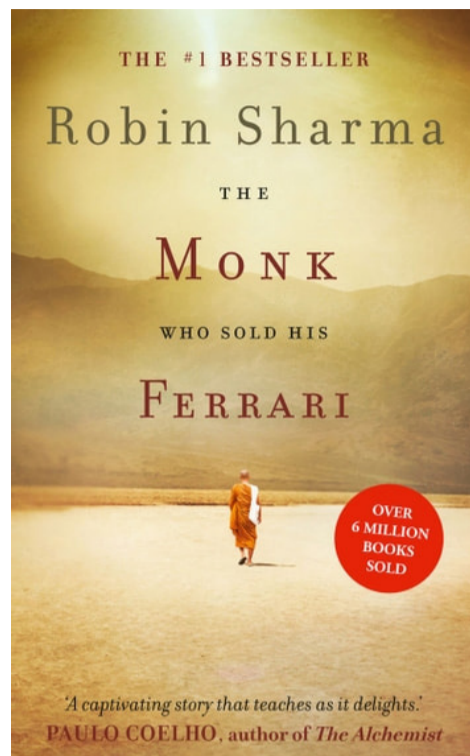
Book Review

Riddhi Agrawal

A truly brilliant fable that entertains and teaches at the same time is *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*. Readers learn the everlasting principles of enlightened living through Julian Mantle's life story, which features him as the main character. Robin S. Sharma has been able to objectify and enhance the lessons, which would have otherwise seemed dull principles, through the use of symbols. The readers learn the purpose of life through Julian Mantle's disclosures.

The author outlines a strategy for achieving our goals in this tale about realising one's dreams.

Julian Mantle, a very accomplished attorney, is the story's primary character. His flamboyant courtroom antics frequently appeared on newspaper front pages. Unfortunately, he had a serious heart attack while testifying in court, and that's when his life changed. He gave up his work, sold all of his possessions, and



took a plane to India in search of Nirvana or the real purpose of his existence. The plot concerns Julian, a



53-year-old guy, becoming a youthful-looking man.

When Julian visited John,

an old friend and co-worker, they got together. Julian spoke with his friend about his life and experiences.

Through seven enduring virtues, Robin Sharma demonstrates a route to enlightenment. This tale teaches you how to control your thoughts, follow your purpose, live a disciplined life, exercise Kaizen, respect time, selflessly serve others, and cherish the moment. These lessons were conveyed to Julian by the Indian Sages of Sivana. These were the seven virtues that Julien learned from the monk, and they dramatically transformed his life, embodying the principles of self-leadership, individual accountability, and spiritual enlightenment.

As he had promised, Julien disseminated this knowledge to the general public, and that is what we should all do to ensure that the people we care about the experience the fullness of life.

Universal knowledge would quench the soul of someone on a genuine journey of self-discovery, self-mastery, and enlightenment. To swallow these profound ancient truths and counsel would be daunting for others. It makes extensive use of symbols and stories to illustrate vital life lessons, it would be ideal if one learns best visually or through illustrations. Anyone pursu-

Kumartuli: A home of the goddess

Sruti Sikdar

Kolkata: Durga Puja – one of the most important events of Kolkata, also considered to be in UNESCO's representative list of the Cultural Heritage of the Country, is celebrated in a grandeur manner by Bengalis all over India, especially in West Bengal. Durga Puja is like an emotion for all Bengalis. The celebration starts on the day of Mahalaya, when the face of the goddess is revealed in all the Pandal and houses, indicating that Maa Durga has officially reached her hometown.

Preparing the idols of these goddesses requires a lot of attention and energy from the artisans and bringing out the perfect idol, instantly creates emotion in the hearts of Bengalis. As Kumartuli is exactly located in the North of Kolkata, the place is surrounded by the old buildings and monuments of the kings and Queens of Ancient Bengal – during the time of British rule.

There are a lot of hubbubs all around West Bengal. There is the beautiful sound of the drum, with the people dancing to it. During Mahalaya, people in Kolkata get all decked up and go out with their families to enjoy their favourite festival. Every Bengali wears their traditional dress and goes out with their families to enjoy these five days. Kumartuli is the most memorable and



An artist makes Durga Idols in Kumartuli
Photo: Sruti Sikdar

important place in North Bengal for every Bengali, where talented artisans use their artistic skills to create clay idols of Goddess Durga, is popular because of the hard work the artists put in to provide the perfect image. Within three to four months, the wooden frames turn into the shape of an idol – with Maa Durga standing on top of the lion, holding her weapon to kill the evil Mahisasur. The lane is filled with clay water

during this period and every shop is filled with rows of the framework of the goddess, inside dark rooms. The clay is given a perfect setup of the idol, with Maa Saraswati and Lord Kartikeya on her right, and Lord Kartikeya and Lord Ganesha on the left. Every artist has his own emotion attached to the idol when he makes it. And before every Durga Puja, it becomes the hub for photographers to collect amazing shots.

You can even have a heart-to-heart conversation with these artists, who will even tell you the ancient traditions of how Durga Puja has been celebrated throughout the years in West Bengal. The artists are very friendly and the old lanes, with the smell of lavender incense sticks, lit up in every home on the corner, will make you feel the Puja from within your heart.

A fun fact about Kumartuli artists is that they do not draw the eyes of the goddess before the idol is taken to her respective home. On the first day of Puja i.e. Panchami, the artists draw the eyes of Goddess Durga. On the last day, when the goddess is taken for the last rituals, that is, Visarjan, the hearts of Bengali is filled with sadness and despair, thinking about when Durga maa will come again to their place and they will have the same fun again.

Durga Puja is the essence of love, laughter and prosperity and the Heart and Soul of every Bengali in this world.

Shroud: The king of Twitch

Sonam Wangyal Bhutia

Michael Grzesiek popularly known as "Shroud" by his fans is a Canadian streamer, YouTuber, professional Valorant player and former professional Counter-Strike: Global Offensive player. Grzesiek was born on 2 June, 1994 in Toronto, Ontario and is of Polish descent. Michael "shroud" Grzesiek is a household name in the streaming community.

He started from humble beginnings as a professional Counter-Strike player looking to make a splash in the scene and eventually achieved that goal by winning the biggest Counter-Strike tournament "ESL Pro League" season 4 in 2016 while playing for the team "Cloud9". Counter-Strike wasn't his final destiny, however. After gaining a cult of following on Twitch due to his insane aim in first-person-shooters, he decided to retire from professional and competitive CS: GO in 2018 to have a shot at being a full time streamer.

As of today, Shroud has over 10 million twitch followers and his streams have been viewed more than 500 million times, which translates to hours upon hours of entertainment for the twitch community and his fans. And the best part about him is that he hasn't lost his aim or his touch while playing those games. He still has an insanely good aim and hence was given the nickname by the Twitch community "The Human Aimbot".

Shroud also often interacts with his fans by answering their questions, particularly at the beginning and at the end of his streams and in-between games. His response provides great insight into his thoughts and feelings about what he's playing and helping his viewers learn while he's playing.

Sudharsan M

Every Monday is special, especially at Kristu Jayanti College, autonomous Bengaluru, where there is a celebration. The department of performing arts is organising an event every second day of the week called Manic Monday.

Every Monday at 12.40, the event starts. Different varieties of performance come from different cultures, like mime acts, clowning, dancing, and more.

Kristu Jayanti College Principal Augustine George enjoyed the event with the students. The event was hosted by an anchor from the performing arts department, who made the crowd feel energetic.

Last Monday, students performed for songs that were trending on Instagram. Songs like "Kala Chasma," "Megham Karukatha," "Vikram theme," "Uptown funk," and more were played during the event. The ambience made the audience shake their bodies, and after the performance,



volunteers from the audience were made to dance with the performers.

The whole 45 minutes was fun and a wonderful memory for the students. Today, according to Guinness World Records, most people believe Monday is the worst day of the week, but Kristu Jayanti College has taken a step forward to make students feel that every day is precious and important.



Know it Reel it

Sonam Wangyal Bhutia

The Department of Performing Arts of Kristu Jayanti held a program called "KNOW IT? REEL IT!" On 7th of November 2022 at the Chavara Square at 12:50 pm. The programmers played familiar songs that people dance to and make videos known as "REELS on Instagram and Facebook". Reels is basically a video that people make by dancing to songs and remixing it with their own dance moves. Reels can be of various types not only dancing, but anything such as travelling, sports, food, fashion etc.

The programmers today even requested any members from the audience to come and dance on the stage if they were familiar with the song and if they wanted to dance and make a reel on it. They were also looking for the Reel King and the Reel

Queen which was to be given to the best "REELER Award".

Kristu Jayanti organizes extravagant programs which help the students bring out and show case their talents to everyone. Reels is one of the most growing and advanced function of the social media platform such as Instagram and Facebook and is taking the world by storm. Making reels helps people showcase their talent to a large audience at once and gain them followers.

The people who make the most unique reels end up setting trends for the world to follow and they get credit for it. People end up being social media influencers who basically influence their followers by putting up content that their followers like and follow.

The Life of Stray Dogs

Nida Imam

The nature of photography is such that a still, motionless picture can convey a thousand emotions. As it is said that there is a story behind every picture and so here, I would like to convey mine to you. The central idea of my photography is based on street dogs. Every time we see a street dog in distress our hearts pound and our minds enter a debate of how we can pull the dog out of its agony, but how many of us actually take a step forward and make an effort in saving their lives? The answer is very few. Even if one person helps one dog, the world would be a better place for them as a living creature. The life of the stray dogs is not easy. Strays are systematically murdered, usually by poisoned food. There are half a billion stray dogs living on the planet, this number is the same as the population of Russia, United States and Spain together. An estimated 79.9 million homeless cats and dogs are abandoned every year in India. Nearly 400 million of the dogs are homeless.

Dogs have been living next to human for almost a hundred thousand years and hence they adapt to constant changes happening in our life so quickly that we have even stopped to be amazed by it, no other animal has any such significance in people's life.

Sometimes humans for fun are likely to stone, shoo or kick the animal that was completely being harmless to them. This is something that is very sad on the human part. From many years dogs are known for their loyalty and friendship to the humans yet it is very sad that we as humans are not able to return the endless love, care, and loyalty to them.

People those who do want to help them then it is important to know how to care and help it find its home.



These abandoned stray dogs are usually frightened and are possibly harmful to themselves as well as to the people around them so it is important to never call out to a nervous stray as dogs in a panic are likely to run away or in some cases approach you aggressively at the sound of your voice.

If you are not able to safely restrain the animal then call the local Animal control agency do so whether the animal is injured and whether they are wearing an identification tag and if possible, stay on the scene to keep an eye on the dog until the help arrives.

Make sure that these dogs receive their vaccinations as vaccination is very important, if you find a hungry dog try to get them some food, and if you find an injured dog kindly call for help and make sure that they receive the treatment.

Apart from this under bad weather conditions try to give them shelter as dogs can be affected by terrible weather conditions, make sure to drive safely on the road to avoid any accidents with the animals. By these small acts of not something that I would call kindness but humanness the world will be a better place for them.

And if not for them we could do these acts as its proven that cuddling, petting and scratching a dog could be as soothing as deep meditation.

E-FIR: Portal launched to Report Vehicle Theft

Wooddipona Bhattacharjee

Bengaluru: A new online service, E-FIR, is launched by the Karnataka police, where theft or loss of vehicle can be registered online. According to police reports, approximately 7,000 cases of vehicle thefts are reported every year in Bengaluru, for which the vehicle owners have to make frequent visits to the police station. Keeping this in mind, an E-FIR application was released in the last week of September.

The Karnataka DGP retweeted that this initiative has been taken to reduce the burden of citizens, who have to visit the police station to lodge FIRs which is another hectic task to do amongst their busy schedule, and hence to help with the issue this new application has been launched.

This app allows the owners to file complaints against theft and vehicle theft online through this app. He also tweeted that an FIR filed through this app will hold the same weightage as an FIR filed in the police station.

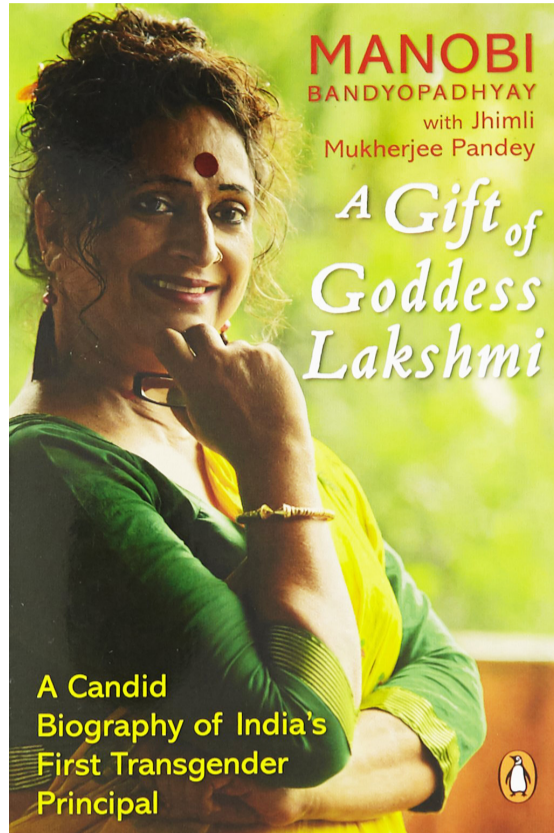


Manobi: Inspiring life of a Transgender fighter

Sruthymol Thomas

Manobi Bandyopadhyay is the first transgender principal from West Bengal to complete a Doctor of Philosophy. She worked as an Associate Professor in Bengali at Vivekananda Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya. She was assigned as principal of Krishna Nagar women's college on 7 June 2015. She is also the editor of a Transgender magazine titled Abamanab (Sub-human). She has also written two books –one that documents the hijra community in India, and the other is about the third gender in our society and literature.

Manobi was born as Somanath on 23 September 1964 in Naihati, Kolkata. However, somewhere in the middle of his life, he felt something different about his gender and felt many times that he looked good in his two sisters' clothes. His style, walking, and everything represented a female character hidden in him during his childhood. When he joined the college for his higher studies, his style and sitting with girls made his teachers complain about him to his father. His father won't understand or accept his Sexuality. And thus, everyone called him transvestite. After completing the BA, he joined Jadavpur



University for her Masters. He showed his dancing talent and was named the best dancer in almost every competition. And when he was 25, he started

seeking jobs. And thus, he began as a temporary lecturer at Sri Krishna College for Rs.125. And along with this, he did his MPhil too.

Finding a job and going on with it was a difficult task for him as the villain here was his identity. He was even forced to wear a sari instead of a salwars and was harassed even by the women in the college. Her surgery to become a woman was another difficult day that she faced. Because after her surgery, getting a job and being in such a great position is unthinkable, says Manobi in her autobiography book "A Gift Of Goddess Lakshmi", which is all about her life, her passion, her ambition, her sacrifices, her difficulties that made her reach till now.

She describes her life as a battle to stand up for her identity. Manobi Bandyopadhyay is always an inspiration to all human beings, especially those people who feel uncomfortable revealing their original identity because of fear about society's thinking and treatment of them.

Mafia queen of Mumbai



Sruti Sikdar

Breaking box office records, legendary director Sanjay Leela Bhansali is back with another blockbuster movie 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'. One of the most significant directors of the Indian Film Industry, Sanjay Leela Bhansali has created one of the classic movies in the industry like Padmaavat, Bajirao Mastani, Devdas, Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, etc. Sanjay Leela Bhansali has received critical acclamation, including four national awards and also a BAFTA nomination.

Gangubai Kathiawadi – a movie about the most popular social worker in the largest red light area, Kamathipura, 'Gangubai'. Adapted from the popular book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai', written by S. Hussain Zaidi and Jane Borges, the movie talks about the rise of a small-town girl Ganga into the queen of Kamathipura, Gangu. It shows the transition in the life of Gangubai and how her fiancé broke her trust by making her believe that he was taking her to be a star in Mumbai but instead sold her away to a brothel. It was the beginning of her reign in the area of Kamathipura, where we can see how slowly and gradually she starts gaining power and fame.

Selecting Alia Bhatt as the main lead actress for this movie was a very good decision made by the director. The portrayal of Alia Bhatt as the character of Gangubai Kathiawadi will always be iconic in the minds of the people. How her character development has been shown in this movie is remarkably amazing – the growth of a queen amidst the herd of men.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali has tried his best in portraying the life of Gangubai in a chapter-like format, where he is trying to show the life as well as the transformation of Gangubai into being a master in producing these kinds of films, Bhansali has raised the bar of understanding a female character, through his aestheticism and showcasing beautiful imagery in his work. From showing the motion of how she wants to stand for the women and do something for them, and then actually standing up for the women in Kamathipura, we can clearly understand how the movie plot goes.

Another element which is also important to mention was that apart from the energetic dialogue, was the set of the movie. To portray every little detail of the area of Kamathipura and to make the audience understand the plot of the film, the crew members took a lot of time in creating the set as a region of Kamathipura. Even the music and the choreography of the songs were fantastic and aesthetic like always we find in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's movies.

The slow pace of the movie makes it easier for the audience to understand the story of the plot as well the vivid expressions of the artists make them guess the emotion the character is going through. She tries to explain to people that a prostitute or sex worker is not different from any ordinary woman, and they also deserve to get the rights just like any other woman does.

A girl who dreamed of doing something big ends up in a place where she never expected herself to be. But she created her own identity there as well. She gave up on everything to fight for the rights of sex workers.

And Sanjay Leela Bhansali and his team did a great job in providing knowledge to the audience.

Movie Review

Sudharsan M

The Truth with conscience and spine

Jana Gana Mana is an Indian political crime thriller that tells the current situation happening in India. This movie was directed by Dijo Jose Antony, who made a beautiful debut with "Queen." This movie was cinematographed by Sudeep Elamon and produced by Supriya Menon, Listin Stephen.

The cast, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Pasupathi Raj, G. M. Sundar, and Mamta Mohandas, were the pillars of the movie. The actors have given their best in this movie.

This movie is based on many real-life incidents and facts. This film investigates corruption and how the government and media manipulate people. It questions the audience and makes them realize the mistakes they are unknowingly making. In the film a college professor was raped and murdered, and the management doesn't care about her death. Then the college students started to protest. This further enrages the students, leading to massive protests and police abuse. In one scene, a bloodied student is seen posting a video narrating the abuse on social media. Here the movie is carried on by Sajjan Kumar, and when he catches the culprits from marginalized communities, he is under



massive political pressure, which forces him to encounter the criminals. Here, the director convinced the audience to

celebrate the encounter. The movie starts to take off when Aravindh Swaminathan starts to raise questions that no one in the court could respond to during the hearing when Sajjan Kumar is fabricating a tale about the encounter and Aravindh Swaminathan is the opposing attorney. He courageously defended the four young people who were charged with crimes.

When a positive incident occurs, everyone feels pleased to be an Indian, but when a negative incident occurs, we blame the state or the location where it occurred, according to the director. There is excitement because they leave a sequel for the next installment in the climax. The entire duration of this film piques curiosity. The film also stated that individuals believe everything they read or hear in the media. Most of our media in India is controlled by several political parties.