

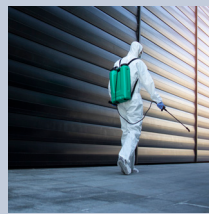


Gender Parity:
Women and the virus

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Is India moving towards the endemic stage?



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Manipal's Alumni makes it big in the music industry.



“Ugravaadi Ugravaadi hote hai.”

Aditi Agarwal
Kevin Varghese Philip

Mangalore: “It was all unexpected, happened all of a sudden,” said Jagadeesha Poojary, a former employee at OSS, Afghanistan, in the interview when we asked him about the Taliban attack that happened in the second week of August. Jagadeesha, a heavy coach driver at the airport for the NATO and US army was a witness to the havoc in Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul on the fifteenth of August. Working for the Overseas Supply Service (OSS), Poojary had seen a lot of attacks in his lifetime, and this easily was the most impactful. For, this one sent him and his colleagues home, to India from Afghanistan.

Working for the OSS he was always kept sheltered at the base, with alarming sirens go-



Image Source: Reuters

ing off the minute there was an indication of danger. This is why he was all the more surprised to hear the attack in the civilian part of the Hamid Karzai airport. Jagadeesha had gone back to Afghanistan after his holiday in Mangalore with his family on the 11th of August. Just after three days of working there, on the morning of 15th August, he

witnessed the attack. He remembered it being a state of turmoil with the civilians being rushed to protection by the NATO and US army. Just the following day, aeroplanes C-17 of the Indian and US army landed in Kabul to airlift the people to safety.

Jagadeesha remains one of the few to be airlifted by the US Army plane to a safe base

in Doha, Qatar. From there with the help of the Delhi embassy he was sent to his home, Mangalore safely. He thanks the US Army and the coordinators at the Indian embassy for being efficient. In his ten years of working for the OSS, he has seen many attacks. Kandahar base, Kabul, stands out for facing the most ground and rocket attacks. Yet, the security was so tight that in all these years he managed to stay safe.

Later, when asked about Poojary's take on the 'reformed Taliban' he said, “Ugravaadi Ugravaadi hote hai,” (Translation: Extremists will be Extremists.) He doesn't trust the Taliban to amend themselves a lot even now and believes that they will still continue their reign of oppression and hostility. He emphasised the fact that the Taliban has their

motives set, and won't be changing them. Taliban's principles and rules don't align with that of his company's policies. He knows for a fact that his company will not sign a contract with the Taliban. So, he doesn't expect to be called back to Afghanistan for this very reason. Now, Poojary hopes to find something in his own country, India.

Having lived a life so close to what we see on the news, Jagadeesha is a man full of stories. He looks back at his days in Kabul, working from airport to airport, city to city. He has lived through attacks, bombings and managed to survive it all. And for that, he remains grateful to the army and his company for keeping him and his colleagues safe especially during conflicts.

Taliban's false promise of peace in Afghanistan

Rishika Bujurke

Kabul: Following the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan in the early 1990s, the Taliban, or the 'students' in Pashto, was formed in northern Pakistan. Once in power, the Taliban promised to restore peace and security in Pash-tun territories spanning Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Taliban were thrown out of power in Afghanistan by US-led forces in 2001, but the group retook control of the nation on August 15, 2021, after a rapid attack. However, questions have been raised about how the group plans to run the country, as well as what their rule will mean for women, human rights, and political freedoms. In 2004, a new Afghan government took control when NATO allies

joined the US, but deadly Taliban attacks persisted. NATO's multinational soldiers completed their combat operation in 2014, at the conclusion of the deadliest year since 2001, handing security over to the Afghan army.

Peace talks between the US and the Taliban began tentatively until an agreement on a pullout was reached in Qatar in February 2020. The Taliban's attacks did not halt as a result of the US-Taliban agreement; instead, they shifted their emphasis to Afghan security forces and civilians, as well as targeted assassinations.

What could happen next?

The Taliban's plan to govern Afghanistan remains unclear. Women's future prospects are bleak. In Af-



Image Source: Reuters

ghanistan, progress has been achieved in terms of the number of females obtaining an education during the last 20 years, but assaults on schools and communities have escalated dramatically in recent months, while foreign help has gradually vanished.

The Taliban's commanders sketched out what their leadership of Afghanistan would look like for the first

time on September 31, Tuesday, pledging peace at home and encouraging the world to look past their legacy of bloodshed and persecution.

The United Nations warned on Tuesday that the Taliban's activities will be thoroughly examined after the militants promised broad amnesty for anyone who worked for the former Afghan government and freedom of labour for women.

Given the Taliban's history, UN human rights spokesperson Rupert Colville told reporters in Geneva that such assurances have been treated with suspicion. But it will not simply be the Taliban's pledges to Afghans that will be evaluated. Western nations, as well as Russia, are monitoring to see if the group keeps its word that it would not become a safe haven for Al-Qaeda and other foreign terrorists, as it did during the Qatar negotiations.

Will the Taliban really change or be the same? We'll find out.

Source: Indiatoday, BBC news

Unemployment strikes as the disaster unfolds

Ananya Suryanarayan Karanth

Malpe: Rainy weather or the ongoing pandemic haven't been much of a problem to the shopkeepers lately than a month-old incident that led to an economic downfall by the sea. A group of 4 were struck by strong waves on August 1st. This led to 1 death (Dechamma, 20) and 3 rescues. This tragic event has caused fear amongst tourists and local folk alike, leading to undesired consequences for the workers who set up stalls to fend for their families.

A local quick-snack stall owner, Manju, said "This incident has sparked a huge change in tourism". His dai-



Photo by: Kevin Varghese Philip

ly income has drastically reduced to mere hundreds from 2000 that he earned. Chandravati, a small-shop owner too, said there has

been a difference in earnings of about Rs. 2000 per day. The incident grabbed the police's interest and measures of precaution have

made a once relaxing place stricter than usual. Safety nets and the guards keeping a constant lookout for people's safety has led to a

reduction in the number of tourists. Many of these stall owners no longer set up their stalls due to the constant loss they have been facing.

In the course of the ongoing pandemic, Unlock-1 has helped these workers revive their failing source of income but this incident has pushed them back to how it was during the first wave of the covid pandemic. Today, the once jam-packed parking lot stays empty and the stalls look abandoned but, slowly, there is a ray of hope in the near future. Manju informed us about how these restrictions might be lifted around 15th September at the start of the Hindu festival, Ganesh Chaturti.

Student town with no students

Aditi Agarwal

Manipal: #Bringbackstudents trends #1 on Twitter as the streets of Manipal search for students with colorful backpacks and some with no backpacks at all. Manipal, known as the student town, seems to have lost its essence without them parading about the place.

Local chai wale bhैया put up missing posters for the MAHE students hoping to see his Maggi and momos sell before he knows it. Not just this, MIT dogs seem lost and sad not having anyone to pet them, and give Parle-G. Locals complain about the silent beaches because they are used to see-



Photo by Kevin Varghese Philip

Graphics by Aditi Agarwal

ing the young crowd. "It is too quiet, I can hear myself think," argues Shetty when asked about the silent town.

Taking it to her Instagram

live, Sahana, a second-year student at MIC complains about how tasty the home-made food is. "The roti is too soft, I am not used to

this," Another student, Maxon has packed his suitcase already, waiting for MAHE to send a mail.

Without students stopping

to look at the sky and clicking pictures for their Instagram profiles, the world seems to have forgotten about the beauty of the sky. "Manipal skies are still beautiful," writes a local journalist on his blog. Local watchman takes it to Facebook to whine about how much he misses the two-minute conversations students have with him at the gate every day. He updated his status to 'feeling lonely' at noon.

The town and its people wait for the students to come home to them, at Manipal. Hopefully, soon, the students will light the town again.

The man with the story untold: K Babu Master

Aditya Buddharaju

Udupi: Veteran Freedom Fighter K Babu Master will always live as the Udupi Hero. Babu Master was a strict Gandhian and followed that lifestyle, he was an active member of the freedom struggle since he joined in 1924. Babu Master served as an activist for the Congress Party, spreading

the Gandhian movement in the Kannada district. He joined Mahatma Gandhi's campaign of boycotting western made products and also traveled across the district delivering Gandhi's weaving wheel to promote Khadi industries. He also participated in the Salt Satyagraha in Sultan Bathery,

Mangalore in 1929.

Unfortunately, acute poverty left him being the one needed to support his family. Due to this Babu Master left the freedom struggle and led his life as a teacher from 1934 till he retired. He was not given his deserved freedom fighter pension as he was an active freedom

fighter and was involved in the struggle but he was never imprisoned. Because the union government had different pension plans for freedom fighters who were imprisoned and those who weren't. Babu Master depended on his teacher's pension for the rest of his life.

It's heart-rendering to

see that someone who gave so much for the country was left to fend for himself by the government. Babu Master was a man who lived his life following the ideals of non-violence, peace, and simplicity, ideals that might benefit the modern-day world.

Around Manipal: Club Edition

Aditi, Kevin, Riya

Manipal The Talk Network:

The pandemic has not held back MTTN from doing a splendid job and putting out content of top-notch quality. At MTTN, the creative process not only provides great learning and growing opportunities but is also fun which acts as an incentive to work. They have expanded their working horizon to various apps and platforms which keeps the members invested, active and eager to learn new things!

Lalithmalhaar Gudi
(Head of Videography)

Radha Bhat K S
(Subhead of Photography)

The Think Tank:

As the term begins, TTT is ready to work in full swing and bring exciting new stuff to its audience. They are introducing the concept of TED Circles which will be held every month, it aims to bridge the gap between people through healthy discussions! Apart from this the flagships events, they have planned are TEDx, Fireside Chat and Human Library!

Palak Bhatia (Head of HR)



Graphics by Aditi Agarwal

Photo by Swaroop Diddi

AAINA:

AAINA, the dramatics club has not let the online barrier affect them at all. From successfully conducting the intra-club event, 'Spotlight' to preparing for 'Double Bill',

they've done a commendable job. Now they're practicing to compete in fests out of station. Offline or online, AAINA always manages to amaze us!

Nandni Jotwani (Member)

ManipalBlog:

ManipalBlog recently introduced an incentive programme for its members. Based on the contribution and work of the members, monetary incentives, re-

wards like gift vouchers, Manipal merchandise will be given. This aims to garner motivation and help the members prepare for the future. Being more than just a media body pushing out content, ManipalBlog wishes to give the members a taste of professionalism all the while having fun, of course!

Dhruv Aiyappa
(Head of BDPR)

Manipal Digest:

Manipal digest is an independent media body that actively pushes out amazing Manipal related content. The club just had their recruitment for the semester. They successfully managed to host their first offline event at Manipal, Azadi, in March. They keep a close tab and cover shows and events happening in and around Manipal like inauguration of barcode Manipal, reopening of ChillSpace, Udupi Krishna mut Krishna festival, bassculture, zero gravity, Dhol Baaje etc.

Vaishnavi Harikrishnan
(Associate Editor Ops)

Teaching through turmoil

Apoorva Jujavarapu

Out of the industries that successfully turned the pandemic into a boon, educational institutions are the most apparently transformed. New demands of a new world challenged the traditional methods adopted by some of the most underappreciated yet vital parts of our lives.

Teachers of today are not just good communicators, understanding but also are tech-savvy. Sadly, only one out of four teachers are equipped to use computers and adapt to teaching online. While these are the statistics collected by UDISE, many teachers are also reported to have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The previously gradual process of the introduction of e-learning is now the only formal learning that is



certain. Amidst these developments, the efforts of teachers to make education as engaging as possible for students whose motivation has gone for a toss are often left not applauded. Teaching to a faceless audience has become the new normal of the entire profession.

"There has been a serious dip in motivation because of the non interactive na-

ture of the classes", remarks a psychology professor from a school in Hyderabad. A professor from rural Telangana speaks of the increased gap in education and says,

"The pandemic exposed the ignorance of the authorities as the online mode was actually considered legitimate despite the lack of technological access for most kids." While we passionately debate the conduct of exams and offline classes, we must realize and respect the people who ensure the existence of that choice by making sure the process of learning, for children and adults, is constant and not hindered by the pandemic.

Graphics by Kevin Varghese Philip, Mihika Chatterjee

WHAT'S NEW?



Are you a Marvel fan? Shang Chi released on 2nd September is a film about a martial arts master who travels to the United States as a child to escape the clutches of his tyrannical father, Wenwu. It is the first Marvel action film to feature an Asian lead. This film is steadily rising in the box office, acquiring a total of three crores. This film is available in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada as well.

Image Source: marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com

Cinderella has lost her shoe yet again, and she is on the search for her charming prince. Cinderella, a movie starring Camila Cabello, Idina Menzel, and Billy Porter, was released on Amazon Prime on September 3rd. This magical fairy-tale is a must-see if you haven't already seen it.



Image Source: imdb.com



On September 10th, the sixth and final season of the mystery show Lucifer will be released. Since its debut in 2016, the show has been a fan favorite. Starring Tom Ellis and Lauren German, we can't wait to see what is going to happen this season.

Image Source: tvline.com

Aditya Buddharaju
M. Neha Raju

EV- The future of the Indian automobile industry

Kevin Varghese Philip

India, the second most populated country in the world, is also home to one of the fastest-growing automotive industries in the world with about 296 million vehicles on the road as of 2019. This number is expected to grow with Indian based manufacturers and foreign brands introducing cheaper and practical cars designed for Indian roads. With countries around the world pushing for cleaner alternatives, India is no stranger to this revolution and has jumped into the electric bandwagon in the last five years.

Electric vehicles have existed in India for quite a while but sales remained stagnant due to the inherent flaws of the technology such as ridiculously long charging time, limited driving range and exorbitant price-tag. Despite these issues, the federal government has rolled out schemes such as the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) in 2013 to incentivise EV and supporting infrastructure by providing grants to companies for setting up and selling electric vehicles. The most



Image Source: Freepik

notable scheme in adopting electric vehicles is the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicle (FAME) which was commenced in 2019 to incentivise the purchase of electric vehicles in different segments. Although with many electric vehicles in the market, a majority of them did not qualify under this scheme due to stringent requirements. Hence the government has decided to follow a more pragmatic approach to completely transition into EV over the

next few decades. With rising fuel prices and attractive subsidies, the masses gradually started to adopt electric vehicles mostly as a secondary mode of transport. Several companies such as Hero Electric, Ather, Simple Energy, Ola are setting a strong foot in the industry by bringing new electric scooters which make up a huge chunk of the electric vehicle market. Although with increased sales, the numbers are still much lower compared to the cheaper fossil-fueled counterparts.

Several components of electric vehicles are shared with combustion vehicles but the most expensive part of electric vehicles is the battery. Unfortunately, India does not have abundant lithium reserves unlike China but recently with a drive to be 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) there has been extensive survey and searches done to find lithium reserves for in-house battery production. There have been several breakthroughs in battery technology that uses other elements to power batteries.

Hence, there is a possibility to reduce the price of batteries even further to match the overall cost with combustion. Several new technologies such as ultracapacitors will aid in ultra-fast charging and provide a viable alternative to polluting combustion vehicles. Hydrogen-powered electric vehicles are another potential alternative especially with business tycoons like Mukesh Ambani investing a lumpsum amount in hydrogen technology.

The future of EVs are promising so far but the technology is still too early for consumers to adopt on a wider scale. Electric scooters and cars have made leaps and bounds in terms of price, reliability, range and performance. The Indian Government is driving its future towards electric with massive infrastructure projects such as placing superchargers across the country thus aiding Indian companies with grants to develop the know-how for a viable and smooth transition into the electric future.

Why is 'why' the most important question?

Aditi Agarwal

"Why?"

Isn't why is what it all boils down to? Isn't why is what it must boil down to?

Why is where it all began. If one curious soul hadn't gone to seek the whys in the mind, we'd all stay stagnant, unmoved. Because why is what gets us moving. Why not me? Why me? Why this? Why not that?

Why was the question you always asked. As a child you reek of curiosity; always searching for the why. You never settled, never stopped looking for the answers. Well, what happened when you grew up? You accepted the answers the world threw at you, never bothering to check if they even answered your questions.

You read, you learn, you forget, you unlearn. You know everything there is to

know about an investigation, you know what happened, you know where it happened. But why it happened helps you solve the case. Knowing why it happened conquers the whats and the wheres. Maybe why is the most important question because it answers all your other questions; the whats, the wheres.

Why was the question you wanted to ask as a teenager. You for the first saw the world through a perspective of your own. Sometimes you want to question, "Why do I feel uncomfortable around her?", "Why does he look at me like that?" But you don't. You were too scared to learn the answer to the question to even question in the first place.

You lay under a clear blue sky away from the clouds of

doubts, ambiguity once you learn why. Why gives you an understanding, a purpose. With why you find yourself on the shore of a purpose, a meaning, with the waves of confusion only managing to touch your feet but never being strong enough to consume you whole. Don't we all seek a roof under which it all starts making sense? You only hear the rain, aware it is there out there; knowing it cannot touch you. That is what why is, it's your roof.

Why was the question you wished you asked as an adult. You see it being wrong, you see it being done. But you never saw is the why. "Why does he come home late?", "Why do I look tired than usual?" You never asked these questions, because of the consequences you knew you'd face. You thought ask-

ing the why would cost you way too much.

You feed your hunger with why. Your hunger could be anything, but most of the time, it is the hunger to seek the truth. They say, truth is bitter, but they also say it is the bitter medicines that work. We know what we wish for, what we seek for is bitter, yet that is what calms us.

Why is the question you regret not asking the most as you're old. This is when you realize that fear of knowing the answers, facing consequences meant nothing when all you want is the truth. The reason. The motive. The purpose.

Why is the most important question.

Once you start asking the right whys, it'll all start to make sense. As I said, it

is your roof, your home. Why be anywhere but your home?

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NASA hits jackpot with Perseverance

Rodney Saniel Amanna

NASA's rover, an SUV-sized six-wheeled robot, has collected its first rock sample by drilling out the core of a rock dubbed 'Rochette.' Members of this mission have also announced that they require some more data before declaring this whole mission a success.

The first attempt took place on August 5th, but the rock they drilled was soft, due to which the drilled bits could not make a designated tube. The critical task for the rover is to search for signs of past Mars life on Jezeros floor by collecting dozens of samples. Jezeros crater is 28 miles wide basin located in the Martian northern hemisphere, which hosts a



Image source: Freepik

big river and delta. Samples collected by rover will be brought to earth by a joint NASA - European space agency campaign as early as 2031.

As they failed their first attempt, the rover drove 455 meters to a new location, a

ridge dubbed 'Citadelle.' According to NASA officials, the rocks in Citadelle appear to have resisted wind erosion, which means that they are hard enough to hold up when drilled.

The team soon picked up the Rochette and the

ridgetop rocks and began an in-depth assessment of the drilling target. Rochette passed all the required tests. The images sent by Perseverance showed an intact sample core resting in the tube, as planned. It vibrates the sample so that it slides

farther down into the tube.

There will be a lot of sample collecting practice done by Perseverance over the coming weeks or months. Rover carries 43 sampling tubes, out of which the team aims to fill at least 20 before the mission is done. Each sample will be a cylindrical core which is 1.3 by 6 cm.

Perseverance took a little while to start digging into its core science work on Jezeros' floor. Because at the same time, the rover was also helping out a friend. It also supported and documented the first five flights of NASA's Mars helicopter ingenuity this spring.

Source: Space.com, CNET, Time Now

Stabbing in Auckland: suspect killed in shoot-out

Aditya Buddharaju



Image source: Mark Baker/AP/File photo

Auckland: The world was shocked as terror struck New Zealand again on the 4th of September. A man now identified by the police as Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen entered Countdown LynnMall in Auckland before grabbing a knife that was on display and stabbing six people.

The police managed to intervene in 60 seconds and stopped him by shooting and killing the suspect. Three out of the six victims are in critical condition.

Ahamed moved to the country 10 years ago. He was convicted and in pris-

on for 3 years before being released this year in July. He was first noticed by the Police and Security Intelligence Service in 2016 for expressing sympathetic views about terrorists on Facebook along with posts and comments that advocated violent extremism.

Ahamed was also arrested twice, once in 2017 and in 2018, where the police consistently found knives and content related to extremist propaganda in his apartment. It was later determined that his refugee status was falsely obtained.

The government could

not deport him since he appealed against deportation and was in prison which meant his appeal could only carry on once he's out. He was sentenced to a year of supervision in July 2021, which restricted him from using internet devices.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robison said that the government will continue to review the immigration laws and try to improve them. Prime Minister, Jacinda Arden said that this was carried out by an individual following an ideology and not by a certain culture, faith, or ethnicity. This was the first terror attack in New Zealand after the horrific Christchurch mosque shootings back in 2019.

With the Taliban retaking control in Afghanistan, governments and people across the world are worried that such extremist attacks will only increase from here on.

Sources: Reuters, YouTube, WION

Flash floods cause chaos in the States

Riya Jain

USA: At least 65 people were killed in the past week in the northeast US as the remnants of hurricane Ida flood the States.

The flash floods have led to massive destruction of property, New York subway lines have been submerged and closed. People were stranded in their cars as the streets were waterlogged; cars have been swept away as roads turned into rivers. There have been massive power cuts. A state of emergency has been proclaimed in New York and New Jersey by President Biden.

On 29th August, Hurricane Ida made landfall in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, as a category 4 storm. On 1st September, it turned into a post-tropical cyclone.

Connecticut and Philadelphia have also been severely affected. President Biden said that the 'historic weather event' is a result of climate change.

Experts warn that if global warming and other aspects of climate change are left unaddressed, floods like these will make an annual appearance.

A restaurant owner in Manhattan says he's never seen so much rain in his 50 years of



Image source: BBC

life, and it feels like living in a tropical jungle now.

While rescue operations are in place, many lives have been lost. Among many who were caught in the flood, swept away, and lost their lives, there were 4 Indian-origin people. Many victims were trapped in their basement apartments with no emergency exits as water flooded their apartment. Reports of help calls were coming in, but only a few could survive by the time the rescue team could reach as the water currents were so strong.

Climate change needs to be prioritised in the wake of these devastating events, and an improved system is required for better management during such situations.

Sources: TOI, Reuters, FloodList

“Jallianwala Bagh is restored, not glorified”

Shatakshi Tiwari



Image Source: Hindu

There are allegations on the archeological survey of India that say they are glorifying the Jallianwala bagh complex. Whereas the ministry said that it is not glorification but restoration of the Jallianwala bagh. They claim to have chosen a ‘poignant’ soundtrack for the light and sound show presenting the events of the day on which the massacre happened.

An inauguration was held of 4 new galleries and the renovated memorial virtually. A year and a half later it was closed for revamp. The technology has been improved to bring out the actual experience of the killings and how it influenced other brave people to come forward. However congress leader Rahul Gandhi looks on this process as an insult towards the martyrs and also refers to this process as cruelty.

Historian Irfan Habib tweeted his opinion on the same as this is a corporatisation of monuments leading

them to be modern structures and losing their historical value and heritage. He also suggested looking after these monuments without making changes to them and also to not distort the historical value of the monuments. There are also allegations that the bullet marks have been hidden, but the officials say that these allegations are wrong and the bullet marks are preserved as it is and not been tampered with.

Officials also said that the earlier structures were ‘filthy’ with defunctional fountains. These structures have been restored and cleaned and reinstalled in better conditions. The entire area has been marked with landscape making it a beautiful landscape. The officials also informed that the well was earlier filled with garbage and rubbish which is now properly cleaned and lit up. The restoration is suggested to bring rich dividends to the city.

Source: news18.com

CJI slams media for communalizing news

Rishika Bujurke



Image Source: Citizen Matters

After hearing a series of petitions on Thursday (September 2), the Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, was upset by some outlets to give the news a communal color, pointing to the lack of accountability on social media and digital platforms.

The Supreme Court expressed its displeasure and concern about the way some portals, social networking sites, and channels spread false news damaging reputation in the absence of regulatory mechanisms.

The Supreme Court bench, led by Chief Justice of India Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, questioned

why everything was given a communal angle. Also, raised concerns about why social networking sites only listen to prominent voices and write anything they want without fear of being held accountable.

Judges Surya Kant and AS Bopanna were also on the panel listening to the petition being filed by Jamiat Ulama I Hind and the Peace Party, and at the same time, aligning the spread of COVID19 with Nizamuddin in the 2020 Markaz activity.

The Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, pleaded SC to grant him 2 weeks to

file something. The CJI responded to this by pointing out that Mr Mehta had already taken four adjournments to file an affidavit. Mehta pleaded for the matter relating to IT regulations to be listed next week, claiming that the rules have been challenged in different High Courts and that orders are being issued.

After six weeks, the Supreme Court has ordered that all petitions contesting the Cable Rules Amendment 2021 and the Digital Media IT Rules 2021 will be heard.

Source: TOI, Zeenews

Is India moving towards the endemic stage?

Disha Mishra

According to the United States’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) an endemic is the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area. Researchers and scientists from across the world are discussing if COVID-19 has reached the endemic stage in India.

WHO Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan, in an interview with *The*



Image Source: The Quint

Wire mentioned that India might have entered a stage of endemicity where moderate level transmission is prevalent but the exponential growth and peaks from a few months back is not.

Does India entering this stage mean that the virus will be eradicated? Well, no. The virus will still prevail but will be manageable. It will coexist with the population. This also means that

the number of severe cases will reduce after a point.

The reason COVID-19 got so much attention rather than the other endemic diseases like tuberculosis, diarrhea, etc. is because of the rate and amount of dissemination of information through various platforms; social media being the most important one. Therefore, one thing that’s certain is that, like previous diseases, we will learn to live and deal with this virus too.

Experts say it’s too early to say when India will enter this stage, as there are a lot of factors that come into play. Looking at India’s vaccination rate, it might take a year or two as there are many Indians still susceptible to the virus, which can cause outbursts.

It still doesn’t mean that one can roam around freely. For the virus to enter this stage, collective effort has to be put in, and the basic precautions should be adhered

Source: BBC, NDTV, The Wire

Women and the Virus

Apoorva Jujavarapu

The World Health Organisation declared the outbreak of COVID-19, a pandemic on 11 March, 2020. A pandemic that affected populations across the globe, leaving devastation and grief everywhere. While it is true that the virus affected everyone around the world, some of us are affected comparatively more than others. The pandemic has put us way back, in decades of the centuries-old fight for equal rights.



Image Source: Yawar Nazir/Getty

Shobha, a domestic helper, recalls the anxiety she was overcome by when the lockdown was announced. “For most of us, the lockdown meant being stuck with alcoholic husbands who don’t

have a reason to work anymore”, she says, about the situation of most women in her neighbourhood, who had to deal with abusive husbands along with serious

economic crises.

From brutal domestic violence to a circulation of casually sexist jokes on WhatsApp, the pandemic brought the worst night-

mares of women’s freedom to life. When the UN predicted that there was going to be an appalling spike in the cases of domestic violence, their report could not be more accurate. Being trapped with abusive partners or parents in closed homes led to a depressing ruin of women’s mental health too.

“For me, the pandemic meant unemployment. It meant I was dependent on emotionally abusive parents with whom I relived most childhood trauma this past year”, Sarita, a college graduate explained.

According to a report by McKinsey Company, women’s need to rethink career

paths and quit would continue long after the actual pandemic itself. The report also predicted that women’s way back up to equality after the pandemic would be a steep path.

As we deal with the ongoing pandemic while simultaneously contemplating our paths to recovery, it is important to consider the unequal effects of the virus and the need for sensitivity in steps towards recovery. While the setback created by the virus is deeply discouraging, what is most appalling is the ignorance towards its gendered effects.

Source : www.unwomen.org
www.mckinsey.com

Gender parity: a way towards empowerment

Shatakshi Tiwari

Discrimination based on gender and other grounds has been deep rooted in our society for ages. Even after attempts to get rid of stereotypical approach of judging people on the grounds of gender discrimination such problems still exists. It is a statistical measure used to describe ratios between men and women or boys

and girls in a given population .

The word ‘parity’ here refers to equal representation of genders. It ensures the equal access of opportunities, rights, choice and material conditions while respecting specifications. It plays an important role in assessing inequalities in various areas. If the num-

ber of boys and girls is the same in a given sample population, the gender parity will amount to one. As the difference increases the parity also increases. Now the question arises if gender discrimination and gender parity the same? No, they aren’t. Although sometimes used interchangeably they have different meanings.

Gender parity is just a descriptive measure and does not include any judgements or arguments for changes in policies which gender discrimination does.

Gender parity can be found in various aspects of life such as income, number of college graduates, workforce composition etc. Gender parity measurements

play a vital role in explaining what can be complicated stories to the people who need an understanding of the same —especially those who feel they have been discriminated against and have been disenfranchised in various areas of life, but don’t have enough data to substantiate that feeling.

A peek into the mind of a turtle

Aditi Agarwal

August is my name. Freshwater turtles are my kind. And this is what I am thinking. Let me get straight to the point, I will not pretend to be all fine, I will not say that I am not scared. Because I am not fine, I am scared. I will tell you why.

My brothers in Canada, all eight species of them, have been claimed to be at risk by the government. The eldest one of all, Spotted Turtle isn’t spotted much these days. I don’t even remember the last time I heard from Wood Turtle, truly lost in the woods he is. The last time I checked the news, road mortality was one of the dominant reasons for my brothers disappear-

ing. Along with that, they have no place to go, their habitat, abode, is snatched away from them. Chilling stories of my brothers being poached to this date haunts me.

There is not much safety here at home as well. Apparently, India stands just at the third position when it comes to the list of the highest number of threatened turtle species. My grandmother, the Keeled Box turtle often reminisces about clear, pure water streams where she’d play with her brothers and sisters. Now it is all contaminated and murky. It has been really long since I last saw my grandmother, though. Anyway, we were

taught to always steer clear of those pet traders, they are very suspicious.

Over family dinner conversations, we’d often talk about how deforestation could end us all. Dredging of our homes, sand mining are the problems my parents deal with, they still grieve over the loss of the family members they lost to these horrific events.

I don’t live with my family now, I have been adopted to live in a world of glass. It was unusual at first, restrictive, too. But safer than anything I’d ever seen. I live with the hope that someday, soon, I’ll break my way out of this glassy world and feel safe in the home I belong.

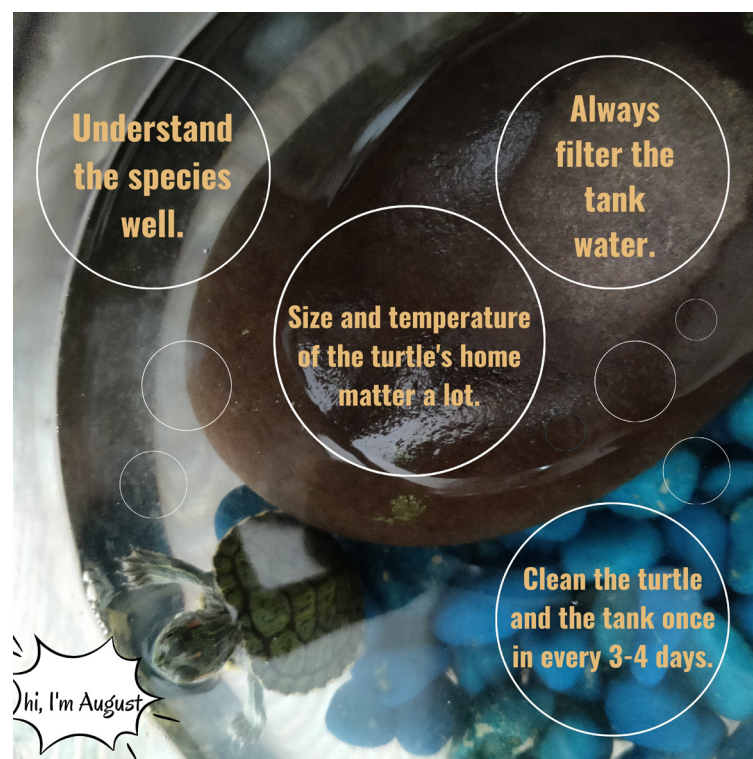


Photo and Graphics by Aditi Agarwal

In an interview with Chirag Singh, a second-year MIC student, who is our turtle expert, Rishika Bujurke from our team found out the best tips to know before getting a turtle for yourself

Sources: Green Humour, Canadian Wildlife Federation.

India's Paralympics campaign ends with its flag flying high

Riya Jain



History was made more than once at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics as India came back home with a new record of 19 medals in total with 5 golds, 8 silvers, and 6

bronze medals.

The medal tally proliferated almost fivefold, going from 4 medals at the 2016 Rio Paralympics to 19 this year. Interestingly, there were 19 athletes who represented India in the 2016 Olympics, which almost tripled this year with 54 athletes who brought home 19 medals.

Everyone witnessed athletes bag medals day after day, making India proud. The medal chase didn't stop till the end as Krishna Nagar and Suhas Yathiraj dominated by winning gold and silver respectively in

badminton men's singles on the last day.

India's performance has exponentially improved in this edition of the Paralympics. This year, the medal count exceeded the total number of medals earned since India's first appearance in the 1968 Paralympics.

Indian athletes made several world records. India ranked 24th on the table. The entire country, including the sports minister, believes that a new era has begun with this phenomenal performance.

Source: TOI, Business Standard, Scroll.in

Summer transfer window 2021: An event to remember

Aditya Buddharaju

The 2021 summer transfer window has been quite eventful, to say the least, with both Messi and Ronaldo, two of the greatest to grace the sport, having dramatic moves in this window.

Due to FC Barcelona being unable to comply with La Liga regulations on salary caps, the team could not keep Messi even though he was prepared to take a 50 per cent reduction in salary to make it happen. Before having to let Messi go, Barcelona managed to sign Sergio Aguero, Eric Garcia, and Memphis Depay from Manchester City and Lyon respectively, all three of them joining on free transfers. Antoine Griezmann left Barcelona to go back to his former club, Atletico Madrid in a loan deal worth 10 million euros.

Emerson Royal completed a 25 million euros move to Tottenham on deadline day just 29 days after he was announced as a Barcelona player. Barcelona rivals, Real Madrid on the other

hand managed to sign David Alaba on a free transfer from Bayern Munich along with 18-year-old Eduardo Camavinga from Rennes for 40 million euros.

After 21 years with FC Barcelona, Messi signed a two-year contract with Paris Saint Germain. In Paris, Messi is now reunited with his former Barcelona teammate Neymar and will also play along with Mbappe, the young superstar. Paris also managed to sign 4-time Champions League winner, Sergio Ramos who left Real Madrid after 17 years, and Euro 2020 champion, Gianluigi Donnarumma. They signed Georginio Wijnaldum from Liverpool and Achraf Hakimi from Inter Milan. It's safe to say that PSG is a real contender for the Champions League trophy this year.

Cristiano Ronaldo, on the other hand, has moved from Juventus back to Manchester United, the club where he first rose to fame back from 2003 to 2009. It's going

to be a treat for football fans across the globe to see Ronaldo back in the iconic red number 7 jersey. Manchester United has added promising talent, Jaden Sancho from Borussia Dortmund along with star defender and Ronaldo's former teammate Raphael Varane from Real Madrid. Current Champions League title holders, Chelsea have spent a club-record fee of 97 million euros to bring Romelu Lukaku back to Stamford Bridge from Inter Milan.

Manchester City, although failing to secure the deal of signing Harry Kane after he decided to stay at Tottenham, has managed to sign Jack Grealish, a favourite for the English crowds, for a whopping 100 million pounds from Aston Villa.

The summer transfer window 2021, closed on August 31 and with it arguably the greatest transfer window came to an end.

From us, to you

Little bits of advice from us, to you, dear juniors. Online education is difficult for all of us, but it's okay, we'll get through it.

dear junior,

Step out of your comfort zone - neha

'mute' your audio - rishika

don't forget to press 'turn in' for your assignment - kevin

know who to trust - ananya

'network issues' won't always work - mihika

you are enough - disha

log in before you go sleep, haha - riya

NO LAST-MINUTE BUSINESS - ADITYA

your classes are online, not your life - apoorva

think before you act, think well - shatakshi

do your thing, always - rodney

this too shall pass - aditi

Graphics by Aditi Agarwal

Gowri Bhat: Instagram's new rising talent

M. Neha Raju



At just 4, Gowri Bhat started taking music lessons and now is a singer, songwriter, and music content creator who entertains the audience on social media with her soulful voice. She released three original singles and appeared in MX Takatak's "Jaya Hey" Independence Day music video and has also performed many open mike shows in Manipal.

The credit goes to her teacher and her grandmother for her interest in music, says Gowri. While her music teacher pushed her to pay attention to the details and tune in to the art, her grandmother was her pillar of strength throughout and she believes herself to have inherited her talent from her.

Gowri has spent four

teen years learning Carnatic music and plays the piano and guitar. During the lockdown, she made her Instagram account public and began posting her music covers, quickly gaining fame for her melodious voice. The 'Bade Acche Lagte Hai' cover reel went viral, garnering over 2 million views. Her singles Midnight, Pipe Dream, and Younger are brilliant, and she intends to release more soon.

While discussing the negativity that creators frequently face on social media, she stated that "You can't make everyone happy". She also mentioned the importance of not being discouraged and continuing to work on one's art without taking shortcuts.