

MORNING BRIEFING



R Parthasarathy (centre) lighting the lamp at the investor guidance workshop organised jointly by Pimpri-Chinchwad chapter of ICWAI and Rotary Club Chinchwad

Workshop on investor awareness held

The Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India's (ICWAI) Pimpri-Chinchwad chapter and Rotary Club Chinchwad recently organised an 'Investor awareness' workshop. The GM, Bank of Maharashtra, R Parthasarathy, inaugurated it. Financial expert Arvind Paranjape also spoke.

Monsoon book sale

City-based environmentalist, Satish Pande, will release three books written by him at the Popular Book House in Deccan Gymkhana on June 1. The book house is organising a monsoon sale from June 1 where it would give up to 20% discount on books, DVDs and CDs. The sale will be open till June 11.

Entries invited for essay competition

Garima Manch, the women's cell of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Pune, is organising an essay writing competition on 'Common man and terrorism'. The word limit for the essay is 1,500. The entries must be submitted to Dr Nitu Mandake at the IMA House on Tilak Road between 11 am and 5 pm by June 5. For details, call Nitin or Prachi at 24464771.

Vocational course for non-matriculate students

The Rotary Club of Ganeshkhind recently organised a month-long free vocational course for non-matriculate students at the Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Industrial Training Centre, Shukrawar Peth. Nearly 75 students enrolled for the training, which was inaugurated by Dilip Shirole, president of Rotary Club of Ganeshkhind.

Camp for heart patients from June 1

Fabiani & Budhrani Heart Institute has organised a 'Healthy heart week' camp from June 1 for heart patients on the occasion of completing five years of dedicated service. Patients can avail of facilities like free cardiac consultation, free ECG, 50% concession on cardiac investigations and discounted packages in angiography, angioplasty and bypass surgery. The camp is open to all and will be held on the institute's campus from June 1 to 7, between 9 am and 5 pm.

Applications invited for scholarship

L'Oreal India has announced 'Young women in science' scholarships-2011 to five deserving students from Maharashtra, consisting of Rs2.5 lakh, granted over 4 years of study in a scientific field in a recognised college or university in India. Young women who have passed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exam from Maharashtra in the current academic year, with a minimum of 85% in PCM/PCB, are eligible to apply for this scholarship. For details, call 24993702 or 40183702, or write to fywis@in.loreal.com.

Financial aid sought

Medical social worker, Rucha Borwankar, has appealed for donations for the treatment of Dheeraj Haridas Khatpe, who is undergoing treatment for multiple sclerosis in Bharati Hospital. The cost of his treatment is about Rs3 lakh and the patient is from a poor family. For details, call Rucha Borwankar at 40555555 (extension 521) between 9 am and 5 pm.

PUNE UPFRONT

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Racing on the streets does not make sense when life and safety are more valuable than time and thrills

Road users' devil-may-care attitude

Pune traffic is unruly and chaotic. Road accidents are commonplace. In a bid to drive some sense into motorists, a billboard has come up near the Command Hospital, which says: 'Drive carefully, you are not ready to meet me yet: God'. However, people still continue to use our roads as race tracks. One of our colleagues recently saw two boys on a cycle trying to race an autorickshaw near the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) building.

Both the cycle and the autorickshaw were travelling at breakneck speeds. If either of the two had veered off course, the cycle would have gone crashing to the ground. To make matters worse, there was a speeding bus right behind. The autorickshaw won, leaving the cycle behind. However, its triumph was short-lived. At the very next traffic signal, which was red, the cycle went past, cocking a snook at the autorickshaw. Seriously, is this bravado needed at all?

FAKING AN EMERGENCY

It is a fact that ambulances carrying critical patients find it difficult to travel quickly on our highly congested roads. Many a time, they are stuck in traffic despite their wailing sirens. Our colleague had a very unique experience involving an ambulance the other day. Moved aside hurriedly to make way for a wailing ambulance.

However, when the ambulance driver rolled down his window and asked for an address, an inquisitive motorist smelt a rat. He asked the ambulance driver to prove that he was ferrying a patient. It turned out that the ambulance was empty. The



ATTENTION MOTORISTS: A billboard put up at the Southern Command Hospital in Wanavdi urges people to drive carefully. It says, 'Drive carefully. You are not ready to meet me yet - God' —Sanket Deshpande/DNA

motorist, most probably an activist, reprimanded the ambulance driver, who apologised for having faked an emergency. Moral of the story: The next time a wailing ambulance pulls up beside you, peep in to ensure it is actually carrying a patient.

SHORT AND SWEET

The busy marriage season of May almost brings work to a standstill in the Pune Municipal Corporation. General body (GB) meetings record sparse attendance with several corporators travelling out of town for marriages of their near and dear ones, and not-so-dear

ones. On Tuesday last, there was a buzz in the reporters' room regarding the possible adjournment of the GB in view of the large number of marriages lined up for the evening.

However, the city fathers sat down to business with a stern warning to articulate corporators not to speak endlessly. Whenever a weighty topic was being discussed, corporators were seen consulting their watches. Mayor Mohansingh Rajpal had the last word, of course, when he actually said, "Mr Corporator, there are several marriages we need to attend, so kindly keep your speech short."

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST SALARY?

Who does not remember the romanticism of their first salary? On Saturday, a young speaker from Open Space introduced Dileep Padgaonkar, the well-known journalist and chief interlocutor on Jammu & Kashmir, right down to the fact that he had received the Legion of Honour, the highest civilian honour of France.

Padgaonkar began his public lecture by stating that one important point of introduction had

been missed: That, he began his life in Pune, the city of his birth, as a 17-year-old journalist with the long defunct *Poona Herald*. "The first salary that I received has been more important to me than anything that I received in journalism. It was all of Rs50," Padgaonkar recalled, much to the amusement of the youngsters in the audience.

THE REAL 'SAHEB'

Following up on a story, the last thing our reporter colleague expected was to get stumped by the telephone operator at one of the departments in the University of Pune. Unable to get through to one of the big bosses at the university, our colleague spent several minutes talking to the helpful telephone operator.

Hence, when the time came to thank the operator, our colleague asked him in Marathi, "Apla naav kay aahe, saheb ('what is your name, sir?')". To the utter astonishment of our colleague, the reply was, "Saheb, Saheb!" Stumped by the answer, our colleague once again repeated the question. The answer was identical: "Saheb, Saheb". This sequence went on for some time, till the operator clarified stating that his name was indeed Saheb!

(Contributed by Sunilchandra Dal, Kiran Dahitule, Partha Sarathi Biswas, Abhay Vaidya and Ashish Jadhav. Compiled by Rahul Chandawarkar)

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Awareness needed on multiple sclerosis

The disease affects the nervous system and leaves the person morbid

Nozia Sayyed

Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects mostly people between the age group of 20 years to 40 years and affects a person's central nervous system leaving the person morbid. Although the mortality rate is between 5% and 10%, the morbidity rate due to this illness is over 80%.

On the occasion of Multiple Sclerosis Day on Wednesday, city neurologists and people working for such patients spoke to DNA about the disease whose cause and treatment are yet to be found.

The consultant neurologist from Ruby Hall Clinic, Dr Rajas Deshpande, said MS is the recurrent destruction of the coating of nerve fibres and no cause has been proven yet.

"The prevalence rate of MS in western countries is one among 150 to 200 people

whereas in India, it is still unknown. There is no identified cause or a particular treatment but the morbidity and complications it causes is as high as 80%," he added.

According to him, an MS patient in case of an attack undergoes sudden loss of central vision in eyes, loss of sensation below the chest or vertigo with doubled vision and tinnitus and disability in swallowing.

"There are two complications that lead to death and that are respiratory paralysis and sudden cardiac failure, but both are very rare. Also there are no drugs that can cure it, only the symptoms can be improved," he said.

Dr Deshpande also said so far, 30 MS patients are registered with Ruby Hall Clinic and two new cases of MS are reported in a month.

"Many a times, a patient

The cause of MS is not known and hence, it cannot be confirmed whether it is passed on to the child genetically. Since there is no cause, there is no particular treatment except steroids that just help in curbing the symptoms

—Dr Mahendra Chitre, NEUROSURGEON

gets misdiagnosed as there is no particular diagnostic test as well that would determine MS. This is one area which is also a cause of concern," he added.

The neurosurgeon of Jehangir Hospital Dr Mahendra Chitre said MS is a disorder that affects the central nervous system including brain and the spinal cord. The layer that protects the nerve is damaged due to which the brain fails to catch signals due to which patients often experience unusual sensory symptoms or visual disturbances.

"This disorder mainly affects youngsters in the productive age group that is between 20 and 40 and affects especially women for which the cause is unknown. Also the cause of MS is not known and hence, it cannot be confirmed whether it is passed on to the child genetically. Since there is no cause, there is no particular treatment except steroids that just help in curbing the symptoms. Long term

treatment involves physiotherapy which is very effective," he said.

Dr Tariq Shaikh, physiotherapist who has treated MS patients said, "MS involves symptomatic treatment and physiotherapy is one way of treating it. Many patients suffer from difficulty of movement, clawing of hands, stiffness in joints and in this case physiotherapy and suggested exercises to relieve the rigid joints is effective."

The administrative officer of Pune chapter of Multiple Sclerosis Society of India, Sunita Lalwani, said, "Like HIV and cancer, there is less awareness about MS in India at present. In Western countries, there are MS registries and counsellors for MS patients. But in India, this illness not taken seriously as people are unaware of its gravity."

NFAI hikes research fellowship

Each student would be entitled to Rs60,000 per annum, Rs25,000 towards incidentals

DNA Correspondent

The advisory committee of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has given its nod to the revised rates for research fellowship. The rate, given by the NFAI, was revised before 2008 but could not be implemented as the committee had not given its approval.

After the nod, the new rates for scholarships would be effective from 2008. The director of NFAI, Prashant Pathrabe, said on Friday that for research fellowship, each student would be entitled for Rs60,000 per annum and

Rs25,000 towards incidentals. Earlier it was Rs24,000 per annum and Rs8,000 towards incidentals. The Union ministry of information and broadcasting has increased the number of fellowship from two to 10 per year and has also increased the budget to Rs15 lakh.

For monograph project it would be Rs30,000 (consolidated) instead of Rs15,000 and for oral history project it would be Rs1,000 per hour for recorded interview limited to Rs10,000 and Rs15,000 towards incidentals.

Considering the drop in the number of members of



the NFAI film circle, the membership rates have also been revised.

"Though there wasn't any change in the annual membership fees from 1996 to 2007, annual membership fee was increased in 2008 from Rs600 to Rs2,000. However, many members resisted the increase

To increase the number of members, after consulting the NFAI advisory committee, we have decided to reduce the membership fee for the current year to Rs1,500 per annum with immediate effect

—Prashant Pathrabe,

and the registration of members came down. To increase

the number of members, after consulting the NFAI advisory committee, we have decided to reduce the membership fee for the current year to Rs1,500 per annum with immediate effect," Pathrabe said.

The NFAI film circle screens films for its members every Saturday. It screens minimum 52 films in a year. Till 2008, the average number of members was 500, but now it has dropped to 80 members.

"We appeal to former members and film lovers, especially youngsters, to become members and join the Film Club movement," he said.

NGO flays make-up of panel

DNA Correspondent

The group formed by the Union ministry of health and family planning to formulate a policy for the disabled is not as per expectations of those working in the field for the mentally ill, according to a city-based non-governmental organisation (NGO).

"The majority of the 12-member group includes psychiatrists who are in private practice. No representation has been given to care-givers and clinical psychologists," contended Bhargavi Davar, founder and managing trustee of the NGO, Babu Trust.

She said on Thursday, "People from the public health system, who are missing, should be included on the panel." According to her, the government must drop the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2011 that was proposed in December and is yet to be made public.

Davar said for the mental

HEALTH CARE FOR MENTALLY ILL

health programme, they are working on a vision, which will be discussed with other mental health activists and people working for betterment of the mentally ill. The vision will have local advocacy for the mentally ill, which is important. The vision will be put forth after four months following discussion.

"We plan to make healthcare available for people suffering from mental illness and it should reach not only the urban set-up, but also rural areas and which is why local advocacy, policy, mental health act and the committee should meet the demands of the mentally ill," she concluded.

Letters to the editor

Talibanesque attitude

The treatment meted out to Indian diplomat's daughter Kritika Biswas by the New York police department is horrendous to say the least ('Indian diplomat's daughter sues New York City for \$1.5 million', May 26). A school girl in handcuffs is unthinkable in the land that champions human rights. The law in the US is impartial, sometimes brutally so, and may finally bring justice to the wronged girl. Also it would be too uncharitable to condemn the NYPD as a whole.

—GV Shankar, Thane

Needless donations

This is with reference to 'India offers \$5 billion in credit lines to Africa', (May 25). Nobody will disagree that it is a noble act. But is it not the responsibility of the prime minister that expectations and basic needs of people of the country are met? Instead, the poor people are left to wonder as to what is this government up to. This government can not afford to distribute the grain to poor hungry people despite order from the Supreme Court. Fuel and food prices are rocketing high almost everyday. Finally, if any hard earned money from poor tax payer people is left with this government, the prime minister will donate that to Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Africa. —S Sharma, Mumbai

Strict measures needed

This is with reference to the issue of feeding temple cows. These cows are often made to sit or stand in their own muck and are rarely cared for by their owners who are out to make a quick buck. Tied for hours on a short rope, they hardly get any exercise and are overfed by devotee temple goers. This not only makes them sick and obese, it leads to painful condition in their hoofs such as overgrown nails. They also suffer from intrauterine problems that go untreated and often die painful, prolonged deaths after being abandoned by the callous



owners. Instead of banning the feeding of cows, it will be better to enforce strict rules of ownership and follow it up with punitive measures. —Brinda Upadhya, Mumbai

Timed revelations

Apropos 'Headley proves India's worst fears about ISI are true' (May 26), India must con-

sider the arrest and trial of Headley and Rana in an American court as a fortuitous event that goes to confirm all our suspicions which our western neighbour would never have admitted. Even now it will not be surprising if all the revelations are brushed aside as coming from a convict trying to save his life and we are asked to look for the perpetrators of 26/11 within our country. As Headley spills more beans, the full picture will emerge and India should then take the help of US to confront our ever-hostile neighbour to make them either hand over all the accused to us or take action against them positively. —V Subramanyan, via email

Is it a punishment?

According to the Congress dictionary, transfer is a punishment. If anyone of the stalwarts disagree then he/she should explain as to why Sada Kant was transferred from Union home ministry to Uttar Pradesh cadre while he was about to be arrested by CBI for alleged corruption. Similarly, resignation is another type of punishment. It had claimed high moral ground when A Raja and Suresh Kalmadi resigned from their posts. But no efforts were made to reclaim the siphoned off money. The oldest party with all India presence has yet to establish a precedent worthy of admiration and emulation. —KRP Gupta, Mumbai

Something fishy

Apropos of 'Why were Ambanis not charged: CIC' (May 28), the CBI gave a strange answer to the CIC, as to why some officials were being charged while the Ambani brothers were not, in the chargesheet filed against Reliance Infocom. The CBI claimed that if they disclosed the reasons, others would use the same arguments to avoid prosecution. From that arises the question: were the reasons for not proceeding against the Ambanis legitimate? Or, is it that the undisclosed reasons for protecting the Ambanis are not legally sound? Either way the affair smacks of discrimination in favour of the Ambanis. —Pesi J Padshah, Pune

The editor welcomes your views and feedback: puneinbox@dnaindia.net