

The Sydenhamite

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From the Editorial Team

Dear Readers,

We now bring forth the June, 2022 edition of 'The Sydenhamite', in which we hope to deliver the best of articles for all the Sydenhamites.

This edition is a platter consisting of articles covering International matters such as "Collapsing Economies in Dire Times" and "Wimbledon: Revolutionary Yet Traditional", which are articles on Pakistan and Sri Lanka's collapsing economies and the upcoming Wimbledon tournament; an article by Sydenham's Alumni- Mr. Amit Kumar Bhowmik, who has written on the bold Queen of Jhansi in his article, "Laxmibai- The Warrior Queen of Jhansi".

That's not it though. This edition has several pieces of Indian relevance such as Indian Monsoons, Yoga and the Indian Educational system. Lastly, we have an article on Elon Musk, a popular public figure and businessman-cum-scientists, who celebrates his 50th birthday this June.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we did while composing it.

Happy Reading!



A Sneak Peek into the June 2022 Edition

1. Laxmibai – The Warrior Queen of Jhansi



"In the seventh standard in school, at Sherwood (Naini Tal), where I was a boarder, Santosh Salve, who taught us Hindi, made us memorise the poem: 'JHANSI KI RANI' (Queen of Jhansi) by Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, egged on with sharp raps on our knuckles with a wooden ruler. Decades later, I can even now remember some of the stanzas. I have always been inspired by Laxmibai...."

2. Wimbledon: Revolutionary Yet Traditional



"...The world's oldest tennis competition helps to fascinate awe in those who aspire to be like their racket-swinging heroes. The tournament has become more modern as a result of the modifications made over the years, without sacrificing any of its grandeur...."

3. Collapsing Economies in Dire Times



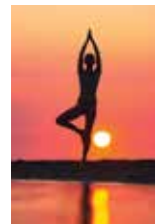
"...Imran Khan was driven out of office by a vote of no confidence on April 11, and Pakistan now has a new government. From the filing of the motion on March 8 to the voting on April 10, the weeks running up to the vote were dramatic and full of mystery...."

4. Caught in the Ukrainian Crisis- An Indian Student

While world-class universities like Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard's, Massachusetts, Princeton and John Hopkins attract students from all across the world, one cannot understand why lakhs of Indians go abroad to places in countries like Ukraine, Russia and China to study.



5. Lose 5 Kgs of Fat by Yoga Course in 1 week...



"We all have read and some of us have fallen for these kinds of clickbait online and offline, the motto of this article is to clear out assumptions and myths that travel through the passage of our lives. This 21st June let us celebrate yoga not only as a practice but to really understand what yoga is and what its true definition and purpose is, as defined in the ancient Indian text books...."

6. Whimsical Wet Winds

"The pleasant petrichor lingering in the air, cool and slightly strong wind and the spray of cool water gently hitting your face as you sit by your window and look at the people outside. People outside with their umbrellas and the children in their colourful raincoats, jumping into small puddles and splashing rainwater. The monsoons are back."



7. Elon Musk: Not This Century Man



Elon Musk rose to global prominence as the CEO of Tesla Inc. (TSLA), the CEO and lead designer of his space business SpaceX, and, most recently, as the world's richest person.



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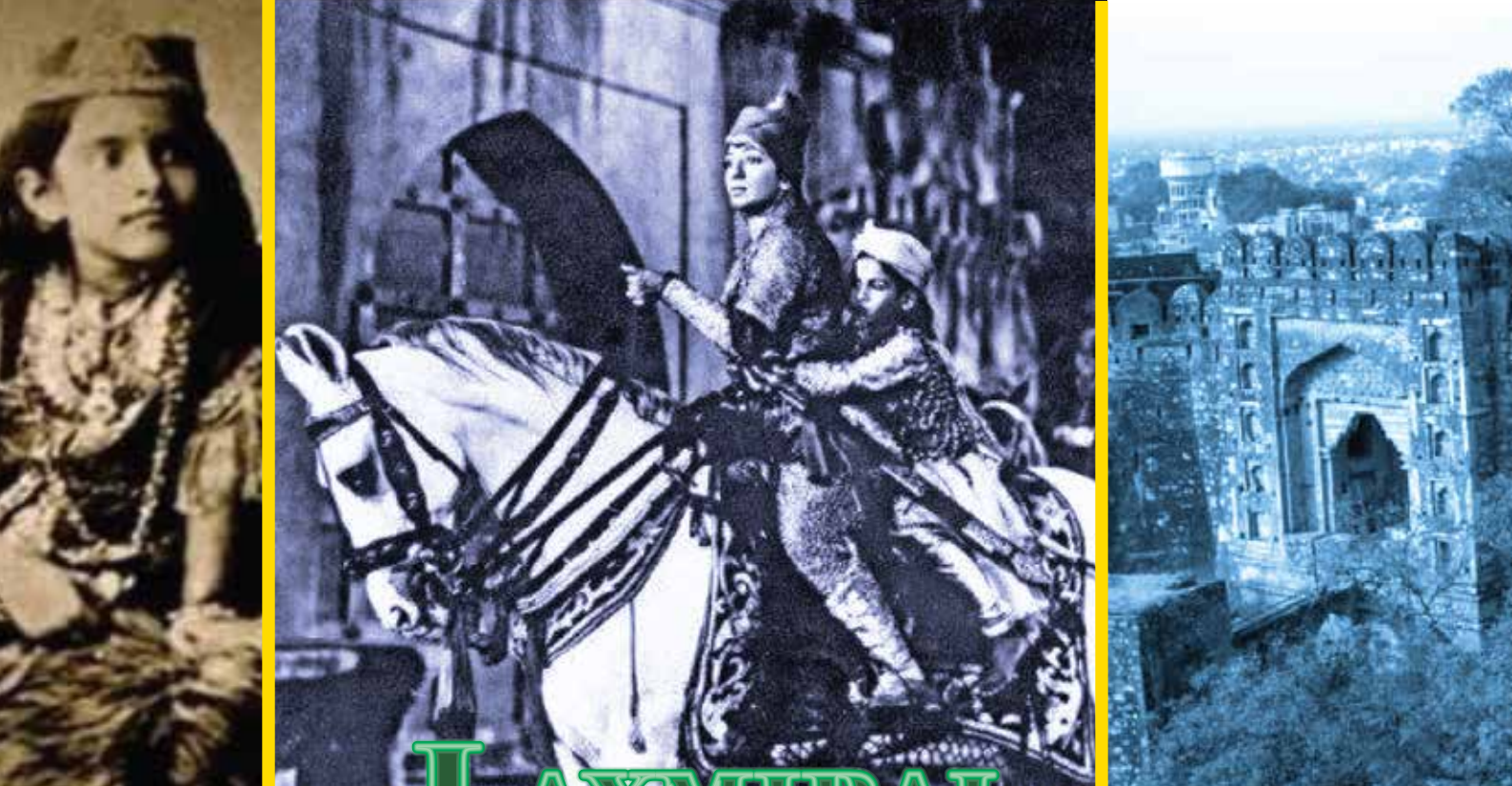
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LAXMIBAI – The Warrior Queen of Jhansi

A tribute by: Alumni Amit Kumar Bhowmik

In the seventh standard in school, at Sherwood (Naini Tal), where I was a boarder, Santosh Salve, who taught us Hindi, made us memorise the poem: 'JHANSI KI RANI' (Queen of Jhansi) by Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, egged on with sharp raps on our knuckles with a wooden ruler. Decades later, I can even now remember some of the stanzas. I have always been inspired by Laxmibai.

Rani Laxmibai was born in Varanasi (Kashi), as 'Manikarnika Tambe' on November 19, 1828 in a Marathi Karhade Brahmin family to Moropant Tambe and Bhagirathi (Nee Sapre). Laxmibai's mother died when she was four years old. Her father worked for Peshwa Baji Rao II of Bithoor District. She was educated at home. She could read and write. She was also trained in shooting, horse-manship, fencing and the 'malla - khamba'. According to Vishnu Bhatt Godse, the Rani would exercise at weight-lifting, wrestling and steeple - chasing before breakfast. An intelligent and simply-dressed woman, she ruled in a business-like manner. Vishnu Bhatt Godse, a Hindu priest, was one of the survivors of the siege and massacre of Jhansi. His account was published about 50 years after the events, although, actually, it was written much earlier. He wrote in Marathi, Thereafter, there has been at least one new Hindi translation. I have read an English version, published quite recently, which made a compelling reading— at least, to me!

In May 1852, Manikarnika was married off to Gangadhar Rao Newalkar the Maharaja of Jhansi, who was much older than her. She was then named as 'Laxmibai'. In 1851, Laxmibai, gave birth to her son, Damodar Rao, who died four months later. The couple later adopted Gangadhar Rao's cousin, who was renamed, 'Damodar Rao'. The procedure of adoption was carried out in the presence of a British officer. It was agreed that Laxmibai and Gangadhar Rao would continue to occupy the palace as Maharaja and Maharani and Damodar Rao would also be bestowed all honours and dignity as befitting a Prince. However, in November 1853, after the death of the Maharaja, the British East India Company, applied the 'Doctrine of Lapses,' which was, first perpetrated by Lord Dalhousie in the late 1840s. which prohibited a Hindu Ruler without a natural heir from adopting a successor and, after the Ruler died or abdicated, his lands were annexed by the British East India Company. As per this policy, Damodar Rao's claim to the throne was rejected since he was the adopted son of the Maharaja and Rani and the Company would automatically take over the kingdom. In March 1854, Laxmibai was given Rs.60,000 as an annual pension and she asked to leave her palace.

On May 10, 1857, the Indian Sepoys Rebellion began in Meerut. When this news reached Jhansi, Laxmibai increased her protection and she conducted a 'Haladi Kum-kum' ceremony to convince her subjects that the British were cowards and that there was no need to fear them. In June, mutineers from the 12th Bengal Native Infantry seized Jhansi's main fort. They persuaded the British troops to lay down their arms, with the solemn promise that no harm would come to them, But the 'sepoys' broke their word and massacred the British officers, for which the British East India Company held Laxmibai culpable. This group of renegades, in fact, also plundered jewellery, ornaments and gold 'Mohurs' from Laxmibai! They held her to ransom. She had no option but to give in to their avarice, as, otherwise they threatened to blow up her palace.



Under Hugh Rose, the British East India Company's forces had begun their counter-offensive in Bundelkhand by January 1858.

Advancing from Mhow, Rose captured 'Saugor' (now Sagar) in February and then turned towards Jhansi in March. The Company's forces, consisting mostly of Indians, surrounded the fort of Jhansi and a fierce battle raged. Offering stiff resistance to the invading armed forces, Laxmibai did not surrender, even after her troops were overwhelmed and the rescuing army of Tantia Tope, another rebel leader, was defeated at the Battle of Betwa. Laxmibai managed to escape from the fort with a small contingent of her palace guards. She headed east-wards, where other dissenters joined her.

On March 23, 1858, Rose demanded that the Rani surrender Jhansi. He ominously warned her that if she refused, the city would be completely destroyed. Laxmibai refused. Instead, she proclaimed that: "We fight for independence. In the words of Lord Krishna, we will reap the fruits if we are victorious. If we are defeated and killed in the battle-field, we shall surely earn eternal glory and salvation."

On March 24, the British forces began bombarding Jhansi. Laxmibai appealed for help to her childhood friend, Tatya Tope, who responded by dispatching more than 20,000 soldiers to fight against the British Army. However, they failed to relieve Jhansi. As the devastation continued, Laxmibai with her son, escaped from the fort on her loyal horse, 'Badal', who died from exhaustion. However, he had carried Laxmibai and her son to safety. During this time, she was escorted by her security detail: Khuda Bakhsh, Basharat Ali (Commandant),

Gulam Gaus Khan, Dost Khan, Lala Bhau Bakshi, Moti Bai, Sunder-Munder, Kashi Bai, Deewan , Raghunath Singh and Dewan Jawahar Singh. She left for Kapi secretly ,with just a handful of body-guards, and joined the additional rebel forces, including Taty Tope. On May 22, 1858, the British forces attacked Kapli, defeating the rebels.

Laxmibai, Taty Tope and Rao Sahib fled from Kapli to Gwalior. The three of them joined the Indian revolutionary forces defending the city. They wanted to occupy the Gwalior Fort due to its strategic importance. The mutineers marched into the city, without facing any opposition. They proclaimed Nana Sahib as Peshwa of the Maratha dominion and Rao Sahib as his Governor. Laxmibai was, however, not able to persuade other rebel leaders to defend the fort and, thus, on June 16, 1858, the British forces made a successful assault on Gwalior.

Disunity, bribery, dishonesty, corruption and spinelessness have plagued us since the times the first invaders looted and ruled our country! With just a small number of disciplined and brutal combatants; through intrigue, greed and deception, we have always willingly grovelled before the intruders; be it Alexander, the Moguls (who were, actually, Turks), French, Portuguese, British and, even extremist, pseudo-intellectuals and blatantly anti-National elements, with foreign loyalties.

On June 17, in Kotah-ki-Serai near the Phool Bagh of Gwalior, the British forces charged the rebels, who were commanded by Laxmibai. The British killed more than 5000 of the insurgents. Laxmibai was unhorsed. She was badly injured. There are two versions of her death. Some say that she lay bleeding profusely by the road-side, when she recognized a soldier who was fighting on the British side. She shot at him. He returned fire, killing her instantly.

However, another account is that she was dressed as a male cavalry leader and was mortally wounded.



Laxmibai did not want the British to capture and desecrate her body. She instructed a hermit to burn it, which he did ,when she succumbed a short while later.

Rani Laxmibai, the valiant Queen of Jhansi, died on June 18th 1858. She was 22 years old!

NOTA-BENE:

After the death of his mother, Laxmibai, Damodar Rao and his followers were on the run. They, finally, surrendered to the British. Damodar Rao was brought to Indore by the British Agent, Richard Shakespeare, who appointed Munshi Dharmanayan as the young prince's guardian and teacher. Damodar Rao was allowed to retain only seven of his retinue. He was granted an annual pension of Rs.10,000. Damodar Rao married twice. He had a son, Lakshman Rao.

After Damodar Rao's death in 1906, Lakshman Rao stopped receiving his father's pension. He then became a free-lance typist in the Court - house of Indore and led a life of penury. The family adopted the surname 'Jhansiware', after the land of their ancestors. Attempts to recognize them as the legal heirs of Jhansi were rejected by the British Empire. In 1957, the Government of Uttar Pradesh awarded Lakshman Rao with a small monetary consideration, at a function to

commemorate 100 years of India's First War of Independence -1857. Lakshman Rao had two children: Krishna Rao and Chandrakant Rao. The family lived a normal middle-class life; away from the limelight, for a long time. Recently, in 2015, the family were invited as Chief Guests at the Jhansi Jan Mahotsav. Arun Rao and Krishna Rao Jhansiware were felicitated during the ceremony. Arun Rao's son Yogesh Jhansiware works as a soft-ware engineer in Nagpur.



Wimbledon: Revolutionary Yet Traditional

Casting aside everything, this tournament is what Tennis enthusiasts await. Wimbledon is the most prestigious, as well as the oldest organised Tennis tournament. It is a part of the Four Grand Slams along with the U.S. Open, French Open and the Australian Open. Of the four major yearly tennis tournaments known as the 'Grand Slams', Wimbledon is the only one to still be played on grass, which is where the moniker "lawn tennis" originated.

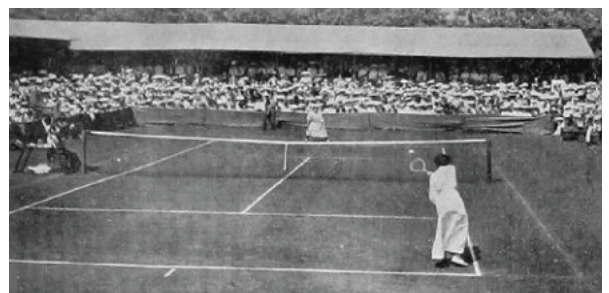
History

The debut year of the Championships was held with little fanfare, in stark contrast to today's sporting spectacle. When the All England Club first opened in 1869, it was known as the All England Croquet Club, but as the new sport of lawn tennis – an offshoot of the original indoor racquet sport known by traditionalists as real tennis', gained popularity at the end of the nineteenth century, the club decided to provide tennis courts for its visitors. The Club changed its name to the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club on April 14, 1877, the first of several changes.

Unlike today's sleek, powerful serves and top-of-the-line rackets, lawn tennis was still in its infancy at the time, with players using simple handcrafted equipment and inaccurate strokes. Many of the regulations of the game that were first introduced by the All England Club's Committee in 1877 as an adaptation of those put in place by the Marylebone Cricket Club, perversely the then controlling body of "real tennis", would be recognised by present Wimbledon viewers.

Despite the fact that no tournaments were conducted at Wimbledon from 1915 to 1918 and 1940 to 1945 due to the First and Second World Wars, the game gained

popularity. The men's doubles competition was started in 1884, and women were invited to compete in the same year. Since then, the tournament has progressed while upholding the spirit of tennis.



Traditions

The world's oldest tennis competition helps to fascinate awe in those who aspire to be like their racket-swinging heroes. The tournament has become more modern as a result of the modifications made over the years, without sacrificing any of its grandeur.

It's incredible that a competition that's been around for over a century still follows nearly the same regulations. Which is why enthusiasts flock to Wimbledon every year to witness the extravaganza that is The Championships.

The All White Rule

When they say white, they mean white. The official Wimbledon dress code says: "White does not include off white or cream."

It's common to see one sweat if they take part in sports. However, sweating was frowned upon in Victorian times, thus white tennis costumes were designed to mask as much sweat as possible.

The regulation has stayed, and the All England Lawn Tennis Club still follows it to the letter.



Roger Federer was reprimanded in 2013 for wearing sneakers with orange bottoms.

The pleasant tones imply that all tennis players start on the same level. Then the talent, not the attire, will get the attention. The entire competition is focused on tennis, not the clothing worn by the players.

Strawberries and Cream



Each year, the tournaments consume an average of 28,000 kilograms of strawberries and 7000 litres of cream.

The delicious treat has been offered since the tournament's inception in 1877, and it has remained a fan favourite ever since. Some believe the link stretches back to King Henry VIII's reign. It is reported that one of the king's counsellors, Thomas Wolsey, served it during a dinner in the early 1500s. It seemed to go down successfully, and it was often given to spectators at the tennis court at Hampton Court Palace while games were being played.

Lush Grass Courts

Wimbledon takes pride in the fact that it is the only major tournament that still plays the sport on its original surface. Wimbledon grass is ideal for power serves that smash forehand after forehand to win sets, and it also complements the refined strokes of skilled players, making grass the fastest tennis surface.

Court and Finances

An event this huge would surely require adequately huge sponsorships. Wimbledon may be the most renowned tennis event in the world, but it is a financial slacker - on purpose.

Keeping the last few years aside— due to the pandemic and unavailability of records— Wimbledon generated approximately \$320 million in 2019. By comparison, the U.S. Open posted revenue of \$400 million.

Sponsorships, TV rights, ticket sales, concessions, and memorabilia are all sources of revenue for the two Grand Slam competitions. The US Open's \$80 million income advantage over Wimbledon is mostly attributable to two kinds of revenue: sponsors and tickets.

Wimbledon has always had a sense of legacy, as it is managed by the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. The All England Club committee prefers long-term agreements with reputable sponsors such as Rolex, Slazenger, and Robinsons Barley Water, who are not permitted to advertise on the grounds directly. Most courts have black logos that are hardly visible in order to draw attention to the beautiful light green grass and dark green perimeters. The logos on Centre Court and Court No. 1 are white, although they are hardly visible to anybody not in the first row.

In contrast to Wimbledon's subtleness, the US Open took advantage of every chance to prominently display its sponsors' names all over the court, even on the nets.

The reason for forgoing so much money as stated by Mick Desmond, commercial and media director of the AELTC, is: "Our clean court philosophy is at the heart of our brand and is respected and appreciated by our global partners, both Official Supplier partners and broadcasters. In addition, the consideration we give to limiting the number of partners to ensure we are able to maximise each relationship on its own terms and objectives is also important. Our objective, therefore, is not to maximise revenue in the short term, but to build relationships for the long term that will future-proof The Championships and our partners for years to come."



The disparity in ticket income reflects the contrast between tradition and commercialization. Wimbledon is undergoing some renovations, but its Centre Court remains mostly unchanged from decades ago. In contrast, Arthur Ashe Stadium, which hosts the U.S. Open's court, is a standard for modernised sports venues. As a result, the U.S. Open has 23,771 seats, whereas Wimbledon's Centre Court has slightly under 15,000 seats. Wimbledon tickets are also less expensive than those for the US Open.

The revenue disparity impacts the prize money players earn. Wimbledon had total prize money of around \$37.5 million, and the U.S. Open awarded a total of \$57.5 million in the year 2021. Although Wimbledon pays the lower-strata players much higher than the U.S Open does, the difference in the prize pool is vast.

The only revenue advantage Wimbledon has over the U.S. Opens is the broadcasting rights revenue which is around \$60 million, due to the value of its international rights, illustrating Wimbledon's global brand strength.

Wimbledon seems to be sticking to its tradition of favouring strawberries and cream over bright branding and a variety of fancy seats over commercialisation.



Ban of Russian and Belarus Players

This year, players from Russia and Belarus will not be permitted to compete at Wimbledon. The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, has announced that persons from both nations will be "declined entry" due to their governments' participation in the invasion of Ukraine. The Wimbledon ban applies to all players who represent Russia or Belarus, including those who have spoken out against the military operation. As an outcome, several of the star players will be unable to compete.

Important international dates in June

1st June	World Milk Day Global Parents Day
2nd June	Telangana Formation Day
3rd June	World Bicycle Day
4th June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5th June	World Environment Day
7th June	World Food Safety Day
8th June	World Oceans Day, World Brain Tumour Day
12th June	World Day Against Child Labour
14th June	World Blood Donor Day
15th June	Global Wind Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
17th June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
18th June	Autistic Pride Day
19th June	World Fathers' Day (Every 3rd Sunday of June)
20th June	World Refugee Day
21st June	International Yoga Day World Music day
23rd June	International Olympic Day
26th June	International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking
30th June	World Asteroid Day



Collapsing Economies in Dire Times

Pakistan's economic outburst

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has three effects on the global economy.

First, rising commodity prices have a negative impact on actual income. Second, surrounding nations are dealing with commercial disruptions as a result of the flood of refugees. Third, increased investor scepticism lowers corporate confidence. As a result of these channels, worldwide commodity prices are surging, and global output growth is expected to slow by 0.8 percentage points in 2022. In March 2022, both energy and non-energy costs increased by 24.1 and 8.1 per cent, respectively. Agriculture goods increased by 7.2 per cent, fertilisers by 20.7%, metals and minerals by 7.7%, and precious metals by 5.3 per cent.

- **Real Sector:** Pakistan's production of all major Kharif crops is encouraging. Cotton output climbed by 17.7% to 8.3 million bales, rice production increased by 10.7% to 9.3 million tonnes, sugarcane production increased by 9.6% to 88.8 million tonnes, and maize production increased by 8.6% to 9.7 million tonnes. LSM grew 7.8% between July and February of FY2022, compared to 2.2 per cent during the same period last year.

- **Fiscal, Monetary, and External:** The fiscal deficit in FY2022 was 4.0 percent of GDP from July-March. The main balance showed a Rs 447.2 billion deficit. FY2022 money supply (M2) increased by 2.7 per cent (Rs 665.5 billion) from July to April, compared to 6.7 per cent (Rs 1,439.5 billion) the previous year. Between July and March

Economic Outlook: Despite the fact that the economic recovery is underway, the local and international landscape is evolving with time. As a result, macroeconomic imbalances are being created by inflationary and external sector risks.

- The surge in international commodity prices is projected to continue. Because of government measures, the pass-through of increases in global commodity prices is somewhat limited. In April 2022, CPI inflation is predicted to climb and remain in the double digits. The MEI is still robust, albeit there has been a slowing in growth since February 2022. Economic activity has been growing at roughly 4% for the past two months.

Furthermore, economic activity in Pakistan's main trading partners has remained somewhat above trend, with some slowing reported due to geopolitical uncertainties and a jump in crude oil prices.

Exports of goods and services are likely to continue to rise in April 2022 as a result of export-oriented policies. Imports are predicted to stay stable, based on domestic economic activity and international commodity prices.

As a result, the trade deficit in April is estimated to be around \$ 3.0 billion.

Due to the Eid factor, remittances are likely to stay high in comparison to past months. Taking all of these things into account, the current account balance in April will be around \$ 1.0 billion.

▪ FBR exceeded its revenue target by 5.8% in the first nine months of the current fiscal year. Despite providing enormous tax relief on a variety of critical commodities to the general public, FBR was able to meet a significant percentage of its annual objective. Similarly.

Russia and Ukraine are important commodity producers and agricultural goods suppliers around the world, particularly wheat, which accounts for 28% of worldwide wheat exports. Wheat prices have risen considerably since the commencement of the conflict, owing to anxiety about the future. Food insecurity has already risen dramatically as a result of geopolitical tensions and the epidemic. If the war persists, serious supply issues could arise, jeopardising food security.

Countries with direct trade, tourist, and financial exposures will face extra pressures in addition to global spillovers. Oil-importing economies will face larger fiscal and trade deficits, as well as increased inflationary pressures, however, some nations, such as the Middle East and Africa, may gain from higher oil export prices.

Imran Khan was driven out of office by a vote of no confidence on April 11, and Pakistan now has a new government. From the filing of the motion on March 8 to the voting on April 10, the weeks running up to the vote were dramatic and full of mystery.

The country is currently experiencing a severe economic and political crisis. As the value of the Pakistani rupee continues to decline, Shahbaz Sharif's new government is trying to find its feet, forcing the government to impose an embargo on vital imports.



The Sri Lanka Economic Crisis

There is a huge shortage of essential goods, food and medicines. Inflation is increasing alarmingly with the price of everything rising sky high. People are dying while waiting in cues for food and fuel and protestors, furious with the government, have taken to the streets and become violent now. Sri Lanka, a country with a population of about 22 million, is facing the worst economic and political crisis in its history after independence in 1948. It wasn't long ago when Sri Lanka was a developing country that was flourishing in peace. Then what changed? What caused this devastating crisis? Experts believe that the crisis has been years in the making. The Government of Sri Lanka has borrowed huge sums from foreign leaders to fund public utility services over the past decade and this borrowing spree, combined with economic mismanagement, poor policy making and a series of

unfortunate events that have been major blows to the economy have ultimately led to Sri Lanka's current situation.

Majority of the Sri Lankans blame the Rajapaksas, particularly President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for the crisis. The Rajapaksas are a family dynasty who have dominated Sri Lankan politics for nearly 20 years and have been accused of corruption, nepotism and being bad administrators. Mahinda Rajapaksa was the President of Sri Lanka from 2005 to 2015 and during his tenure, he handed out government jobs to many of his relatives and invested a lot of funds in infrastructural development projects which have not given adequate returns. He also borrowed a considerable amount of funds from China for the same and now, Sri Lanka is unable to repay its debt of roughly \$5 billion to China and the latter has rejected Sri Lanka's appeal to reschedule the payment of the debt.

Then, in 2019, When he was elected President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mahinda Rajapaksa ‘s brother gave out a lot of important government jobs and ministries to his relatives and made his brother the Prime Minister. He had also announced sweeping tax cuts in November 2019 which, when implemented, led to a shortage of government revenue. Later, in April 2021, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared a sudden ban on inorganic fertilisers and a push to make the country ‘s agriculture 100% organic which led to major problems for the farmers. There was a drop in tea production due to the ban which led to losses of roughly 425 million dollars and the ban also caused a 20% drop in rice production within the first six months alone reversing previously achieved self-sufficiency in rice production and the country was forced to import rice at a cost of \$450 million. Speaking of imports, Sri Lanka has been importing more than it has been exporting over the past few years which means that the country has been using up more foreign currency than it is earning. Another blow to the Sri Lankan economy struck when tourism, a very important source of income for the country, started declining due to the pandemic and the blasts on Easter in 2019



which scared the tourists away. All these factors, along with the Covid 19 pandemic itself have entrapped Sri Lanka into a crippling amount of unmanageable debt (This year, Sri Lanka has to pay approximately \$7 billion to multiple creditors globally) and sent its economy crashing down.

The economic crisis has inflicted an unfathomable plight upon the citizens of Sri Lanka. They are facing a huge shortage of basic essential commodities and skyrocketing inflation. They are currently living in such a dire situation where a litre of water costs around 100 Sri Lankan rupees and a single gas cylinder costs 4,200 Sri Lankan rupees. The education of the children has

been compromised as the exams have to be postponed indefinitely due to a shortage of paper. The protestors have become violent, committing arson by setting the houses of ministers on fire and violating curfews. The situation has escalated to a point where tear gas and other oppressive methods have been used to counter the protests and the military has been deployed at food stations.

Recently, Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down and Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed as the new Prime Minister. Sri Lanka is now seeking financial support from the IMF and turning to regional powers that may be able to help. President Rajapaksa said he had considered and deliberated over the pros and cons of working with the IMF and has decided to pursue a bailout from the Washington-based institution– something his government had been reluctant to do. Sri Lanka has also requested help from China and India, with New Delhi already issuing a credit line of \$1 billion in March 2022– but some analysts have warned that this help might prolong the crisis rather than solve it.





Caught in the Ukrainian Crisis– An Indian Student

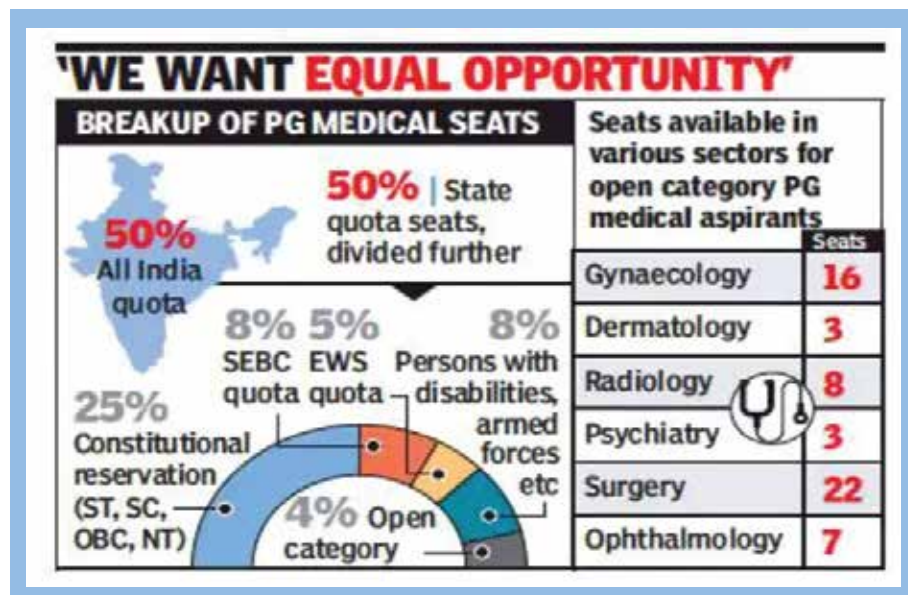
As the world was watching the Headline News of the Ukrainian crisis, what caught their attention was the killing of an Indian student due to the Russian Shelling.

An Indian student named Naveen Shekharappa from Karnataka studying in some unknown place called Vinnytsia which is located approximately 730 kms away from Kharkiv, a Ukrainian city.

While world-class universities like Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard's, Massachusetts, Princeton and John Hopkins attract students from all across the world, one cannot understand why lakhs of Indians go abroad to places in countries like Ukraine, Russia and China to study.

Since Ancient times, India was considered the centre of education with universities like Nalanda, Takshashila, Mithila and Vikramashila and would attract students from all across the world; Today Indians leave their own country for education. Ukraine itself had 18,000 students from India studying in its universities.

Further research revealed that India has only 83,273 medical seats and most of them are allocated to various reserved categories, thus leaving just a small portion for the General Category.



The 3 major reasons that push Indians to study abroad are:

- Inadequate educational funding from the Government. Last year the Government allocated 2.8% of its Budget to Education, whereas countries like the UK, USA, Norway, New Zealand or even Spain allocate over 3 times more.



- A large percentage of admissions are based on non- academic considerations, thus a student like Naveen who secured 97% in class 12th couldn't get admission in any Indian Medical College.
- Over the last few years though many non- government colleges have come but their academic fees are unaffordable. The cost of MBBS Education in a privately-runned Indian college is between 70 lakhs rupees to rupees 1 crore. The same MBBS education in Ukraine would cost between 16 lakhs rupees to 25 lakhs.



The Indian student's death in the Ukrainian war, should force us invest more in education, making admissions strictly on academic scores and concentrate more on Degrees which has more relevance to the current eco- social system. Today lakhs of young Indians pass with Arts Degrees and can't find a place in the employment spear.

We should also look at making some radical changes in our education system. The current education loans available need strong guarantors, have high interest rates and need to be paid immediately! We need to create a Government aided fund that would enable Banks to give loans at 0% interest to economically & socially deprived students and at a low interest to others. The new educational loans should be self- guaranteed based on the students' performance and University placement reputation, and not be issued against parents' assets. Evenso, current loans available are not categorised as educational loans demand the 1st instalment much before the child has graduated. Therefore, the loan provider should press for reclamation only completion of the student's education.

It is high time the Indian government realises that the best investment is in the Indian youth's education. They should feel the urgency and need in revamping the current educational system which has remained unchanged since the times of our first Prime Minister.

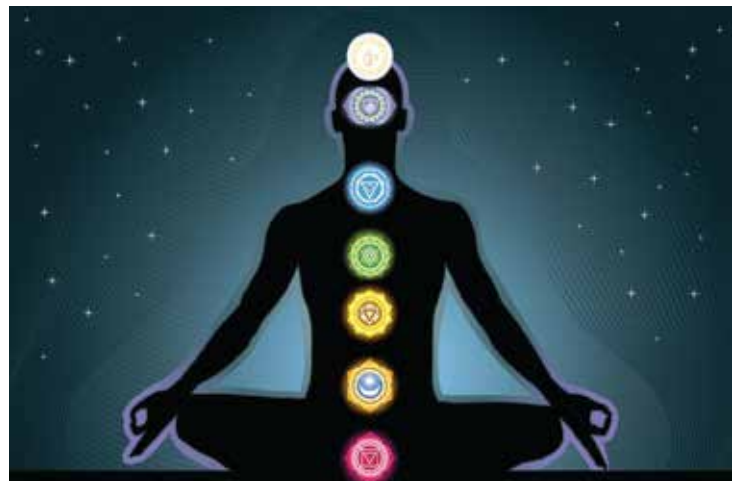


Lose 5 Kgs of Fat by Yoga Course in 1 week, 20 Yoga Asanas for Beginners, Learn Advanced Yoga for a flexible body!



We all have read and some of us have fallen for these kinds of clickbaits online and offline, the motto of this article is to clear out assumptions and myths that travel through the passage of our lives. This 21st June lets celebrate yoga not only as a practice but to really understand what yoga is and what its true definition and purpose is, as defined in the ancient Indian text books.

First mentions of yoga are to be seen in vedic scriptures. Yoga, traditionally was to be in control of one selves, to have your mind and your senses to be on the same page. It was about meditation and release from the worldly-attachments. Focusing on being mindful rather than consuming all of it. In one of the very ancient scriptures, these writings showed the true essence of Yoga.



Vaisesika Sutra 4th century BCE

"Pleasure and suffering arise as a result of the drawing together of the sense organs, the mind and objects. When that does not happen because the mind is in the self, there is no pleasure or suffering for one who is embodied. That is yoga"

Katha Upanishad last centuries BCE

"When the five senses, along with the mind, remain still and the intellect is not active, that is known as the highest state. They consider yoga to be a firm restraint of the senses. Then one becomes un-distracted for yoga is the arising and the passing away"



The Yoga that is practised in the west is focused form of Hatha yoga and a posture-based physical fitness, stress relief and relaxation technique, that counters mainly of asanas. Actually it was Swami Vivekananda who introduced Yoga Sutras to the western world. There are two models to believe in, Linear and Synthesis. The Linear one is developed under the vedas and is said to be developed under the Aryan Genesis. Most of the hindu sages believe in the Linear model. Whereas the Synthesis model is said to be non-vedic. There are six branches of yoga that define



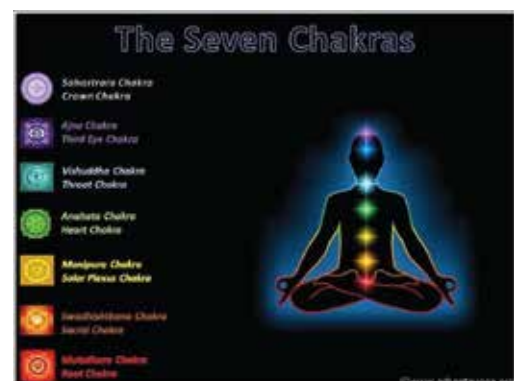
and determine in particular the specific strengthening of one's self. Hatha yoga, Raja yoga, Karma yoga, Bhakti yoga, Jnana yoga, Tantra yoga. There are 84 types of yoga asanas as have been recorded. In yoga asanas, there are 84 basic asanas to increase awareness. The exact number of asanas within particular disciplines give various counts of 2, 4, 66 with 136 variations, 84, 908 with 1300 variations and the 8,400,000 Shiva list. It is widely accepted that completing a 200 hours yoga teacher training course is enough to become a yoga master or instructor. But to truly understand and imbibe the yoga practice, it takes years of sweat and toil. The sages and saints have meditated years to finally fully utilise the power of yoga and live it.

The world was blessed with the power of Yoga by India. The mention of yoga reaches back centuries and ages. It is astonishing that even Bhagavad Gita, has mentions of yoga in it.

It has been practised by sadhus and saints since the tale of time. India glorified the power of yoga late in the 19th century. The west adopted it and made it a part of their lives. No wonder it works really well for them as it has for us. But now, Yoga has become to America, what McDonald's has become to Indians. These are foreign implants that have gone native.

Yoga has been westernised in a view because it has become only a muscle strengthening exercise, whereas it was originally said to be a balance between mind and health.

Yoga, if inculcated in one's life brings light to the tunnel of darkness, paves way into turning oneself better by committing consistency to change. Practising yoga is not only committing yourself to get healthy physically, it is about a balance in your physical and mental health.



Yoga isn't about physical fitness, it is to value both your mind i.e mental health.

Whimsical Wet Winds



The pleasant petrichor lingering in the air, cool and slightly strong wind and the spray of cool water gently hitting your face as you sit by your window and look at the people outside. People outside with their umbrellas and the children in their colourful raincoats, jumping into small puddles and splashing rainwater. The monsoons are back. It is true, nothing beats the comfort of watching the rain and enjoying warm snacks and beverages but obviously, the monsoons have much more utility to offer than merely amusing us and filling the atmosphere with a pleasant vibe.

We all know that the monsoons play a crucial role in Indian Agriculture but exactly how important are they for the same? The monsoons are essential for agriculture in our country because nearly 60% of India's total arable land lacks irrigational facilities. These areas rely heavily on rainfall. The monsoon brings about 70% of India's rainfall and ultimately determines the annual yield of several important crops like pulses, rice, sugarcane, wheat and other grains. Agriculture has been steadily losing its importance on the country's overall economy but it still occupies around 15% of The pie and serves as the livelihood of millions of Indians. Besides, higher agriculture yield would lower the pressure on food prices and the overall retail inflation.

Another important thing to note is that the rainfall also helps in replenishing nearly 100 large reservoirs important for drinking water supply and generation of power across India. In case the rainfall is inadequate or deficit, big cities like Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai would be forced to cut water supplies.

While the monsoons have so many benefits, especially for the agricultural sector, they also have their cons. Sudden intense rainfall creates a lot of problems, especially in the hilly areas where they often lead to large scale soil erosion and consequent landslides which cause considerable damage to life, property and infrastructure, causing disruption in

human life, economically and socially.

Something unprecedented happened over the Western Ghats between 19th July 2021 and 25th July 2021. For nearly a week, an enormous area of the range, especially in Maharashtra, was a nearly eternal barrage of extremely heavy rainfall that became more intense with each passing day. This event was one of the several effects of climate change and proves how dire the consequences of climate change can be. It has been observed that over the past few years, climate change has the tendency of impacting monsoons in India to a great extent by making them more erratic.

Extraordinarily heavy rainfall events over the last two monsoons may have led to a belief that India's monsoon rainfall has increased, but it has actually decreased by 6% over the past 60 years, according to the Indian government and the international climate change assessments. The summer monsoon in 2021 was marked by a number of such localised extreme rainfall events and showed variability in patterns of rainfall dispersal, both of which will only increase in future according to these assessments.



Elon Musk: Not This Century Man



Elon Musk rose to global prominence as the CEO of Tesla Inc. (TSLA), the CEO and lead designer of his space business SpaceX, and, most recently, as the world's richest person.

Musk co-founded PayPal (PYPL), invested early in Tesla, and struck an agreement to take Twitter Inc. (TWTR) private in April 2022.

Elon Musk is the dynamic CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, as well as the man who has agreed to buy Twitter.

Musk was born and reared in South Africa but moved to the United States after spending time in Canada.

Musk studied physics at the University of Pennsylvania and began his career as a serial tech entrepreneur with early successes such as Zip2 and X.com, which later merged with a business that became PayPal.

Musk has been known to act strangely at times. He has stated that he suffers from Asperger's syndrome.

Elon Reeve Musk, the oldest of three children, was born in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1971. His father was a South African engineer, and his mother was a dietitian and model from Canada.

Musk moved in with his father after his parents divorced in 1980. He would later refer to himself as his father "A dreadful human being. Almost every horrible thing you can think of has been done by him."

"I had a dreadful childhood. Growing up, I faced a lot of challenges. One of my concerns with my children is that they are not exposed to enough adversity," Musk would later say.

Musk went to the prestigious, English-speaking Waterkloof House Preparatory School and then graduated from Pretoria Boys High School, where he started a year early. He made few acquaintances in those locales as a self-described bookworm.

"They enlisted the help of my best (expletive) friend to entice me out of hiding so they could beat me up." Musk added, "And that (expletive) hurt." "They decided I was it for whatever reason, and they were going to pursue me endlessly." Growing up was difficult because of this. There was no respite for a lot of years. You're hounded around by gangs at school who try to beat the (expletive) out of you, and then you get home, and it's just as bad."

Musk started involved with the electric car endeavour as an early investor in 2004, investing around \$6.3 million at the time and joining the team, which included engineer Martin Eberhard, to help operate a firm known as Tesla Motors at the time. Eberhard was fired in 2007 after a series of conflicts, and an interim CEO was recruited until Musk took over as CEO and product architect. Tesla has become the world's most valuable automaker and one of his most well-known businesses under his leadership.

Tesla, in addition to creating electric automobiles, has a strong presence in the solar energy sector, courtesy of its purchase of SolarCity.

The firm now produces two solar batteries that can be recharged. The smaller Powerwall was designed for household backup power and off-grid use, while the larger Powerwall was designed for commercial use.

Musk founded Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, better known as SpaceX, using the majority of the cash from his PayPal ownership. Musk claims that he invested \$100 million in SpaceX in 2002.

Under Musk's leadership, SpaceX was awarded multiple high-profile contracts to design space launch rockets from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the US Air Force.



In a joint effort with NASA, Musk has announced plans to deploy an astronaut to Mars by 2025.

Musk, a frequent Twitter contributor, announced a 9.2 per cent ownership of the social media platform in April 2022. 30 Musk was offered a seat on Twitter's board of directors, which he accepted before declining a few days later. 3132 Musk then wrote Twitter's board of directors a "bear hug" letter proposing to buy the company for \$54.20 per share.

Twitter's board of directors enacted a poison pill clause to prevent Musk from accumulating greater ownership in the company, but they ultimately accepted Musk's bid after he reported \$46.5 billion in committed financing in a regulatory filing.

Elon, as an individual is ahead of time, creating an environment of sustainability not only on this planet

but setting up a whole new space for living on a different planet, setting up in a E-form, creating a space of notion helping the present population to live a ahead life along with a safety off brick area of specialisation.

Musk, a long-time supporter of Mars exploration, has publicly discussed projects such as constructing a greenhouse on Mars and, more ambitiously, establishing a Mars colony. He's also redefining transportation paradigms with concepts like the Hyperloop, a planned high-speed system that would run between major cities.

"An engineer and entrepreneur who establishes and operates firms to solve environmental, social, and economic concerns," says the South African-born businessman.

Musk has stated numerous times that humans must become an interplanetary species in order to tackle the threat of asteroids as well as other future human disasters such as nuclear war and created viruses.

The "ridiculously stubborn challenge of huge, reusable, dependable rockets," Musk said in a 2008 Esquire piece, is what's preventing us from doing so.

He went on to say, "Somehow, we have to... lower the cost of human spaceflight by a factor of 100.

That's why I founded SpaceX in the first place. I didn't think winning was a foregone conclusion. On

the contrary, I believed that while the prospects of success were slim, the aim was important enough to try regardless."

The Falcon 1, SpaceX's first successful rocket, took four tries to get off the ground.

Musk first funded SpaceX with his own money, but after gaining enough expertise, he was able to secure millions of dollars from NASA to build his rockets and spacecraft, as well as to deliver cargo to the International Space Station.

NASA gave the corporation money to create the Dragon spacecraft for cargo trips to the International Space Station because of its track record. Dragon has received many rounds of financing from NASA's Commercial Crew programme and is presently delivering cargo to the station on a regular basis.