

The game of power, patronage and perks

Sananya Datta

The recent debacle over the grant of travel documents to the former Indian Premier League commissioner Lalit Modi by External Affairs minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj has once again brought up the much debated nexus of Indian politicians and sports administration. Sports in India have always been a stranglehold of the politician – bureaucrat nexus. Be it Sharad Pawar, president of BCCI with no record of playing cricket professionally, except maybe childhood gully cricket or Praful Patel, president of All India Football Federation. He is described as an “ardent sportsman” in his website, but nobody knows till date which sports was it.

If we dig in a little more deep, we will notice that in most democratic countries, politicians are rarely involved with sports bodies and its management. The duty of sports management is given in the capable hands of former players who are well aware of the game and its tactics. But in India the scenario is totally singular. Our decision makers believe in the mantra that anyone (emphasis on anyone) other than the sportspersons should head the management of a given sport. Thus comes down the long line of businessmen, politicians, representative from bureaucracy and armed forces who are chosen to fill in the top positions in sports administration.

Let's take the case of Jagmohan Dalmiya, for instance. A medium sized businessman with great fascination towards cricket went on to become the head of Cricket Association of Bengal and later the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Another is Rajiv Shukla, journalist, politician and now the big boss of Indian cricket. It has been sometimes said that the former BCCI president Sharad Pawar, a politician hailing from the Congress political party, used to spend majority of his time on cricket grounds than on his ministerial job. Pawar is not the only one to be blamed to ignore his duties as a minister of the state, ailing ex cabinet minister Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, one of the least popular sports head in India also toggled his job as a minister along with being the top boss of All India Football Federation. All India

also believes in of heavy weight presidents like C. Satish Sharma, etc. to get things in One must wonder of the politicians with that of cricket. Well a motivating factor, are never satisfied with the combination Gandhi, obsession



role. Obsession of a certain sport or any sport makes them control it if not play it. Plus politics is a fickle game of ups and downs, sports administration is like a second career to our politicians. It offers them the same perks with less effort.

But the involvement of such unethical and greedy people with sports dilutes its honesty and integrity making it all about money and not performance. It is high time that politicians should limit their playing skills just to the game of politics.

When ‘spirituality’ divides society....

Shubhasish Mitra



The Dhyana Mandir, meditation centre, of the Yogoda Satsang Society of India ashram in Dakshineswar, (near) the entrance of the ashram. Pictures: Anil Datta & Mayukh Sengupta



Partho De in the living room of the family's Robinson Street home. Pictures courtesy AFP Ananda. A dusky soft toy (left) found in the De residence, which cops believe belonged to Detyani (above)

Partho De has become a household name in Kolkata overnight. Morning newspapers are incomplete without a story on him, television news channels has dedicated long and elaborate segments on him and the local people of the city just cannot stop visiting his house on Robinson street. What has he done? He kept his sister's maggot infested corpse for six months in his room and the corpse of his dogs for about nine months.

The case, as peculiar it may sound, is not the only one. In 2007, sisters Dolly and Poonam were living with the corpse of their sibling Neeru, before Delhi police found them. A Chennai printing press employee was found living with the corpse of his wife for four days. These cases are mostly labelled and thrown away under the psychologically challenged section of the society and no one bothers to do a structural breakdown of them, making their re-occurrences a mass hullabaloo without anyone batting an empathetic eye.

In a world driven by material possession and wealth, the essence of human contact is lost, so much so that we often neglect the value of our loved ones. This develops a tremendous need for closure once that person is gone, although, in the case of Partho De, things are a bit more complicated. Police have found scattered notes written by Partho and his sister and Partho's diary which contains explicit details about his mother supposedly getting angry at his closeness with his sister and even though the police suspects elements of both incest and necrophilia, nothing can be confirmed at the present. It has been reported that Partho was unhappy with his sister fasting for the dogs and even though he was sad, he could not do anything about it as he respected his sister's spiritual beliefs. Society has always termed man as the provider from times immemorial. Man is protective, man is strong and when a man fails to control a woman, questions are raised about his manhood. Here, the man, Partho, could do nothing about his sister's decision. He went into depression after she died and this may so be because he failed to control the situation. He failed to protect the woman he loved the most, thus failing the gender role.

Admittedly, it is difficult to deal with such tragic cases. Doctor's at Pavlov hospital are treating Partho to find out whether or not he has psychosis and amidst all these chaos, the general public has turned the Robinson street house into a horror house and a picture clicking spot. The broken world at one end has become an adventure of sorts at the other as the diminishing boundaries between reality and hallucination continue to drive the case.

Architect Correa dies

With the passing away of Charles Correa, often called “India's greatest architect”, the country has lost a genius of urban planning. He was the chief architect of Navi Mumbai, considered among the largest urban spaces in the world housing over two million people.

Centre raises paddy MSP

The centre has increased the minimum support price of paddy by Rs 50 to Rs 1410 per quintal and of pulses by up to Rs275 per quintal for this year. MSP is the rate at which government buys grain from farmer.

Bandhan

a sweet successful journey



Lahari Basu

Even though Bengalis have had a poor impression throughout India for being ‘less enterprising’ there are some remarkable examples of Bengali entrepreneurs and successful business men, who will blow your mind away. Late Dwarakanath Tagore and late Prafulla Chandra Roy the only pioneer in setting up a series of business ventures line banking, insurance, pharmaceutical companies in partnership with British traders. Dwarakanath became the first Indian bank director in 1828 and in 1829, the famous Union Bank in Calcutta. The myth of ‘business is not for Bengali Babus’ has been proven wrong once again as Bandhan, India's largest Micro finance company received a banking license from RBI. Bandhan, was founded by Chandra Shekhar Ghosh in 2001 for lending money to low income women entrepreneurs, self help groups and small scale businesses. Ghosh was raised with limited resources as father had just a small sweet shop and that was the only source of income. Ghosh started out as a worker in a NGO in 2001, giving tiny loans to the poor in Konnagar. In the early days, Bandhan had only two staff members and the group started to give small loans, to poor borrowers in nearby Kolkata suburbs. Now, Bandhan is the 23rd private bank of India having 2022 branches operating in 22 states and has beaten some of India's top corporations and industrial houses.

World Music Day

Where words fail, music speaks

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”— Plato

In 1976, an American musician, Joel Cohen, employed by the national French radio station, France Musique thought of a day dedicated to celebrating music in 1982, the thought became reality with the French Government blessing Fete' de la Musique. In Paris and Ile-de-France, the return of summer is celebrated in music.

The music day was created in

1982. This nation-wide party of the people has become so important that it has even been exported to over a hundred foreign countries.

On 21st June, both amateur and professional musicians took to the streets to let their creativity run wild. In squares, public gardens and alleyways improvised stages were erected and sound systems blossom at the windows.

Electro DJs, classical, jazz or accordion groups, choirs, French chanson, pop rock or traditional

bands...everyone danced and sang with their family and friends in a joyful cacophony. Bars, concert venues, festivals (and also museums, churches, conservatoires etc...) took the opportunity to remain open until all hours, with free concerts both indoors and on their terraces. Exceptional free shows performed by French and international stars, notably in the Place de la Bastille, the Champ de Mars and La Défense. And to help people get around, public transport services were provided

all night long. Shakespeare aptly said, “if music be the food of love, play on”



-Y News Service

Campus Buzz!

Yoga- For the Body, Mind and Nation

Madhushri Banerjee



June 21 was declared as the International Yoga Day by United Nations General Assembly. The declaration of this day came after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014 stated: "Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body and leads to a holistic approach to health and well-being. It discovers the sense of oneness with, the world and the nature. Campus Buzz on this auspicious occasion discusses and collects opinion of the campus (through proper surveys conducted) on the relevance of Yoga and the celebration of International Yoga Day

After uncontested support from 170 nations, the United Nations declared June 21st as International Day of Yoga. The General Assembly recognized the holistic benefits of this timeless practice. 256 cities in 192 countries celebrated the first Yoga Day.

Yoga, an age-old Indian practice, has grown exponentially in recent times and is enjoying unprecedented popularity in the West. "Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being." The benefits of yoga are across all age groups; irrespective of age. How

can it affect your life? The better question would be how doesn't it? It is no secret that practicing yoga can transform one inside-out. Yoga is known for its powers to increase your concentration level, energize your mind to help learn and understand better. For students, the benefits a three-fold, it can make you focused and disciplined too. Physiologically, it can build up your immunity. It promises an increased muscular and cardiovascular strength and reduction in high blood pressure, attaining healthy cholesterol levels as well as reduction and control of blood sugar. It charges you with a high energy level and decreases your stress level



(and increases your threshold). Its benefits of weight loss have inspired many globally to try yoga. It can shed unwanted fat from the body and keep your body well-shaped- but it is a gradual process. Psychologically, by

eliminating fear, it makes you a confident person. It can cleanse your mind and body.

An International Yoga Day is a double-edged sword; India must take ownership of yoga. It is seen that a society that doesn't establish and assert claims over its traditional knowledge is bound to lose it. "Yoga is the best soft power India has to bring the world together and end the increasing trend of violence". Yoga is vital to Brand India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked all countries for supporting the UN decision of celebrating the International Yoga Day and gifting everyone worldwide Indian's invaluable gift.

Yoga helps to unify the energy in us to bring a sense of oneness

Dr. Dibya Sundar Das, Founder and Principal of World Yoga Society

Interview by Koustabh Das



international platform and celebrating International Yoga Day?

Being a Yoga practitioner for over 40 years, I always felt yoga is relevant to people of all ages no matter where they are from. Now that its getting such recognition globally, I would like to thank each and every individual in the past and present for their contribution in giving yoga such status.

but develop stiffness and other problem later. Exercises with weight cannot be continued for long time. On the other hand, yoga can be practiced till old age

What are the underlining objectives of celebrating World Yoga Day ?

The objectives of celebrating World Yoga Day were as follows.

- To let people know the amazing and actual benefit of yoga.
- To connect people to the nature by practicing to yoga.
- To make people get used of meditation through yoga.
- To draw attention of people world wide towards the holistic benefit of yoga.
- To reduce the rate of health challenging diseases all over the world.

To help people get relief from stress through yoga.

How can the consciousness towards Yoga be developed among mass? Do you think youngsters like us have a role

to play?

We can develop yoga consciousness in mass by the following methods:

- Through yoga practice at clubs , schools in group.
- To write about yoga in health magazines .
- To organize yoga competitions.
- To write books on yoga discussing about health benefits.

Role of youngsters in yoga consciousness:

If the youngsters can understand the importance of yoga then the future of yoga is also safe and the propagation will move on and on far beyond our expectation.

What is your message to us on the eve of International Yoga Day?

Besides all health related benefits that most of us are aware of ,it also helps to unify the energy in us to bring a sense of oneness, cleansing our consciousness and yoga is beyond any constrains framed by religion ,caste or creed.

1. Do you think Indias initiative in declaring 21st June as International Yoga Day justified?



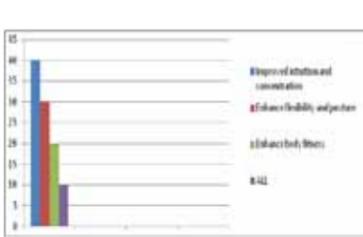
2. Is International Yoga Day justified?



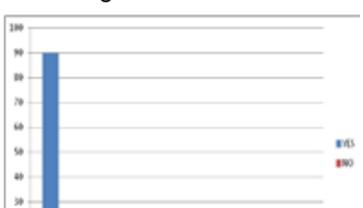
3. Do you practice Yoga?



4. Why do you need to practice Yoga?



5. Do you think Schools should teach Yoga?



Narendra Modi while declaring International Yoga Day described Yoga to be India 's gift to the world. Do you agree with him?

I have always believed Yoga can be practiced by anybody irrespective of caste or creed they belong to . It has the power to heal mind , body and soul. It makes me really happy to know that eminent personalities of all levels are showing great interest in popularizing the art.

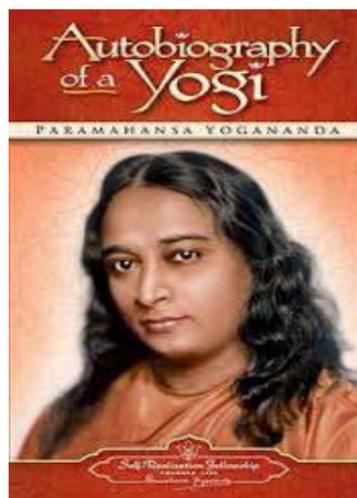
As a yoga practitioner, do you appreciate Modi Government's effort in taking Yoga to an

In today's hectic lifestyle how relevant is yoga? How is Yoga different from other kinds of fitness exercise?

Yoga is important in our daily life. We suffer from stress and tension. The IT sector have to work with computer and they have various health problems. Regular practice of yoga and meditation is helpful for our body. Yoga helps improve the flexibility of our body. It increases the metabolism and reduces stress. It has great therapeutic value. But a person going to gymnasium developer a muscular body

Book Review : Autobiography of a Yogi

Bhavna Yagnik



Author: Paramahansa Yogananda
 Publisher: The Philosophical Library
 Price: Rs.71
 Number of pages: 520

In 1996, Yoga International hailed Paramahansa Yogananda

as "the father of the Yoga in the west". In 1999, his acclaimed autobiography was selected one of the 100 best spiritual books of the 20th century. Since it was first published, the spiritual classic has introduced millions of readers to the science and philosophy of yoga meditation. With engaging candour, eloquence and wit, Paramahansa Yogananda narrates the inspiring chronicle of his life - The experiences of his remarkable childhood, encounters with many saints and sages during his youthful search throughout India for an illumined teacher, ten years of training in the ashram of his God-realized Guru and of the many years that he lived and taught as spiritual preceptor to

truth seekers all over the world. Also recorded are his meetings with Ramana Maharshi, Ananda Moyi Ma, Master Mahasaya (the saintly disciple of Ramkrishna Paramahansa), Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and Jagadish Chandra Bose. Considered a modern spiritual classic, the book has been translated into thirty-three languages and is widely used as a text and reference work in colleges and universities. Thousands of readers have declared Autobiography of a Yogi the most fascinating reading of a lifetime. Autobiography of a Yogi is at once a beautifully written account of an exceptional life and a profound introduction to the ancient science of Yoga and

its time-honoured tradition of meditation. The author clearly explains the subtle but definite laws behind both ordinary events of everyday life and the extraordinary events commonly termed miracles.

His absorbing life story thus becomes the background for a penetrating and unforgettable look at the ultimate mysteries of human existence. This complete and unabridged edition included the chapter "the Years 1940-1951" written by Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda during the last years of his life. Autobiography of a Yogi is not an ordinary book. It is a spiritual treasure. To read its message of hope to all truth seekers is to begin a great adventure.