IAF"s Abhinandan gets Vir Chakra, 5 pilots in Balakot strikes too awarded

New Delhi: Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who downed an enemy jet in an aerial combat with Pakistan in February and was held captive for three days, has been conferred the Vir Chakra, India"s thirdhighest war time gallantry medal. At least five IAF pilots who were part of the mission to strike a Jaish-e-Mohammad camp inside Pakistan, and Minty Agarwal, a lady officer who played a key role as flight controller during the

Pakistani retaliation, were also among the military awardees. The defence ministry announced the military awards on the eve of Independence Day celebrations.

From the Army, Sapper Prakash Jadhav of the Rashtriya Rifles will be posthumously awarded Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award. Agarwal, who played a key role as a ground staff during the dog-fight between India and Pakistan on February 27, has been awarded Yudh Seva medal. The IAF received a total of 13 awards including five Yudh Seva Medals and seven Vayu Sena Medal. The Vayu Sena medal award winners are Group Captain Saumitra Tamaskar, Wing Commander Pranav Raj, Wing Commander



Amit Ranjan, Sq Ldr Rahul Basoya, Sq Ldr Pankaj Arvind Bhujade , Sq Ldr B Karthik Narayan Reddy, Sq Ldr Shashank Singh. Besides Agarwal, the Yudh Sena medal winners are Air Commodore Sunil Kashinath Vidhate, Group Captain Yeshpal Singh Negi, Goup Captain Hemant Kumar, Group Captain Hansel Joseph Seqeira.

The Army also got eight Shaurya Chakra awards and 98 Sena medals. The Navy got one Shaurya Chakra award. "We are very happy that Wing Comm Varthaman has been conferred with Vir Chakra," said an IAF official. Varthaman, 36, was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets

during aerial combat. Before his jet was hit, he downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan. Varthaman was released on the night of March 1 by Pakistan. Varthaman had suffered injuries while ejecting from his MiG-21 Bison during the aerial combat.

A high-level medical board of the Indian Air Force has already cleared Varthaman to return to the fighter cockpit. Days after he returned from Pakistan, Varthaman conveyed to the IAF brass his wish to resume flying at the earliest. IAF fighter jets bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot on February 26, nearly two weeks after the Pulwama terror attack. Pakistan retaliated on February 27 by attempting to target Indian military installations.

Death toll rises to 95 in torrential rains, floods in Kerala; 59 still missing

Thiruvananthapuram: The water receded at their places. The death toll in torrential rains, flood sources said 4 people died in and landslides rose to 95 in Kerala Alappuzha district, 2 each in



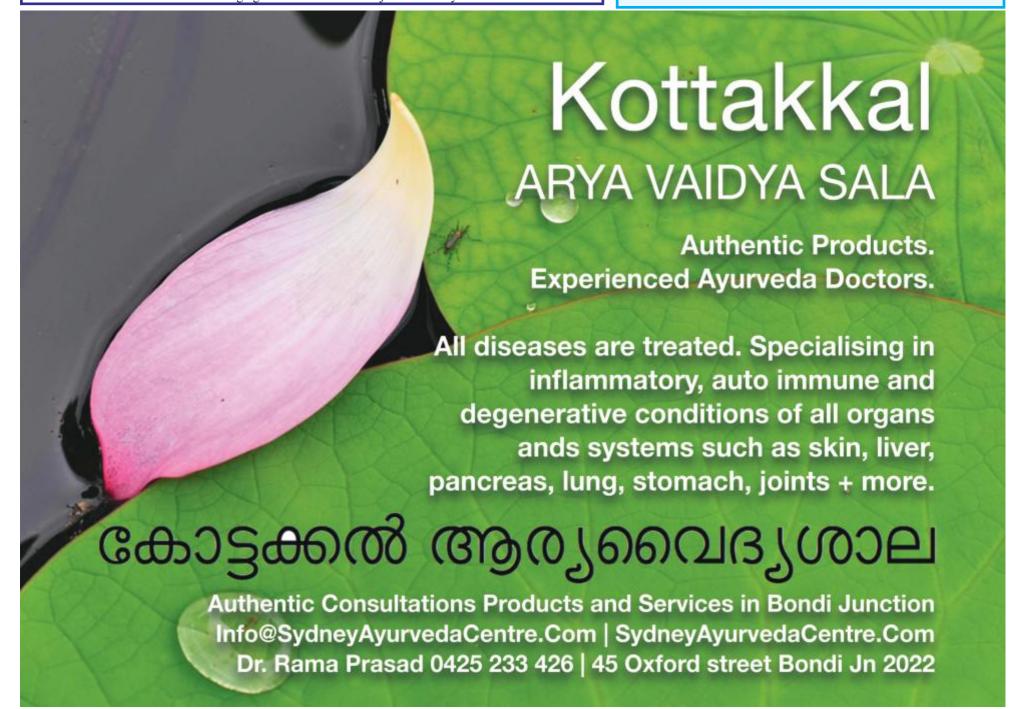
even as 59 people are still missing in various districts in the State since Thursday last. Official sources on Wednesday said as many as 1,89,567 people from 58,107 families were staying in 1,118 relief camps spread across in several districts.

However, several people returned to their homes after Kottayam and Kasaragod districts, 5 in Idukki, 8 in Thrissur, 35 in Malappuram, 17 in Kozhikode, 12 in Wayanad, 1 in Palakkad and 9 in Kannur districts till this morning. As many as 59 people - 51 from Malappuram and 7 from Wayanad and 1 from Kottayam - are still missing, the sources added.



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Another Onam. Another flood. Back home. Ground-Hog day from last year to an extent.

And here, in our adopted home, it is still drought. It has been, for many years now.

How the worlds we know, are worlds apart...!

Floods in Kerala got the term "1-in-100 year flood" into the average keralite's vocabulary. The floods in 2018 came around 100 years after the "floods of 99", where the 99 being in Malayalam calendar. However, the 1-in-100 year flood is not based on exact calendar years, rather probability of such floods. It is only chance that brought it to Kerala at that interval. Last year i wrote that it doesn't exactly mean the next severe flood will happen in year 2118 or thereabouts. It could come the next year, it could come in year 2218. And it has come in the very next year itself, this 2019. Hopefully it wont be as bad as it was in 2018 but images circulating in social and 'regular' media depict pretty much similar situations. Arm-chair pundits, or rather their modern day equivalent, the facebook experts, have gone berserk with their theories and anti-theories supporting and accusing various forms of government and dams and govt departments already,

Floods, Droughts, Humanity

while it still is raining cats and dogs.

For one living in a country like Australia, whether a subject matter expert or not, the fact is evident that to have weather prediction be atleast distantly accurate, one needs good data. There is a very good machinery working here to predict weather if you atleast watch the 'daily bailey' on channel 10 or similar. The weather-man/woman is quite knowledgeable about how it works. Some parts of that machinery is visible to the common man as well, in the form of remote and distributed weather stations and rain gauges.

This is lacking in India. This is one reason why weather prediction is not as reliable as it is here. And it doesn't need millions or lakhs of expenditure. Satellite imagery and obsolete weather/flood models are not adequate to inform weather prediction. And it is not just the exotic occasional cyclone that need to be predicted, ongoing impacts on local and wider area weather by climate change (whether you believe in it or not, it is real - trust me) need to be predicted.

What to do with adequate weather prediction?

Well, for a start, the fisherfolk, that comes in their smelly boats to

the aid of stranded people atop their mansions, in their normal day-night-job, need to know if they will return ashore or not – or if a surprise from the skies will seem doomed.

Weather prediction, weather modelling and flood modelling is key in identifying potential impacts of 1- in-100 or similar weather events on the land – to inform land use planning. Madhav Gadgil predicted in 2013 that our ways of landuse is unsustainable and could impact us badly (which it did last year, and still doing this year now). Sustainable landuse reform is of utmost importance to a state like Kerala with the changes in land form and dense population.

On the contrary, Australia / NSW has an entirely opposite issue at hand. Low population density means population spread is rather thin here. The area is under severe drought with no luck in sight to change in the near future.

Drought as an environmental condition effects a wider geographical area than most other natural disasters. Reliable monitoring and prediction of drought is required to effectively manage the risks to water resources and food security via drought adaptation and sustainable farming practices. As

the driest inhabited continent, Australia experiences among the widest rainfall variability and natural climate variability in the world. Intensified by climate change, the hydrological cycle and extreme weather events are expected to exacerbate the risk of drought and water scarcity. Recent years have seen severe drought and severe floods in many parts of the country.

Unlike flood, drought is a regional phenomenon with characteristics differing from one climate regime to another. Significant changes in weather patterns from normal conditions commonly produce consequential changes in the natural environment with associated social and economic impacts of affected regions (which is in agreement with floods). Many sectors of the community would benefit from a comprehensive drought monitoring and prediction service; however, such a service does not currently exist even in an advanced country like Australia.

Preparedness is key to face any natural disaster. An environmental condition, such as flood or drought, offers some flexibility unlike other disasters (earth quake, tsunami, volcano eruption...) that it is easier to study them and prepare management measures. And these management measures may include not settling

in an area that will be see significant land damage, such as landslides, that could see entire villages wash away. Kerala still has a long way to go here.

Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) focuses on bringing the advanced weather prediction and other socioeconomic successes of the outside world, including Australia and Europe, for the betterment of managing Kerala's future. As per the RKI website, "The Rebuild Kerala Initiative presents a unique approach to rebuilding the State. The Government established the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) to "bring about a perceptible change in the lives and livelihoods of its citizens by adopting higher standards of infrastructure for recovery and reconstruction, and to build ecological and technical safeguards so that the restructured assets could better withstands floods in the future".

RKI is not about immediate disaster relief such as rebuilding bridges or homes, rather equipping Kerala to face, or not have to face, disasters of such scale as seen in 2018. It is still early stages, but here is hope that it works out under the strong leadership RKI has.

Chandrayaan-2 leaves earth's orbit, moving towards moon

Bengaluru: India"s second moon mission "Chandrayaan-2" left the earth"s orbit early on Wednesday, 23 days after being launched, and is moving towards the moon following the successful completion of a crucial manoeuvre by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said it has carried out a manoeuvre called "Trans Lunar Insertion" (TLI) at 2:21 am on Wednesday, following which the spacecraft has successfully entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory.

The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is expected to reach the moon"s orbit on August 20 and land on lunar surface on September 7. "Today (August 14, 2019) after the Trans Lunar Insertion (TLI) maneuver operation, #Chandrayaan2 will depart from Earth"s orbit and move towards the Moon (sic)," the ISRO tweeted. "During the final orbit raising of the spacecraft around the earth, the liquid engine was fired for about 1203 seconds. With this, Chandrayaan-2 entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory," the space agency said. Earlier, the spacecraft"s orbit was progressively increased five times between July 23 and August 6.

The health of the spacecraft is

being "continuously monitored" from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Byalalu, near Bengaluru, it said. "Since its launch on July 22 all systems onboard Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft are performing normally," the ISRO said. The spacecraft will approach the moon on August 20 and then the spacecraft"s liquid engine will be fired again to insert it into lunar orbit, the ISRO said. "Following this, there will be four orbit maneuvers to make the spacecraft enter its final orbit, passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the moon"s surface," it said.

In a giant leap for the country"s ambitious low-cost space programme, ISRO"s most powerful three-stage rocket GSLV-MkIII-M1 had launched the spacecraft into the orbit of the Earth on July 22 from the spaceport of Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. According to ISRO, after 13 days of Moon-bound orbit phase, the lander "Vikram" carrying rover "Pragyan" will separate and after another few days of orbiting will soft land on September 7 in the



South Pole region of the Moon, where no country has gone so far, according to the ISRO. If successful, the mission will make India the fourth country after Russia, the US and China to pull off a soft landing on the Moon.

The orbiter carries eight scientific payloads for mapping the lunar surface and study the exosphere (outer atmosphere) of the Moon while the lander carries three scientific payloads to conduct surface and subsurface science experiments. The rover carries two

understanding of the lunar surface. A passive experiment from NASA will also be carried onboard Chandrayaan-2, ISRO has said. Following the landing, the rover will roll out from the lander and carry out experiments on the lunar surface for one lunar day, which is equal to 14 earth days. The mission life of the lander is also one lunar day, while the orbiter will continue its mission for a year.

According to the ISRO, the mission objective of Chandrayaan-

2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface. It also aims to further expand the knowledge about the moon through a detailed study of its topography, mineralogy, surface chemical composition, thermophysical characteristics and atmosphere, leading to a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon, the space agency had said.

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Koshy Mathew Managing Director

A tale of goodness

Once there lived a Brahmin in the Malabar area of the British Empire in India. The astrologer who wrote his horoscope told this fellow that he would die at the age of 32. As he approached the said age, he began to grow weary of the impending death.

Since he knew there was a to a Brahmin possibility that the astrologer household nearby calculated the time of death wrongly, the Brahmin decided to consult another astrologer for a second opinion. He decided to approach the most famous astrologer of the time, the astrologer of Pazhur.

Pazhur is located further south from Malabar and the Brahmin travelled many days to reach the doors of the famous astrologer at Pazhur. As soon as he could, he managed to set up a meeting with the man. Soon, he was seated across the astrologer who at one glance at the horoscope realised that the man is about to die. In fact, according to the horoscope he Brahmin's house after his will die in a few hours.

Not wanting to take the burden of sending a corpse back to Malabar, the astrologer told it was too late in the day for falling apart. The guest was sad

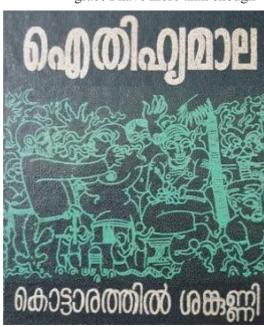
him to give any advice. He told to hear this. That night, as he asked the Brahmin "what good the Brahmin to return the next morning. He was sure that the Brahmin will die soon and he the morning.

The poor Brahmin went

away with hopes in his heart and went to spend the night. He visited the temple nearby to take bath in the temple pond and to offer his daily salutations. He was sad to see that the temple was in a stage of disrepair. He thought to himself that such a temple should not be left in ruins and someone should take care of its repair.

He returned to the local evening prayers. Upon asking his host, the guest found out that the temple had no funds for repair and hence it is gradually

lay on his mattress awaiting sleep, he thought 'Why don't I take up the mission of repairing will not be bothered again in this temple? This is such a blessed place and it shouldn't be neglected like this. By God's grace I have more than enough



money and so, I can afford to restore this temple.' Soon, he fell asleep.

As soon as he finished his morning prayers and other rituals he went to the astrologer, who was taken aback to see him alive. He deed did you do after leaving from here yesterday?" "Nothing" said the Brahmin, "other than praying to Lord Shiva". "Then you must have thought of doing something good", said the astrologer.

"I was saddened to see the sorry state of the temple and hence decided to renovate it once I reach back home", said the Brahmin. The astrologer was amazed to hear this and told the Brahmin that this good thought saved his life because according to the horoscope, he should have died sometime last night. It was only because of the good decision to renovate the temple he survived.

The Brahmin was astonished to hear this. The astrologer also said that if he keeps his promise, he would live beyond 100 years. The Brahmin heard everything in amazement. He was pleased to know that his mission succeeded. He was determined to keep his word.

So, as soon as he got back home, he made arrangements for the renovation of the

VIKAS VARRIER

temple. He came back to Pazhur and oversaw the work. Although the measurements are different, the Pazhur temple is designed exactly the same way as Vaikkom Temple. The temple has been renovated many times since. But the basic structure bearing similarity to the Vaikkom Temple has never been altered. What's more, the Brahmin who renovated the temple went on to live beyond 100 years of age.

This might be just another tale from the past. But what it essentially tells us is good deeds never go waste. A small good deed will go on to live for years perhaps even after we all are long dead. So, through stories like these, the Legends give us an inspiration to be good and do good. As the world seems to be moving towards more and more chaos these days, a little goodness can go a long way.

Let the legends inspire us to do good and be good. Let little acts of kindness or thoughtfulness light up the lives of others even long after we disappear from the face of the earth.

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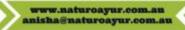
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Advice from an Advocate Dear All,

I Wanted to highlight a very important aspect. In ordinary course we keep Issuing and submitting our 'KYC documents' (proofs such as AADHAR Card' . 'PAN card' . 'LICENCE' etc.) to various people.

For housing or car or other loans, hank accounts, or even for buying new sim card, we submit these documents.

At almost all these places they ask for self-certification on these documents. We immediately sign those documents end hand over.

Just imagine your salt-

certified copies are freely available in the hands of such persona & those documents can he used by him for EVERYTHING!

For e.g.: Your 'AADHAR I PAN Card I BSNL Bill' gets into the hands of a 'Terrorist. he can misuse it to buy a SIM in your name AND YOU MIGHT BE ARRESTED for having Terror links'

its really serious and its been seen that in most of the terrorist activities. KYC documents are sourced from the SIM card sellers.

Hence. please inculcate a 'HABIT of 'writing the date and

purpose for which you are submitting the self certified KYC Documents' so that those documents cannot be used again.

Please share this as much as possible Forwarded as I felt Necessary to everyone.

'it's very important to write the date and purpose. which we never do while submitting KYC documents.'

'He re after sign as

1.....signature

2.....Date

3.....Purpose

4. and not to be used for other purpose.'



Plz dent ignore and pass this meg to as many people u can...

'Ram Avtar Sherma Advocate'



'Supreme court of India' Moblle No. 9818479755, 9716290548

Train Ticket Cancellation

New Delhi: There can be several instances when there is a change in travel plans, it can be either be postponed or preponed or can be completely cancelled. A person with a family of four to six people not travelling on the train tickets booked

New Delhi: There can be several ticket counters, and other train ticket reservation centres.

According to IRCTC, train tickets can be cancelled until a certain time before the scheduled departure of the train and preparation of train chart. People



is set to bear typically high loss as the total cost of train tickets can be more Rs 50,000. In order to address such issues, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced the facility of cancellation of train tickets via the IRCTC e-ticketing website.

There are prescribed guidelines by the IRCTC for the cancellation charges on the train tickets which are to be cancelled, be it a train ticket booked online from IRCTC website or offline from Indian Railways ticket booking offices, Railway who are cancelling train tickets can get a full refund of the total train ticket booking amount excluding the cancellation fees. The refund will be credited back to the source account/wallet of the customer which was used for the payment of train ticket booking amount money at the time of booking.

IRCTC e-tickets cannot be cancelled after preparation of train chart and IRCTC doesn't entertain any refund or cancellation of train tickets on cancellation of confirmed tatkal train tickets.

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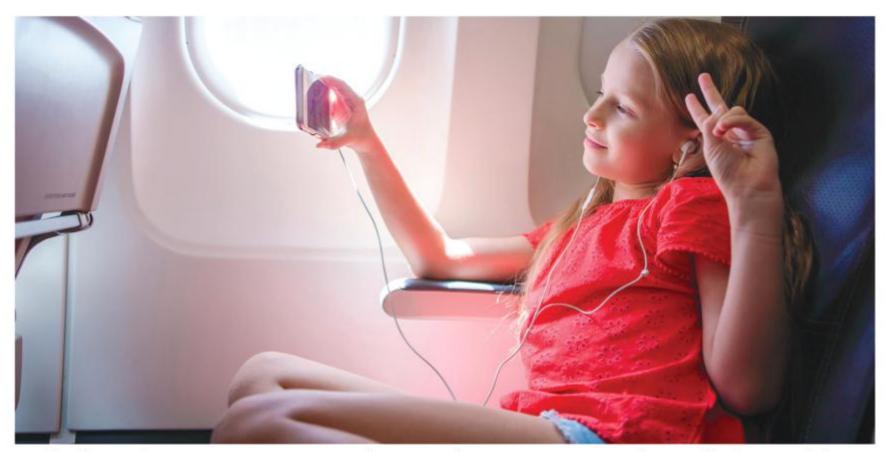
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