

Lupus Awareness Month

Lupus may sound like an exotic, rare disease, but it's not one to be overlooked. Like many other life-threatening autoimmune diseases, it is important to know the early warning signs of Lupus so that any sufferers may begin battling it early on, even though it's a very tough disease to identify. Lupus Awareness Month is observed in May and aims to increase understanding amongst the general public - not just medical professionals - of what this disease can do and why it's so key to know the facts.



PN Bhandari in conversation with Shailaza Singh.

A different sort of meet with the ziddi administrator



Shailaza Singh
Published author,
poet and a YouTuber

Recently, a book talk was organized by Rashtrdoot at Sudharma, Jaipur. The PN Bhandari, a retired IAS officer and former additional chief secretary of Rajasthan talked about his book 'Commitment and Creativity' and answered questions about his life and works.

A number of people including ex IAS officers, retired lawyers,

journalists attended the programme. Many of them had seen and met Bhandari during his tenure in Jaipur and other places. They talked about his honesty and his acumen to find practical solutions to even the most difficult of problems by using creativity and bending the rules to provide justice to people.

Many even asked him about why despite his commitment to his work, he could not make become a chief secretary. When this question was posed by someone, Bhandari laughingly replied that becoming a chief secretary was not that big a deal because a chief secretary is often a slave of the system and protocols. He said that

from the time he had joined the IAS, he had considered himself no less than a chief secretary and did not need anyone's permission to deliver justice to the common man. Though he said it in jest, it was quite obvious that he could not become the chief secretary because of his uncompromising attitude, no matter where the pressure came from. Another tongue-in-cheek comment from former bureaucrat that though he was good at simplifying operational process but wasn't so adept at conceptualizing at a higher level.

Many of the members of the audience were intrigued and wondered why such a man who was so well known for his integrity and

honesty was not transferred to Delhi, where these qualities would have found a good reception. However, some of these questions would perhaps never find an answer out of propriety and many such factors.

Despite all these questions, most of the members of the audience were unanimously appreciative about his hard work, his honesty, his conviction and out-of-the-box thinking. Many of them even thanked him for helping them to grow as professionals in the formative years of their careers. All-in-all, the evening was about celebrating an administrator who believed not in rules but in providing solutions to the common man for his problems.



PN Bhandari interacting with guests.



Maj Chandrakant Singh clarifying a point.



Senior Journalist Prakash Bhandari asking a question.



Rajendra Bhanawat and other Members of the audience interacting with PN Bhandari.

A London newspaper 'Daily Chronicle' wrote: "This stately procession of our India Fighting men was indeed a revelation to all who saw it, to all, that is to say, who have never been to India itself; these 'Grand Men' of the East by reason of their physique, their artistic beauty of form and feature, their martial mien and dignity of bearing, reminding one of the figures on the tablets of Babylon, Greece and Imperial Rome. To be perfectly honest, some of the Anglo volunteers who brought up the rear of the procession, seemed to belong to an inferior race! From an aesthetic and even physical point of view not to a conquering but conquered race by comparison with all these splendid warlike castes and tribes of Hindustan."

Kachori Jalebi Missing At Hampton Court (...2)



Maj Chandrakant Singh Vrc (Retd)
Military Historian

#CHRONICLE

On the night of 23 May 1903 we left Doolah camp by a special train for Bombay Harbour which we reached on 24th morning. The train stopped near the barracks located at the harbour. Here doctors examined us for plague which had been prevalent in the country for some years, before we boarded SS Hardinge for the voyage and occupied the berths earmarked for us. Although the ship was large but because there were about fifteen hundred troops it was very crowded and uncomfortable. But just three years earlier having travelled by SS Palamcottah from Calcutta to China I was used to sea voyages and life on board a ship.

The best places were occupied by the whites and Christian vol-

unteers. As the King himself was a Christian favoured treatment for Christian troops was not surprising. We also loaded up rations for the voyage which included sheep for Muslim and Christians. When the tide returned, we hauled up the anchor and set sail. After a few days we entered the Red sea and we see Africa on one side and Arabia on the other.

Suez Canal

The English had learned from the Romans that India was the source of spices and other valuable products they desired. But the voyage to India via Cape of Good Hope was long and took six months and even with the advent of steamships it took three months. So they were in search of a shorter route. They found an answer in the Suez Canal which linked the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea cutting the voyage to less than a month. But the canal is narrow and shallow and two ships cannot pass abreast of each other and it



Edward VII in coronation robes.



Indians being received by King Edward in the garden of Buckingham palace.

has to be constantly dredged as it keeps filling up with sand. The feat accomplished by Ferdinand Lesseps is comparable to the feat of Bhagirath who brought the Ganga down from heaven. After crossing the Suez Cana we entered the Mediterranean Sea and then past Gibraltar finally entered the Atlantic Ocean and reached South Hampton where we docked.

Arrival in England

At South Hampton we were received by the dignitaries of the town including the Lord Mayor and Aldermen. The public also came out in large numbers to see us when we boarded the train that would take us to Hampton Court in London. On getting off the train at the station we had to march through the streets for about an hour before we reached Hampton Court Palace in whose garden out houses we were lodged. When we were marching through the town it appeared as if the whole of London had come to see us. The pavement was jam packed with spectators. During the journey we had to adjust our watches constantly to set new timings every day.

In England we were the guests of the King Emperor and as such we were treated accordingly by officials and public. During our stay at Hampton Court we learnt of King Henry VIII and Cardinal



The Anointing of Queen Alexandra at the Coronation of Edward VII.

Wolsey and the role they played in the history of England. We also saw the palace from inside and admired the magnificent rooms and the paintings on the wall and ceiling. We also learnt of the revolution by Cromwell and the execution of King Charles.

Camp Life in Hampton Court Palace Gardens

The gardens were very big and beautifully laid out and always lush green. All facilities for our rest, recreation and comfort were made available. Separate arrangements for cooking food were made for different communities and the quality of food was very good. English sightseers were not

allowed to enter the camp but crowds of men and women would peer at us over the boundary wall and some of our men would talk with them and they would be very happy with that.

Some of them who had served in India before and could speak in Hindi would bring their friends with them. They told us that they missed eating Kachoris and jalebi. Unfortunately we could not meet their demand and had to tell them that our cooks could only make dal and chapatis. Some of them questioned us as to why we kept such on a salary of four rupees a month what more could we expect from our cooks.

Some sepoy would even tell the bitter truth. That thanks to our country having taken away all our wealth, those days are gone when in India we fed elephants and horses with milk and jalebis, now not only can we not afford jalebis but are forced to eat your left-overs. (jotha)

Coronation Postponed and Sightseeing

On the 24th June just two days before the coronation we were attending a show at the royal Aquarium when the show was interrupted and an announcement was made that King Edward had taken seriously ill, the show was stopped and the coronation had been postponed to August. The King was known to be both a gourmet and gourmand. Over indulgence with lobster and mayonnaise at a dinner had given him the bug and he was in acute distress. We returned to our camp. A couple of days later a yagya was performed at our camp for the King's quick recovery and wellbeing.

Having more than a month to spare, we were able to do the sights of London and other towns. We visited the Houses of Parliament, Tower of London, St James Palace and the Horse Guards, Guildhall, Bank of England, Buckingham Palace and the Crystal Palace. What I found most interesting was the British

Museum where treasures from all over the world had been collected and put on display. I also found Kew Gardens and Zoological Gardens very fascinating for here were collected specimens of all flora and fauna of the world. We also had time to visit Manchester, Liverpool and Brighton and saw the Pavilion there which looks like an Indian palace. On a couple of occasions I took time to eat out. For two Annas I could get a plate of mutton, roast potatoes and bread.

In Liverpool we learnt of the prevalence of the horrific practice of 'baby farming', it was a custom in England where the custody of unwanted babies was given to individuals and institutions and a lump sum payment made for their upkeep. One such baby farm couple in Liverpool was earning over 50,000 British pounds a year. These children were kept in horrific conditions and most died due to neglect, malnutrition and illness. The practice had been banned only a couple of years earlier, but the Maulvi of Medina Masjid Home still had some children in his custody.

In the Tower of London were collected jewels from all over the world which formed a part of the Royal Treasure. An Englishman by the name of Fry said: "in the inner room the visitor will be able to form some idea of India's jewels. The value of this collection is almost inestimable." Indian Maharajahs, high government officials and the Duke of Connaught who was the younger

brother of King Edward, he was also the commander in Chief in India.

The coronation was now to be held on 9 August 1903. The King of England is crowned on a throne which is placed on top of a slab of stone called the Stone of Scone. According to legend it was brought to Ireland from Spain about three thousand years ago and from there it was taken to Scotland. It was the seat on which all Scottish Kings were crowned. It was brought to England by Henry VIII and since then all Kings have been crowned seated on it. (Some years ago the Stone was returned by Queen Elizabeth to Scotland but has been brought back temporarily for Charles coronation.)

A couple of days before the Coronation an announcement was made by the King:

"On the eve of my coronation, an event which I look upon as one of the most solemn and important events in my life, I am anxious to express to my people at Home and in the colonies and in India my heartfelt appreciation of the deep sympathy they have manifested towards me during the time that my life was in imminent danger. The postponement of the ceremony owing to my illness caused, I fear, much inconvenience and trouble to all those who intended to, celebrate it....the prayers of my people were heard and I now offer up my deepest gratitude to Divine Providence for having preserved my life to fulfill the important duties which devolved upon me as sovereign of this Great Empire."

The main ceremony of the coronation took place inside Westminster Abbey. The Archbishop of Canterbury first administered the oath to the King:



Indian soldiers at Westminster.



Queen Alexandra.

"Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dominions, according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the respective laws and customs of the same." The King: "I will." The Archbishop then placed the crown on King Edward's head the declared: "Sirs, before you stands the King, King Edward of this land. Say do your homage bring. All yew ho round me stand."

The first to declare his homage was the Prince of Wales: "I, George Prince of Wales, do become your liege man for life and limb and of earthly, worship and faith and trust I will bear unto you, to live and die, against all manner of folks. So help me God."

After the coronation at the Abbey we marched back to Buckingham Palace with the King and queen in the State Coach. A London newspaper 'Daily Chronicle' wrote: "This stately procession of our India Fighting men was indeed a revelation to all who saw it, to all, that is to say, who have never been to India itself, these 'Grand Men' of the East by reason of their physique, their artistic beauty of form and feature, their martial mien and dignity of bearing, reminding one of the figures on the tablets of Babylon, Greece and Imperial Rome. To be perfectly honest, some of the Anglo volunteers who brought up the rear of the procession, seemed to belong to an inferior race! From an aesthetic and even physical point of view not to a conquering but conquered race by comparison with all these splendid warlike castes and tribes of Hindustan."

Concluded.
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#CURTAIN RAISER

Unleashing the Magic of Ballet



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer writer
and city blogger

Among the many forms of dance that captivate the human imagination, ballet stands as a timeless art form that has transcended generations. Originating in the lavish courts of Renaissance Italy and further refined in the grand theaters of France and Russia, ballet is a graceful and ethereal dance style that weaves together technique, storytelling, and the sheer poetry of movement.

With its origins dating back to the 15th century, ballet has evolved into a highly disciplined dance form characterized by its exquisite precision, fluidity, and expressive movements. Dancers undergo years of rigorous training, mastering intricate footwork, elaborate pirouettes, and breathtaking leaps that seem to defy gravity.

In Jaipur, the Ballet Exposé has been instrumental in bringing this magical dance form to the forefront of the city's cultural landscape. Taking place on May 12 at the Maharana Pratap Auditorium in Jaipur, the 8th edition of Ballet Exposé revolves around the theme 'In conversation with Dance, delving into the profound connection between movement and creativity. The event promises to be a captivating display of emotions expressed through the art of ballet and Latin dance forms, accompanied by enchanting Latin, Classical, and Bollywood melodies.

The driving force behind this event is Aditee Sonani Mansingka, the Founder of Stripes Dance Company. She has a deep passion for promoting uniqueness in the minds of both children and adults alike. She emphasizes the importance of breaking free from conventions and encourages dancers to unleash their innermost emotions, enabling them to perform with heart and soul.

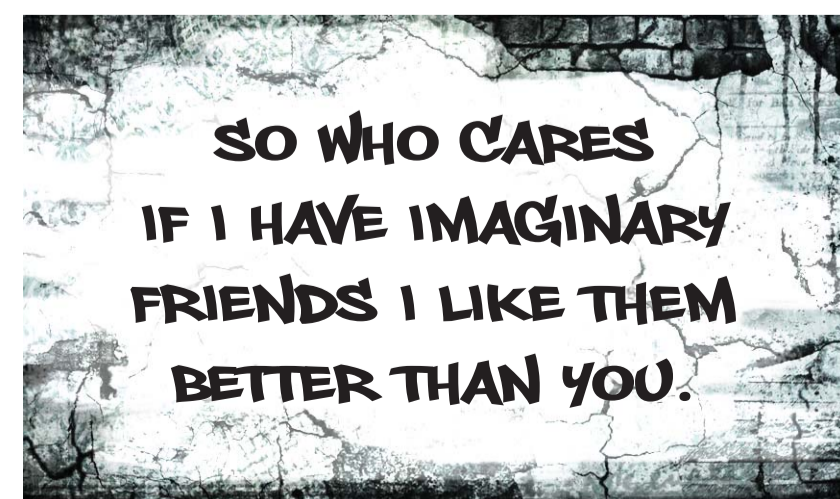
This year, the show will feature extraordinary ballet and Kathak fusion dance sequences, brought to life by talented participants between the age of 5 years to 45 years. Adding a touch of uniqueness, the audience will be treated to a spellbinding Nataraj Vandana performance presented in the ballet and Kathak fusion style.

Day & Date: Friday, 12 May
Time: 7 pm - 8 pm
Venue: Maharana Pratap Auditorium

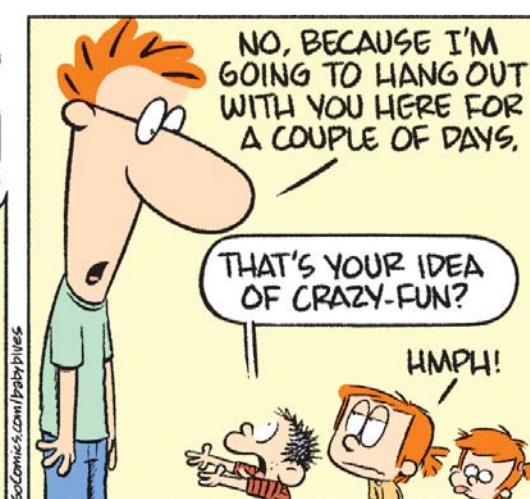


By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

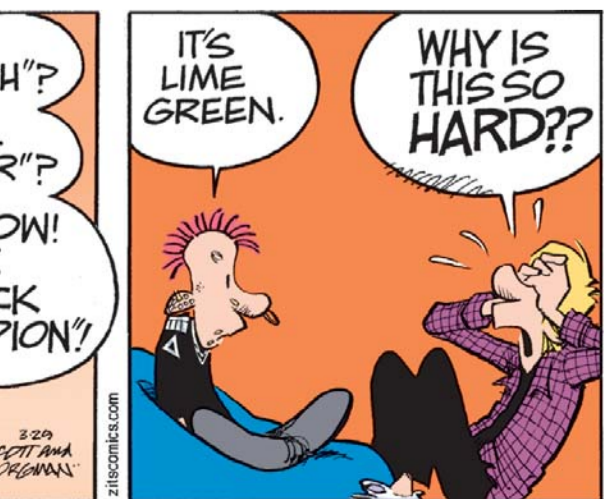
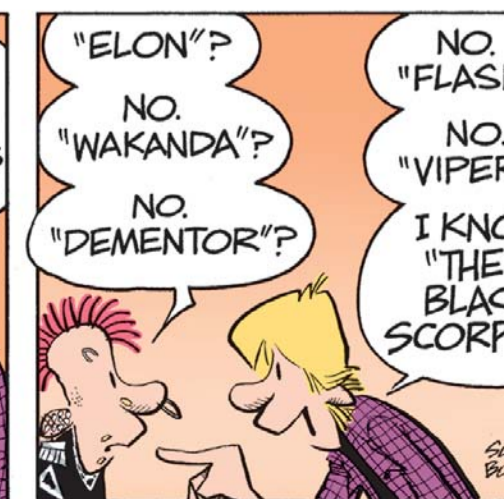
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



King Edward embraces the Prince of Wales.