

When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.
Norm Crosby

A Stupendous Feat

The rescue alive of a dozen teenage boys and their coach—all members of a football team—eighteen days after they were trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand was a stupendous feat. It is a tribute to human endurance, valour, fearlessness and an indomitable will to survive in the face of death. Life triumphed over Death as the world waited with bated breath for the last four boys and their 25-year old coach to be brought alive out of the death trap. They were all alive, if not kicking. The entire operation cost only one human life, that of a former Thai military diver who passed out as he was placing oxygen canisters along the route from the mouth of the Tham Luang cave to where the boys were trapped, full four kilometers inside. The boys could be traced within the cave full nine days after they were trapped. That they clung to each other and survived without food where there was literally "no light at the end of tunnel" is nothing short of a miracle.

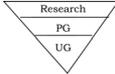
The rescue operation was a saga of team effort, sustained day after day with unflinching determination in the face of a situation that seemed to be hopeless in every sense. One thousand rescue workers took part in the operations including nineteen divers who actually entered the cave. The passage at some points was as narrow as fifteen inches. Then there was a 'hump' in the passageway which had to be climbed and scaled down. There was constant threat of there being more rains and more water entering the cave and drowning the boys. The oxygen level in the cave sometimes dropped dangerously low but fortunately oxygen canisters could be reached in time.

Now, after their rescue as they realize what they have passed through and how near death they were, the boys—and maybe their coach, too—are likely to suffer from acute psychological trauma. The doctors attending on them will not only have to feed them and treat them against possible infection, they will also have to treat them for the post-rescue trauma. From early TV shots they boys looked cheerful. Some of them were even smiling. But as the realization of what they had gone through and narrowly escaped sinks in their consciousness, trauma is likely to set in. Both for the boys and their rescuers it was an unforgettable experience. That it all ended in the boys being brought out alive against heavy odds is the ultimate triumph of the will to survive.

After Graduation, What Next?



Earlier, the 'Wanted' columns invite applicant with graduation (any degree). Presently, the demand is replacing the word 'graduates' by 'Post-Graduates'. We all know the present situation of job-market and survival of fittest (educationally). To adopt to such fast changing scenario, the simple graduate is to study further and further. When we see the higher education world through graduate eyes, we find a wide open window doors with varieties of specialization at Post-Graduation level. One will realize



the top-down pyramid model from UG to PG transition phase. Because the PG courses have more varieties than UG level studies. Due to this academic fact, both parents and students experience the challenge of choosing the right one at right time. Let us critically examine the process involved in selection of PG studies by UG qualified student.

PG in Science: MSC Dietetics and Food Services Management, MCA-Computer Applications

PG in Arts: MA in English, History, Public Administration, Hindi, Political Science

PG in Social Work: MSW-Social Work, Counseling, MA Sociology, MA Anthropology

To analyze the Post Graduate courses while taking admission, the following points are to be considered:

- Duration of study
- Medium of study
- Number of subjects (or) papers (theory or practicals)
- Number of field work or project work to be carried-out (compulsory/optional)
- Quantum of practicals in science branch
- Choice (s) for optional subject(s)/specialization area(s)
- Scope for further studies/research
- Job opportunities available (present/future)
- Fees

Duration of Study: Not all PG courses are of 2 years duration. It ranges from 1 to 3 years even.

| Course | Duration |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| MCA (Computer Applications) | 3 years |
| MA | 2 years |
| MLIS (Library Science) | 1 year |

Medium of Study: Mostly the Post Graduate courses are offered in English medium; however the popular PG courses, especially in arts subjects, it is available in Hindi medium also. Depending on the comfortability of the student, one can select the medium. For exam purposes, the flexibility of Open and Distance Learning System permit the students to write either in Hindi or English.



Artist Amit Modak shows a miniature portrait of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra ahead of Rath Yatra in Agartala on Wednesday

REFLEX ACTION

Dr. S. Ganesan
Regional Director, IGNOU

| | Hindi | English |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| MARD (Rural Development) | ✓ | ✓ |
| MTM (Tourism Management) | - | ✓ |
| MIS (Library Science) | - | ✓ |
| MAA (Anthropology) | - | ✓ |

Number of Subjects (Papers): In general, the PG programmes have 4-subjects, in first year and 4-subjects in second year (total of 8 subjects). But this quantum varies from Post Graduation to Post Graduation; especially PG having Practicals/Internship/Project Work etc. The quantum of subject contents are indicated as:

Number of Credits (one credit is equal to 30 study hours) Depending upon the capacity of student, one shall select the PG programmes having more number of subjects or credits too. But, the decision is to be taken well before the admission.

| Course | I-year | II-year | Total |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| MA-English | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| MA (Distance Education) | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| M.Com (Commerce) | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| MSW (Counselling) | 7 | 7 | 14 |

| Course | I-year | II-year | Total |
|------------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| MA (English) | 32 | 32 | 64 |
| MEC (Economics) | 36 | 30 | 66 |
| MAAE (Adult Education) | 34 | 34 | 68 |
| M.Com | 36 | 36 | 72 |

| Course | I-year | II-year | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|------------------|
| MSW (Social Work) | One | One | Two (compulsory) |
| MPA (Public Administration) | NIL | ONE | One (optional) |

Number of Field Work/Practical/Internship: At PG level, certain level of research aptitude is developed through few field works/project work. Some students who prefer desk work/book work, it marks them to be a drop-out in their PG studies. However, in few PG courses, the project work is optional one. Thus, student should match his/her interest (or) capabilities with the PG with special reference

| MA (Education) | One out of 5 special areas |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| MSW (Social Work) | 2 out of 5 subjects |

Specialization Areas: Even the M.Com has different varieties of specializations, such as M.Com (F & T), M.Com (BP & CG), M.Com (Management, Account & Financial Studies). Similarly, the M.A. Education provides opportunities to specialize one out of five areas of

| Course | I-year | II-year | Total |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| B.Ed | Rs.50000 | NIL | Rs.50000 |
| MSW (Social Work) | Rs.16200 | Rs.16400 | Rs.32600 |
| MPS (Political Science) | Rs.5600 | Rs.5400 | Rs.11000 |

Scopes for further studies: The higher education path after PG takes to M.Phil., Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow etc. Some PG leads to further specialization, for instance, M.A. Education to PG Diploma in Educational Technology, M.A. Distance Education etc. Higher the academic qualification, he/she gets good opportunities in job market. Hence, a long-term vision through your PG is to be seen especially, when one aspires to become researcher, Professor in university system.

Job Opportunities: Time-to-time the Govt. of India, State Governments analyze the future requirements of manpower for the state or country. Analyzing such present or future requirements forecast of job opportunities, one should try to equip himself/herself to fit into the eligibility or become potential candidate for emerging opportunities. The PG with old-on or value-addition PG Diplomas facilities to get wider job opportunities in today's competitive world.

Fees: Based on personal paying capacity and family income level, one must be optimistic to apply for PG. Dropping the course at mid point will be both waste of time and money.

With growing competition, the existing regular colleges are compelled to keep the merit score as high as possible. But at the same, to give equal educational opportunities to all, the Open and Distance Learning System keeps its doors open always. The unlimited seats in Open and Distance Learning universities (such as IGNOU) is one of the best alternatives for Andaman & Nicobar Population. Let all graduates become Post Graduate degree holder, to enrich educationally.

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Conventional Crossword

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | |

- ACROSS**
- 1 Agitate
 - 6 Floor covering
 - 7 Mexican dollar
 - 8 Slightly cold
 - 9 Fashionista
 - 11 Himalayan kingdom
 - 12 Kinnor
 - 14 English Channel
 - 17 Sways to and fro
 - 20 Before (past)
 - 21 Rose red dye
 - 22 Vends down
 - 26 Snare
 - 27 Fabled monstrous bird
 - 28 Remaining
- DOWN**
- 1 Length of army front
 - 2 Seemingly mocked by fate
 - 3 Gown
 - 4 Calicut
 - 5 Long-leaved lettuce
 - 6 Cut off
 - 10 Inside
 - 13 Breed of dog
 - 15 Italian city
 - 16 Retract
 - 18 Large, brown
 - 19 Distress signal
 - 22 Worn/steep image
 - 23 Place for pigs
 - 24 Lacking discipline

SUDOKU : 2251

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | | |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | | | | 8 | | 5 |
| 4 | | | 6 | | 7 | | | |
| 1 | 6 | | | 3 | | | | 2 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | 6 | 9 | | 7 |
| 9 | | | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | | |

Yesterday's Solution 2250

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 |

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 2259

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | L | E | C | T | S | E | C |
| K | I | R | E | R | E | H | | |
| I | M | P | E | D | E | R | Y | E |
| O | C | E | A | S | E | W | | |
| P | O | E | T | R | I | N | S | E |
| I | D | L | E | R | L | E | A | D |
| R | A | D | A | G | E | F | | |
| A | C | T | P | O | N | D | E | R |
| T | E | A | C | E | A | | | |
| E | N | D | S | L | E | E | P | Y |

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BJP playing Kandal and Mandal politics in UP

FOCUS

Pradeep Kapoor

Shocked by the loss of three Lok Sabha and one assembly seats in the by-elections, BJP is invoking both Kandal and Mandal to retain the 73 seats it won in 2014 in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP leadership is now talking of reservation politics as well as construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya as soon as possible. The civil society was shocked when BJP-linked sant and member of Ram Janam Bhumi Nyas said in the presence of CM Yogi Adityanath in Ayodhya that the Ram temple construction will take place in the same manner as the controversial structure (Babri Mosque) was demolished on December 6, 1992.

Vedanti further said that whatever happened in Ayodhya for the temple

movement had nothing to do with court orders. He warned that if construction of the temple was not started before 2019 then it would adversely affect the prospects of BJP.

A large number of Pro-BJP saints who attended the 80th birthday celebration of Ram Janam Bhumi Trust Mahant Nritya Gopal demanded that Yogi Adityanath should fulfill his promise before the assembly polls regarding construction of temple during the BJP regime.

Yogi, however, advised the saints that they should wait for the court verdict, which would come very soon and then only can the construction take place. But he said construction of the temple was the desire of cores of people in India. The Ram Janam Bhumi and Babri Mosque case is pending before

the Supreme Court. The Yogi government has launched several schemes for the development of Ayodhya to promote religious tourism and to keep the issue alive.

On the other hand, BJP is also aggressively playing the reservation card to win over the backward sections, the most backwards and dalits. In fact, Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh, who as UP CM presided over the demolition of the mosque in Ayodhya, gave a call in Lucknow to backward classes to fight for reservation. Attending a programme of backward classes to celebrate

the birth anniversary of the late VP Singh, Kalyan Singh asked the members of backward classes to defend their reservation and fight for it. He gave credit to VP Singh for successfully implementing the Mandal Commission recommendations.

The Yogi government is also planning to give adequate reservation to the most backward classes within the quota of backward classes. During his recent visit to Lucknow Home Minister Rajnath Singh assured that his government would safeguard reservation in promotions as

promised by the government order. A deputation of those opposing reservation in promotions also met Rajnath Singh and warned him that if the government failed to revoke the order, the government employees would be forced to go on strike.

BJP is also playing the dalit card by promising better policies and programmes for their welfare to ensure their better participation in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. There is no doubt that in the 2014 elections BJP had got good support from the backward classes and dalits. But the recent alliance of Samajwadi Party, BSP and RLD has unnerved the BJP leadership, which is desperate to play both the Kandal and Mandal cards to retain its seats and increase its vote share in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. (IPA)