Advertisements always proclaim 'Offer open till stocks last', never 'while stocks last'. 'Till' denotes termination (We will love each other till we die); 'while' denotes duration (We will love each other while we live). While, till? Termination, duration? KFP. Ki farak pehenda? (What difference does it make?)

It doesn't. Like the use of the apostrophe 's', which indicates a shortened or contracted form: 'it's' for 'it is'. Technically, in the other use of 'its', as a pronoun (Its price makes the Nano a great buy), the 's' shouldn't take an apostrophe. But who cares a flying fig for technicalities. We apostrophise at will. As in our wont. Or should that be 'won't'?

Fewer and fewer of us can tell the difference between 'fewer' and 'lesser'. What's that you say? 'Fewer' should be used when we are talking in numeric, or countable, terms: Fewer people (not 'lesser' people) attended today's rally. 'Lesser' should be used in describing non-numeric quantity or magnitude: children of a lesser god; theft is a lesser crime than murder. But all of us including the TOI swap our lessers and our fewers with abandon.

We like to 'er', and generously add 'er' to words that don't need it as a suffix. So neighbour becomes a 'neighbourer', preferably a 'next-door neighbourer', to distinguish him from the neighbourer living 50 doors down the road. And forger, as in someone who forges currency notes, becomes a 'forgerer'.

We also tend to be nervous 'the'-ists: we are never quite sure when to use 'the' and when not to. For example, all of us tend to talk on phone (not 'the phone'). On the other hand, when we fly, we prefer to travel by 'the plane', rather than 'by plane', which may or may not be made by 'the Boeing'.

In all, Mulayam and the others of the 'Angrezi-hatao' brigade are only asking for the removal of a long-dead corpse, massacred by us in our daily usage. It's high time we gave English a decent cremation. Harry bol, bolo Harry!

Although her husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, his wife stayed by his bedside every single day. When he finally came to, he motioned for her to come closer.

As she sat on the bed beside him he said, "You know what? You've been with me through all the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to comfort me. When I went bankrupt and lost my business, you stood by me. When I got shot by a burglar, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you were there to support me. Even though my health started failing, you were still by my side..."

"Now that I think about it, it sure looks to me like you bring me bad luck."





APRIL.... and its summer-holidays are here, the IPL is back with all its razzmatazz and we are all baking away as the sun relentlessly beats down upon us. Perhaps it's time to fly off to cooler climes for a bit. Yes, you can fly, unlike a certain politician who has been grounded! Some people never learn.....



We congratulate and welcome the following candidates who have been elected as Permanent Member of Mangalore Club:

- 1. Mr. Marvin Saldanha
- 2. Mr. Vivek Mario Saldanha
- 3. Mrs. Ranjitha Olivia D'Souza
- 4. Mr. Ajay Kamath

Senior Citizens: Members who have completed 60 years of age are exempt from payment of Luxury Tax of Rs. 600/- annually. Members who have not availed of this facility earlier and wish to do so now are requested to send us their age proof. No refund will be made once the luxury tax is paid in the month of April.

Club's Rules and Regulations and **General Rules Book** has been posted to all the members for their information. Please go through the booklet carefully as there are some changes.

CMS Club App has been updated.

- 1) You can now pay your club bills through the app- you don't have to hoof it over to the club with wads of cash! A couple of judicious presses of your thumb on your smartphone and its done.
- 2) Details of affiliated clubs have been added. You can check out the clubs and their facilities. There is also a Google maps link which will show you how to get to the affiliated club premises if you want to visit!

EASTER BALL - will be held on Saturday the 15th April. To rock the party we have singers Chrystall Farell and Fancho from Goa and DJ Lalit to top it up with some tracks that will get you on the floor!

Entry prices - Members Rs 400,

Guests Rs 600, Children below 16 - Rs 300.

RUMMY TOURNAMENT

Rummy Tournament will be held on Sunday 23rd April.

Bumper Housie with big, fat prizes will be held on Sunday 30th April. Our new member Ajay Kamath has graciously agreed to sponsor the Housie. This will be followed by music and some spot prizes and other fun, so do attend in large numbers!

KNOW YOUR CHEF



Our featured chef this month is Sheikh Abdur Rauf, who is on his second stint at MC, having joined earlier and left once is search of greener pastures. Rauf is from West Bengal and has worked in several places, including Barbecue Nation, so his area of expertise is kebabs - he turns out a delicious seekh and other tandoori delights. In his free time, he likes to play cricket and kabaddi and his own personal favourite dish is Lucknowi biriyani - who can argue with that!

Using the CMS Club App

Many members have requested that the procedure for downloading and using the app be published again- so here goes....

GETTING STARTED

- Open Google play store if android or App store for iphone
- Android: Type "eClub" in search bar
- iPhone : Type "IRCAApp" in search bar
- Download the application and install it in your mobile phone.





Login

- Enter the user Name and password, Click on the login button
- User name: mngc.mc MEMBER NUMBER, Password: MCmember number



The inimitable Jug Suraiya gives us an English lesson....

During China's Cultural Revolution a commissar toured the country to ascertain if peasants had carried out the diktat of reading aloud Mao's thoughts while sowing seeds, so as to ensure a bumper crop. A farmer, who said he'd read out the Chairman's thoughts while planting, was asked by the commissar if he'd had a good harvest. Oh, yes, said the farmer. My radishes reach from here to Heaven. You fool, said the commissar. Don't you know there's no Heaven? I do, replied the farmer. And there are no radishes, either.

The story aptly sums up the current debate about whether English should or shouldn't be scrapped in India. Like Heaven, or the Chinese farmer's radishes, we're talking about a non-existing entity. When Harold Laski visited India he expressed approval that the welcoming speech made by a local trade union leader was in the vernacular. There was an awkward silence. The union leader's speech had, in fact, been made in what all present (except Laski) believed to be chaste English. That's why they say the British finally left India: they couldn't bear it anymore to hear their language being so mangled every day.

It's not just the pronunciations. Forget the Gujarati 'snakes' (snacks) and 'takes' (tax). Or the Bengali 'brij' (breeze) and 'shit of paper' (sheet of paper). Or the south Indian spelling of banana: bee-yay-yen-yay-yen-yay. Or the Punjabi celebration of 'birdays' (birthdays), especially if they fall on 'Sacherdays' (Saturdays) and the person concerned is of good 'krakter' (character). Punjab is also famous for its 'loins' (lions) and its 'laiyers' (lawyers).

Our orthography is even more inventive. 'Child bear, sold hare' (Chilled beer, sold here) might be an exaggeration, just about. But lots of shops sell 'milk and cureds' (curds). And restaurants serve 'Chinees, Muglai and Conti' (continental) food. Many a political speech is made from a 'dias' (dais) which may or may not be 'miniscule' (minuscule).

