

# The Vvvvvv THINK Club<sup>©</sup>

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independent thinking

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## Women of Iran

New India



Remembering The Old Coffee House

Book Review: Tesla  
By: Richard Munson



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# EDITORIAL

## Wanderer

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

I started my career as an engineer in India in 1970. I could have never imagined buying a home with my income

then. I moved to the United States where all my friends owned a home. I was excited at the possibility that even I could afford one if I wanted. It was easy. All I had to do was produce proof of employment to any bank and the latter would qualify me and lend me a home loan in accordance with my annual income. My father built two homes back home towards his retirement all from his savings. This was not the case here.

I bought my first home in the U.S. in 1978. It was a modest split-level home in a low-middle-class neighborhood. I was thrilled to own a home. My parents in India were amazed at my success and thought I must be very rich. Since then I have changed my dwelling four times in progression to my income.

I have to admit that I like the place where I live now. There are woods and gardens, and I regularly see birds and geese and deer. I walk among trees and shrubs. But do I need such a large house of which I use only a fractional part? And do I need to own it? Now that I am retired and our children are on their own, I have started liking the idea of the capricious billionaire, Howard Hughes, who could buy any mansion he chose but preferred to live on a secluded floor of a hotel. Somehow the idea appeals to me, though many find it bizarre.

Not having grown up rich, perhaps I have never had the opportunity to develop a taste for opulent and wasteful space. I also like the feeling of freedom of not having to look after a structure that evokes no strong passion for me. Of course, I know others who like to lavish their care on curtains, carpets and colossal chandeliers. I prefer some free time to read or listen to music.

My industrious neighbors take punctilious care of their garden and front yard and I can only look on with admiration. I cannot emulate them. In truth, I would not. Such punctiliousness would take too much of my time and attention. I have to sadly reflect that life is a matter of choices. If I have to choose between the perfect home and a decent-enough home, the balance is loaded on the side that lets me pursue my stronger interests.



The investment of time and effort, besides the expense, would have barred other, dearer pursuits. A friend told me the other day that the fact that poor people largely play football, middle-class people choose tennis and rich people prefer golf, shows that affluence reduces the object of your affection – the size of the ball.

Age or experience may have jaded me enough to transfer my affection to something even smaller, the printed word. I don't need a massive edifice to read the few books and magazines I read.

I need no more than a tiny table for my laptop to write the few things I write. And there lies the supreme reason for my aversion to a commitment to a permanent home. No home is perfect. Worse, no home is perfect enough – just as Elizabeth Taylor reportedly said, about her seven divorces, that no husband was perfect enough – for lifelong attachment. I would like a modest variation of the so-called American Dream: a home not bought but just occupied.

Live in it, make use of it and enjoy it. Perhaps, in my lazy soul, there still lurks a craving to be unanchored, an undying spirit to be free to wander.

# **Commentary**

## **A Reversal of Fortune**

**Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'**

Rishi Sunak of the Conservative party was just elected the youngest prime minister of Great Britain in the last 200 years today (24 October 2022). He is the first ethnic and Hindu person to be the premier of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Sunak has a deep Indian

Indian multi-national IT company Infosys and a multi-billionaire. Mrs. Akshata Murthy holds a 0.93% stake in Infosys, making her one of the wealthiest women in Britain.

Being born in pre-independent India, it is surreal for me to realize that a Hindu of Indian origin will now lead

the



connection. His parents were of Indian origin and his wife, Akshata Murthy is the daughter of N. R. Narayana Murthy, a founder of the

Britannia. What a great contrast to the pre-independent era when dogs and Indians were not allowed to

enter certain places in their own country. The Britishers plundered the riches of India for 250 years and didn't give any recognition to 2.5 million Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Second World War fighting for the Allies.

Winston Churchill who is considered one of the greatest Englishmen of all time had this to say about India and the Indians instead of expressing his gratitude:

"Indians are a beastly people with a beastly religion"

"Gandhi is a seditious Middle Temple lawyer, now posing as a fakir."

Shakespeare (an English man) wrote the following lines that are fitting for folks like Winston Churchill,

" Blow, blow, thou winter wind,

Thou art not so unkind

As man's ingratitude;"

Fortunately, there is a reversal of fate now. If you care about history, Britain ruled India through the East India Company. The East India Company, which once owned India, is now owned by an Indian entrepreneur named Sanjiv Mehta. India's economy is now bigger than Britain's. Here is the latest ranking:

1. United States
2. China
3. Japan
4. Germany
5. India
6. United Kingdom

Indians are now the second biggest employers of Britons, second only to the United States. The Tatas (a business conglomerate of India) have become the UK's second-highest foreign employer now. The Tatas also own the Jaguar brand. Overall, the Indians are responsible for almost one-fifth of all British jobs saved and created by foreigners in the country. There are more Indians among the highest number of property owners in London than the English themselves, according to a recent report.

That reminds me of Gita's quotes:

"The divine qualities lead to liberation, while the demoniac qualities are the cause for a continuing destiny of bondage."  
(Bhagwat Gita Chapter 16, Verse 5).

I wish all the best to Great Britain in the future.

# HUMOR

## *Partying with Uncle Duckie*

*Musafir*

I have shifted my life to neutral and I let it roll freely without any brake. My folks and friends want me to have control over it but I just want it to mosey on. Uncle Duckie, on the other hand, surveilles his own activities by recording when he went for poo-poo, when he ingested and when he hit the hay. After 50 years, all Uncle Duckie does is plop, chow, and snooze.

Uncle Duckie wants to look slim when in the company of others. He always stands sideways on for photographs or stands next to a person fatter than him. it's really slimming. He practices that flattering pose in a mirror for hours and strikes that pose in people's company. The problem is that he has to maintain that pose until everyone leaves.

He also inhales and holds his breath to hide his bulge making sure that he can see his feet when looking down. Sometimes his face turns blue and his friends have to call 911 to send him away.

Uncle Duckie never orders desserts; he lets his friends order those. He believes that desserts that you didn't order have no calories. Another practice that he follows is he eats his food standing up. Exactly why is not clear but it has something to do with gravity. The calories apparently bypass the stomach flowing directly down the legs and through the soles of the feet into the floor, like electricity.

Uncle Duckie usually holds a drink in his left hand while eating. He believes that if you have a drink in your left hand, anything eaten with the other hand has no calories.

Several principles are at work here. First of all, if you stand up at a cocktail party then there's the electronic field: a wet glass in one hand forms a negative charge to reverse the polarity of the calories attracted to the other hand.

In his home, Uncle Duckie serves sausages, cheese, and the like on frilled toothpicks. The insertion of a sharp object allows the calories to leak out the bottom. Anything eaten in front of the TV has no calories. This may have something to do with radiation leakage, which negates the calories.

Uncle Duckie is not bashful about suggesting diet techniques to others. He usually does that by playing games. One of his favorites is:

1. List your ten favorite foods.
2. List your five favorite drinks.
3. List all green vegetables that look like marsh grass, fur balls, or little trees.
4. List water.
5. Avoid 1 & 2; eat only 3; drink only 4.

I learned a few tricks from Uncle Duckie to appear slim. Always tell your weight only in kilograms not in pounds. You can eat anything as long as it's red that includes tossing a handful of red M&M's into your mouth. And last but not the least, say loudly, "Oh My Gawd" when you see an obese person. That's guaranteed to take attention away from you.



## New India

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

"Today's era is not one for war," said India's Prime Minister Modi to Russian President Vladimir Putin

considered as inconsequential on the world stage by the superpowers. Now, both the USA and Russia want

to



during their face-to-face meeting at the Central Asian summit in Uzbekistan last week despite its dependence on cheap oil from Russia. This was unprecedented as India has traditionally been

woo India in their camps. This shows India's emergence as a superpower on the world stage.

So far, the rise of China has been the biggest story of the 21st century. While China is marred by its

stumbling property market and global fears about inflation, the emergence of India, as a potential new economic and political superpower is the new headline around the globe.

The UK has just been overtaken by India as the world's fifth biggest economy. The nation of 1.4 billion people is on track to move into third place behind the US and China by 2030, according to economists. Move aside Jack Ma and Jeff Bezos, India's Gautam Adani is now the second richest person in the world. India's Adani and Mukesh Ambani conglomerates are giving everyone a run for their money.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 13.8% in the second quarter of this year. Now that pandemic controls are lifted and manufacturing and service sectors are booming and as India is benefitting from economic liberalization in the private sector, it's all set to replace China as the hub of global manufacturing.

"India has the added benefit of having a large, well-educated, English-speaking middle-class, helping the country to develop world-class IT and pharmaceutical sectors. It also has strong consumer demand,

which accounts for about 55% of the economy compared with less than 40% in China." (Bloomberg, September 16, 2022).

In addition to the above, Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi's market reforms, which have included cutting corporation tax from 35% to 25% and opening up India to more foreign investment, have helped the growth of the Indian economy tremendously.

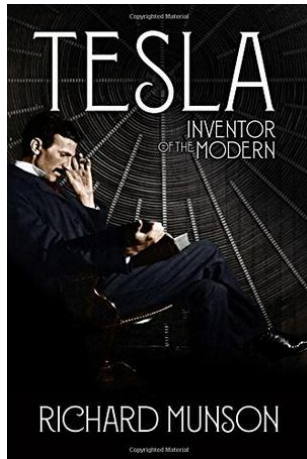
India's own internal demand is strong due to its consumer strength. The normalization of activities post-Covid as well as an increase in government spending, particularly in infrastructure investment, is helping the growth further. Recently consumer consumption has risen in double digits and investment is accelerating. India's current economic growth has improved its standing on the world's political stage. As a result, many nations are moving to forge better relationships with India.

India with its rise has definitely changed the global order. It shouldn't come as a surprise that the second half of the 21st century will be an Indian century.

# Tesla: Inventor of the Modern

**Author:** Richard Munson

**Publisher:** First published by W.W, Norton and Company in 2018 (320 pages)



I have been wanting to read a biography of Nicola Tesla (1856-1943) for a while, so I checked “Tesla: Inventor of the Modern” by Richard Munson out of the local library. I admired the way Munson

describes Tesla’s trial and tribulation, brilliance and weaknesses, and fame and fall.

Edison and Westinghouse figure very prominently in Tesla’s life, one foe and another a friend. The stories of Tesla’s rivalry with Edison and cooperation with Westinghouse are fascinating.

Tesla started his life in Serbia in 1856 and came to the U.S.A. in 1884. In the beginning, he worked for Edison, whose company was installing the first electric lighting in American cities using complex direct current generators, which were limited to transmitting short distances and suitable only for electric lighting.

While Edison stuck to the DC current, Tesla had been working on an efficient alternating current system. Edison rejected this concept and despised Tesla for that

reason. However, George Westinghouse saw the value in workaholic and eccentric Tesla’s approach. Ultimately, Tesla’s approach emerged victorious over inflexible and rigid Edison. His AC current generation dramatically expanded the potential market for electricity, allowing it to be sold not just at night for lighting but also during the day for factories, appliances, and streetcar lines. In contrast to DC current, AC could be pumped for hundreds of miles and could efficiently power machines as well as lamps.

That made Tesla a wealthy celebrity whose lectures thrilled audiences with demonstrations of spectacular electrical phenomena. Tesla continued to invent and patent essential features of the radio, wireless telegraphy, and even computers.

Some of Tesla’s concepts were too far-fetched such as wireless power transmission. His latter ideas were deemed impractical by Investors. Many of his predictions were dismissed as wacky and unimplementable. As the author notes, “he believed the joy of inventing went beyond the accumulation of profits.”

Like another genius, Howard Hughes, Tesla spent his last days as a recluse and penniless. It’s a tragic but beautiful story told by Munson and I find the drama as tragic as Shakespeare’s Hamlet or Macbeth.

**-Reviewed by Anil Shrivastava ‘Musafir’**





## India and Islam

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

India was divided into two parts in 1947 as the Muslims wanted their own Islamic nation called Pakistan. The Muslim population in India in 1947 was 94 million and now it is 195 million. At the same time, the Hindu population in Pakistan has shrunk to 4 million now from 8 million in 1947. That should say it all.

The Muslims follow the law of the land as long as their population stays below 5%. After exceeding 5%, they start asking for special privileges and try to implement Sharia laws instead of the law of the land. This is already happening in parts of the United Kingdom and Belgium. In certain parts of Britain and Belgium, the local police refrain from entering into their neighborhoods.



Most of the Muslims in India live in poverty despite special privileges provided to them by the Indian government such as quotas in jobs, freedom to marry four wives, and

free travel for Haj. They send their children to Madrasa instead of sending them to regular schools where they are taught radicalism. Their purpose in life is to have as many children from four wives as possible to dominate the country.

A prominent Muslim leader of India (brother of Mr. Owasi, an Indian lawmaker) stated the other day, "I challenge the Indian government to suspend police for 15 minutes. We'll kill all the Hindus in that time frame."

The killing of Hindus by them is nothing new. They regularly try to marry Hindu girls converting them to Islam first. Recently they murdered

Hindu girls for not marrying them by cutting their bodies in pieces. It's very common for them to block public roads for doing namaz (worship).

The Muslims started coming to India in the 13th century. They were invaders, and plunderers and converted the Hindus to Islam through mass killing. Thousands of Hindu women preferred to burn themselves to death instead of accepting Islam. The western media talks about the Hindus killing Muslims in Gujarat in February 2002, but they don't talk about the Muslims burning train full of Hindu pilgrims and killing them first. The Gujarat riot was retaliation by Hindus for their (Muslims) despicable act.

Many Hindus in India resent Muslims because the latter still show allegiance to neighboring Pakistan. It's not uncommon for them to display Pakistani flags on their buildings instead of the Indian flag. During the sporting events, they openly cheer for Pakistan instead of backing the Indian team.

The Muslims in India usually shelter Pakistani terrorists and spies in mosques and their homes. Recently, two Nagaur (a city in India) residents

were arrested by Delhi police on charges of spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency and had fought the 2013 assembly elections as an independent and the other was an imam at a local mosque according to a police report. Another Muslim, Abdul Jabbar, the owner of Basheer guest house in the Jama Masjid area, Delhi was arrested and taken to Bhopal for his alleged links with the Pakistani spy agency, ISI. These are common occurrences in India.

Several revelations have come to the fore by the investigating agencies in India that Muslim organizations like PFI were encouraging Muslim youth to join terror organizations like ISIS and Al Qaeda, and how they were setting up training centers to plan an attack against PM Modi during one of his Bihar rallies and their bone-chilling plans to convert India into an Islamic nation.

Amid the ongoing crackdown against the radical Islamist outfit, there are several Muslim "intellectuals" who have come out in support of PFI. The day is not far when the Muslims of India will start killing the Hindus and will convert India into an Islamic state.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## The Women of Iran Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

When we talk about Iran (old Persia) we must understand that they are not Arabs and they follow a branch of Islam (Sia) different than the Arabs who belong to the Sunni branch of Islam. The Persians don't speak Arabic. Their language is Persian which is a very rich language. Unlike the Arabs, the Iranians don't

women in Iran do not reflect the cultural norms, values, and spiritual beliefs of the majority, especially women.

In ancient Persian society "women could own land and conduct business, receive equal pay, travel freely on their own, and in the case of royal women, hold their

own



belong to tribes. It may come as a surprise to many that 22.2% of Iranians identify themselves as non-religious; 8.8% identify themselves as atheists and 7.1% as spiritual. Not only that, Islamic laws for

council meetings on policy." King Cyrus (r. c. 550-530 BCE) established the Persian paradigm of freedom of religion and expression in his empire, providing a level of autonomy to women of every

class. In ancient Iran, women could travel on their own, the king's mother, wife, and daughters had also their own entourage, and staff to attend to their needs, and were given places of honor at banquets." (Parsa, Fariba, March 3, 2021, In the Face of Islamic Law Iranian Women Are Reappropriating Ancient Persian Culture, The Middle East Institute (MEI)).

Coming to the current perspective, a massive wave of protests has erupted all over Iran after the tragic death of an Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini. Amini was arrested by the Iranian morality police on September 17, 2022, for not wearing a hijab in public properly. While in custody, she died of a head injury. Just a note that this kind of uprising by women is unheard of in the Arab world (with some exceptions in Lebanon).

In Iran, the presence of forces such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has, until now, made similar large-scale protests hard to achieve. Indeed, the regime has clung to power despite growing anti-regime sentiment and demonstrations in the last few years. Nevertheless, the current wave of protests has actually prompted a change in rhetoric on the part of Iran's conservative leaders, including President Ebrahim Raisi who talked about the necessity of changing the way of working and giving people more opportunities for the right to protest and criticize.

This time the Iranian women's protest is different from previous recent protests inasmuch as the current protests represent a geographically, ethnically, and economically diverse cross-section of Iranian society. Women, estimated to number more than 40 million in Iran, along with Iran's youth population are at the forefront of the protests, which support a vast network of popular groups and political clusters inside and outside Iran. These protests also represent a turning point due to the political, economic, and social nature of the protestors' slogans, including "Woman, Life, Freedom," "We Don't Want the Islamic Republic," "I Will Kill, I Will Kill, Those Who Killed My Sister," "Death to the Dictator," "We are all Mahsa, We Are All in This Fight Together."

The economic crisis, public protests, and internal conflicts within the Iranian ruling class are ominous signs for the present Islamic regime. Of course, it is not yet a given that this new wave of protest, though different, will immediately alter the political system through revolution or radical change. Although it is possible that the government of Iran may purge the protest by using punitive majors, the old spirit of the Persian women has reemerged.





## Indian Aunty

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

Indian aunties are female Anthropos between the ages of 45 and 65. The average body measurement of an aunty (often called Aunty Ji for respect) is 45-45-45. Aunties don't believe in surgeries. They usually go for herbal treatments

workers. Their aim in life is to mint money, produce an anchor baby then leave.

Aunties are strong believers in Indian culture and moral values; however, they can't explain what those moral values are.



As I gathered it's mostly related to sex and marriage. Anyone marrying outside of their race is usually immoral. The irony is that most aunties have fear in their own hearts and sex on their minds. They watch Indian soap operas and Bollywood junk all day and fantasize about the Bollywood hunks to satiate their carnal

recommended by their gurus. As a result, they have bad knees, and they always limp.

Aunties are imported from India as unregistered workers by their sons to take care of newly born and toddler children while both husband and wife go to work. The couples come here on H1B visas as IT

desires.

Another hobby of aunties consists of advising youngsters to have Indian values which means finding an Indian girl for marrying. The problem is that the Indian girls don't give a hoot about such mama's boys. When two aunties meet, they rejoice



to gossip about the divorces of friends' children, their salaries, and their love life.

Here is a real-life conversation between an Indian aunty and my son years ago:

Aunty: "Beta (son) how come you are 23 years old and are still unmarried?"

"I don't know aunty."

Aunty: What are you doing these days?

"Aunty, I am an artist."

Aunty: Art is fine, it's a hobby na, what else do you do?

"Art is my profession Aunty; I am a pencil portrait artist."

Aunty: Why don't you find any other job like a normal Indian boy?

"Why should I find any other job? I am following my passion. I am happy with what I am doing."

Aunty: Who will buy your pencil art? You will only earn 100–200/- rupees per sketch. How much do you earn?

"It's not like that Aunty, there are so many people out there who respect art and they know the value of art. I am working for different art galleries and also get drawing orders from Facebook, Instagram, and Quora too. I manage to earn 15–20k on

average. It's not a big amount but I am happy that I chose my passion as my profession. I enjoy each and every day of my job!"

Aunty: Alright, show me some of your artwork. Let me see what you do...

"To be honest, Aunty was very surprised to know that these were pencil sketches. I could see her expressions and the way she was looking at sketches in disdain. So he did not say anything except "It's good."

Aunty: My son works for Infosys. He has an IT job. Ok, tell me how many girls do you roam around with?

"None of your business, aunty."

Aunty: Let me give you some advice beta, get married before you turn 25 and become a real professional like an engineer, doctor, or an IT person. Stop ruining your life like this.

In an eye of an aunty, girls should just get married to an Indian boy. As for the boys, success is only defined as becoming a doctor, engineer, or IT professional and getting married to an Indian girl. The rest bring shame to their families. "Chhi! Chhi!! (Shame shame).

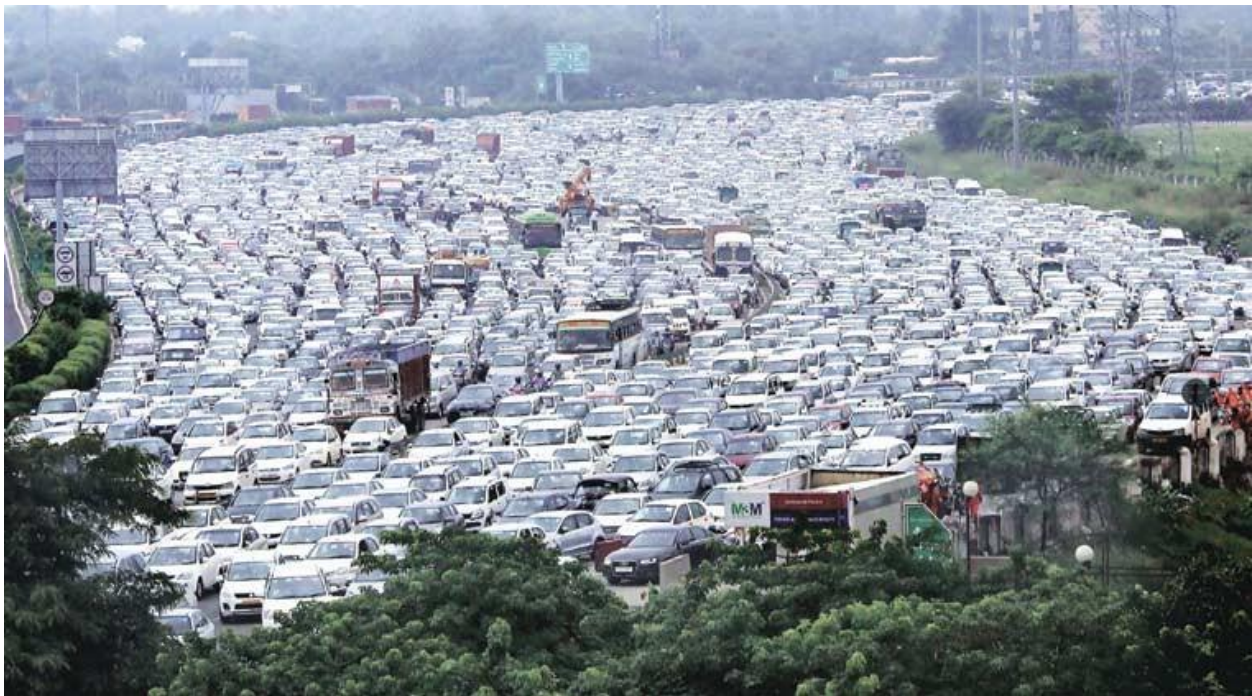
# Observation

## Delhi in 2022

Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

It's advisable not to breathe outside air in Delhi. I know people whose lungs and hearts were damaged due to breathing the Delhi air. If you are sick or elderly, you may not be able to survive outside the home. The urban air database released by the

many reports, Delhi is the most polluted city in the world. Delhi's sky is always covered with a toxic, throat-burning cloud sending people to emergency rooms and prompting officials to declare public health emergencies and close schools for



World Health Organization reported that Delhi has exceeded the maximum PM10 limit by almost 10-times at 198  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

On arriving in Delhi, I immediately hopped in my assigned car and went directly to my hotel. According to

days.

The roads in Delhi are smooth and beautiful. However, traffic is another story, The drivers don't follow any rules. It's a jungle out there where survival is the name of the game. You will face oncoming traffic in one-way

lanes. People jump out in front of the car out of nowhere just like deer crossing the roads in the U.S.

Delhi roads and expressways have many lanes, but lanes have no relevance. Cars are overpopulated like people are. I found people driving the wrong way on expressways. Vendors and bulls roam freely on the expressways. They can jump in front of your car from nowhere. The expressways are shared by horse buggies, auto-rickshaws, and bikes. Cars and trucks overtake each other from any direction maintaining as little as 8 inches distance from each other. It's a thrill to ride a vehicle in Delhi. It's not for the faint of heart. It usually takes 90 minutes to cover a distance of 15 miles.

The buildings are not visible to the eyes due to fog and pollution. Eunuchs are everywhere dressed in woman's attire. The eunuchs knock on car doors. People roll down their windows to give them alms and take blessings from them. It's a big business, therefore, some unemployed youth dress like eunuchs to earn money.

Delhi is quite full of wannabes. Name dropping. Imported cars. 2kg gold studded brides. Loud DJs.

Competition and comparison. I visited nice resorts and restaurants for group dinners. They are lavish with rich interiors. People in Delhi have money. They don't mind spending up to INR (Indian Rupees) 50,000 (\$650 US) for a family dinner. People in Greater Delhi including Gurugram and Noida live in skyscrapers. Their units are very posh and equipped with all kinds of modern amenities including workstations. It's common to have bathrooms and big-screen TVs in every room.

Stray dogs and the poor have nowhere to go. They roam the streets in search of work and money and sleep in empty buses or on the street. They are basically disposables. Their life has no value. India's biggest export is manpower. The Indian cities are full to the rim with people. The cream of the crop exodus to mostly Great Britain, North America, and the Emirates where they, usually, become very successful.

"The world is not thy friend nor the world's law: The world affords no law to make thee rich; Then be not poor, but break it, and take this." -Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet).

# Quiz Questions about



1. Which COVID variant was first detected in South Africa on 24 November 2021 and spread very fast at the beginning of 2022?
2. On January 10th a heart transplant from an animal to a human patient was done for the first time. Which animal was it?
3. Who was re-elected as President of Italy in January?
4. Where were the Winter Olympics held?
5. Which sport is Kamila Valieva known for?
6. Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron won the gold medal in figure ice skating. Which country are they from?
7. Which country was Eileen Gu competing for in the 2022 Winter Olympics?
8. When did Russia invade Ukraine?
9. Which actress, who died in December 2021, would have celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2022?
10. Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned on the 11th of July. Which country was he the president of?

Answers:

1.Omicron 2. A pig 3. Sergio Mattarella 4. Beijing, China 5. Figure skating 6. France 7. China 8. 24 February 9. Betty White 10. Sri Lanka

## Clinical Management of Stab Wound Victims

**Niru Prasad MD**

Given the tremendous increase in the crime rate in United States, it is very important for paramedics to learn the basic concept of initial assessment and stabilization of severely injured patients. Trauma is one of the major leading causes of death for Americans under forty and the initial assessment and stabilization of the patient strongly influences the ultimate outcome for the severely traumatized patient. Most jurisdictions require that injuries arising from acts of violence such as gunshot wounds, stab wounds be reported to the local police. A fundamental point to remember regarding blunt and penetrating trauma is that a patient who has been stabbed may also have been beaten and kicked and subsequently has sustained both blunt and penetrating injury to the body. Pathophysiology of the stab wound.

A. Penetrating injury to the body usually results in a hemorrhage from the penetration to a major vessel or solid organ.

B. Perforation of a segment of bowel or bladder.

The victim usually presents with altered mental status, hypoxia, paralysis, unequal pupils, shock, or active major bleeding. The signs and symptoms depend upon which part of the body is involved. Stab wound to the head and neck area. Penetrating injury to the head causes an altered level of consciousness, which is the hallmark of brain injury. A stab wound to the head area may produce brain contusion,

concussion, and massive intracranial hemorrhage due to epidural, subdural, and subarachnoid hemorrhage. All foreign bodies protruding from the skull should be left as they are, since they act like tamponade to control the bleeding. Penetrating injury to the neck area causes:

A. Hemorrhage due to laceration of a major vessel.

B. Paralysis due to damage of the spinal cord or fracture of a cervical vertebra.

C. Hypoventilation due to paralysis of intercostal muscles and involvement of C3 through C5 spinal cord segments.

Stab Wound to the scalp area causing extensive laceration.

A. Bleeding from a scalp laceration may be extensive, often flap type laceration.

B. The flap should gently be replaced over the wound.

C. Compression is applied with a dry sterile bandage.

D. Once bleeding is controlled, the dressing can be secured with a soft roller bandage.

Penetrating injury to the chest.



A stab wound sustained to the chest area may cause tension pneumothorax, open pneumothorax, massive hemothorax, sucking chest wound, flail chest due to fracture ribs, and pericardial tamponade. The victim can also suffer from severe respiratory distress due to hypoxia, which results from:

- A. Diminished blood volume due to bleeding.
- B. Contusion of the lungs leading to ventilation failure.
- C. Changes in the pressure relationship within the pleural space leading to displacement of mediastinal structures and collapse of the lung.

Since hypoxia is the most important feature of chest injury, early intervention is designed to ensure that an adequate amount of oxygen is delivered to the portions of the lung capable of normal ventilation and perfusion. Tension pneumothorax develops when a one-way valve air leak occurs, either from the lung or through the chest wall. The presence of air in the thoracic cavity causes collapse of the lung, mediastinal shift to the opposite side causing interference with venous return, and compression of ventilation to the other lung. Open pneumothorax causes noisy breathing, and bubbling air and blood from the wound.

Massive hemothorax results from the stab wound disrupting the systemic or pulmonary vessel, and occurs with a loss of 1500 cc or more of blood in the chest cavity. The neck veins may be flat due to severe hypovolemia, or distended due to the mechanical effects of the chest cavity full of blood.

Flail chest develops when a segment of the chest wall does not have any bony continuity with the rest of the thoracic cage.

Pericardial tamponade is caused by a stab wound to the anterior chest area. This frequently leads to a collection of blood in the

pericardial sac and a rupture of the aorta or cardiac muscle.

Some further potentially lethal chest injuries caused by stab wounds are:

- A. Pulmonary contusion.
- B. Disruption of the aorta.
- C. Tracheobronchial disruption.
- D. Esophageal disruption.
- E. Traumatic diaphragmatic hernia.
- F. Myocardial contusion.

Stab wound to the chest:

- A. Penetrating trauma to the chest
- B. The moving object penetrates through the chest.
- C. Cardiac tamponade A penetrating heart wound causes bleeding into the pericardial sac, collection of blood constricts the heart and impairs heart function.
- D. Tension pneumothorax stab wound to the chest puncture's the lungs and creates a valve like opening in the chest wall. The increase in pleural pressure causes mediastinal shift, decrease in cardiac output, and diminished function of the other lung.

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