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Aid EWS regardless of caste

Kaustub B

Retired High Court judge N Kumar Wednesday said it was important to help people from the economically weaker sections of society regardless of their caste, in an event organised by Adamya Chetana.

The programme was held on the occasion of the 63rd birth anniversary of the late Ananthkumar at Jain Bhavan, Bengaluru.

Adamya Chetana is a voluntary organisation started by Ananthkumar and is run by his wife Tejaswini Ananthkumar. As part of the event, a photo exhibition was organised showcasing Ananthkumar's achievements.

During his address, N Kumar said, "In our constitution, we decided to have a reservation for lower castes. Whether that is a good idea or not, time will tell. However, we did not do anything for people, whatever caste they are, from economically weaker sections."

He opined that if the government does not fend for the weaker sections, the private individuals have to while praising Adamya Chetana for helping children from poor backgrounds.

Adamya Chetana helps school children by providing mid-day meals for over 2 lakh children. They also provide students with equipment for studying. Meritorious students in the 10th board examination were awarded prizes at the event.

...we did not do anything for people.. from economically weaker sections
-N Kumar

First citizen to inaugurate first PPP university

Aasline Dsouza & Abhirami Nair

From the time St. Joseph's College was notified as a university, the management has been attempting to make the launch of the university a special event. As the presidential elections were on when the official notification reached the college, the management had the idea of inviting President Draupadi Murmu for the launch said, Fr. Richard Rego SJ, Director of ICMS, St. Joseph's University.

The President of India will formally inaugurate St Joseph's University (SJU) at a special ceremony on Sept 27. With this, SJU will become the first university in the history of the state to be inaugurated by the president of the nation.

"It is the first time a person from the tribal community has become a



Preparations in place at university grounds

Aasline Dsouza

president and the second time we have a woman president in our country; so this is very much in alignment with the Jesuit goals of education and work. (The Jesuits have been) giving preference for the sections of society which are being traditionally marginalised. Our president represents those sections and is an inspiration to the students," the ICMS director

explained.

As the president will be in Mysuru for Dussera celebrations early next week, the management expedited plans for the inauguration of the university. Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Cardinal of Goa, Dom Filipe Rosario and other political leaders from Karnataka will be present at the event.

The event will also be attended by the Chancellor of the University, Fr. Dionysus Vaz SJ, the Archbishop of Bangalore, Rev. Dr Peter Machado and other dignitaries from the newly established university.

"St. Joseph's has always been a part of limelight, that's why people from all over India and outside the country apply here. With this major

event, there is a focus on St. Joseph's now," said Fr. Rego. He further added that there will be plenty of coverage from national media, including a live telecast by Doordarshan.

The event will be held with heavy security cover, and the roads leading to the college will be closed. In addition to invitations extended to students and staff of the university, select members of the public will also be invited to the event.

St. Joseph's University is a first-of-its-kind university in the country which will function through a PPP (Public Private Partnership) Model. In February 2021, both houses of the Karnataka Legislature unanimously passed the St. Joseph's University Bill. The iconic institution began functioning as a university from the 2022-23 academic year.

Women who feed school children stay hungry

Meghana

Highlighting the plight of mid-day meal workers, KV Bhat, the state president of Karnataka Rajya Akshara Dasoha Naukarara Sangha, said, neither they have decent pay, nor they are entitled to pension benefits even as other government employees have a guaranteed pension.

Mid-day meal workers of Karnataka have been protesting for a month because of a delay in wages. Their work hours are way beyond the mandated four hours per day fixed by the government.

Bhat said, "Mid-day meal workers are not getting any



Protest at Bangalore

Special Arrangement

benefits after their retirement at the age of sixty. After working for 20 to 25 years these workers are left with nothing."

These workers are women and many are single parents and widows who depend on their monthly salaries. According to the government,

mid-day meal workers work four hours a day, and they are not part of any department, hence their salaries cannot be increased like regular government employees.

Asha workers get an average of 30,000 rupees, Anganwadi teachers get an amount of 50,000 rupees, and Anganwadi helpers get 30,000 rupees as a quota after their retirement.

"They cannot be made permanent workers because of government laws, but at least consider their monthly salary and give it to them in a timely manner. If this is done, they can lead happy lives," added K V Bhat.

'I am with you', Hegde extends support to youth demanding jobs

Parinika, Joyce & Chandrasoodeshwar

A state-level convention was organised Wednesday by the All India Unemployed Youth Struggle Committee (AIUY-SC) to discuss issues faced by unemployed youth. The event was addressed by retired Lokayukta Santosh Hegde.

Hegde stressing the severity of unemployment and corruption in the nation, said, "As unemployment increases, anger amongst the people increases. If we need solutions to this problem, we need to struggle. Those who are in power are aiding corruption. Struggle against these problems is inevitable. I am with you. Keep fighting."

Channabasava Janekal, state secretary, AIUYSC, said, "Five key points discussed at the conference which includes the rules for food delivery partners and riders, relaxation of rules for the police post-Covid and filling the vacancies in the jobs among others."

The event was conducted at the Kondaji Basappa Scouts and Guides auditorium, Bengaluru. Dignitaries from AIDYO and AIUYSC were also present.

'Let difference make the difference'

Chandana Trilok

Mitti Cafe, a chain of cafes in Bangalore provides employment opportunities to the specially abled. They have 10 cafes around Bangalore with 15 employees per cafe, all of whom are specially abled. The cafe serves gluten-free vegetarian food made using high-quality ingredients. In addition to the cafe, they also have a studio, small shopping area and party cabin.

Alina Alam, CEO of the cafe, during her internship with Samarthanam Trust for



view of Mitti cafe Happycow

the Disabled in Bangalore, came up with the vision to start a cafe for the specially abled. Alam realized that such people did not want sympathy, instead, they wanted to be treated normally. This realization led to the creation of Mitti Cafe.

Shiva Shankar S, an

employee of the cafe shared his experiences with The Beacon. He explained how joining Mitti Cafe changed his life as he had almost given up on himself after being rejected by multiple organizations.

Appreciating the patience of the customers, Mahesh Sharma, Manager of the cafe, said, "People who come here basically understand the situation and cooperate with them. They (specially-abled employees) work a bit slow but give their best while attending to customers."

Pandemic ends, scars remain

Angela & Kavva

Mental health problems among senior citizens have increased and are still persistent even after the pandemic contributing to a series of psychological problems like anxiety, depression, and stress.

The main contributing factors include the separation of families due to lockdown, expensive counselling, and the lack of awareness of the problem. Sanjeeb Behera, a counselling specialist from Manguluru, affirmed this by narrating about one of his clients who were unable to cope

with problems.

Mary Reema, a Patna-based counselling specialist, said, "The elderly can improve their quality of life at home by engaging in healthier behaviours like daily exercises or yoga, maintaining a healthy diet, proper sleep, meditation, and planning out activities of their interest if counselling is not an option."

When asked about the cause for expensive counselling, Behera says "counselling sessions are so high because clinicians spend years training to earn a professional license.