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Restrict traffic within the JB campus: AIDS

Jenett Jose

BENGALURU: Activists have demanded that Bangalore University curb the vehicular movement within the Jnana Bharathi campus days after a student was critically wounded when a BMTC bus ran her down on Oct 10.

The students staged a protest the next day and requested the university administration to curb the traffic movement during working hours.

The university, despite the accident, disregarded the students' request and ordered a traffic curfew from 10 pm to 5 am, said the release of the AIDS.

Students of Bangalore University assert that this was not the first such instance and hence are seeking a total ban on all traffic inside the campus. AIDS also urged the formation of a committee to address and devise solutions for the problems posed by the restriction.

Criticising the university's negligence towards the lives of its students, AIDS vice president, Apoorva J, remarked, "Students demand that while the university is primarily active during the day, they be free to move around and that vehicles be halted on campus. Across the country, no public or private vehicles move within a university campus. This issue is unique to the Jnana Bharathi Campus of Bangalore University. We believe it is very condemnable and should be halted. Both the government and the university must take some responsibility for correcting this because this is on the university premises."

Farmers ask for the title, stage demo in city

Anjali Singh

BENGALURU: Farmers cultivating on Bagair Hukum land for several decades staged a protest today at Freedom Park, Bengaluru.

Under the aegis of the All India Kisan Khet Majdoor Sanghatane (AIKKMS), they held 'Vidhan Soudha Chalo' seeking title deeds for Bagair Hukum cultivators.

There are more than 24 lakhs Bagair Hukum cultivators in the state solely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

The farmers have worked hard day and night to convert lands lying as useless near the borders of the state forests into land suitable for agriculture, say the farm activists.

Divakar, a farmer leader, said, "It is a token protest, and we will spread it to the entire state." All farmers under the



A protest by farmers on Bagair Hukum

Special Arrangement

Bagair Hukum have used the land granted by the government years ago, but they don't have ownership rights. Some of them were arrested for residing in forest-protected areas.

"The government is making excuses like railways, industrial zones, special economic zones,

bars, and restaurants and resorts. They want to give this to the private sector," said the farmer's leader.

"Kisan is going through so much trouble right now; they are the main source of bread. They are getting exploited because of the government. They demand

the farmers who have been cultivating on Bagair Hukum for 50 years be granted the title deeds."

He said that apart from the title deed, the benefits promised by the government during elections like MSP, and subsidies on gas, electricity, and water must be extended to these farmers as

well.

"When the government says we gave it to you, it doesn't reach all the small-scale farmers. A few farmers who are rich and have some connections benefit from that, and Bagair Hukum farmers don't get any benefits," he said.

Criticising privatization, he said that "gareeb Kisan" needs government support. "If you privatised everything, then in the last 2 years 11,000,000,000 of Anil Ambani and Mukesh Ambani's loan was waived off by the government in the name of privatisation and development. When the government can get rid of the rich corporate loans, why can't they do away with Kisan loans? All the policies which the government has made from the time of independence have been against the farmers," he said.

Campaign to right the 'wrong time' notion

Aileen Raju

The safety of women is currently a serious concern in India. The number of crimes committed against women has increased dramatically, and they are hesitant to travel alone, especially at night. To address the issue, a small town in Kerala launched the "Girls Night Out" campaign.

To give women the self-assurance to enjoy the nightlife, Muvattupuzha MLA Mathew Kuzhalmadan organised a four-day campaign at St Augustine's Girls Higher Secondary School in Muvattupuzha with food stalls, festive lighting, live



A glimpse of the Girls' Night Out campaign

Curly Tails

music performances, Zumba dance and training. A women's marathon was held to boost their confidence to enjoy nightlife and to make the streets of the town in the Ernakulam district more vibrant.

"We held a session on the

challenges that women confront in society on the inaugural night of the function and presented it to the MLA. One of the issues we raised was the ST problem, where bus operators refused to provide students concessions," said Aksa Aley George, an NSS

student of the school.

The "Girls Night Out" programme was initially carried out along a half-kilometre stretch of the M C Road, a significant state highway that connects several towns in Kerala between Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam. This programme demonstrated to women folk that they could go around the streets without worrying about being attacked.

The majority of the population in the town typically leaves work between 8 and 8.30 pm, but during the past week, they have stayed out until midnight.

Fear of unfair fares as govt curbs rickshaws

Vanlalhuma

BENGALURU: Individuals residing in Karnataka who are not native to the state are worried days after the state government warned cab aggregators not to run auto-rickshaws for ride sharing.

With the curb on Uber, Ola, and Rapido from operating auto-rickshaws, citizens who do not speak Kannada are facing an issue of overpricing of fares by city autos. With the language barrier being the key factor, many auto drivers take advantage and overcharge and fleece the customers. As ridesharing companies have fixed rates, these citizens have been relying on them for transportation. But now, this restriction is taking a toll on those who are dependent on cab aggregators.

A student from Nepal was worried that auto drivers usually charge her a lot. Autos, as the transportation of her choice, solely depends on these apps to book her rides. "But now I am very concerned about how I'm going to manage my transportation," she told The Beacon.

One more way to consume bananas

Srijit Ray

BENGALURU: Varsha R, a banana farmer from Chamrajnagar proudly put forward her handicrafts and edibles made from banana stems in a farmers' market organised by an NGO.

On October 15th and 16, farmers from all over Karnataka gathered at Lalbagh to showcase their organic and unique products to the urban residents.

Varsha said that the pandemic hampered the sales of her produce and had to come up with an alternate solution. After thorough research, she



Savayava Hubba Credits: Srijit Ray

came across the technique of extracting fibres from banana stems. She then used that fibre to make doormats, carpets, bags and other handicraft

items and also made pickles from the banana stem and flowers. She started selling them under her start-up Aakruthi Eco-friendly Enterprises, and the best part is that it's all organic.

She even made organic compost out of the discarded materials from the extraction process. Speaking to The Beacon, she said, "The process in which we are making the fibre, even then, there is some waste. This waste we are using as compost. One is dry compost, and the other is wet compost which contains potash. We mix that with the fertilisers."

Miners hope for a change

Anuja Jose

BENGALURU: A positive outcome is very likely, hoped Clifton D'Rozario, central committee member of CPI(ML) Liberation, regarding the three-day Padh Yatra organised to give voice to the demands of 25,000 workers of the Bellary mining case.

On Oct 15, the All India Students Association (AISA) screened a documentary on the destruction caused by the iron ore mining mafia in Bellary titled "BLOOD AND IRON" in presence of renowned investigative journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta in Bengaluru.

Speaking to The Beacon, D'Rozario, who was in attendance at the screening, said, "We had a protest outside the deputy commissioner's office in Bellary. They fixed a meeting on the 19th to discuss the rehabilitation plan we have submitted." D'Rozario felt that the miners, terribly exploited through the years, would finally see some positive changes after this decade-long conflict.

The documentary was released in 2011 and was screened to spread awareness following the Padh Yatra from Oct 11-13.