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Food inspection spree Kerala

Abhirami Nair

Kerala announces 'best before' labels on food packaging to ensure the quality of food and prevent food poisoning.

The decision was taken by Health Minister, Veena George in the meeting held on Thursday with representatives of hotels, restaurants, bakeries and catering units following reports of a spurt in cases of food poisoning and complaints of lack of hygiene in the state. With food safety in question, the state initiated various measures in a bid to put an end to tragic incidents that had taken place lately. Poor hygienic conditions and incidents of food poisoning have made the public restless.

"It was a crisis which is effectively being managed," said an official at the health department of Kerala. There have been random food inspections in various restaurants and food joints.

"It was a spectacle as the unsanitary conditions were shocking but is under control. However, it's bizarre to look at all the restaurants in a bad light," he added. The public is advised to look at the 'best before' labels and consume food. Food safety supervisors have been made mandatory in every food outlet.

An app to rate the quality of food is created which will be available soon on the Play Store. There will be a team set up for ensuring food safety and frequent check-ups to make sure that the current scenario doesn't repeat.

Expressing on water dispute through art

Joyce Rodrigues

The burning issues in Goa are highlighted in the artworks of Sagar Naik Mule, one of the Goan Kaavi artists. He came up with his series of photographic documentaries consisting of eight to nine images. His work reflects his notion 'Art speaks out louder than the words could.'

The Mhadei issue is one such topic figured in Naik's work. In the photos, he covered himself in the mud from the Mandovi (Mhadei) river and used objects like green grass, dried leaves, dried branches and fish. According to him, the image represents the dried Mhadei river and the objects he placed in each photo as their scenario after the river dries.

The Mhadei river water dispute between the states has been a long-standing issue since the Karnataka government approached the Union Ministry of Water



Mule's Artwork

Special Arrangement

Resources in 2002 seeking permission for diverting 7.56 TMC water from the Mahadayi basin to the Malaprabha basin. This move was objected to by Goa who claimed that it will harm the ecology of the western

ghats and cause depletion in the water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

On December 30 2022, the Karnataka chief minister announced in the assembly that the centre provided approval for the DPR of

the Kalasa Banduri project which was opposed by Goa. This announcement triggered the Goans resulting in huge protests.

Naik is a resident of Adpai Ponda, a place situated on the banks of river Zuari,

which is the second largest river in Goa. He explains the value of the river, as he spent most of his childhood near its bank. He said, "I want to express my views regarding the Mhadei dispute through my art. As a Goan, it is my duty to spread awareness about the issue and I feel proud that through my art I did something for my land. The higher authorities should provide balanced judgment, as both the states are part of India, also both states are dependent on each other in cases of education, goods and commodities or employment."

Dr Rajendra Kerkar, an activist from Goa said, "Getting the DPR approved doesn't mean that they can start with the project; permission for wildlife clearance and environmental clearance should be achieved," he added.

'Finding Ananda' : The man and his mission

Chandana Trilok

Bengaluru: Recalling the life and works of Swami Vivekananda on his 160th birth anniversary on Thursday, Vijay Padaki, the founder and trustee of Bangalore Little Theatre Foundation (BLT) showcased the play 'Finding Ananda' at Bangalore International Centre.

'Finding Ananda' is part of the history of ideas program. This program is a celebration of prominent Indians who have impacted the history of the country. The play is one among the series of 'courtyard theatre' plays developed in BLT in the recent past.

The idea of the programme



Representational Image

NewsTrack

is to take theatre to the people in a variety of spaces. BLT has now developed a Courtyard Theatre format for the play which is being played by two actors, Anusha Bhaskar and Aniruddh G.

Speaking to the Beacon, Aniruddh G, an actor, said, "The Ministry of Culture gave

us the freedom to develop the script which we had wished for and this helped us a lot to reach out to the audience with a unique idea."

'Finding Ananda' was an original play script developed in the year 2013 as a part of Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary celebration.

"...It generated great interest in Bangalore after its three runs between September 2013 and January 2014," he added.

The play withdraws from the traditional hagiographic portrayal of Swami Vivekananda. It emphasises his global spiritual outlook and focuses on highlighting Vivekananda's dedication to taking action to address widespread social ills and issues in society. The supportive socio-cultural environment of the Bengal Renaissance which moulded many lives at the time is an additional theme portyared in the play.

PM condoles Yadav's demise

Kaustub

Former Union Minister Sharad Yadav passed away at aged 75 on Friday. He was rushed to Gurugram's Fortis hospital after his health deteriorated on Thursday evening.

The veteran politician had a long career in both houses of the Parliament, serving several terms in the Lok Sabha in 1977, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1999, and 2009 and Rajya Sabha in 1986 and 2004.

According to India Today, the statement from the hospital said that Yadav was brought to the emergency ward in an unconscious and unresponsive state, and he did not have any pulse or recordable blood pressure. He could not be revived despite the best efforts of the health officials and was declared dead at 10:19 pm.

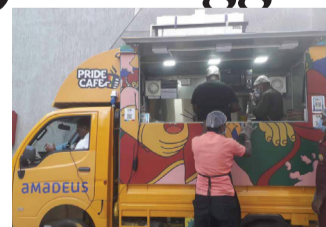
Condolences were expressed by many politicians. Noting Yadav's long political career, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Pained by the passing away of Shri Sharad Yadav Ji. In his long years in public life, he distinguished himself as MP and Minister. He was greatly inspired by Dr Lohia's ideals. I will always cherish our interactions. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

Small bites for a bigger cause

Jesbilin Joseph

Bengaluru: The NGOs are attempting to place people in various avenues and companies while also providing them with a sustainable way of life, said Mario, a member of the hospitality team at The Pride Cafe.

As a step towards achieving inclusivity, The Pride Café food truck was established on the grounds of WeWork Galaxy in Central Bengaluru as a means of empowering the LGBTQIA+ community by the Solidarity Foundation and Amadeus.



The Pride Cafe Jesbilin Joseph

The idea stems from the Solidarity Foundation, a non-profit that works with the community. The members were trained and equipped with culinary and customer relations abilities to effectively manage food truck operations and have consistently worked with

the community members to develop livelihood skills.

Speaking to The Beacon, Mario stated that one of the biggest challenges I think we would have faced is convincing members of the community to come in front of the world. "In this journey, you won't be alone, but I think our team has overcome that phenomenon," he opined. He desires to open more cafes near tech parks and high courts. "Some places offer a lot of food traffic and is helping us," he added.

Delhi's never-ending battle

Kavya S

Due to weather inversions, winter smog, and stubble burning, Delhi has earned a bad reputation worldwide, opined Nagesh Hegde, an environmentalist, activist and professor.

Delhi government on Monday temporarily banned BS3 petrol and BS4 diesel vehicles till Thursday to curb the sudden increase in the Air Quality Index.

Speaking to The Beacon about the temporary ban instead of permanent solutions towards curbing air pollution, Hegde said, "It is unfortunate that

they are forgetting it. They should impose this same restriction throughout the year slowly. But, it is very costly for the common man." Although the burning of the stubble cannot be avoided, there are other ways to dispose of it, including turning a portion of it into ethanol, fuel, paper, and other materials. "Different kinds of products can be formed instead of burning and adding smoke to the atmosphere. They can convert it into useful products. But that also has certain problems," Hedge added.