

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Friday, 14 April 2023 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 15 Issue: 90 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Prime time for gold loan companies

Joyce Rodrigues

Gold has always taken the spot as a precious jewel, from the pride of wearing it to using it as collateral on a gold loan. Due to the shooting up of gold prices in international markets, the number of gold loans is increasing, partly also due to the Loan-to-Value ratio (LTV). Banker Venkat Srinivasan predicts that gold loan companies will be benefited more from the rise in gold price if they try to sell the gold kept as a security against the defaulted gold loans.

According to the Times of India, in March, ten grams of gold touched around Rs 60,000, and this was the highest-ever price of gold in the physical retail market. When there is a rise in the price of gold, the number of gold loans increases, which attracts people to pledge more gold to acquire loans. Last year the price of gold grew to Rs 52,670 for 24 carats of 10 grams. According to the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), the gold loans in the first quarter of 2022 rose from Rs 608 crore to Rs 1333 crore.

"Most gold loans are acquired by the common citizens. They are not aware of the fluctuating prices of gold and its impact on loans. People take gold loans only to fulfil their urgent financial needs. The financial institutions who give loans, might make their balance sheet look better by selling off the gold when it is high priced," says Srinivasan.

Entry of Amul will privatise Nandini: Divakar

Meghana S & Parnika S

The possibility of a merger of Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (KMF)'s Nandini and Amul could potentially lead to the privatisation of a government-owned brand. This could affect not only the KMF employees but also the farmers and consumers of the brand, said HV Divakar, State president of the All India Kisan Krushak Khet Majdoor Sanghathan (AIKKMS).

Amul's entry into Karnataka has caused a stir since the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)'s Amul announced it on its Twitter handle on April 5. However, this arrival has not been well received, with many political leaders expressing their concerns.

Speaking to The Beacon, Divakar said that with the privatisation, many farmers in our state, particularly KMF employees, will lose



Representational Image

Free press journal

their jobs. "The people who are employed in these dairies will lose their jobs. There are approximately 48 lakh people who are affected due to this Amul milk," he said. He believes that this merger between Nandini and Amul could be a political move by the BJP to further their motive to maximise profit. "Gujarat

is in first place for milk production, with Karnataka coming in second. So, they are trying to make this a private body and merge with private companies. Definitely, politics is involved in this to make milk production private. Mukesh Ambani is also involved in this. BJP is trying to hand over the milk production to Ambani

and Nandini is developing and earning a lot in Karnataka. So, they are planning to merge that income with Amul only because of profit. If they merge Nandini and Amul," he said.

Divakar said, "If the KMF was a private sector, only the KMF employees would have benefitted from

it and the farmers would still suffer leading to strikes and protests...the same problem occurs if we privatise sectors like BESCO. Only KMF employees will get benefits from it and not farmers. It will affect farmers and consumers. So it is very dangerous," he said.

On attempting to impose Hindi phrases on Nandini milk packets, Divakar believes that it is impossible to impose a language in a democratic country. "First we will learn our mother tongue Kannada, then we will learn inter-language English, then if we want we will learn Hindi. So, our first priority is always our mother tongue Kannada. Hindi is not a compulsory language. It depends on parents as to which language their children would learn. If we force people to learn this language only, it will not look good. It will be very dominating," he said.

'Educating people on air pollution should be prioritised'

Anjela Patrick

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has requested that the Karnataka Action Plan for Air Pollution be revised, claiming that it lacks specific targets and actionable plans. As a result, environmental activists in Karnataka have expressed concerns about the plans as well as what needs to be done to regulate the state's air pollution.

Following pressure from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the state government finalised the action plan after years of delay. The CPCB highlighted that Karnataka's policy

for approving new industries makes no mention of any air pollution requirements, and the ambitious goal of shifting to gaseous fuels lacks a timeline. It also stated that the plan lacks clarity on critical issues such as the scrapping of old vehicles, fund allocation, and fund utilisation.

Talking about the state of air pollution in Karnataka, Nagesh Hedge, a Bangalore-based environment activist said that numerous factors contribute to air pollution. "There is a lot of pollution caused by cars, garbage, and plastic burning. These pollution sources are not being discussed. The photochemical

effect of car exhaust can cause breathing problems such as asthma. There are no regulations in place to govern this. Essential pollution regulations are not being implemented. Regarding air pollution, Karnataka ranks higher than the other states in the country. This is because the state does not have many chemical industries, leather tanning industries, or electroplating industries, so they are less visible. However, it is occurring on a small scale everywhere and is being partially monitored," he said.

Speaking to The Beacon about what should be included in the plan, Hedge stated that

educating people on the dangers of air pollution should be prioritised, because only the wealthy and educated are aware of them. People in general need to be educated about the consequences of their actions and how to control air pollution. "Even the municipal employees who burn garbage have no idea what impact it has on the environment and public health. For instance, only informing people about terms like ozone pollution and encouraging them to avoid using car exhausts will alleviate the problem. Additionally, the government should keep a timeline in place to outline how and when it will carry out its plan."

CM seeks inclusion of regional languages

Chandrasoodeshwar

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin expressed his opposition in a letter addressing the Union Home Secretary, Amit Shah on April 9 regarding the decision made by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to hold its constable recruitment exam only in Hindi and English languages.

The CRPF had recently issued a notification for the recruitment of 9212 constables, with 579 vacancies for Tamil Nadu candidates. But, it was mandated that one must obtain at least 25 marks out of 100 to qualify for a basic understanding of the Hindi language, which could be a challenge for non-Hindi speakers. In this regard, Stalin urged for the recruitment process to be carried out in Tamil and other regional languages for aspiring candidates from the states where Hindi is not prevalent.

Speaking to The Beacon, one of the CRPF aspirants, Ganesh Venkatesh said, "As the medium of my education was Tamil, it's extremely difficult for me to answer the questions that have been asked in Hindi or English. We are not expecting questions from Tamil literature like in the TNPSC exam. Instead, we are asking for a translated version of the questions in the regional language."

A two-seater ticket to a solo dream

Kavya S

Women's Motorcycle Coaching is designed with a motive to fulfil the dreams of women who want to go for a solo ride and also to tick off their bucket list, said Pranali Pednekar, head of the women's motorcycle coaching academy.

Enfield Riders, a travel company started in 2012, started a women's motorcycle coaching academy in 2014 to provide motorcycle coaching, especially for women every week.

The course was started to fill the gap where there is no

one to guide the women who wanted to learn how to ride a bike. "So this clicked Poornima ma'am's (co-founder of Enfield riders) mind and she decided to start this course," said Pednekar.

While talking about the challenges faced during the initial days, Pednekar said, "Basically the challenge was figuring out the locations, then handling clients who had short height and who had difficulty in understanding how to handle the bike or how to ride a bike even if they are short."

Talking about the response from participants of the

course, Pednekar said, "They are absolutely happy. If you see this, it's like ticking the bucket list off or a dream come true. Many women have immediately purchased Royal Enfield for their own practices and rides. Many women have actually completed Leh Ladakh and solo rides as well." This was an achievement and a proud moment for Enfield riders, she added. This course is now accessible for women from Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Pune, Hyderabad, Noida, Kolkata and Jaipur.

A helping hand to farmers

Meghana S

The debate is whether the current situation is a fault of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) or the government's ambiguous budget allocation. Farmers work hard to grow crops, but if they can't sell them due to rain or other factors, it raises the question of who is responsible for the loss, said Mallagund Annacheshaguru, district secretary of AIKKMS Raichur.

On April 6, 2023, heavy rainfall in Raichur, led to waterlogging of paddy, groundnut, and other fields. The

farmers' organisation took up the issue with the authorities.

Mallagund said that they have created a comprehensive plan of action which includes constructing barrier walls to prevent water seepage. "We will provide a copy of the action plan to the farmers and start implementing the next steps without any delay," stated the press release.

"We planned to organize a major demonstration, but were not granted permission by the government due to the ongoing election season," said Annacheshaguru.