

# THE BEACON

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## AMR endangers global health

Chandrasoodeshwar

The crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is concerning as existing antibiotics are becoming less effective, leading to 1.3 million deaths directly attributed to AMR, said Rajeshwari Sinha, programme manager of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme while discussing the crisis in antibiotic research and development.

On Friday, July 28, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) hosted a webinar on the dangers of AMR on global health and the need to recognise the importance of the development of antibiotics.

AMR is a serious problem that is also referred to as a silent pandemic. Sunitha Narayan, Director General of CSE addressing the issue said, AMR is becoming resistant to life-saving medicines and presents a serious threat to global health as medicines will become ineffective. "AMR poses a triple threat due to bacterial resistance, the importance of responsible antibiotic use, and the need for developing new antimicrobials. The lack of new antibiotic research could lead to a serious health emergency in the future," said Narayan.

Since the 1980s, the development of new antibiotics has been limited and there is global inequality in access to crucial treatments. Urgent action is needed to address these critical challenges in managing infectious diseases, said Sinha.

## AISA gathers to reject NEP's hidden agenda

Jesbilin Joseph

Education is a part of the subsystem. One must comprehend the broader political agenda of it. For any policy to be developed, one must first understand what the normative context is, said Niranjana Aradhy, an educationist.

The first district conference of the All India Students Association (AISA) was held on Sunday at the Ashirwad Centre, Bengaluru. For this, three activists were invited to express their opposition to the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020.

Aradhy said that when one rejects the NEP, there will undoubtedly be many difficulties in implementing the Right to Education. "Samagrashikshabhiyan, one of the nation's most prominent programmes, offers financial assistance for the realisation of the entitlement, right to



Niranjana Aradhy addressing the gathering

Jesbilin Joseph

education. So, if we reject it, we might confront the Central government. The NEP-2020 doesn't focus on teaching curriculum in an individual's mother tongue but imposes Sanskrit instead," he said.

Developing a state education policy is a simple undertaking, he said. Its

foundation is an issue that must be addressed. If we can achieve something positive in Karnataka and develop a state education policy, it can serve as a model for all other states. "Look around the world we have scientists, engineers, innovators, thinkers and artists from India. Which

system were the educated? Was it NEP, no!" Niranjana added.

NEP 2020 is solely focused on teaching students skills to earn a better living rather than holistically developing people to help eradicate social prejudice and establish an egalitarian

and modern society, said Prajval Shastri, activist and astrophysicist.

She emphasised that despite having a degree in science and possessing upper-caste privileges, she experienced gender discrimination. "Education is a means of overcoming caste and gender-based prejudice. But, even within the current educational system, numerous difficulties can have an impact on even the most privileged individuals. Therefore, we can only assume what must be happening to those from the underprivileged communities," Shastri added.

Sabiha Bhumi Gowda, an educationist and former vice-chancellor of Bijapur Women's University, said there is a significant difference in the education received by an English medium student and a Kannada medium student.

## 'Centralisation of NEP is a fundamental issue'

Meghana S and Aasline Dsouza

It was never anticipated that the National Education Policy (NEP) would be implemented in higher education. But its centralisation turned out to be a fundamental issue. The entire system was completely centralised, which was the main concern with its approach, said Rev Dr Praveen Martis SJ, Principal, St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangalore.

On Friday, the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) organised an education convention 'Towards a People's Education Policy for Karnataka' to discuss



State level Education Convention

Meghana

the National Education Policy. Speaking about Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS), Dr Martis said, "We have our management system and if students want to apply they have to apply through UUCMS. There are

lakhs of students who apply through the portal, yet it does not work to date. We must fight and remove UUCMS."

We should no longer refer to subjects as 'Optional English', instead, it is more appropriate to rename it as Cultural Studies or Literature. This shift is

necessary because our study of literature now encompasses works from all around the world, not just limited to India, said Anitha Rao, professor, Government First Grade College, Channapatna.

The primary challenge of the NEP is related to clustering, wherein institutions with less than 3000 students must merge with another institution. This merging of institutions leads to the merger of their respective visions and missions. "I will have the authority to select the students I want to admit to my institution," said Paul Newman, Principal of St Joseph's Evening College.

## Poetry attempts to build queer culture

Kaustub B

We started the queer poets collective to help build a queer culture and to allow queer voices a chance to share their poetry said Rumi Harish, a queer poet and a gender rights activist while speaking at the fourth edition of 'Poet in Focus', a monthly event organised by the queer poets collective to celebrate queer poets.

The event involved the poet of the month reading out and explaining the purpose of their poems to the audience. It was held at the Bangalore International Centre on Sunday. The poet in focus for this month was Bharath Savithri Divakar who is a queer spoken word poet and dialogue writer.

While speaking to The Beacon, Rumi Harish, said, "A lot of queer and trans expressions have not been given enough space to grow. We need to grow a culture of queer people. There is a dominant culture that does not have space for us or if it gives us space, it presents us as a specimen to be examined rather than (considering us) complex people."

He also added that it is important for the queer culture to grow not just in English, but also in local languages.

## A relaxing Sunday morning activity

Parnika S

It is about providing a safe and comfortable reading space in the reader's private bubble. They can still be part of a larger community without being forced to interact says Anish\*(name changed), the curators of Lalbagh reads.

Currently in their ninth edition, 'Lalbagh Reads' is a community that gathers every Sunday morning. Here, people sit down and read books without the burden of having to socialise with others. Such communities aim to promote reading by providing a quiet

place to read in Silicon City.

Speaking to The Beacon, Anish says sometimes people can get anxious when asked any questions. But, here they do not need to worry about it and are happy with their reading. "In these nine editions, we've seen different people like doctors who come here with their Cardiology books, then we had students who are studying for the exams, then we have few of them working on their research papers and some working here too. So there is no compulsion that you have

to read for three hours. But reading is a good thing," he adds.

Sandeep Mondal, curator of Whitefield reads, spoke about the common question that he receives. "A lot of people who come to know about this community, their first question is whether there is an entry fee and what is the procedure to be a part of this community. The answer is our community is open and the ethos is silence. So, you don't have to come, talk to anyone, fill a form or register," he says.

## Now, piracy can land you in jail

Joyce Rodrigues

The long-term demand of the film industry got a Rajya Sabha nod after it passed the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (Amendment) Bill on July 27.

The bill imposes three-year jail and a fine of up to 5 % of the cost of the film production for piracy. The bill has also introduced three separate categories for films requiring adult supervision which were represented as U/A into U/A7+, U/A13+ and U/A16+. This means that children within the prescribed age limit can watch and access these films.

Dnyanesh Moghe, a filmmaker from Goa, expressed that the punishment for piracy should have been more severe. "Piracy not only harms filmmakers but also the industry. Due to piracy the film loses a lot of profit and the makers go into a loss for financing the individuals associated with the film," he said.

Talking about the classification of the U/A certificate, filmmaker Bardroy Barretto said, "Every voice should be heard and the audience should decide whether to debate on it or not."