

# THE BEACON

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## A blend of health and social duty

**Parnika S**

It's not about living for oneself, it is living for society. It is about invoking a sense of helping nature in people, said Channabasava Janekal, the state secretary of the All India Unemployed Youth Struggle Committee (AIUYSC).

The All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO) on Sunday conducted a free health drive in Mysuru to bring the neglected health problems to light. This drive was in collaboration with Medical Service Centre (MSC) and White Spark.

Speaking to The Beacon, Channabasava said that these drives have been organised to develop a sense of social responsibility in the minds of the people. "There is a lot of stigma around giving and receiving blood. It is actually good for your health too. When there was an accident recently, many youths were standing in line to donate blood to the wounded. This is the kind of helping spirit we want to spark in people," he said.

During Sunday's camp, Shivakumar, the state joint secretary of MSC opined that the health of the community is very important. However, conducting drives like these brings problems and the people facing them to light. "A free medical camp is being conducted in the spirit of service for the poor people who are deprived of good health," he said.

Previously, initiatives like the free health check-up drive and other camps were conducted in January in Raichur, Bengaluru and Mysuru respectively.

## Activists link Jaipur firing to hate crime

**Anjela Patrick and Joyce Rodrigues**

Chetan Singh, a 33-year-old Railway Protection Force (RPF) police officer armed with an automatic assault rifle on board the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express, shot dead four people, including his senior officer, in a rage allegedly motivated by hatred as the train passed through suburban Mumbai on Monday morning. Although the reason for the crime is unknown, it has ignited reactions across the country.

Singh was captured by a group of Government Railway Police (GRP) in the Thane area between Mira Road and Bhayander stations after the incident. Abdul Qaderbhai Mohammed Hussain Bhanpurwala, 62, of Nalasopara, near Mumbai; Ashar Abbas Shaikh, 48, of Madhubani, Bihar; and an unidentified person between



RPF constable kills 4 passengers on board a train from Jaipur to Mumbai

ETV Bharat

the ages of 35 and 40 have been identified as the three dead passengers. The perpetrator, according to the police FIR, first shot Meena and a passenger in the B-5 coach before he fled to the pantry vehicle and shot a second passenger there.

Discussing the incident,

Sandeep Anirudhan, founder of Citizens' Agenda, Bengaluru, said, "It is critical to acknowledge that there is a disease. There is polarisation, and it manifests itself in various ways. There are numerous living examples. There could be thousands of such incidents motivated

by religious hatred and radicalisation. Disparities require healing. So, the question is, how can we heal it and where is the cure? As long as our consciousness is filled with hatred and a lack of reconciliation, hatred will persist. Both polarised groups will throw knives at each

other," he said.

When asked if such occurrences will encourage groups that have created severe hate towards the other religious community, Anirudhan said, "Both parties have problems, and they are not discussed. The government keeps the issues alive. They have the ability to address and amend the laws to fix the situation, but they do nothing. This occurs because it will benefit them in some way by increasing polarity." In addition, individuals and journalists flocked to social media to share their thoughts on the matter. Journalist Rana Ayyub posted on platform X, saying, "Indian TV news anchors called the constable who shot dead three Muslims in a hate crime 'a troubled, mentally disturbed, depressed patient'. God forbid, if the constable was a Muslim, by now they would have linked

## 12% GST on hostels is an attack on students: SFI

**Joyce Rodrigues**

The Karnataka State Committee of the Student Federation of India (SFI) condemns the recent decision of the Authority for Advance Ruling (ARR) in the state on imposing 12% GST on PG accommodation and hostel services.

The ARR of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh clarified that the hostels and PG accommodation come under 'non-residential' and hence will be liable to 12% GST just like the small hotels and inns. On July 18 last year, the GST council imposed 12% GST on hotel rooms costing less than Rs 1000 as daily rent.



Representational Image

Special arrangement

However, in this context, the GST did not apply to hostels and PGs.

As per the CNBC TV18 report, Kiran Reddy T of Karnataka ARR ruled that Pg and hostel rent paid by the tenants does not qualify for the exemption of GST as they are not akin

to renting of a residential dwelling. Residential dwelling is considered as a permanent stay.

Speaking to The Beacon, the secretary of SFI Karnataka, Bheemanagowda said, "It is a burden to the students staying at the PGs and hostels. The

government should act on this by cancelling it. It will harm the students and the health of the education. The government and the chief minister should oppose this."

The SFI Karnataka in their press statement expressed that this ruling will exacerbate the financial hardships faced by students who rely on hostel facilities for affordable living and education.

SFI further added that they are committed to advocating the rights and well-being of students across the state and will continue to raise their voices against unjust policies faced by the students.

## 'Conception is start of human life'

**Jesbilin Joseph**

The zygote transcends philosophical nuances and ignites a global conversation on the sanctity of life. It marks the crucial beginning of an individual human organism's life cycle, said Monica Snyder, Executive Director of the Secular Pro-Life, defending the thesis.

A state-wide human rights coalition, Feminists Choosing Life of New York (FCLNY), hosted a webinar on Saturday where Snyder shared her expertise and insights on the science behind The Abortion Debate.

Snyder said that conception is the beginning of human life. "In the ongoing discussion about abortion, a thorough study carried out by the University of Chicago provides new insight into the beginning of human life," she said.

Regarding embryonic hearts, she said, "I believe around 2019, our side began to have anti-abortion laws based on heartbeat. The embryonic heart suddenly became a major topic of discussion. I was taken by surprise. I can clearly recall that when we first suggested heartbeat laws, the abortion rights side didn't take it well."

## A Writing Desk for everybody

**Abhirami Nair and Kavya S**

**Campus:** To bring out the passion for writing in students and also to encourage literacy in languages, the Literary Society of the English Department in collaboration with the Linguistics Society organised an event called Writing Desk.

The Writing Desk is an initiative that began with a desire to help people who love writing, to polish their skills and also to tackle the fear in those terrified of writing. The writing desk creates an atmosphere for



Writing Desk

Abhirami Nair

expert at writing to learn how to write. It's for everybody; and when we say writing, we don't mean writing a specific kind; writing anything, whether it's a letter, whether it's one jingle for an advertisement, or whether you're writing for a journal, a film, a book, anything."

During the first session, three prompts were given to the students. The students wrote their prompts and recited them out loud and exchanged their thoughts on them.

everyone to talk about their difficulties with writing.

Speaking to the Beacon about the writing desk, Vijeta Kumar, an assistant professor of the English Department said, "You don't have to be an

## An emotional rollercoaster ride

**Aasline Dsouza**

Emotional intelligence is paramount during menopause. It empowers women to navigate the emotional changes that arise during these phases, said Jacquie Burgwin Turner, psychotherapist and mental health practitioner, during a webinar on "Menopause and its impact on emotional well-being".

Menopause is a natural biological process that occurs in women nearing the end of their mid ages. It marks the end of the reproductive period and signifies a massive shift

in their hormonal balance. "I want to emphasise that menopause is not a disease and it's not an illness. These hormonal changes can lead to mood swings, irritability, anxiety, and for a lot of people, depression. Having a high level of emotional intelligence allows women to navigate through these challenges more effectively and comfortably," said Turner.

Robeena, a psychotherapist said that depression is one of the actual symptoms of menopause.