

# THE BEACON

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## Films: A medium to depict or distort?

Sowmya A

In the process of filmmaking regarding caste discrimination and social justice, directors like Pa Ranjith, Mari Selvaraj and Sudha Kongara misrepresent some of the castes and their members by inciting hatred against them, said Jayaseelan (name changed), one of the members of a caste association in Tamil Nadu.

On Aug 12, director Ranjith tweeted against the violence that took place in Nanguneri where two siblings were attacked by the students of the same school after the former complained about caste harassment to the Headmaster of the school. After the post, the director along with other filmmakers has been witnessing hate messages from some of the X(formerly Twitter) users.

Speaking to The Beacon, Jayaseelan said, "These directors are using elements like caste and sympathy just to make money rather than representing the incidents accurately." He added that while making films, the directors indirectly symbolise that the antagonist belongs to a particular caste through specific calendars and wall paints.

While people are gradually evolving and reforming against caste-based discriminations and crimes, these directors' movies that carry misrepresentations, either anger some people or encourage people to involve themselves in these crimes. He added that the works of directors like Ranjith, Selvaraj and Kongara are one of the reasons for caste-based crimes and caste discrimination in Tamil Nadu.

## 'Make drought management region-specific'

Srijit Ray

Pointing out the austere parameters that are mentioned in the Manual for Drought Management 2020, Siddaramaiah, the Chief Minister of Karnataka said that it is very important to rethink the Manual's guidelines. This is to enhance the efficiency in responding to the grim situation due to the irregular weather conditions fueled by climate change.

On Aug 14, CM Siddaramaiah wrote to the Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, revealing that many taluks in Karnataka have not met the criteria mentioned in the Manual for declaring drought, despite suffering from drought-like conditions.

Farmers are left without any support like subsidies in case of failure to start sowing due to inadequate rains or any other drought mitigation steps as mentioned in the Manual.



Representational Image

jatinverma.org

Karnataka had seen a deficit of 34% rainfall this monsoon season as compared to the normal rainfall of 336mm. He also mentioned that the delayed rainy season contributed vastly to the 56% deficit in rainfall in June.

Writing about the unprecedented challenges and bad weather the country has witnessed in the previous years, he said, "All this is mainly

driven by climate change and is affecting various aspects of our lives, particularly in Karnataka where agriculture is a significant source of livelihood. The increasing frequency and intensity of droughts have had severe consequences, including crop failures, water scarcity, and socio-economic hardships for rural communities."

Although the Drought

Manual has been an important document for setting guidelines for evaluation and response to droughts, Siddaramaiah feels that it needs to be revised in a way that it showcases the 14 agro-climatic zones in the state, as each of them faces unique threats. "The current one-size-fits-all approach to drought declaration is not capturing the nu-

ances and variations in different regions. It is important to develop region-specific criteria that consider local ecological factors, water availability, and agricultural practices," he wrote.

He also suggested a couple of mandatory indices be included in the Manual that deals with the erratic distribution of monsoons and goes on to explain that the Manual combines the meteorological, agricultural, and hydrological drought which is not always the case. He also pointed out that the dry spells mentioned in the Manual need to be redefined as the current version assumes that its impact would be similar throughout the state at all times. Important factors like the type of soil, type of crops grown, and temperature are not taken into account. He urged that crop insurance payment should be synchronised with relief assistance provided to the farmers.

## 77 years of perpetual plight of farmers

Ashish B & Sowmya A

Just as the British colonisers were chased out of India with a collective effort, it is high time that we unite again to eradicate the social evils of poverty, inequality, malnutrition, and communal disharmony, which has been gradually seeping into the fabric of our country. This has had the most detrimental effect on the agricultural sector, the backbone of this country, said N Pratap, State Vice President of CITU and President of North Bengaluru division.

On Monday, Aug 14, an Independence Day Eve celebration was organised by the Centre of Indian Trade



United we stand

Sowmya

Unions (CITU), Karnataka Pranth Raita Sangha (KPRS), and the All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU). The function was addressed by prominent figures like BR Manjunath, G Ramkrishna, and Barguru

Ramachandrappa. The event saw participation from the agricultural community.

Talking about the plight of the agricultural community in India, Pratap said, "The labour and agricultural laws in this country have always

been framed to favour the crony capitalists like Adani and Ambani. This 77th year of independence should be a wake-up call for the hands filling the bread basket of this country. Even though they are the biggest majority in terms of numbers, they remain to be the most discriminated and marginalised chunk of our society."

"This is also an occasion to commemorate the majestic personalities of our freedom struggle. The contribution of people like Sangolli Rayanna, Kittur Rani Chennamma, Bellawadi Mallamma and Tipu Sultan will never be forgotten in this country," he added.

## A call to action: Politics for public service

Jenett Jose

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urged students to engage in politics with a genuine spirit of service rather than solely seeking power. He stressed the significance of students cultivating a scientific mindset and rational thinking.

On 14 August 2023, CM Siddaramaiah emphasised the importance of service-oriented politics at the Pratibha Puraskar ceremony held at Shrimad Jagadguru Revanasiddeshwara Simhasan Shri Kaginele Mahasanthan Kanaka Gurpeetha's Chandra Layout branch mutt. He also highlighted the importance of prioritising humanity and rationality over material wealth and positions.

"The solution to many societal issues lies in rational thinking and scientific temper," the CM stated, highlighting the value of these attributes in tackling challenges effectively.

Siddaramaiah outlined the factors contributing to personal achievement, including talent, opportunities, education and parental guidance. His address impacted the audience, acknowledging the need for ethical leadership and thoughtful problem-solving in today's political landscape.

## Homage to the architect of Vidhana Soudha

Priyanka Gond

**BENGALURU:** Bengaluru's Lalbagh Botanical Garden had India's first AI-generated image of Kengal Hanumanthaiah strolling through the beautifully decorated Lalbagh, the glimpse of which took citizens to the 1950s.

The Independence Day flower show centred around the 20-foot-tall Vidhana Soudha, made up of over 7 lakh flowers and a 14-foot statue of Kengal Hanumanthaiah, inaugurated by CM Siddaramaiah in memory of the 'Architect of the Vidhana Soudha' on Aug 4, ended on Aug 15.

"Kengal Hanumanthaiah,



A walk in the park

OneIndia Kannada

who served as Karnataka's second chief minister between 1952 to 1956 was known for playing a crucial role in the construction of Vidhana Soudha, so we decided to recreate the scene with the help of AI," said Maya Films, a multimedia company that created this AI.

Over 3.59 lakh people had visited the show until August 12, with total tickets sold amounting to Rs 1.8 crore. On Sunday, sources familiar with the show revealed that at least 1.25 lakh people visited the garden, including 20,000 children.

## Karnataka to scrap NEP

Anuja Jose

The Congress-led Karnataka government has decided to scrap the National Education Policy (NEP) implemented by the previous BJP government from the next academic year.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressed the Karnataka Congress Committee general body meeting held at the KPCC office on Monday, where the decision was announced.

According to The New Indian Express, he said, "NEP implemented by the Central government is incompatible with the federal system of

governance. It has several anomalies which undermine the Constitution and democracy. A uniform education system does not suit a nation like India which has diverse religions, languages and cultures." He declared that a new approach to education would be developed, taking into account the needs of local children's social, cultural, and economic environments.

NEP was a policy that was widely opposed by teachers, parents and students. He also added that NEP will be continued this year as it would disrupt the current students in the middle of the year.