

# THE BEACON

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## Up Skill Quest held in Lucknow

**Shruti Srivastava**

Learning things beyond the school curriculum and widening the knowledge is the key to achieving higher goals, explained Chief Secretary of the government of Uttar Pradesh, Durga Shaker Mishra.

The government of Uttar Pradesh under the Department of Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) in collaboration with Invest UP organised an 'Up Skill Quest' on September 30 and October 1 for the students across the state. The event was held in Indira Gandhi Pratisthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.

"This Up Skill initiative by the government of UP will help train the students and make them employable for the country and the world", said Mishra while addressing the participants. And added that this initiative is in line with the 'vocal for local' and 'local for global' campaigns as this makes the students skilful for the country and the world as well.

A quiz was held in four rounds. The first one was reserved for the school students and the other three rounds were open for all. A total of 2600 students registered for this quiz: 1400 for the Bollywood and Cricket rounds, 1200 for the India category and whooping 1400 for the general category.

"The country is progressing not because of its geography, but because of its citizens like you", he said to the participants.

## Protestors detained, right to protest quashed

**Sneha Thomas**

**BENGALURU:** Tens of protestors were detained and taken into custody by the Adugodi police on Monday while they were agitating against restricting the protests to Freedom Park.

In the light of an order issued by the previous government in January 2022, restricting all protests to the freedom park, various organisations took to the Mourya circle on October 2, under the banner of Horatada Hakkigaagi Janandolana, for a peaceful protest march, starting from the Gandhi statue to the Ambedkar statue in front of Vidhan Soudha.

Around 150 protestors, representing various organizations, who had assembled at the Mourya Circle, were detained by the police. "The police stopped us and detained us when we gathered near the Gandhi statue for the protest march," said Maitreyi Krishna, AICTU leader and Labour lawyer.



Police clash with protestors

Sen Michael Mathew

The protestors who had gathered at 11 for the protest march were detained and taken away in two buses, to the City Armed Reserve in Adugodi. "This is a constitutional right and people should be able to protest wherever the need is. What I have been saying is that, if you have a problem somewhere in Yelahanka,

if I come to Freedom Park, what's the purpose? Who is going to hear me? The point of a protest is that the person who has done the wrong should hear it and interpret it as it takes place properly," Krishna commented.

Despite meeting with the chief minister and the commissioner of police, demands of the organisations

were not heard, said the protestors. "We have met the chief minister, who sent a letter to the commissioner asking him to look into this. We have also met the commissioner. He said he would look into it and get back, but he hasn't yet which is why, several organisations came together and organised the march from the Gandhi

Statue to Ambedkar Statue. When we were doing that, the police stopped us and detained us," Krishna pointed out.

The protestors demanded the withdrawal of the order, restricting protests, and the complaints that had been filed against various organisations. "The order should be revoked and whatever cases have been filed against the organisations be it workers, Dalit organisations, or LGBTIQ organisations, must be withdrawn, along with the order," Krishna added.

In conversation with the Beacon, one of the detained protestors, BR Manjunath, veteran activist and freelance journalist, said, "This is very unfair; by allowing us to walk, the government would have looked more magnanimous and democratic. But the Congress government has so far chosen to follow the same path as BJP. That is very unfortunate and disappointing for us."

## Commercial gas cylinders rates skyrocket statewide

**Amrutha GP**

**BENGALURU:** Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have hiked the prices of LPG cylinders for commercial use. According to reports, the price of a 19 kg commercial LPG gas cylinder hiked by Rs 209 with effect from October 1. After the increase, retail selling price of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi per cylinder will be Rs 1731.50. LPG cylinders for commercial usage were more expensive. A 19 kg commercial LPG gas cylinder will cost Rs 209 more, according to reports. An additional 75 lakh new LPG connections under the Ujjwala plan were approved earlier this month by the Union



Not so pocket friendly

Amrutha GP

Cabinet and would be made available over the following three years. A total of Rs 1,650 crore was spent on these connections.

"We will just increase the food price and if people complain about it, they should know who increased the price of cylinders. Nothing is in our hands," said a hotel manager.

"The price of cylinders is fluctuating; last time it was domestic cylinders, and now it's commercial gas cylinders, but it doesn't matter because people still buy it," said an LPG distributor.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said these new connections would be in continuation of the existing

deposit-free connections being provided under Ujjwala Yojana. He said 75 lakh new connections will be provided to families who depend on wood for cooking, which affects the women's health in rural families. The cost of providing these deposit-free connections will be borne by the central government, which will be reimbursed by the OMCs, Thakur said.

The new connections would continue to be offered free of cost as part of the Ujjwala Yojana. The OMCs would pay the federal government back for the expenses associated with giving these deposit-free connections said Thakur.

## Box of talent spills at Elixir

**Diva Batavia**

**CAMPUS:** Appreciating the missionaries for imparting good education and health, Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the student exhibition, Elixir on September 30 at St Joseph's University on the occasion of the Open Day. All schools of the university portrayed their exhibits in the event.

A participant said, "Elixir was a great opportunity for portraying our work to outside people and to fellow students to make them aware of the department's work." Each school of the university actively took part. Fun activities such as face painting, getting a Polaroid clicked and more were organised by each school. The School of Communication put up stalls which represented Journalism and Mass Communication exhibiting their work including 'The Beacon', 'The Photo Beacon', 'Communique' and the Advertising and Public Relations team illustrated mascots on images of known brands. Outsiders were welcomed to get an insight into what each school stands for.

## Pre-fixed counters, not so fixed?

**Sherin Johnson**

**BENGALURU:** The pre-fixed auto-rickshaw counters launched by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to enhance commuter connectivity faces challenges primarily due to lack of customers, compounded by inadequate compensation.

The pre-fixed auto-rickshaw counters, which were set up at MG Road and Cubbon Park, have encountered significant hurdles in gaining popularity among commuters. On the other hand, auto drivers are hesitant to accept the government-stipulated fares, asserting that the rates are insuffi-

cient to sustain their livelihoods.

The pre-fixed auto-rickshaw counters, which are open from 7 -12.30 a.m., were introduced to streamline the process of hiring auto-rickshaws and to ensure transparent and accountable services. The government-set fares stand at Rs 30 for the first two kilometres and Rs 15 for every subsequent kilometre. However, these rates have drawn criticism from auto-rickshaw drivers who contend that they do not adequately compensate for the rising costs associated with their profession, said Shivakumar, an auto driver.

Neha Chandran, a frequent commuter, expressed her frustration with the system citing difficulties in securing an auto-rickshaw through the pre-fixed stands. Her sentiments echo those of many commuters who report low success rates in utilising this service.

While the pre-fixed auto-rickshaw counters were aimed at providing a more convenient and reliable mode of transportation, the prevailing challenges have underscored the need for further refinement and dialogue between authorities, passengers, and auto drivers.

## Solo tribute to Project Tiger

**Neenu M**

**BENGALURU:** In honour of the golden jubilee M N Jayakumar, a distinguished wildlife photographer and retired IFS officer, is currently organising a solo exhibition featuring his collection of wildlife photographs. This exhibition follows a similar event in 1998 that Jayakumar conducted to mark the silver jubilee of the Project. The solo wildlife photography exhibition started on September 29 and will run till October 8 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad. It was inaugurated by Subbaiah

Nallamuthu, a national award-winning photographer. In a conversation with The Beacon, Jayakumar said, "It is the 50th year of Project Tiger. That's why I thought I must do something for the golden jubilee of Project Tiger. So, I checked up with Chitrakala Parishad and booked all four halls." "There are photographs of tigers from all around the world, other wild animals from Asia, Africa and part of the Amazon belt. Talks and classes of photography experts are conducted on each day," said the organisers.