

THE BEACON

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

Wednesday, 8 June 2022 / St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol: 16 Issue: 121 / www.sjcdptcomm.wordpress.com

More women need to use technology for their safety: App developer

Bincy Joseph

When a working woman in the Electronic City, Bengaluru, pressed the SOS button while stranded in a deserted neighbourhood, the users of Save Soul, a women-safety mobile application, reached out to her with comforting messages, narrated Gaurav Bora, the Founder and CEO of Save Soul.

The Karnataka and Kerala governments had earlier launched women-safety apps like the Suraksha app and Nirbhaya app with similar safety mechanisms. These applications are directly connected to the police control rooms. But what makes Save Soul different is that it is the first private app to come up with the concept of a community grid. It consists of 3500 users and can be easily accessed during emergencies.

"The app that I have developed is a community-based, peer-to-peer safety app that alerts people around the location in real-time. Most of the safety apps alert police stations and emergency contacts who may be at a different location at that moment. Our app focuses on nearby people as they are the best people who can help in that instant. When someone presses the SOS button, the app alerts the users around the location who are a part of the Save Soul Safety Grid. More and more women need to be educated about the use of technology in their safety," said Bora.

Attempt to polarise minds by revising textbooks

Siddhant Garud

Condemning the recent changes made in the textbooks, members of All India Students Association (AISA) have issued an open letter to B.C. Nagesh, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Karnataka. The recent changes in the Karnataka textbooks and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) are a part of a more significant political project, and it is a 'tool for promoting fascism', said Aratrika, a member of AISA. The members of AISA opine that the newly implemented NEP is an exclusionary policy that might ignore many students, especially students belonging to Dalits, Adivasis, and religious minorities. The association has also criticised the recent changes in the school textbooks,



AISA spreading awareness of their open letter

@AISA_karnataka

stating that this move promotes the Hindutva ideology in the minds of youngsters.

The letter sent to the minister appeals to undo the

recent changes in the Karnataka textbooks, repeal the NEP, and provide free education to all under the Right to Education Act.

Aratrika said that the changes in textbooks brought in by a revision committee are harmful to the students. "This had happened before in Del-

hi, where the government removed many references to the Islamic empire, whereas in Karnataka, they are removing so many celebrated Kannada writers," she added.

"We don't believe that these three demands will be enough to root out Hindutva influences. AISA has been really vocal about free public education for all for a long time, and we believe that it is both political organisation and constant agitation which will solve the problems of fascism in the country," said Aratrika.

"The agitation and political organisation of students will help for sure. The reason we focused on Karnataka is because it is the first state to implement NEP; moreover, Karnataka is seen as a hub of hindutva ideology in comparison to other South Indian states," she added.

RBI expected to hike repo rate; customers express concerns

A. S. Mandira

As the cost of goods and services rises, the increase in interest rates will essentially suck liquidity out of the market, leading to consumers spending less, consequently affecting the economy's total growth, opined Renjith Sadasivan, Chief Manager of SBI, Emakulam, Kerala.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kicked off on Monday to review the existing repo rates.

Renjith said "The repo rate hike will impact the liquidity and money supply in the economy. With the hike, the cost of funds for banks and



Representational Image

www.bigstockphoto.com

also the bank's lending rates will rise. This will help the central bank to curb inflation." He said that the SBI commercial branch (Kerala) expects a hike rate of 25 basis points (bps) and suggested customers and investors to be

very cautious in the market. "The rate hike is much needed to curb the inflation as we can see the inflation target set by the budget is between 4-6% which is going out of control in the last three months. The chances of RBI further hiking

the repo rate is on the cards," he added.

A. K. Sridhar Murthy, a retired manager from private sector said, "The hike in the interest (lending) rates will definitely affect my deposits as the banks reduce the interest rates on FDs to cover the inflation difference. In other words, as a consumer I am losing and it will affect my routine expenses."

Expressing confidence about his deposits being safe in public sector banks, he added, "I am fine with the rate of interest that the government reduces from time to time in response to overall inflation."

Digital platforms: a new stage for K-pop

Trupti Khillare

Not only sheer hard work but a promotion of one's work does matter. The pandemic was a bolt in the blue that opened a new horizon for many young talents to hog the limelight, said Oorja Saxena, a two-time winner of Bangalore regionals and a national finalist of K-pop India contest.

"Due to Covid, all kinds of offline auditions were closed, online auditions were the only platform available to showcase my talent," said Saxena.

Speaking about utilising YouTube as a platform for publicising their talents, she explained, "As for YouTube, I also have my channel and it does help to reach a larger audience. People now spend more time online, and also uploading videos on YouTube gives me a good reach."

Shriya Lenka, the first Indian to join a K-pop group Blackswan as an idol, earned fame through a YouTube audition. "Shriya Lenka has become an inspiration for me. Her achievement will inspire me to upload more videos on YouTube as it is important to have a combination of hard work and good self-promotion."

Magic of abilities - Mitti Cafe, SJC

Mukesh. N

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) became the first educational institution in the city to house a canteen on the campus exclusively run by persons with disability. On June 2, the college witnessed the inauguration of a canteen in the Magis Block cafeteria, Mitti Cafe, a non-profitable NGO food chain cafe run by six workers all of whom have disabilities.

The cafe has received good reviews from the students, says Sharano Basapa, the manager of the cafe. He said, "It was very hard for me to get a job because of my physical disability.



Mitti Cafe at Magis block, SJC

Mukesh. N

I got into this organisation through my friend. At first, I joined as a security guard and since I worked well the management gave me a promotion and appointed me as a cashier. The management observed my work and they promoted me as a manager for this branch."

The cafe sells chole bhature

as their signature dish, and also sells pav bhaji, kachori, coffee, lassi, and fresh juices.

The organisation provides experiential training and employment to people with physical, intellectual and psychiatric disabilities and also spreads awareness about inclusion and disability rights.

New mass movement for digital literacy

Niharika Bajaj

Academics have lauded the digital skilling programme of the Central government announced on Monday and have endorsed its necessity in the emerging digital age.

In the first-ever national scale collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Skill, the Government of India launched a digital skilling programme that will benefit one crore students. The courses will offer certifications in artificial intelligence, blockchain, data analytics, big data, cyber security, and cloud computing.

Applauding the initiative,

Jaswant Kaur Sikka, a recipient of the Bharat Vikas Parishad Best School Head Award, said, "The core foundation of the education system is changing with the technological revolution. The cram and learn approach has to be discarded. In the next 5 years, we will see more than 20 million jobs in AI in India itself. It is high time students train themselves in industry-driven skills and benefit from opportunities like this to level up."

During the inauguration, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "We must make skilling a mass movement."