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'Data can be stolen from social media too, not just VPN'

Arushi Srivastava and Supata Dhara

Experts opine that there is no cause for concern even as the government mandates the VPN companies' to retain the data for five years. On May 5, the IT ministry imposed the new VPN law, mandating the companies to store the user data for a period of five years. The law will come into force on 27TH July.

"The government is coming up with the new changes because a lot of cyber-crimes are taking place, and adding onto new changes will bring more leads to the IT cell," said Debasish Mukherjee, a software developer in Deloitte. "When it comes to privacy, the data can be stolen from various social media and not just VPN, and hence it's not harming anybody's privacy directly. Although, if someone wants to run an illegal work, in that case, none of the data is safe", he said. VPN services were used as a tool to keep away from website trackers. Now that the government has decided to bring change the VPN system, this will force companies to upgrade their storage capabilities. "This will not only store the data but will also increase the expenses and will lead to an increase in the subscription rate," he added.

Delay in works adds to the woes of vendors

Thanmaya Prakash

The residents and vendors at Malleshwaram face inconvenience as heavy showers continue to batter the city and the ongoing white topping project by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has only exacerbated the situation.

The white topping work began on March 15th, and since then it has hindered vehicle movement and increased traffic, and hawkers have suffered losses. Vendors and residents have accused BBMP of being careless as the leftovers from the construction on the streets and platforms could cause casualties.

A street vendor, Gause Peer, complained that the building materials on the road led to an increase in dust. "Rains have further worsened our

lives as sometimes the mud falls on the clothes I sell. The footfall for shopping has drastically reduced and I'm not able to earn half of what I used to receive earlier which has affected my livelihood," he said.

Khalim Pasha, a vendor, complained that the pavement slabs were removed two months ago for drainage-related work and BBMP workers did not bother to close them. He also said that the BBMP workers were careless as there are no barricades or warning signboards placed. "All the work is half done. I tried speaking to three contractors in charge of this, and they told us that it will be completed in a few days. But more than a month has passed," he added.

"At least in the major connecting roads, the BBMP of-



Unfinished drainage work

Thanmaya Prakash

officials must ensure the work gets completed faster. The non-paved platforms have caused trouble for the people who walk on the footpaths.

Due to the dust and ill-state of footpaths, it is totally unsafe for the people to walk on this road," said Prakash Acharya, a senior citizen.

Shivakumar, Executive Engineer, BBMP, Malleshwaram ward said one-half of the stretch is being concretized, while the work on the second half is in process. He further said that they had planned to allow traffic, as he did not want to cause further inconvenience to the commuters. The delay in work happened due to rain, he said. "The work will go on and might take another month. The footpath work is getting delayed as the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) is doing the drainage works. However, we will make sure to consider the issues raised by the vendors and commuters. The inconvenience caused due to construction works is unavoidable, but we assure the best roads and infrastructure after two months," he added.

Farmers' protest has set a model for social movements says veteran Punjab journalist Amandeep Sandhu

Siddhant Garud

Independent journalist Amandeep Sandhu on Tuesday, May 10, claimed that the government had made plans to disperse the tractor rally of farmers organised in protest against the three farm laws in New Delhi on the eve of Republic Day, 2021.

While addressing the gathering on 'Crafts of Journalism', for Blue Pencil fest, organised by the Department of Languages, he elaborated on how the protesters grew sceptical after police informed the change in the route of the

tractor rally to the outer-ring road.

Despite the government promising security to the farmers, they did not believe that they would get protection, he said.

He also added that these protests should be a model on resolving differences between the various groups within the movement.

"When the farmers started coming to the Delhi border, they blocked the roads and the economic routes to Delhi, and this got the attention of the government," he said.

He stated that there are pri-

marily two groups of individuals, the government and the middle class, who claim to understand the plight of farmers, yet refuse to take any action. "Why should they not have pizza and other food?" he questioned, referring to instances of pizza langars and portable massage parlours set up at the protest site. "Why can't the farmers have the food that they produce?"

He drew parallels between how anti-CAA-NRC protests and farmers' protests were organised. "When the Shaheen Bagh protesters were attacked", he said, "they

"Why can't the farmers have the food that they produce?"

displayed the Constitution and appealed to decency, but farmers said they were not interested in all of that and simply blocked the roads." This is because these communities have been so demonised that there is an immediate defensive response focused on ensuring their survival, he added.

Shop owners face losses as hoardings topple on shops while showers continue

Trupti Khillare

Bengaluru: Shop keepers in Sarjapur Road are in limbo as the compensation is paid to the landlords in the event of the damage caused by the falling advertisement hoardings even as the former suffer losses. Sangeeta (name changed), who runs a VadaPav shop on Sarjapur Road, expressed that the toppling of the hoarding on the shop forced her to close for days. "It took more than a week to restructure the shop again, and in the meantime, we witnessed huge losses in business." So even after opening the shop, not many regular customers are visiting, she said. "Our landlord received some amount of money from the BBMP, but we have to once again start the business from scratch," she added. "We've lost all motivation as a result of this incident. The shop existed at this place before the hoarding was put up, which adds to our suffering," she explained.

Remembering the Santoor Maestro

Moksha Garg

In the era of pop culture, Indian classical music is still appreciated and practised around the world. Although the debate on the popularity of classical music is still ongoing, musicians like Shivkumar Sharma have kept the intensity and passion of this music genre alive.

The Padma Vibhushan recipient and Santoor maestro, Shivkumar Sharma, passed away on Tuesday aged 84. He was born in Jammu in 1938 to musician Uma Dutt Shar-

ma. The maestro is known to be the first musician to have played Indian classical music on the Santoor. He has composed music for several Bollywood movies such as Lamhe, Chandni, Silsila. Some of his folk compositions like "Mere Haatho Main" and "Rang Barse" have been very popular at festivals and weddings. Sharma began his journey by learning tabla and vocal music from Bade Ramdas of Banaras, a prominent musician. It was from him that he learned to sing and play the

tabla. He was 14-years-old when he heard santoor for the first time, and today he is known to have etched an image of the Kashmir Valley and a sound of spirituality through his santoor.

Talking to The Beacon, Carnatic singer Lakshmi Sivakumar said, "Classical music is still prevalent in India. Although today's generation enjoys fast and pop music more, there are still people who enjoy and practice classical music in different parts of the country."

Fearless journalism comes with a price: Siddiqui bags 2nd Pulitzer

Niharika Bajaj

It has been an ironic week for the Indian journalism fraternity. While photo-journalist Danish Siddiqui was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the second time, India's rank fell from 142 to 150 in the World Press Freedom Index Report 2022.

With the growing attacks on journalists in the country, the report noted that press freedom is in "crisis" in India. Shams Naqvi, Danish's childhood friend who happens to be a journalist at NDTV told The Beacon, "He (Danish) was always

there to document an important story, his personal well-being was the last thing on his mind even when he was covering risky events like global wars, Covid 19 pandemic or communal riots. He had the knack of being there at the right place at the right time." While journalists become the frontline workers at crucial events of national and international importance, the government should safeguard their rights, he added. Danish was killed while covering the war between Afghan and Taliban forces in Spin Boldak near the Pakistan border.