

# THE BEACON

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

Friday, 13 May 2022 / St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol: 16 Issue: 109 / www.sjcdptcomm.wordpress.com

## 'Our dharna will not stop'

Mukesh. N

The ongoing protest of the contract labourers at the Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI), Bangalore, is all set to escalate next week, said Hemant Kumar, president of the Karnataka General Labour Union (KGLU) to The Beacon. In December 2021, 80 contract workers of ITI Ltd went on a protest against the management for terminating their contract without any prior notification. The management was miffed with the workers for forming a union. A settlement was made during the conciliation between the protesters and the management on March 17, 2022, where the management agreed to rehire 35 people and promised to bring back the remaining 45 in the next two months. As the management did not deliver on the promise the Labour Commissioner ordered the management to appear for another conciliation. However, the management took the issue to the High court on Tuesday and got a stay on the conciliation. The verdict is expected on May 18. Hemant Kumar, president of the Karnataka said to The Beacon, "We are definitely ready to face everything. Our dharna will not be stopped and we will fight against the management legally and depending upon the court's verdict, the union is preparing for a major protest."

"we will fight against the management legally"

## Misrepresenting history for majoritarian gains

Ever since the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) under Narendra Modi assumed power at the Centre, it has prioritised the majoritarian agenda.

From erasing the contributions of the Muslim kings and poets from textbooks, to changing the names of roads, also demonising the Muslim community, the right-wing groups have been working overtime to frame minorities in a bad light.

After the disputes regarding the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi Masjid complex in Varanasi and the Krishna Jammabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah complex in Mathura, the right-wing supporters have now set their eyes on Qutub Minar and Taj Mahal.

Rajneesh Singh, In charge of BJP media of Ayodhya District, filed a petition on May 7 before Allahabad High Court to open more than 22 rooms of the Taj Mahal monument to ascertain the truth of "hid-

den" idols of Hindu deities; he claimed that Taj Mahal was original 'Tejo Mahalya', a shiva temple.

Another absurd demand by the right-wing supporters is the renaming of Qutub Minar to 'Vishnu Stambh'. Activists of different organisations chanted 'Hanuman Chalisa' in front of the monument on May 10 because of the statements made by Jai Bhagwan Goyal, BJP leader and president of Rashtrawadi Shiv Sena. He said that the Qutub Minar monument was built by the "great king Vikramaditya", but Mughal ruler Qutub-din Aibak "claimed credit for it".

The right-wing organisations have continuously blamed Muslim rulers and called them 'invaders'. Even today, Muslims are being touted as outsiders. The roots of bashing the minorities can be traced back to the ideology of Savarkar. Savarkar wrote,



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AP Photo/Ajit Solanki

"The most sacred idols in the various magnificent shrines from all over India right up to Rameswaram were not only purposely taken to the Muslim capitals like Delhi and plastered into the portal steps of their royal palaces, but, for the sole purpose of hurting the feeling of the Hindus and insulting them, they were

also used as slabs and tiles for lavatories, water-closets, and urinals." These writings have been influential in fueling hatred toward Muslims.

The right-wing forces have been distorting history by misrepresenting territorial annexations as influenced by religious conflicts and have

been setting the narrative to demonise Muslims.

The ruling party has been violating the principles of Secularism. They must refrain from sowing the seeds of communal discord, and the Government must work towards building harmony.

Thanmaya Prakash

## After uncertainties, Bangalore University students finally receive hall tickets

Arushi Srivastava

Buckling under pressure, Bangalore University issues the hall ticket to its UG students after a few media reported that the students wrote exams by furnishing their fee receipts.

The university had not issued the hall tickets to the students for the first two exams and allowed them to appear for exams after they furnished the fee receipt.

"Implementation of NEP (National Education Policy) caused the delay in the start of the academic year and change in the syllabus mid-semester after a few classes was a com-

plication as students had to study the new things again," said Professor Bharath of Bangalore University.

The syllabus was framed late and due to which the exams were postponed," he added. Krishna, a first-year B.Com student of BU said, "As the hall tickets were not being issued on time, the exams were being postponed, and when it came to writing exams, we didn't have our subject code, due to which it was difficult to write it down in our answer booklets." The Bangalore University had not issued the timetable until the third week of April, leaving the students



Representational Image

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confused. "From the past two months, we weren't clear about when our exams would start as we had not received our timetable. We were in a dilemma if the exams would

commence at all and moreover, Covid-19 had delayed our course and now due to the portal issues two months were wasted," said Jayachandana, of first year B.Com.

## Amudhan translates social issues into documentaries

Mandira AS

The purpose of art is to inspire people to think broadly and develop a compassionate attitude, said R. P. Amudhan, Tamil documentary filmmaker and media activist. Speaking to The Beacon during the 12th Social Justice Film Festival organised at Blue Pencil hosted by the department of languages at St Joseph's College (Autonomous) on Thursday, he said art should help people to think, process, reflect and hopefully react as well. "Documentary films are a

great way to inspire filmmakers, actors, journalists and students. I see documentary as the only form that has a combination of artistic and intellectual engagement." Amudhan also says the main aim is to help an individual open up, come out of their comfort zones and interpret the world. In comparison to the usual commercial movies and OTT content, he also spoke about how real and raw content is captured in the documentary medium. "Mainstream platforms can take inspiration

from documentary films, it's an opportunity to get closer to reality. Documentaries are raw and more personal, and additionally they don't have the burden to be appealing to a larger audience," he added. Explaining how social justice is viewed in cinema, Amudhan said "There are filmmakers who make personal, propaganda and political films. I'm sure people relate to social justice when there are mainstream conversations about any community that is underprivileged or marginalised."

## Google's new technology to address concerns over privacy

Niharika Bajaj

Automation systems have transformed the world we live in today. But, it comes with a concern over lack of privacy. To address this, Google is developing a novel system that can read body language and movements, without a camera.

Ankur Gupta, an artificial intelligence engineer said, "The basic idea is, that a device will use radar that depends on motion sensor technology. It can create spatial awareness but the data collected may not

be as accurate as of the camera." Google first used this sensor in Google Pixel 4 for various features like snoozing alarms, pausing music, and taking screenshots among others.

The privacy of the user can be protected through radar when compared to that of a camera, as in the latter a large amount of data is captured and collected. "Although its success depends on the execution, seeing Google's history this can be a revolutionary technology," he added.

## 'No need to panic for Tamato flu, but stay alert'

Bincy Joseph

Amid concerns over children getting infected with the Tomato Flu as schools continue to function in Kerala, experts say no need to panic but ask parents to stay alert as the symptoms can vary from mild to severe.

Tomato flu is a viral disease, which causes rashes, skin irritation, dehydration and blisters that resemble tomatoes.

The tomato flu has been affecting children between the age of five to ten in Kerala for the past few days. "Though some of the symptoms are similar to Chicken Pox, unlike Pox, it normally starts in the chest and spreads to various parts of the body.

It is also known as hand, foot, and mouth disease and starts with thorn pricking pain in the throat. Children find it difficult to have food because of the blisters. Since it is contagious, parents of the sick children are also susceptible to the flu," warns Dr Akhilesh, a Post Graduate student at Kozhikode Medical College.