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B'loru commuters struggle as flooding wreaks havoc

Varsha Esther

BENGALURU: Citizens of Bengaluru are reeling under the impact of incessant rains that have pounded the city and the commuters are having a harrowing time travelling within the city.

A 22-year-old woman died after losing her balance on the scooter and getting electrocuted near Mahira Bakery, Whitefield Main Road, on Monday night due to heavy rains and flooding.

A similar incident took place in Siddapura, near Marathahalli, when a 23-year-old woman also got electrocuted and died while trying to save herself from drowning in the flood by holding on to an electric pole.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rains in Karnataka till Friday, September 9. A Yellow warning has also been issued to various districts including Kodagu, Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and Chikmagalur.

Despite all the warnings, no action has been taken by the State Government to stabilise the situation.

Jatin, a native of Bengaluru said, "From what I can understand, original Bengaluru will be fine. It's these IT and other areas which were built fast without proper planning which are flooded. If you're in old Bengaluru residences, you probably don't have to worry."

The problem is not with the state, it is with the society that practices caste: Arundhati Roy

Madhumitha BS

BENGALURU: Dealing with the question of the impact of caste prejudices in modern India, activist and writer Arundhati Roy opined that with the advent of corporate India, the caste has become corporatised as well.

"If we look at capitalism today, who are the big corporations? Reliance, Mittal, Adani, all come from a certain caste," questioned Roy while referring to the chemistry between the market economy and the caste.

She was addressing the gathering during the 5th anniversary of renowned slain journalist Gauri Lankesh on Monday organised by the Gauri Memorial Trust.

The problem is not with



Standing with courage, in memory of its source

Pavana J

the state, the problem is with the society, a society that practices caste. There is hierarchical thinking that exists and people at the bottom lack lateral thinking, said Roy.

Speaking to a hall full of audience Roy, in a bid to answer veteran journalist D. Umamathy's question on what keeps her optimism at

an optimal level, said, Indians have much more to go through when compared to the rest of the world.

"We don't even know what war is, we haven't even begun to understand what true suffering and fighting is, people have risen from the ravel to build themselves, what right do we have to feel

depressed? Because we have seven years of BJP, come on," she said.

Instilling hope among the audience that a force like RSS can be defeated, she said, "The RSS has been working for 100 years to get here with an ideology full of monochromatic, mono vision hatred." However, she said, one cannot do that kind of work. She compared the RSS to ice and common people to an ocean. She emphasised that the job of conscientious people is to prevent this circle from closing.

"... we are up against a clever foe that understands the society more deeply than the opposition which claimed to be secular."

"Quality, justice, and beauty," she said when asked to pick the first three words that come to her mind if she could only speak three words. Following which she was what was the source of the beauty, of courage common to her, Gauri Lankesh and Teesta Setalvad, Roy read an excerpt from her essay The End of Imagination that read, "To love, to be loved, to never forget for insignificance, to find happiness in sad places..."

Well-known actor Prakash Raj, Journalist and sister of Gauri Lankesh, Kavitha Lankesh were present on the occasion and activist Teesta Setalvad addressed the audience virtually.

Fire breaks out at Family Mart near Nanjappa Circle, damage to goods worth 4 crores estimated

Niharika Bajaj

BENGALURU: An extensive fire broke out at Family Mart supermarket at Shantaram Complex near Nanjappa Circle in Richmond Town on Monday midnight. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. The preliminary investigation has revealed that a short circuit has led to the mayhem.

Rishabh, the owner of a store opposite the supermarket and an eyewitness of the incident, told The Beacon, "It was around 1 am that the short circuit took place. After seeing the smoke coming out of the



Charred remains of the supermarket

Niharika Bajaj

tower, we immediately alerted the police and the fire brigade. Within 15-20 minutes, the fire had spread to the whole three-storied building. The police were there immediately on the spot but it took the fire brigade

around 30 minutes to reach. The crime branch also visited the scene to identify the cause of the fire."

The ground and first floor of the Family Mart got burnt because of inflammable

electronics equipment at the store; soon the fire spread across the office on the second floor and all the essentials were burnt. On the third floor of the building, there were residents staying who were rescued by the police with the help of the locals. There was a loss of 3 crores along with Rs 4 lakh in cash, and furniture worth Rs 1 crore, said Rishabh.

The Ashok Nagar police, speaking to The Beacon, said, "There were 9 people stuck on the third floor who were evacuated in time with no casualties."

IPL fans can now pick their perfect view while live streaming with Viacom 18

Joel P Anto

Viacom 18 is all set to launch multiple video streams allowing viewers to choose their preferred camera angles to watch the digital streaming of the Indian Premier League (IPL). While speaking to The Beacon, Johns, a Fan code representative and cricket analyst said, "It's going to make a big impact, especially because we get to know from different angles, which is really important, because if you watch the game from the ground, there are many things happening, and with this, we might get extra details and clarity of the game and what is happening around."

Even if Star Network is where a majority of Indian spectators watch the IPL, Viacom 18's range of streaming options will undoubtedly draw in more viewers, he said. The impact is yet to be seen, but there is a good chance that this will bring about a new progress in the game of cricket, he added.

"This game calls for a lot of transitions, and with the addition of several camera angles, the possibility that viewers may be confused about the game will be minimised. This specific introduction will certainly have a major shift," he added.

Josephites go all out with Aarpo Irro

Sharon Anna James
Shriangana Pyne

CAMPUS: The three years break has led to much excitement among the students of St. Joseph's University as they celebrate Onam on their campus. Around 700 students observed the festival on campus.

Surya Sai, one of the event coordinators said, "I'm a first-year post-graduate student and I wanted to celebrate Onam in the college which was not possible during the pandemic. It was difficult for us to organise everything because most of us were freshers but we were really enthusiastic and planned everything in less than a week."

The event included Thiruvathira, and Onappattukal



Onam spirit sets off

Sharon Anna James

(Onam songs), which were performed by students and teachers from the college, along with games that involved audience participation.

"It is a different cultural experience that I always wanted to explore being a non-Malayali, and it is very exciting to see and experience this in life," said Taanusiya Mukherjee, a

student from the Biochemistry department.

Mohammad Hafiz, an undergraduate student said, "It has been a while since we have come across an event which has brought so many of us together. There is a certain feeling of togetherness, and the games have made it more interesting."

Casteism was prevalent while celebrating Onam: Manu Pillai

Bincy Joseph

One of the most significant signifiers of culture is whom you could eat with, stated Manu S Pillai, historian and author of the well-known book, Ivory Throne, in a podcast titled Kerala Chronicles on Tuesday.

Pillai spoke in depth about the unique palate of Kerala, the influence of caste on eating habits, how Mappila Muslims, Syrian Christians, and Hindus live together in Kerala, and the food preferences of the royal Travancore Family.

"In the 21st century, the caste system has evolved in Kerala. It is very rare to see people not eating with lower caste individuals, but if you

travel to the North of India these practices still exist. In Kerala, especially during Onam Sadhya, people of all castes gather to eat together. However, visually casteism doesn't exist anymore, it exists beneath the surface," he said.

In his book, he mentioned how food was not just an element to be consumed but how it established and communicated social relationships. During the Onam feast, Maharani Sethu Lakshmi Bayi was served four varieties of payasam because she was the Maharani. But her husband on the other hand, who was a consort, was served only two payasam.