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News aggregation made easy

Jesblin & Kaustubh

Campus: The thin line between news aggregation and plagiarism was pointed out in detail by news publishing specialist Soumya Chatterjee, who shared his insights with the students of ICMS.

Chatterjee, who is currently associated with Reuters, addressed the MA MCJ students at St. Joseph's University Bengaluru on Saturday during a hands-on session on news aggregation.

"The purpose of news aggregation is to give readers important news in a digestible form. It is used when a news organisation does not have direct access to a particular story on the ground," said Chatterjee.

Dwelling on the ethical and legal aspects he said, "Be honest to your readers and tell them it's someone else's story."

He further said that news aggregation is not the same as reporting. It is more about taking news from other sources and packaging it better while adding some value to it. News from academic publications or social media can be used as sources for news aggregation. He mentioned the importance of using a variety of sources while writing an aggregated piece. Using three sources would be ideal for each piece.

At the end of the session, students aggregated the copies, and he got inputs.

Protests erupt as portal upgrade causes wage delay

Parnika & Meghana S

Bengaluru: Mid-day meal scheme workers held a state-wide protest last week demanding the pending wages. The wage delay is caused by a shift to a new centralised payment portal.

Talking to The Beacon, KV Bhat, State President of Karnataka Rajya Akshara Dasoha Naukarara Sangha, said the authorities have 239 crores earmarked for release. An online portal was used before, but now they are moving to a new online centralised portal which is delaying the process, he confirmed.

There was an online meeting held in August between worker's representatives and

authorities to resolve the portal issue. They assured that this would be resolved in 20 days, and the workers would receive their wages soon. Bhat said, "There was a message circulated on the WhatsApp groups which said that they tried to transfer it to 25 taluks, which was a success. Likewise, they would transfer it to another 25-80 Taluks every day." There are around 180 taluks in the state and the amount will be transferred in phases which are contributing to the delay.

KV Bhat added that many of the workers depending on these wages are single parents and widows. They work as much as a



Protests held in Dharwad, Karnataka

Source: K V Bhatt

government employee and they work overtime, but they do not get their salary on time

and it is less when compared to government employees. When asked about the solu-

tion, Bhat suggested that their salary be increased to at least 8,000. "These workers do not receive their monthly payments. They receive it every 2-3 months, and never on time. They are paid for only 10 months; two months' salary deducted because of vacations." When asked about additional benefits, Bhat stated that in addition to low wages these workers are not getting any health benefits. They get a minimal amount of compensation only in the case of an accident in the kitchen.

In Karnataka, there are 47,250 cooks and 71,336 helpers under this scheme, totalling 1,18,586 workers under this scheme.

Culling of dogs cause uproar in Kerala

Abhirami & Anjela

Kerala: Citizens and activists have condemned the inaction of the Kerala Government in putting an end to the dog menace after a spate of incidents of stray dog attacks were reported recently.

The mass vaccination drive of the government is inefficient, and as the attacks continue unabated, the dogs are killed by the citizens.

Speaking to The Beacon, Suresh Chandran (name changed), a social worker from Kerala, termed the situation as "bizarre" and said, "Dogs are being killed without even a second thought. It



Kerala has more than 600,000 stray dogs

BBC News

is such a horrible situation." Condemning the inadequate response of the chief minister, Chandran said, "The CM has said in a press meet that killing dogs is not the answer, yet they are being killed."

Chandran stressed uncoordinated waste disposal as the root cause of the issue. He pointed out how waste management should be the

primary concern rather than the killing of dogs. "Poor waste management cannot be attributed to the animals. The streets are their home, and now they aren't safe at their own homes," he said.

Even after Section 428 and Section 429 of the Indian Penal Code states that the killing of an animal/pet is illegal and is an offence to commit cruel-

ty to animals as defined under Section 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, dogs are killed under the garb of problem-solving. People have taken matters into their own hands despite the government's stand on the issue.

Various NGOs, organisations, and veterinary doctors have been actively working to vaccinate street animals. They are also creating awareness among the people on the gravity of the issue and how the killing of dogs is not a viable option. "We co-exist in this world. Safety of mankind is indeed important, but it doesn't mean we should kill dogs," Chandran said.

MRPL bags two awards at ETM

Aasline & Anirudh

Mumbai: Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), a subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) bagged two prestigious awards on Thursday at the 25th Energy Technology Meet held in Mumbai.

MRPL won the SAKSHAM Award 2019-20 for the Best Furnace Efficiency and the Best Innovation in Refinery for 2021-22. The event was organised by the Centre for High Technology, a division of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) in association with the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. The three-day meet was held from Sept 15-17.

The award was presented by the Union Minister of MoPNG, Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of State of MoPNG, Rameshwar Teli to Venkatesh, Nandakumar V and Sudhir Pai M, the board of directors of MRPL in the presence of stakeholders and over a thousand delegates from all the public and private petroleum refineries, an MRPL press release stated.

Teli said, as reported by The Statesman, that the MoPNG is keen towards driving the country to a 5-trillion-dollar economy.

MRPL is under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Government of India.

"If people want to survive, language needs to live": K. Pichandi

Chandrasoodeshwar & Joyce

TamilNadu: K.Pichandi, Deputy Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly expressed his views on the importance of the Tamil language and society, at a book release event of Karumalai's Pasivayitru Paachoru at Meera Mahal, Hosur.

The event was in honour of Karumalai Thamizhazhan, the author of the book and the awardee of the Kabilar Award. Several Tamil scholars, poets and authors attended the event and spoke about his accomplishments.

Commenting on the importance of Tamilians uniting and spreading the language, Pichandi said, "More and more Tamil poets and speak-



Book release in Hosur, Tamilnadu

Chandrasoodeshwar

ers should come forward and write books in order to develop the sacred language. Tamil sangams should host such events more to give rise to more poets, speakers and authors."

Karumalai Thamizhazhan should write more books like these to help others recognise

their responsibility towards society. "We should dedicate ourselves towards spreading the importance of the Tamil language," he added.

Karumalai has produced more than 50 books and has won many awards across the world.

Post-pandemic learning affected students' mental health

Kavya & Chandana

Experts link the surge in depression and anxiety among school students to a shift to offline classes. Increased screen time had led to a lack of concentration and social interaction during the pandemic.

According to the recent survey by NCERT, school students are experiencing mood swings, depression, peer pressure, anxiety and insecurity about their body image post-pandemic. The study also mentioned that during offline classes, students are faced with a lack of concentration and difficulty adapting to the changes.

"After a year of online learning, it has become difficult for the students to even

mug up definitions," said Vedanti Godbole, founder of the mind studio, psychologist, yoga trainer and Acupuncturist. It is important to have a training session for teachers and students on mental health issues. She added that conducting workshops and explaining about mental health issues will make the students realise they are going through depression or anxiety.

As quoted "Anything done for 21 days becomes a habit, hence students were used to online classes and are now challenged to attend classes and exams offline, students prefer online exams, as they are accustomed to it as it is easy, writing paragraphs after a years break is problematic," she added.