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Ramagundam sets a new standard: Guha

Anuja Jose

BENGALURU: An influential and exceptional human being, someone who led one of the most crucial labour union agitations in modern Indian history, George Fernandes got the kind of biography he deserved, said Ramachandra Guha, historian and writer at a book launch event on Sunday in Bengaluru.

Rahul Ramagundam's 'The Life and Times of George Fernandes' was launched on the 25th of September by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"It sets new standards in the writing of biographies of political figures in modern India, particularly in post-colonial India. A biographer is a truly selfless sort of scholar. To suppress his own ego and make another individual much more important than him is a true act of devotion." He applauded Ramagundam's dedication for dedicating 12 years of work into this biography. The key is to be objective without being passionate. Guha felt that the book identified with the subject and expanded the story beyond the main character, unlike most Indian biographies. "That's the mark of a good biography," he said.

The event was presided over by Michael B Fernandes, president of All-India of Hind Mazdoor Kisan Panchayat (HMKP). Former chief justice M N Venkatachaliah and former Supreme Court judge N Santosh Hegde also attended the program.

'NEP: Anti-student and anti-education'

Jesbin Sam Mathew

BENGALURU: The ruling party is hell-bent on privatising the government educational institutions and exploiting the impoverished people, said Rajashekhar VN, president of All India Democratic Students Organisation.

A state-level convention was held in Freedom Park on Wednesday under the aegis AIDS0 against National Education Policy 2020.

Pointing out that the NEP introduced during the Rajiv Gandhi regime in 1986 was a blueprint for the privatisation of education in India, Rajashekhar said, the latest policy will further curtail the scope of education for the poor. "This new education policy has made recommendations that are sure to curtail the government educational institutions...While we are demanding a minimum of 30% of the budget for educa-



AIDS0 president Rajashekhar VN addressing the gathering

AIDS0 facebook page

tion, this statement from the government clearly demonstrates its anti-people, anti-student, anti-education attitude." He was quick to point out that although being the first state to introduce NEP, we earned a dubious distinction of resisting its hasty implementation.

Referring to great thinkers such as Eshwarachandra Vidyasagar, Jyoti Ba Phule, and Savitribai Phule, AIDS0 sec-

retary, Ajay Kamath argued, as opposed to the wishes of these stalwarts, the BJP government is shirking its responsibility of funding education. "A minister says that it's very shameful for government colleges to depend on government money. He argues that colleges should make their own financial arrangements to run the college. That is, he is indicating that income should come from the

students. What a pathetic situation" he questioned.

AIDS0 state president Ashwini KS criticised that the NEP 2020, not only does away with the government school but also dilutes the education system. The government is doing its best to hamper the scientific attitude and questioning minds.

Niharika, a member of AIDS0, told The Beacon

that 13,700 schools are being closed without notice under the bogey of low strength. The government is privatising, commercialising and communalising education. Claiming that her college fees had been increased from Rs 4000 to Rs 10000, she said, the strength dropped by a whopping 90 per cent.

The former Vice-Chancellor of Hampi University, Prof. A Murigeppa pledged his support to students fighting against the NEP and said it is their right and responsibility to protest if education is expensive.

More than 35 Lakh signatures have been collected against NEP 2020 and would be sent to the CM as well as the prime minister of the country. The campaign was run for several months that involved 40000 students.

Women find it hard to fetch ECP in TN

Aileen Raju

Emergency contraceptive pills (ECP), which aid in preventing pregnancy, have historically been frowned upon in India. The undeclared ban on i-pills and other emergency contraceptives in Chennai, however, denies woman access to safe sex.

Whether married or unmarried, women in Chennai find it difficult to purchase an ECP.

Apart from having to face embarrassing responses from the store owners, the erroneous notions of pills being misused further obfuscate the availability.

"My acquaintance had to



Representational image

The Hindu |

answer inquiries such as, "Do your parents know? Have you seen a physician? The tablet will only be provided if a doctor has prescribed it," said Ajay, a resident of Chennai.

Though a prescription is not legally required, many pharmacies have a practice

of demanding one all over the city. "As a responsible citizen, I believe that ECPs are very necessary. But unfortunately, no pharmacies in the city are ready to sell the pill without a prescription, and also they tend to shame the customer," said Mr Binoy Joseph, sales

manager of a Chennai-based pharmaceutical company.

While the need for pills remains a necessity, a few doctors opine that overuse of pills leads to unwanted medical situations. Dr Riny Salas, Gynecologist of Vathiyayath Hospital, Kerala, personally does not recommend taking emergency medications as they may adversely affect women, particularly while experiencing irregular menstruation, diarrhoea, or vomiting. She also emphasised that she would only provide emergency i-pills when it is absolutely necessary and justifiable.

Mad about sports? MAS is all for you

Srijit Ray

BENGALURU: Mad About Sports (MAS), founded by Aditya Goenka in April 2021, aims to be the one-stop solution for sports enthusiasts by providing them training in analytics and getting them successfully placed in the industry.

Graduating from IIT Kharagpur in 2019, Goenka started off as an analyst at Capital One in Bengaluru. His inclination toward sports and entrepreneurial skills eventually paid off. Sensing an opportunity in poor infrastructure in sports he set up MAS, providing sports enthusiasts with short certified courses on analytics and management.

MAS provides courses on analysing cricket and football as well as sports management and journalism. They also conduct short but informative workshops regularly educating the budding talents about jobs in the industry apart from being an athlete.

Addressing the sports fanatics out there, he said, "Those who cannot be a player due to certain limitations but are still interested in sports can always take up a career in the backend industry. We help people like you to train and be job ready. So do try out our workshops and enrol for our courses."

Is TNPL a way to IPL?

Sowmya A

Over the years, the standard of the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) seems to be improving drastically and the talents coming out of the TNPL have been recognised all over the country. So also the influence it has over the IPL is unmatched.

The Tamil Nadu Premier League is a cricket league in the state of Tamil Nadu which was formed by the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association in 2016 to unearth local talent. The TNPL 2022 was conducted in 4 venues: Coimbatore, Salem, Dindigul and Tirunelveli.

V Guru Rajan, Assistant Manager of TNPL 2022, said, "This IPL, 15 players from Tamil Nadu got selected to various IPL teams. All these talents were top performers in the TNPL and consistent ones too." TNPL has helped in nurturing the young talents who have later proved themselves at the level of IPL because of the tough competition and high skill level of TNPL, he added.

Helping the Tamil Nadu team to outperform other states in domestic cricket, TNPL has made the TN team win both the Syed Mushtaq

Ali trophy and the Vijay Hazare trophy multiple times, he contented. By paving the way for many TN cricketers, TNPL has helped players represent the country in formats other than T20s as well.

Siddharth Manimaran, an Indian Cricketer, who predominantly plays for Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals, told The Beacon that the TNPL has taken cricket to the next level, especially for beginners. Further, he said that TNPL is a great platform for exposure and people around the world will recognise the real talents through TNPL.

Remembering the forgotten

Anjali Singh

BENGALURU: Reminiscing the struggle of women freedom fighters in the Independence movement, author Ashoke Chatterjee on Sunday said they were being erased from history.

To celebrate the legacy of the freedom fighters Aruna Asaf Ali and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay on the occasion of the 75th year of independence, Gandhi Global Family, a volunteer organisation, organised an event titled "Women, culture and peace". The event was presided over by economist Devika Jain.

Jain said that Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was the first woman to run for a legislative seat in India from the Madras Province, whereas Aruna Asaf Ali was an Indian educator, political activist, and publisher. "Both leaders were remarkably independent in their temperament at a young age. They propagated a new model for the women revolutionaries."

They joined the Indian National Congress during the peak of the freedom struggle and participated in public processions during the Salt March, she said.