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Demand for extension affirmed

Parnika Sirurmath

The state government of Karnataka has changed the age limit for the police constables' recruitment in response to the protests from a group of youth led by the All India Unemployed Youth Struggle Committee (AIUYSC). The state-wide struggle began on August 10 under the leadership of the committee at Freedom Park, Bengaluru. This witnessed unemployed youth coming together to demand equal opportunities. A state-level convention was also held on September 21 which was attended by former Chief of Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde.

According to the press release by the AIUYSC, the state government has increased the maximum age limit in the recruitment of police constables by two years (from 25 to 27 years) as a result of demands laid by the youth Committee. Concerning this decision, the state secretariat of the committee, Channabasava Janekal said that it created opportunities for the aspirants who were affected by the pandemic to apply for the post. The committee affirmed this decision and congratulated the youth on achieving their rights.

The demand was raised when there were no appointments from the police department for the last two years owing to the pandemic. It resulted in many candidates being worried about crossing the earlier maximum age limit and they demanded an extension. This marked a successful step for the youth and the committee, he said.

Dearth of toilets affect the health of girls

Sowmya A

While some Indian schools lack proper education facilities, most schools fail to maintain hygiene causing deteriorating health situations, especially for female students.

A large number of female school students in India do not have access to proper toilets in both government and private schools which adversely affects the health of female students, especially their menstrual hygiene.

Dr Porkodi, a gynaecologist, said, "Due to lack of toilets and unhygienic toilets, female students tend to avoid using restrooms in schools which is the key cause of urinary tract infections (UTIs) in them." When they hold urine for a very long time the bacteria build up in the urinary tract, resulting in urinary infection, it can also weaken the urinary



Girls fetching water to washrooms

The Telegraph

bladder muscles in women, she expressed with concern.

It is necessary for a woman to drink 2 to 4 litres of water per day and to urinate 5-8 times a day. Fearing that drinking water may often urge them to use restrooms, female students do not drink

enough water during school hours. This results in increasing the pH of urine thereby making it alkaline. The alkaline pH primarily causes UTIs, kidney stones, renal failure, renal tubular acidosis and metabolic acidosis in females. Not drinking enough

water can also lead to other health-related issues like dehydration, constipation and irregular bowel movements.

Unhygienic toilets also have a severe impact on the menstrual hygiene of women. If an individual fails to change their sanitary napkin

regularly, it can lead to skin irritation and cause severe infections in the vagina, Dr Porkodi told The Beacon. As vaginas are prone to infections more, using unhygienic toilets will also result in bacterial and fungal infections.

Uma Maheshwari, a 17-year-old school student, said that she hates using washrooms in school because they are not proper and unhygienic. She doesn't drink water in school to avoid urinating often and had also suffered from a urinary tract infection. "I have also visited the hospital a few times to treat my UTI," she added.

She feels that it is very stressful for her to attend school during her menstrual cycle. "I really find it hard to change and dispose of my used sanitary napkins in schools due to improper toilet facilities."

Unlocking a new worldview through pages

Jeba Janet

The desire to study atheism and universalism led to the creation of a home library for a 72-year scholar and member of the Tamil Desiya Per-eiyakkam party, Pulavar Varadharajan. Not surprisingly, he has read each book in the 3000-plus collection in his library.

Varadharajan's interest towards books started when he was studying in class 10. His teacher Thayumanavan pushed the boy to read more about atheism. He completed his education in the Tamil medium, and it was during this time his teach-



Pulavar Varadharajan

Special Arrangement

er, who was an atheist, spoke to him about philosophy. This conversation changed Varadharajan's life; he became a confirmed atheist when he was 15.

When he joined BA in Tamil Literature, his college library emerged as a significant source of knowledge.

He started reading Periyar's books to know more about atheism, but he recalls that Periyar portrayed Brahmins as the cause of all inequality.

This was when he started reading Debiprasad Chattopadhyay's books, an Indian Marxist philosopher whose books

focused on universalism and atheism. In 1970, during the Vladimir Lenin centennial celebration, the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society conducted a book exhibition and sold books at affordable rates all over the world. Varadharajan attended this exhibition in Tanjore and bought plenty of philosophy books.

"Lenin's books made me understand the twists and turns in politics, and his books drove my interest to join a political party," he said. The scholar then became a member of a Marxist party but later, with a few others, started a party called Tamil Desiya Per-eiyakkam.

New wheels rolled out to boost sales

Srijit Ray

The launch of 'Made in India' Mercedes Benz EQS 580 4MATIC boosted the company's sales in the previous quarter. Mercedes-Benz India expects 25% of their sales to come from EVs in the next 5 years.

This model is the company's first-ever locally manufactured luxury EV, rolled out on Sep 30, 2022.

Within weeks of its debut, the EQS has already received many confirmed orders throughout India. "Customers are preferring to buy EVs," said Shekhar Das Chowdhury, Head of Communications at Mercedes-Benz India.

Priced at Rs 1.55 crores, it has a plethora of unique features including rear-axle steering up to 10 degrees, the HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filter as part of the ENERGISING AIR CONTROL, 19 airbags and many more.

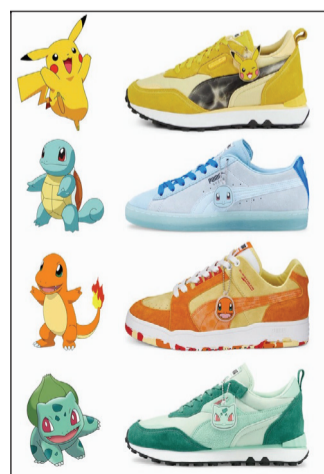
Das told The Beacon, "Customers are already highly impressed with the EQS and the overwhelming response reflects in the 300+ confirmed bookings that we already have for the cars in a matter of a couple of weeks."

From Pokeballs to 'Pokeshoes'

Vanlalhuma

Pokemon enthusiasts and sneakerheads all over the world are exhilarated by the recent announcement made by Pokemon and Puma.

Pokemon - the iconic franchise of Japanese origin that is becoming increasingly influential by the minute, has come to collaborate with sports brand Puma to release a range of suede sneakers inspired by the staple characters of Pokemon. Currently, the five sneaker designs are expected to drop on Nov 12; they feature



Pokeshoes

comicbook.com

two designs paying homage to Pikachu and the other three designs inspired by

Bulbasaur, Charmander and Squirtle. The Japanese franchise's themed hang tags, heel element logos, and insole branding finish off the look while denoting the fighting style of the iconic characters. The shoe will be available in various sizes for adults, children and toddlers.

Speaking to The Beacon, a Pokemon enthusiast said that she looked forward to purchasing the shoes and incorporating nostalgia into her everyday fashion. She also expressed her joy about this collaboration.

World of Dhrupad Sangeet

Jesbin Sam Mathew

BENGALURU: The Bangalore International Center was successful in instilling in the audience the concepts of the hallowed Dhrupad Sangeet through the programme 'The Wisdom of Sound'.

'The Wisdom of Sound' is a concert to understand the art of Dhrupad, performed by Sanjeev Jha and Manish Kumar with raga based on bandishes of the famous saints Vidyapati, Tulsidas and Surdas along with some self-written and composed bandishes. The

singers were successful in taking the listeners through the meditative aspect of Dhrupad music and the compositions were laden with ancient wisdom, both through the lyrics and its sounds.

These programmes evolved a distinctive presentational style throughout the time that appeals to both older and younger generations. Their goal is to spread this art form to the masses. They believe that this style of artistic expression has therapeutic and spiritual purposes in addition to amusing the listeners.