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Celebrating Millet on the Internet

Parnika S

Bengaluru: One of the city's most cherished food events, Avarebele Mela, attracted people from various parts of the city among which were a variety of food bloggers who posted about their experiences on social media.

The Mela was held from January 5 to 9 at National College Grounds, Basavanagudi. The food festival hosted a host of dishes containing this South Indian Millet, a hyacinth bean known in Kannada as Avarebele. It was organised by Sri Vasavi Condiments and was inaugurated by Sudha Murthy on Thursday.

"Since it's a seasonal food festival, I thoroughly enjoyed this mela, and I have tasted almost 15 kinds of dishes which are made with Avarebele," Thanvi, a Youtuber from Life of Thanvi spoke to The Beacon about her experience at the food festival.

"Usually at home, we prepare three to four varieties by using Avarebele. When visiting this festival we can try different varieties of food," Thanvi added. She also opined that for some dishes the quantity and price did not match. When asked about the Covid protocols followed by the visitors, she admitted that the guests only partially adhered to the Covid protocols because it was challenging to wear masks while attending the food festival. Among all the dishes, she stated that the "Puneeth Rajkumar Avarebele Cake" stood out as unique.

Educationists decry commodification of education

Abhirami Nair

Bengaluru: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has allowed foreign institutions to set up campuses in India, finalise the entrance criteria and tuition rates, and remit funds to their parent campuses.

There are various guidelines which need to be met to set up any foreign universities. Foreign institutions with campuses within the country are only permitted to provide full-time programmes in offline mode; online or distance learning is not permitted. Institutions are not allowed to offer any study programmes that jeopardise India's national interests or the quality of higher education offered here. It was also made clear that the initial approval would be granted for 10 years and would be renewed in the ninth year, provided that certain requirements were met.

"As a student activist who is concerned with



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the degradation of public education, it does not sound like a move that would benefit even a large section of our population. All these universities should better be termed as stores where one can buy education," said Aratrika,

a student activist of All India Student's Association (AISA) to The Beacon.

The fee system of the universities will not be subject to any kind of governmental checks and balances, allowing them to make unrestricted

profits. Such universities would only serve about 10% of the population, worsening inequality in a nation that cannot even provide for the necessities of life, she said. "This is solely a result of neoliberal educational reforms, which

changed education from a necessity to a commodity." She further added how this would stem the brain drain from India. "The only way to halt it would be to increase the budget for education in India and build more and more local research spaces."

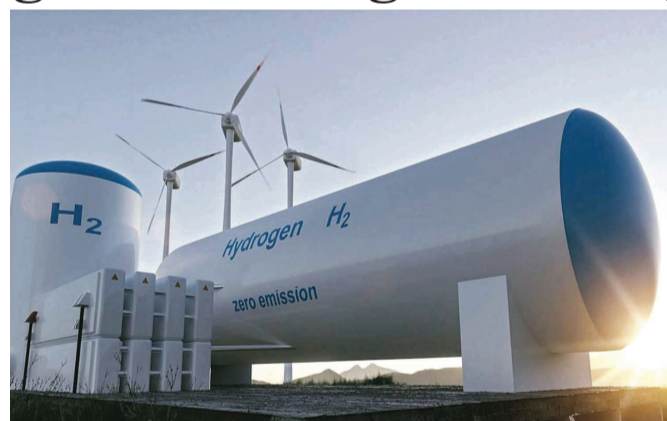
"The quality of education will not reach that of these prestigious universities," said educationist, Rajasekharan VN. The quality of education will not be up to the expected level as a university isn't built overnight. It is considered a 'disastrous step' as it will create competition among Indian Universities. "Instead of bringing foreign universities here, we should be taking up measures to bring the Indian universities to the international level," he added. This step will not be beneficial for the students in India who don't come from an affluent background, he added.

Green hydrogen will be a game changer for India

Kavya S

Experts predict India would undergo a revolutionary transformation in its economy and strengthen as a regional power with the introduction of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. This enables the country to be less dependent on petroleum imports.

The National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to promote the production of green hydrogen to reduce emissions and make India a significant exporter of alternative energy, was approved by the Union cabinet of India on January 4. India is



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set to become a global hub for the production of hydrogen as a part of the mission.

Hydrogen is produced when the electric current is passed into the water splitting

oxygen and hydrogen. When the electricity produced from solar or wind energy is used for electrolysis to split the water into hydrogen and oxygen, it

is called Green Hydrogen.

"It is a very important development; first time India is taking a lead in funding alternative energy which has very serious implications globally and locally," said Nagesh Hegde, an Indian author, environmentalist, activist, journalist and professor.

According to Hegde, the possibility of India becoming the world's top supplier of Green Hydrogen will put the world's oil firms under threat, forcing them to compete in the global market by producing environment-friendly alternative energy.

Museum to unlock history

Chandrasoodeshwar

Bengaluru: Sanganakallu Neolithic Site is the oldest known Neolithic site in South India where a lot of information is buried in the landscape but nobody is aware of it, says Ravi Korisetar.

During the event "Making a Museum" held at Bangalore International Center on Saturday, Korisetar, an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies addressed the gathering. He spoke about the millet revolution followed by archaeological excavations at Sanganakallu and making a museum based on it.

Korisetar comments that a large number of antiquities was collected not only in Sanganakallu but also in other smaller sites in the area. In order to protect and preserve pre-historic heritage, a museum was established with the help of the district administrations. It is called as Robert Bruce Foote Sanganakallu Archaeological Museum, named after the pioneer Robert Bruce Foote located at Ballari.

The 5000-year-old Millet revolution gave rise to the emergence of early agricultural economies. "...the earliest food crops that were cultivated in India happened to be millets, this was not known until sites like Sanganakallu were excavated," says Korisetar.

Chronicles in a coffee mug

Chandana Trilok

Nestled in the heart of the Araku Valley of Andhra Pradesh, Sampoorna Coffee Gallery is India's first-of-its-kind thematic coffee museum.

The Coffee museum describes the history of aromatic drinks. It stands out wonderfully among the Araku Valley's tribal environments for its learning experience, taste and tribal tradition.

The valley situated in the Eastern Ghats is much more than just a popular tourist

destination. This museum is a vital component of a grand coffee shop that offers coffee, chocolates, sandwiches, brownies, and other treats, but the coffee museum is what distinguishes it from other coffee shops.

The museum exhibits the history of coffee in Ethiopia and its voyage to the Araku Valley through dioramas. Speaking to The Beacon, Rajendra Rao, a regular customer said, "I stay in Vizag but Araku coffee house is my weekend escape. The ambience and the environment add up to the

correct mood."

The idea was developed and established by Prakash Rao, a migrant to the Araku valley. He established a general catering business here in 1930, focusing mostly on travellers. He tried to promote Araku Coffee after identifying the speciality of the coffee produced in the Araku valley, as it is one of the few locations in India where Arabica coffee is cultivated more than the typical Robusta coffee. As a result, he established a coffee shop and museum in 1954.

The echoes of celebration

Meghana

Chickballapur district is rich in growing vegetables, fruits and flowers. There isn't Chickballapur without hills which provides the tagline 'Phala Pushpa Giridhama Nadu' said Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar at Chickballapur Utsava.

On the occasion of completing 15 years as a district, Chickballapur witnessed the first of its kind 'Chickballapur Utsava' inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, D Veerendra Heggade and K Sudhakar on January 7.

The Utsava will take place for eight days from January 7 to 14. There are competitions and cultural events conducted every day in presence of celebrities apart from sports competitions like kabbadi, rangoli, swimming, and tug of war among others and the winners got cash prizes.

The district is decked with lights for 25 to 30 kilometres. An exhibition is arranged for the people and a flower show similar to that of Lalbagh is organised. "I want everyone to enjoy these seven days," said Sudhakar.