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Footpaths: A flair or fear?

Sowmya A

BENGALURU: Footpaths are meant to be used by pedestrians not motorists, an official from the Traffic Department stated commenting on motorists violating the traffic rules by riding vehicles on footpaths.

A large number of motorists use footpaths as a means of escape from traffic, which puts pedestrians in danger and also damages the footpaths.

As this act of motorists lands pedestrians in danger by injuring them, they can be booked under section 283 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the official warned. We have also booked motorists under this section for committing such crimes, she added.

Riding motorcycles on the footpath violates the traffic rules and it is dangerous for both pedestrians as well as motorists, she said. Footpaths are reserved for pedestrians, just as roads are for motorists, and motorists using footpaths is illegal and reckless, she lamented.

Meghana Ramesh (name changed), a student, who walks to her college situated in Central Bangalore, said that it is extremely difficult for her to use footpaths as motorists keep on riding their vehicles on the pavements to flee from traffic. "Sometimes the motorists lose their control on footpaths and as a result, they bump into pedestrians by injuring us," Meghana expressed. Motorists using footpaths also damage the slabs of the footpath by making them unusable to pedestrians.

Fight against impunity is the need of the hour

Ashish Bhandarkar

CAMPUS: It's high time that we speak about how caste and religion are used as a catalyst to mask the sexual exploitation women are subjected to in our country. The accountability of the perpetrators and the role religion played in India's daughter Bilkis Banos's case must be scrutinised to deliver justice to her, said Mamata Sagar, a prolific poet and thinker.

A public dialogue on the politics of rape and sexual violence in Karnataka challenging impunity was held on Feb 11 in the St Joseph's University auditorium. The event was presided over by Vrinda Grover, a lawyer, researcher and women's rights activist, Jyothi Hithal, a social activist, Dr Akkai Padamashali, a social and political activist among others. The dialogue was organised by



Panel discussion on Politics of Rape

Special Arrangement

the association 'If We Do Not Rise - Karnataka', a community organisation that fights for women's rights, in collaboration with St. Joseph's University.

On August 15, 2022, the Gujarat government awarded remission to each of the eleven men who were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano case. This sparked an uproar in the country and left the

population divided over the decision. The event highlighted these facts in the document distributed named 'Reporting to Remember - In solidarity with Bilkis'.

"While this remission itself came as a shock to the entire country, what caused greater pain and anger was that eventually the perpetrators were garlanded and felicitated by certain organisations," Mamata

Further narrating her experience, she said that when she undertook several campaigns in Karnataka, in solidarity with Bilkis, during these experiences with people, what came to be revealed was that the public response hugely varied. Some people expressed shock for not knowing enough about the case and some vehemently opposed to support her and said "She doesn't deserve any justice".

Talking about the rampant sexual violence in Karnataka, she said, around the time of the release of the perpetrators, several gory instances against women were being reported in the state. The previous year, in Tumkur, a three-year-old child's private parts were burnt by her own teacher in an Anganwadi school. Early last year, two minor girls alleged rape against the pontiff of Muruga Math in Chitradurga. This shows us how the susceptibility of women and children to violence in Karnataka is getting much worse.

The event also unveiled the flag of women's solidarity with the slogan 'A life without sexual violence will be ours'. Also, two testimonies were given by a bonded labour survivor and a transgender murder survivor. Actress Arundathi Nag extended her support for this event through a video message.

'Bangalore Blues': An ode to the city

Jenett Jose

BENGALURU: Old Bangalore had this great allure that drew individuals of all different lifestyles, outlooks, and perspectives together. It kept them there despite diversity in language, religion, culture and a certain cosmopolitanism. The author of 'Bangalore Blues' believed that there was a certain narrative that needed to be documented since the aspect of the city has changed over time.

Kirtana Kumar, the author of 'Bangalore Blues' took readers down the memory lane by launching the book at Blossoms Book House on



The author addressing the crowd

Jenett Jose

Church Street on February 12. Rajyotsava awardee and former IAS officer Chiranjeevi Singh, founder of Heritage Beku, a heritage preserving organisation, Priya Chetty Rajagopal and fashion curator Prasad Bidapa were the

prominent invitees at the event.

"The book is a love letter to the city. It is something that embodied the zeitgeist of the time and made Bangalore what it was, that fun modern city that gave birth to the IT industry and was never the

same again," said Kumar. She felt that the city has changed a lot over the decades. "Bangalore, which you talk was a noun. It has now been turned into a verb," she added.

The author started working on the book during the lockdown. "It was a few months after my father had passed away and I really felt that I have to tell these stories because once this generation goes, who's going to know that these things existed?" she said.

The event was attended by a lot of literature enthusiasts who came to show their support and love for their city and its stories.

Adapting to sustainability

Jesbin Sam Mathew

BENGALURU: Bangalore is once more immersed in the world of eco-friendly products by Conscious Souk, an event which promotes ecological products under the lifestyle category.

The Bangalore International Centre hosted an event named Conscious Souk by Our Better Planet, an e-commerce platform to enlighten Bangaloreans about the trends in the purchasing world. The event offers hands on experience to people on how to inculcate sustainable products like clothes, clay utensils and food.

Conscious Souk works to link products and stories with customers who are drawn to live mindfully and intentionally. It's the sixth edition of the event being conducted for the fourth time in Bangalore, the next edition will be going to Chennai on February 25 and 26.

Speaking to The Beacon, Priyanka, a member of organisation team said 'Now it's the age of online shopping but many customers are not satisfied with online stuff because of the size issue, colour, design and so on..' This kind of event will create a better understanding between customers and brands. Products are not machine-made but can be recycled in nature.

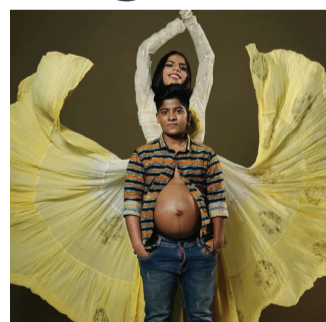
A baby beyond genders

Aileen Raju

India's first pregnant transman has been igniting debates among the society. The transman and his partner has urged the hospital's administrators recently to include their new gender identity on their new-born's birth certificate and other official documents.

Ziya Paval, 21, and her partner Zahhad Fazil, 23, a transgender couple from Kerala, announced the birth of their child last week. The baby's gender hasn't been made public by the parents.

"I feel adipoli! (great), said



Ziya and Zahhad Instagram

Zahhad to The Quint. He added that he was excited as he could be a mother and father at once. The couple has recently taken the country by storm, along with drawing global attention. BBC News termed their pregnancy

as 'a rarity in India'. The couple told the organisation that no one else in the trans community [in India] has called themselves a biological parent yet.

At the same time, several criticisms were raised for denying breast milk for the baby. Social activists have been discussing the same through various social media platforms since the couple's pregnancy announcement. But many social activists opined that breastfeeding is completely an individual's choice, and there is no need to make anyone feel guilty about that.

Capturing the sky is affordable!

Srijit Ray

The first-ever consumer-based drone company in India has landed. The founders, students of VIT Vellore, joined forces in hopes of reaching new heights with their innovation.

Arth Chowdhury, the CEO and Oshi Kumari, the COO, come from a mechanical engineering background, and Devyant Bhardwaj, the CTO, from an electrical engineering background, pooled in their ideas to come up with India's first-ever First Person View (FPV) drones that cater solely to consumers.

The vision of Inside FPV is to make it the world's most reliable brand for affordable commercial drones. The company makes Plug & Fly drones ranging from Rs 2800 to Rs 8 lakh. The feed captured by the drone camera will be displayed in real-time on the goggles worn by the user. Kumari mentions that the Indian government has banned the use of all foreign-made drones which has created an enormous void in the drone market.

Kumari, who is also India's first-ever FPV drone pilot, added, "We also give out 1 drone crash warranty and free consultation from experienced drone pilots."