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AIDSO bats for student-friendly state budget

Jenett Jose

BENGALURU: The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) has urged that the Karnataka government allocate 30% of the state budget to education, increase the number of government medical and engineering colleges, and grant free bus passes to all students.

In a press release issued on Monday, AIDSO said students in the state are facing numerous challenges. The reduction in scholarship amount has become a serious concern for students, including mounting tuition fees, inadequate hostel facilities, and a lack of basic amenities in government schools and colleges.

AIDSO urged the state government to announce pro-student and pro-education schemes in the upcoming budget. "Public-funded education institutions have so far provided quality education to lakhs of poor and meritorious students. Government should allocate more funds and strengthen public institutions as lakhs of students in the state are depending on them," said Ajay Kamath, secretary of AIDSO, in the statement.

The organisation in a delegation submitted a memorandum to B.C. Nagesh, Minister of School Education and Dr Ashwath Narayan, Karnataka Higher Education Minister.

The city of dreams enmeshed in distress

Priyanka Gond

Mumbai's local train women's compartment is a box where women demonstrate their entrapment through their rants with one another, which in turn fuels them to bare the challenges of the day ahead, said Sandhya Kumar, host for the event Ladies Only.

The Ladies Only - Interweaving Women's Experiences in Mumbai's Trains event was held with a movie screening on Monday at the Bangalore International Center. The speakers for the event were Rebana John, Artist & Filmmaker, Milann Tress John, Cinematographer, and Sandhya Kumar.

The film about the women passengers in Mumbai local trains portrayed a pool of positivity displayed by ladies who were angered by what they experienced in their daily lives. Social perceptions were the sole reason for their distress



Panel discussion on the movie Ladies Only at Bangalore International Centre

Priyanka Gond

in life.

The film provides insight into how urban Indian women perceive their life by demonstrating the diversity of cultures and languages in the city of dreams, Mumbai. Through a feminist lens, John explores what ambitions and freedoms mean for women in a hyper-industrial, wealth-driven, and

complex world.

One of the passengers in the movie says, "I don't think Mumbai is a fashionable city. Time and work are everything here. If clothing was not important, people would not even dress up." Colonisation has changed the clothing industry. Before, Bengali women never wore blouses on top of sarees.

Nudity was not obscene back then, she says.

Another passenger expressed her astonishment about the female antagonist in the movie Gone Girl. "When committed by women, violence is a larger concern," she remarked. This reveals that, in reality, our rights as citizens are not equal, she says.

Some passengers spoke about marriage not being the ultimate aim. "Pregnancy on top of that is not a cherry on top. We cannot wish men could conceive but women deserve a say about their bodies," a pregnant passenger argued. She says that all the years of getting hold of one's body and letting it go for a baby is not a risk some women want to bear.

Some of the student passengers lamented the fact that their parents had crushed their ambition of pursuing sports because of societal stereotypes, and that it was difficult to pursue them even if one chose to. Women who are on foot often get questioned about their virginity. Tress John concluded the event by saying, "I was very triggered by some women. Non-verbal communication is talked about more in this film. In the train, the vibration was spread with pressure points. Controlling the crowd was a task."

Students' future at stake due to 'casteist skit'

Sowmya A

BENGALURU: The students of Jain University are compelled to attend classes online amidst the protests on all the campuses of the institution after the controversial skit was performed by some students last week. The skit was alleged to be casteist.

The students who performed the skit last week in an intercollegiate fest, allegedly defaming Dr BR Ambedkar at Jain University were arrested on Wednesday.

Later the principal was arrested. Protests broke out on all the campuses of the university and to ensure the safety of the students, classes are being held online.

"Earlier, only the CMS campus was closed and classes were held online. But now it is the same for all the campuses," said a student of the university to The Beacon, who didn't want to be named. When classes were held offline on other campuses of the university the students were advised

not to wear their identity cards and enter the campus as the students might end up in trouble caused by the protesters, the student added.

Speaking about the difficulties faced by the students due to this shift, the source said that the practical classes scheduled are not held and it is difficult for them to learn everything online. "We don't even have a proper timetable now," the student said. As classes are held online, students from other states

have started leaving for their hometowns. The source also expressed that they are very uncertain about when the situation will be back to normal. "There is no information regarding when our classes will be held offline again," said the source.

The source also expressed concerns about their mental health being affected by the incident. "We are worried and stressed about our future as the reputation of the university is at stake."

Demand for easier public conveyance

Aileen Raju

BENGALURU: A campaign was initiated to guarantee BMTC services to commuters and to improve connectivity at an affordable cost for the underprivileged.

Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike and numerous other organisations have launched a campaign to urge the chief minister to allocate adequate funding for the BMTC in this year's state budget.

The activists urged the government that the BMTC fleet be expanded by 3000 buses, in addition to any existing purchase plans, and remove the cap on recruitment and employ additional drivers.

"The accessibility of buses is starting to matter all the more after the National Education Policy (NEP) has been brought in. After the NEP rolled out, a lot of colleges have started multiple shifts and the low frequency of buses at night is becoming difficult to manage," said Sujodipito, a representative of AISA.

According to one group member, the new approach to transportation policy can help in minimising pollution, emissions, fuel consumption, accidents and environmental damage.

Nurturing sports at the grassroots

Srijit Ray

ABC Fitness Firm, a sports coaching start-up, was established in Pune in the hopes of taking Pro League sports to the next level.

The founders, Anirudh Anil Pole and Pole Roshan Bhaskar started the firm in 2016 to popularise the culture of sports amongst the youth.

Explaining about Pro League, Anirudh said that teams are formed amongst the students of ABC and tournaments are conducted and telecasted live. This serves



ABC Fitness Firm logo LinkedIn

as a platform for the youth to showcase their talents. ABC focuses training on four different sports - basketball, badminton, tennis and gymnastics. The students receive quality training from 85 certified coaches who have represented their respective states as well as India.

ABC conducts training programs in various housing societies and schools at a very reasonable rate. Expressing joy, Roshan says that 5 to 10 per cent of their students have already made it to the state and national championships.

Expressing dismay over the situation of sports in India, Anirudh says, "In the race between sports and studies, the latter always wins. We have only two PT periods in school per week, yet we expect many medals in major competitions like the Olympics."

Is cow the new valentine?

Megha Mukundan

Even after the withdrawal of Cow Hug Day, in places like Ahmedabad's Bhagwat Vidyapeeth and Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, people spent the day hugging cows, feeding and worshipping them on February 14.

The idea of rebranding Valentine's day as 'Cow Hug Day' was proposed by the Animal Welfare Board India last week, which asked Indians to hug cows on Valentine's day. As the idea was mocked and objected to on social media

and by many political parties, the board revoked its call.

The Indian Express shared a few photographs from Ahmedabad in which people could be seen hugging and pampering cows, including children. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Gopalan and Livestock Promotion Board vice president Swami Akhileshwar Giri observed the day as Cow Hug Day. He told The Free Press Journal that, the cow is our mother, and we should protect her, while also adding that Valentine's day is not our culture.