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Fear of malware in TikTok remains

Joyce Rodrigues

TikTok continues to hog the headlines as Australia followed the suit in banning the video-sharing app on government devices after the US. A Cyber Security expert, Gauthami BE, said that the app comes with malware, that leaks certain secretive information to the Chinese app promoter. Recently, the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and New Zealand have banned TikTok on their government devices. Many nations fear that Byte Dance, the parent company of TikTok, might hand over the harvested data of users to the Chinese government, which will threaten the national security and political stability of other countries. However, as reported by Reuters, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew denied that the company shares the data with the Chinese government. Last month, a Toronto-based company Feroot Security found that 30 US state government-run websites had web tracking code made by Byte Dace. The tracking code was used to collect information about visitors' activities on the web. Gauthami said, "TikTok takes data such as IP address, phone number, location, what the user is clicking, typing or searching for. Through this data, they perform analytics and give to Chinese advertisers which gives an edge to the Chinese capitalist. The harvested data is used by the Chinese loan apps, which don't appropriately follow the rules such as KYC and other rules relating to loans in a specific country."

'BJP's commitment to education is fake'

Jesbilin Joseph

The New Education Policy (NEP) included some really generous suggestions which provide a variety of courses to students for their overall growth. It is not a bad policy, said Dr Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, here on Sunday. The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) hosted a Teachers' conference at Dr Bheemrao Palace, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, on April 10. During the event, Dr Shashi Tharoor, the president of KAMS and the Karnataka Private School Managements, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Coordination Committee (KPMTCC) and MLC, Puttanna, addressed the gathering.

During his speech, Tharoor said that the Members of Parliament (MPs) from the opposition were consulted for



Shashi Tharoor addressing the Teachers' Conference

Jesbilin Joseph

the formulation of the NEP and suggested several ideas to the education minister. However, it was eventually announced without any debate in Parliament. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came up with several ideas

and assertions that we can't argue with but without any concrete plans for implementing them, such as the plan to spend 6% of GDP on education. "I have to say it's entirely fake because, since the BJP government

took office in 2014, the budget for education has dropped rather than improved. Presently, this government spends only 3.6% of GDP on education, with education accounting for 2.67% of total government spending."

"We should teach youngsters the fundamentals of every subject. Any school-age youngster should have a basic understanding of physics, humanity, economics, mathematics, and so on. They can then specialise when they get to college, but not in school," added Tharoor.

Explaining the reason behind his resignation from the BJP, Puttanna said that due to the corruption in the education department, teachers face numerous challenges. "I fought for this cause, which quickly went viral and the state president called me and said, "We are the reason for your victory, you should not criticise other leaders or ministers." Therefore, at that point, I decided to leave the party and decided that I should not be in a position where I couldn't do justice to those who voted for me," he said.

NCERT's text book revision deemed communal

Parnika S

The exclusion of a few chapters from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum has raised many eyebrows with the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) condemning the move of government.

In May 2022, the NCERT released a list of chapters that were deleted from the curriculum. The new syllabus deleted significant chapters from History, Civics, Political Science and Hindi.

Criticising the move as politically motivated AISEC



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said this is not just an academic endeavour. The whole exercise of updating the curriculum is tainted with a communal outlook and is undemocratic and autocratic, stated the press

release. "The BJP government has banished whatever secular, scientific and democratic contents that remained in the curriculum. As the government is adopting anti-

people policies in all spheres and silencing and suppressing discontent brewing among citizens, lessons like 'Democracy and diversity', 'Popular struggles and movement', and 'Challenges to democracy' have been dropped from the Class 10 'Democratic Politics-II' textbook." Through these curriculum changes, the government wants to inject communalism into young minds and prevent a rational bent of mind. "This fascist design must be opposed and resisted tooth and nail by all democratic and secular forces of our country," it stated.

A brand for specialised health packages

Kavya S

Thyrocare introduces 'Jaanch' at a time when factors like bad lifestyle choices, lack of physical activity, unhealthy eating patterns, and high levels of stress have led to an increase in lifestyle diseases in India.

On April 7, in recognition of World Health Day, Thyrocare, a top provider of diagnostic and preventive healthcare services in India, unveiled Jaanch, a brand that offers all Indians specialised, thorough, and reasonably priced healthcare solutions.

"Jaanch is designed to provide an entire buffet of specialised packages for common diseases, which are a major health concern in India, at affordable prices. Jaanch aims to encourage people to make small and wise investments in their health today, which can prevent the progression of diseases and avoid physical, emotional and financial burdens on patients and their families in the future," said Amit Bhola, Head - of B2B, Thyrocare Technologies Ltd in a press release.

The Jaanch brand offers 26 packages under nine essential specialisations that include women's reproductive health care, diabetes, thyroid, cancer, STDs..

'Homoeoparivar- Sarvajan Swasthya'

Aasline Dsouza

The country will only develop when it is healthy first. Homoeopathy has played a significant role during the Covid-19 pandemic, remarked Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar at the inaugural ceremony of the scientific convention on World Homoeopathy Day on Monday in New Delhi. The Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH) under the Ministry of Ayush on Monday, organised a scientific convention with the theme 'Homoeoparivar - Sarvajan Swasthya,

One Health, One Family,' highlighting the importance of homoeopathy in promoting health and well-being of the entire family and community. "Healthcare is not just about medical treatment; it includes an individual's physical, mental and emotional well-being, and a community's social and economic environment. Homoeopathy as a form of treatment has a rich history spanning over two centuries. Today, WHO acknowledges homoeopathy as the second largest and fastest-growing system of

medicine in the world and has marked its presence in more than 80 countries," tweeted Dhankar. Extending his wishes to the Ministry of Ayush, Union Minister Piyush Goyal encouraged the use of homoeopathic medicines for the economical & safe treatment of illness. "This scientific convention will surely benefit the nation through its activities and aid the dream of our prime minister in providing the necessary health benefits to every person in our country," he tweeted.

A 'significant victory' for UVCE

Abhirami Nair

Bengaluru: After the widespread protests from the students of the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) in Bangalore, along with teachers and parents, the higher education department has issued an order sanctioning 35 crores to finance the deficit amount to the college. The order also states that UVCE shall remain under Bangalore University for another year, which the protesters have termed as a "significant victory" for the movement against the government's plan to make the college a self-financing institution. The UVCE is one of the 14

government engineering colleges in the state, providing education to many poor students. The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) is demanding that the government should take full financial responsibility for the UVCE college. "What shall be the fate of the UVCE after this year still remains a question. Students are demanding that the institution be completely funded by the government and are clearly against the institution becoming a self-financing institution," said Kalyan Kumar, district secretary of AIDSO Bangalore, in a press release.