

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Friday, 21 July 2023 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 16 Issue: 02 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

HC alters age of consent for sexual relationships

Nikita Priya

The Bombay High Court's judgement to reduce the age of consent for teens engaging in sexual relations has ignited a debate and raised concerns about child protection among legal experts and activists.

The HC on July 14 passed a judgement to lower the age of consent for teenagers due to an increase in criminal cases involving minors in consensual sexual relationships.

"While also accepting the age of consent, we should give more priority to the safety and well-being of the teenagers," said Astha Tyagi, lawyer and activist expressing her concern about child safety.

She explained lowering the legal age of consent may unconsciously expose teenagers who are already vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Tyagi also questioned the court ruling saying that the Protection of Children from a Sexual Offense (POCSO) Act was made to prevent sexual assault against children so it is important to consider if this ruling is consistent with the aim of the law. "To avoid any unpredicted implications, the interpretation and application of the Act in light of this decision require careful consideration." She added.

Lowering the age of consent may improve understanding of responsible sexual behaviour, and also unintentionally normalise early sexual relationships, she added.

'Cars given more priority than human lives'

Shariq Ahamed

In response to concerns over safe pedestal crossing and walkways in Bengaluru, Shaheen Shasa, a member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, has questioned the city planners' priorities and their obsession with tunnel roads and elevated roads while neglecting to provide basic pedestal walkways for city commuters.

Bengaluru residents have raised concerns on Twitter about the absence of safe pedestal walkways in a number of the city's major intersections. Following a tweet on Saturday that highlights the difficulties to cross the busy junction in Hebbal, netizens shared the challenges of not having a proper pedestal crossing and walkway in many more busy junctions such as KR Puram, Hennur, Silk board and others.

According to Shasa, this issue has continued for



Pedestrians waiting to cross the road at Hebbal junction

Twitter

a while, and it is crucial to provide commuters with convenient walkways.

"It is almost criminal that a city like Bengaluru doesn't provide decent walkways everywhere. When it comes to pedestal crossing, it's even more criminal," she said.

Shasa believed that the

city planners are not providing safe pedestals and are not concerned about how the common people and bus users are commuting. "This is not the priority and that is very clear," she added.

The city residents also mentioned on Twitter the inconvenience of having

to wait 15 to 20 minutes or more just to cross these busy junctions on foot. People voiced their opinion saying that vehicles are given higher priority over commuters.

Shasa criticised the unnecessary beautification of footpaths in places like Church Street when the

necessity for fundamental walkways is being neglected. "They should stop with these hobby projects and start resolving the issues being faced by the bus commuters and pedestrians," she added.

She also questioned the building of skywalks in places where they were not required and said that commuters didn't always use them since they didn't find them convenient. "Commuters are not prepared to spend the extra time climbing up and down, and skywalks are absent at junctions where they are really required," she said.

People also expressed how difficult it is to navigate traffic from all directions while carrying their children and how the cars do not even bother to slow down. "Pedestrians who cross certain roads are keeping their lives at stake and going ahead," said Shasa, highlighting the safety issues.

Study links certain occupations to ovarian cancer

Ishika Bhattacharjee

When it comes to women, the number of studies or medical research related to women's health is inadequate and poorly done. There is very little authentic data, however, this research outcome could be possible, opined Dr Gayatri Laha referring to a new study on Ovarian Cancer.

Recently the British Medical Journal (BMJ) published a research paper titled 'Occupational Environment and Ovarian Cancer Risk'. This study was conducted to look at specific occupational hazards and employment in a field or industry in connection



Representational Image

Hindustan Times

to the risk of ovarian cancer.

Female health research has always been underfunded and neglected but for almost the last 10 years studies have started to come up and people have been taking medical infrastructure seriously, added Dr Laha. "It's good that research has

begun related to women's health, menstruation, ovarian cancer, postpartum health, and many such prominent issues."

Speaking to The Beacon, she said, "It could be possible as occupational health hazards are real and few occupations can make one's health more

susceptible to a certain type of cancer." Beauticians, hairdressers, and other related occupations can give a person skin exposure or inhalational exposure which might lead to ovarian cancer, she added.

Although relating one's occupation with ovarian cancer is not completely wrong, we need to understand that this is just a pilot study and nothing can be guaranteed until further research is done, she mentioned. "There are a lot of confounding factors in the outcome of the research that is conducted by BMJ, it clearly says that one's lifestyle choices, menstrual health, etc can also cause ovarian cancer."

Theatre unveils legal realities

Yachi Jebisow

The play "Silence! The Court is in Session", is conveying real-world issues through storytelling and encouraging the audience's reflection on legal system flaws, marginalised communities, and the importance of justice and equality, said Kritika Jain, an assistant director of the show.

On July 15, in the third annual theatre show, the play was enacted by Vijay Tendulkar, showcasing the talent and creativity of the students of St Joseph's College of Law at Bengaluru.

The play explored the deeper aspects of the legal system and the complexities that often go unnoticed.

Speaking to The Beacon, Jain said, "By combining the power of theatre with social commentary, we successfully initiated important conversations and raised awareness about the need for a more inclusive, fair, and transparent legal system".

Additionally, the show provided a platform for SJCL students to express their creativity and demonstrate their understanding of the societal issues that surround them, she added.

A symphony of culture and coffee

Dhamini D

With illustrations on each cup inspired by folk arts like Yakshagana and Krishnaparijata, India's first artisanal speciality coffee on wheels - Tribal Brew on Wheels, serves freshly brewed single-origin coffees and desserts while focusing on creating an immersive cultural experience with each sip.

Tribal Brew on Wheels, located in a tranquil area of Indiranagar's lively streets, traces its inception back to Tribal Brew Coffee, a brand that initially focused



The Tribal Brew crew Instagram

only on producing curated coffee products. Co-founded by Shivani RK and Rakshith Nagabhusan, the venture strives to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers, allowing customers to appreciate the origin and story behind each cup.

Nagabhusan expressed that the emphasis on visual design

and the fusion of art with coffee creation plays a pivotal role in attracting customers to the coffee truck. "Our focus is not only on our farms but also on procuring coffee from the tribal farms, which cultivate natural wild-grown coffee in places like Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Chikmagalur. Each region brings its own unique folk art and performing arts, and we aim to showcase and promote these alongside the coffee we serve," he added.

Global powerhouse in making

Bibhash Kalita

India's giant Bajaj Auto and British motorcycle manufacturer Triumph Motorcycles have joined forces in a game-changing merger, and their first product is out on the market. The aim of this strategic collaboration is to bring a wave of innovation, expand global reach and boost competitiveness in India's dynamic automotive sector.

The Bajaj-Triumph merger holds potential for both companies and the Indian automobile market at large. By pooling their strengths, resources, and technological

advancements, the companies are set to introduce cutting-edge products, solidify both companies' market presence, and tap into new customer segments.

Speaking to The Beacon, Sagar Sheldekar, a leading automobile journalist in the country and certified California Superbike School coach said, "This collaboration will foster sustainable mobility solutions and enable Bajaj to expand its premium vehicle offerings abroad while Triumph gains a stronger foothold in the rapidly growing Indian market."