

# THE BEACON

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## Virus outbreak kills 7 feline

Afiya Amreen

**Bengaluru:** Seven leopard cubs have succumbed to a highly contagious virus at the Bannerghatta Biological Park. The virus, feline panleukopenia (FP) responsible for this outbreak is caused by the feline parvovirus, known to be particularly devastating to kittens.

Dr Vijay, a veterinarian at the park, confirmed that the initial report of the FP outbreak was on August 22. Within the first week of September, a total of seven cubs fell victim to the virus. Despite having received vaccinations against FP, the cubs, aged between three and eight months, could not withstand the virus's onslaught and passed away during treatment. Feline panleukopenia manifests as a severe reduction in white blood cells, accompanied by symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea in affected cubs. The virus primarily spreads through contact with cats, both feral and domestic.

Dr Vijay also emphasised the importance of taking precautionary measures to protect other animals in the park. He stated, "It is now under control, and in the last 15 days, no deaths have been reported. We have completely broken the chain and taken all necessary measures. We followed all the required procedures and also held discussions with all our senior veterinarians. All correct courses of action were taken. Also, we have ensured the hygiene of the entire zoo, and the rescue centre was completely sanitised."

## DMK's take on treating everyone equally

Ishika S

For many years, leaders have spoken about the discriminatory practices against the lower caste by the Sanatana Dharma religion. But today, the BJP government for whom Hindutva is extremely important, has weaponised a statement made by Udayanidhi Stalin to use against the DMK party, said Ragavapillai Siva, MLA, and President of DMK party, Puducherry.

Sports Minister of Tamil Nadu, Udayanidhi Stalin courted controversy on September 2, in a speech at a DMK indoor meet, when he compared Sanatana Dharma to Malaria, Dengue and Covid which according to him needs to be eradicated. Speaking to The Beacon, Siva defended the minister stating that he only spoke about his agitation towards the practices followed



Udayanidhi Stalin, Sports Minister TN,

Economic Times

by Sanatanis against the untouchables and not the religion.

"I follow the Hindu religion, and so do a lot of other people in our party. Even our founder has told us to worship the God we believe in and not carry out unpleasant practices in the name of God," said Siva.

He elaborated on how some adherents of Sanatana Dharma consider themselves to hail from a higher caste, leading to divisions among people, with the lower caste often regarded as untouchables. This division is evident even in temples, where priests avoid direct contact with individuals

from the lower caste when receiving offerings.

Brahmins have their own set of beliefs as they only let the people who speak Sanskrit or know the mantras near God, while the others are not permitted near the idol. This kind of discrimination has to stop and everyone should be treated equally, he

said.

"Have you ever heard of two graveyards in a town? But only in India, we have two graveyards, one for the upper and lower castes. We have held a huge protest to stand against it before," Siva said. Brahmins believe that a lower caste born must follow his father's job, meanwhile, a Brahmin born has the freedom to pursue any career, but when needed a Brahmin should be willing to sweep the roads or clean the toilets and not only leave it for the lower caste people, he said.

This issue has gained significant national attention because it involves many journalists and high-ranking officials who are followers of Sanatana Dharma. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has changed the narrative to portray critics as being against the religion rather than just against certain practices, he added.

## Ganesh Chaturthi: Cheers replaced with prayers

Navya Y

**BENGALURU:** Liquor will be banned in several parts of Bengaluru on account of Ganesha idol immersion from September 21 till October 1, as a precautionary measure to avoid the unanticipated incidents. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda has announced that bars, restaurants, wine shops, pubs, and Mysore Sales International Ltd. will not be allowed to sell liquor during this period.

On September 22 and 23, liquor sales will be prohibited in KG Halli, Govindapura, Banaswadi, Shivajinagar, RT Nagar, and Hennur to maintain



Representational image

Free Press Journal

public order and safety.

The police inspector of Yeshwanthpur station, Ramesh (name changed) said, "It is very essential to look into the communal sensitive areas as

people get provoked and are often induced by others which leads to atrocities creating communal disharmony, and therefore, it is essential to uphold public order

during such circumstances."

The liquor ban cannot be sustained for an extended period due to the negative effect on the government's exchequer. However, this is not expected to have an impact on the economy, given its temporary duration, explained the inspector.

"The vigilance team in the state excise department has been under special duty for surveillance; they usually seal the liquor shop and also catch hold of those who illegally sell liquor," said the inspector. The statistics indicate that sales see an increase of 100 litres when the ban is lifted, as the sales drop to 30 litres during the ban period.

## TN's linguistic dilemma

Utsav Pradhan

The citizens of India have the liberty to learn any language, be it Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil or Hindi. The people of Tamil Nadu only seek equal respect for their regional language and never prevent anyone from learning Hindi, said Ragavapillai Siva, an MLA and president of the DMK party in Puducherry.

"We are not against Hindi, we want our Tamil language to be known around the world and not be forgotten," said Siva. Tamil Nadu has always been vocal about its agitation against the implementation of Hindi. Speaking to The Beacon, Siva shed light on Tamil Nadu's desire for cultural preservation while emphasising its inclusive approach towards language diversity.

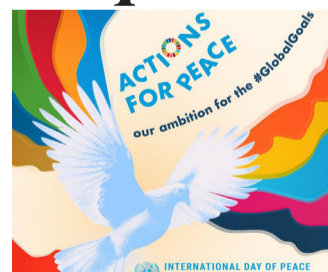
"By changing the language, Centre is trying to create a war between the North and the South", he said. He further expressed his concern over the recent change in bill names to Hindi. He stated that these changes seem more about the political image when the focus should be on the development of our diverse nation.

## UN: Youth as peace agents

Fiona Vaz

**BENGALURU:** Marking the occasion of World Peace Day, the youth of the Rotaract Club of Bangalore came together for an open forum discussion, aiming to reinforce the values of peace while highlighting the facets of tolerance, acceptance, and harmony. This year's chosen theme, "Actions for Peace," aligns with the United Nations' call to action.

September 21 serves as a reminder of the pivotal role that young individuals play in promoting peace. Pujashree Shetty, president of the Rotaract



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UN

Club, expressed her perspective on cultivating a mindset of peace and resolving conflicts through non-confrontational means. She emphasised that this approach need not be strictly aligned with Gandhian philosophy but should centre on mindfulness.

Shetty believes that practising mindfulness enables individuals to develop a deeper awareness of themselves and their surroundings, fostering stability, and acceptance that paves the way for tolerance. The forum also addressed the need for healthy communication. Gulnar Kohli, a clinical psychologist, stated, "My action for peace would be fighting for miscommunication or misinformation that is put out by the media." She concluded by emphasising, "the need to listen before acting and speaking."

## Preserving India's dance heritage

Aatryi Bose

**BENGALURU:** With the funding of Indian arts in crisis, significant attempts should be made to retain the essence of diverse dance forms and make it aspirational, believes Dr Sahana Das, the coordinator of the Jugalbandi series at Mount Carmel College.

This year's theme is 'Honouring India's diverse dance heritage', and aims to nourish a body of 'Rasika' audience. The latter half of the series will commence on September 29.

Conversing with The Beacon about economic

hardships, Dr Das said, "We live in a materialistic world. I feel that the value of anything is equated to how much it costs. Now, government funding has also slowly reduced — it has also been removed from the CSR list as of last year." The corporates, who were hesitant towards altruistic work, have lost the motivation to promote art, she added.

Emphasising the need to make Indian dance economically thrive, she encourages students to develop a taste for performance arts and offer value to it.