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Startups ready to shine at IMC

Sherin Johnson

The country is gearing up for the seventh edition of the India Mobile Congress at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The Department of Telecommunication, in association with the Cellular Operators Association of India, will be hosting the seventh edition of India Mobile Congress 2023 from October 27 at Pragati Maidan. The event will harness India's expertise in cutting-edge technology such as 5G, 6G, drones, broadcasting, and satellite.

The inaugural ceremony of the premier event will be taking place at the Bharat Mandapam of the newly revamped International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre complex. "The theme of India Mobile Congress 2023 is Global Digital Innovation that would provide a platform to showcase new technological innovations, driving, meaningful technical sessions, policy discussion and facilitating enriching connections," said Pillai Bhaskaran from the Directorate of Industries Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

To encourage hyper-local digital innovation of states, under the theme of ASPIRE, a dedicated space of ten pods each for States, and two pods each for UTs has been allocated free. "Any Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade recognised start-up interested in participating in the event may contact the Department of Information & Technology, A&N administration by 25th September 2023," said Ajith Anand Director of Industries Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Poetry magic with meet and greet

Divya Batavia

BENGALURU: Meter is connected to the world of love and magic as one responds to the rhythm rather than the words, said Annie Finch, a US poet.

The launch event was held at Bengaluru International center on Saturday, 07 September. The book 'Earth days: Poems, Chants, and Spells' by Annie Frank is her first book to be published in India.

Speaking on the importance of the book, Annie mentioned "The book is

Concerns spark over breach in media freedom

Sonia Sebi

BENGALURU: Flagging the arrest of a few journalists in the national capital, veteran journalist Maya Sharma said such intimidation would deter journalists from perceiving honest journalism. Regardless of the political party in power, journalists should not be penalised. Seizing gadgets and arresting them without clarifying the charges only exacerbates the situation, she stated.

She was speaking during a protest demonstration at Freedom Park organised by PUCL and Bahutva Karnataka condemning the raids against the scribes in Delhi. The homes of journalists were raided and gadgets were confiscated on October 4 alleging illegal foreign funding and criminal conspiracy. Several journalists in custody have been booked under the Unlawful Activi-



Solidarity with the journalists

Sonia Sebi

ties Prevention Act(UAPA).

"What is the mistake they made? The only mistake they made was to speak the truth about power. They have exposed the lies of the government. Their reportage is very professional. They are targeted because of that and under false reasons..," said Aish-

warya, the general secretary of the PUCL.

The protesters stood united in support of the journalists, denouncing the government's actions as an infringement on press freedom. Venkat, one of the demonstrators, termed the assault on journalists as an attempt

to discourage dissent and silence critical voices. "The questions asked during the interrogation were strange; like if they covered farmers' protests, CAA etc. It is the right of a journalist to cover anything. All these are like a threat that urges them to not speak against the govern-

ment," he added.

The protest aims to urge the government to follow the law of the land and stop branding journalists as terrorists, said activist Vinay Sreenivasa.

Media succumbing to the "state repression" and toeing the line of those in power were highlighted in the demonstration.

Speaking to The Beacon, journalist and former president of the Press Club Of India said that the objective of the protest is to let people know the unjust conduct of the government. "What's going on is simply not right and through all these scenes of raid the ruling party is undemocratic to the people who elected them." Several groups in Bengaluru had already admonished the government on social media with "#The media cannot be silenced after the raid took place."

Namma Yatri App makes travel accessible to all

Amrutha GP

BENGALURU: The ride-hailing service Namma Yatri implemented "Purple Rides" in Bengaluru, an initiative aimed at making travel more accessible for individuals with disabilities. This measure empowers drivers to recognise and cater to the diverse needs of passengers with physical, mental, and sensory challenges. Namma Yatri unveiled the facility at the Koramangala office.

"I'm pleased to help these people, and we will help them. However, this time, assistance is coming from an app,



Purple rides making a difference

Deccan Herald

and the app's developers have stated that for every disability assistance provided, we will receive this super coin, which will add to our ability to receive a raise from the Namma Yatri App," said Ramesh, a

Namma Yatri driver.

The features allow users to disclose limitations on their accounts and customise driver assistance. Based on the disability, the app makes adjustments, such

as suggesting drivers avoid making phone calls to users with hearing loss. Additionally, it has a talkback function and a user interface for persons with visual impairments.

If the auto drivers refuse help and in case of complaints, immediate action will be taken such as disbarment. "We'll help everyone, not just the disabled; an extra group was hired so we can help everyone," said an executive from the Namma Yatri customer care. Seeing the response we will be launching this in Mysore as well said the executive.

Dual degree in Lucknow University

Shruti Srivastava

In an attempt to widen the horizon of knowledge of students and to promote international affiliation, the University of Lucknow is coming up with dual and twinning degrees for the first time. This program will be implemented in the curriculum for the academic year 2023-24.

Talking to The Beacon, Durgesh Srivastava, spokesperson of the university, said, "These programs will enable students to earn multiple degrees concurrently, thereby enhancing their academic and career prospects." Pursuing a dual degree will expose the students to unique opportunities and widen their horizons.

Students pursuing dual, twinning or joint degrees will study partly in India and partly in foreign institutions.

For joint degrees, both universities will jointly design the curriculum and a joint single certificate will be awarded with the names of both the institutions.

"We are seeking and forging more and more international partnerships and encouraging more collaborations with foreign universities for the benefit of our students," said Prof Alok Kumar Rai, VC, Lucknow University.

Diesel prices hike in Shell

Kiranmai & Amrutha GP

In response to international oil price dynamics, Shell India raised their diesel prices by Rs 4 each day last week, which led to a surge of Rs 20 per litre.

"Shell India bases the cost of its fuels on global crude oil prices. As a result, the pricing sometimes fluctuates. Numerous factors, such as increased oil demand, seasonal product demand, and extreme weather events that have disrupted refineries or fuel supplies, have an impact on the price of crude oil and refined prod-

ucts", said the manager of a shell fuel station. The amount of government taxes and excises also has a big impact on the cost and it will differ from one country to another, he said.

"I travel a lot and have tried various gasoline stations, but I always feel shell fuels deliver better mileage, have fewer lines, offer free air (for tires), free windshield washing, free engine oil change services, and have shopping areas which my family enjoys," said Ravish a shell customer.



Poetry in motion Divya Batavia

based on five elements of nature(Earth, water, air, fire and space) which are essential to her spiritual beliefs. It contains poems on mothers in different ways as well as femininity."

As an ode to her first child she recited a poem