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Gearing up for 'Prana Pratishta'

Shruti Srivastava

Ayodhya is gearing up to welcome the pilgrims from across the globe. The Ram Mandir construction is in full swing as the 'Prana Pratishta' or the inauguration of the temple is on 22 January. The construction of the temple will continue even after the inauguration.

"The temple is being constructed in three phases—the ground floor is in the first phase and is ready. The construction of the other phases will continue while the temple will be open for the visitors," said VK Mehra, Chief Project Director of L&T, Ayodhya Temple.

The ground floor of the temple has Makrana marble flooring, and the doors are carved and iconography can be seen on the pillars of the temple. There are five 'mandapam' and 1 'Shekhar' in the temple out of which three are ready for the pilgrims to visit.

Talking to The Beacon, Mehra said that there are special facilities for senior citizens such as the lift, and for differently-abled people, a ramp that runs through the temple is put in place. The facility of the toilets and lodging is also there inside the eight-acre premises of the temple. Apart from the temple, the associate structures of the sewage treatment plant, electricity plant and pilgrim facility centre are also ready.

Countdown begins for Mediacon

Diva Batavia

CAMPUS: Mediacon is yet again back with a bang with the 2024 edition being hosted by the School of Communication on January 23 and 24 at St Joseph's University. With 'Media, Politics and Governance' being the theme for the year, media leaders and prominent politicians are set to debate in the panel discussion at the conference. The panellists for the conference include among others journalist Siddique Kappan, Investigative journalist Paranjay Gulha Thakurtha, Congress Party

Vemula's memory lingers in public mind

Neenu M

My birth is my fatal accident' said Rohith Vemula, Hyderabad Central University's Dalit PhD scholar in his last letter. Eight years have passed since he was found hanging in his hostel room.

By actively participating in student politics, Rohith Vemula organised and conducted discussions with students to break down the hegemony of casteist forces in the sciences, said Dontha Prasanth, former president of Ambedkar Students Association (ASA) and student union at the University of Hyderabad.

A memorial was hosted by Ambedkar Reading Circle, a collective initiative in Bangalore to raise



Eight years later the fight still continues

The Wire

awareness about the anti-caste movement, in light of Vemula's death anniversary. Keynote speakers Roy Anto and Dontha Prasanth touched upon Vemula's journey, his last letter and how he grappled with discrimination. "Many were awakened by the last letter of Rohith. How he wrote

that letter; it was not only those who were directly facing the tribulations of the caste system but also those self-conscious individuals who were against this system of caste, who also became part of this journey of struggle seeking justice for the world," said Prasanth. Prasanth spoke about

the struggles like caste discrimination that students from marginalised communities face in educational spaces that are dominated by Brahminical cultural values. "When I entered the university, I felt alienated in the sense of how I was dressing. When I look at my batchmates, the val-

ue of the dress that I wore doesn't match with 10% of what they would have spent on their dresses and clothing, but, in that process, when I compare myself with the kind of branding and the conversations around branding that happens within the peer groups, I felt alienated. No, I'm not part of what is perceived as the majority," he added.

Prasanth stated that ASA has played a major role in his self-discovery, as it continues to do for many other students like him. He said that organisations like ASA are essential in creating a space for students like him. "The reason why IITs continue to be spaces such as brahminical agraharas is (because of) absence of these kinds of spaces" he added.

Fusion of tradition and art forms at KLF'24

Sherin Johnson

Amidst the literary fervour, the seventh edition of the Kerala Literature Festival showcased a captivating fusion of traditional and contemporary art forms.

Kerala Literature Festival 2024 was held at Kozhikode from January 11-14. It featured eminent artists and screened cinema on Kozhikode beach. A total of 300 sessions were conducted in four days.

Diva Krishnan, a social media influencer and one of the speakers of KLF 2024 said that she was surprised to see a large crowd of youngsters as she presumed that only



A session at KLF'24

Steffy Johnson

older individuals would be drawn to events of this nature.

Pradeep Premkumar, an attendee while speaking to The Beacon said, "Kudos to DC Kizhakemuri

Foundation for organising this one-of-a-kind event in Kerala. I loved the deep insights shared by all the guest speakers. Among the speakers we had politicians, research-

ers, religious leaders and many others." Aarya Ayra, another attendee stated while speaking to The Beacon that she was glad to be able to make it to the event. "What's more beautiful than a place that celebrates literature itself? I was planning to attend it for a long time and finally made it this year. One tick on my bucket list," she stated. She said that it was a wonderful experience to meet people who celebrate books. She added that one of the shortcomings was that there were 300 sessions and each session was of half an hour to an hour causing the interactions to be short.

Delay that led to scuffle pegged to bad weather

Amrutha GP

Amidst the flurry of comments and counter-comments being made on the internet about the IndiGo flight incident, the IndiGo staff have urged the public to consider the objective conditions of flight operations such as weather conditions. "Imagine driving a car with blindfolds on, that is the same as flying an aircraft in foggy weather," expressed an IndiGo flight attendant to The Beacon who did not want to be named.

The video of a passenger on the IndiGo flight 6E-2175 slapping the co-pilot, Anup Kumar for the flight delay has been doing the rounds on the internet. Before the flight's journey from Delhi to Goa,

About 100-odd passengers waited for nearly ten hours for the flight scheduled from Delhi to Goa. The delay was later attributed to 'zero-visibility' and 'unprecedented fog'. A complaint has been lodged against Sahil Kataria, the passenger who allegedly attacked the co-pilot, and the case is currently under police investigation.

"People should understand that the weather conditions are not in our hands. Visibility is important to fly an aircraft, for the sake of the safety of souls on board. We are not the enemies of passengers," the source said. She further informed that the passenger was declared unruly and was handed over to the CISF and was put on a "no-fly" list.

Aattam: An open-ended enigma

Sonia Sebi

Anand Ekarshi's debut movie 'Aattam', is a thought-provoking exploration of male hypocrisy that expands through a gripping narrative. It unravels a play within a play. The movie introduces a drama troupe of twelve members with the female lead as a member. The plot unfolds as Zarin Shihab, the central female lead, faces sexual harassment from one of them. Ekarshi explores misogyny unveiling the true nature of each character, and uncovers the pseudo-righteousness the characters hold.

A mix of dramatic and subtle tunes enhances the character's portrayals. The directorial piece cleverly uses the elements of nature to show symbolism along with the well-crafted plot adding layers to the narrative. The open-ended conclusion invites the audience to perceive and pass judgement on the matter of truth. The movie skillfully weaves suspense leading to an inconclusive climax serving justice to the intricate plot by not reducing it to just another cliché movie in the industry.