

# THE BEACON

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## KK's gripping mystery unfolds

Romil TNV

Kishkindha Kaandam's eerie storyline, coupled with excellent writing by Bahul, lays the foundation for Dinjith Ayyathan's nuanced and suspense-driven storytelling. The Malayalam mystery-thriller builds on the core, dark ideas of suspense and curiosity through raw frames, leaving the audience completely immersed in anticipation and awe of the visually pleasing shots. The movie revolves around the life of a father, Ajayan (Asif Ali), who is grappling with loss, looking for his missing son, and grieving the death of his wife. Apu Pillai (Vijayaraghavan), who seems to know what happened but has forgotten it. The disappeared son seems like the crux of the story but is buried neatly under Aparna's (Aparna Balamurali) investigation and Apu Pillai's odd routine. The cinematography was subpar; however, the choreography and angles of some shots that showcase the lush forest are captivating and remind one of the labyrinths reflected in the film. Vijayaraghavan's embodiment of his character is commendable and leaves one with many emotions: hope, sadness, and intrigue. Kishkindha Kaandam is a movie for the big screens. It pushes one to understand idiosyncrasies and accept the discomfort that comes with them.

## Kashmir divided over Rashid's return

Kohsheen Raina

Political tensions escalate in Jammu and Kashmir as a Delhi Court grants interim bail to Engineer Rashid, Lok Sabha MP, in a terror funding case until October 2, as the region approaches state elections. The court has now directed Rashid to post a personal bond of Rs.2 lakh. His release has further sparked accusations from political rivals, particularly the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who claim Rashid's Awami Ittihad Party (AIP) is serving as a "proxy" for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and alleging that the AIP is working to divide the Kashmiri vote in favour of the BJP. Rashid's brother, Sheikh Khurshid, who was present at the court, confirmed the AIP's



File Photo

The Kashmir Observer

electoral ambitions, stating that the AIP has given mandate to candidates from most seats in north, south, and central Kashmir during an interview with the Mint earlier this month. Following his bail approval, Engineer Rashid took to the media, stating his stance on

his political future. "I want to bring everlasting peace to Kashmir and prove that Kashmiris are not stone pelters." He also stated that the party is unwilling to compromise on political rights as his commitment to fight for autonomy. However, Rashid's return to the

political scene has raised concerns among some politicians and activists. Human rights activist Rakesh Bhat warned, "If a separatist like Engineer Rashid gains power, it could significantly destabilise the current fragile status of peace in Kashmir. Things would turn chaotic

for the residents here; things would definitely turn hostile." Residents in Kashmir are also divided on the issue. Avinash Kichloo, a resident of Pulwama, spoke to *The Beacon*, expressing concerns about the impact on democracy, stating, "This situation is also negatively affecting democracy. Even if we look at and analyse the results of the Lok Sabha elections, we can see that he has an influence, whether 5% or 10%, but there is an impact." Emphasizing on the elections, Kichloo opined that Rashid's supporters would take out rallies in his support, which sends "a chill down the spines of many who fear that his influence will bring all the hard work done to keep the state peaceful and from crashing down."

## Post-festival cleanup concerns local residents

Swaminathan S

**BENGALURU:** A week after the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations concluded, residents of Shantinagar continued to struggle with unwarranted disruptions and inconveniences caused by the processions and their aftermath. The festive fervour has left behind issues for the neighbourhood's residents, including loud music, litter, and traffic congestion. Speaking to *The Beacon*, RM Murgai, a member of the Shantinagar Welfare Association, said, "The routine of the residents has been disturbed heavily; the traffic has blocked everything around us mainly due to the processions that have been



City celebrates Ganesh visarjan

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taking place even after the festival concluded." He added that the loud music and firecrackers created an unsettling environment among the residents at odd hours. Several residents have also complained that

even after the processions concluded, the festive organisers hadn't bothered to remove the flower decorations and other festival waste, which included trails of plastic waste and cracker residue scattered

across the residential area left for them to clean. "Commuters have raised multiple complaints to the welfare association regarding the blockage of roads as a result of celebrations at unusual times, which have caused disruptions to many residents' work," said Shanker, a member of the same association. Another victim, Neeraj, a student at a private college, stated that the processions that were happening in and around Shantinagar, which caused a traffic blockage and lasted around four hours, stalled him and several other commuters on the road, making him miss the train back to his hometown.

## Bengaluru hosts 10th GTE

Anoshka Heri

**BENGALURU:** The Garment Technology Expo (GTE) rolled out its 10th exhibition in Bengaluru, highlighting the latest technological advancements in apparel machinery and textile accessories. The three-day expo, held from September 20-22, witnessed over twelve thousand visitors and 120 exhibitors from across the globe, with at least 50 per cent launching recently developed technology. The expo showcased enhancements in the process and systems of sewing, embroidery, knitting, digital printing, and fabric dyes, with a strong focus on sustainability and eco-friendly production processes. Ricky Sahni, the joint managing director and organiser of GTE, emphasised the event's importance in garnering attention and promoting sustainable practices despite market fluctuations. "Even though the sentiments in the market are quite low when you bring in new technology, people want to see what is best available. Sustainability is the only way forward, and the industry is adapting to changes as fast as it can," he told *The Beacon*.

## B'luru's infrastructure in need of structure

Diya Daniel

**BENGALURU:** As Bengaluru continues to grow to be the IT corridor of the world, its systems are designed to fail, remarked former Chief Secretary of the Karnataka government, A. Ravindra, during the event "Urban Legends: The Myths and Realities of City Governance" at the Bangalore International Centre on Friday, September 20. The panel discussion, featuring guest speakers A Ravindra and urbanist and civic activist V Ravichandhan and moderated by Meera K, co-founder of Citizen Matters, focused

on issues arising from a city's lack of a master plan. Ravichandran stated that city governance is always seen as a series of projects or a set of tenders and contracts and described how short-term solutions are prioritised over long-term planning. Potholes, for instance, were not merely a technical problem but a reflection of how governance in Bengaluru often falls short of addressing core issues systematically, he said. Speaking to *The Beacon*, Ravindra highlighted the need for governance with empowered leadership. "We

are failing in governance... the political executive has no powers," he said, pointing to the absence of municipal elections. Amid Bengaluru's persistent civic challenges, the panel called for collaboration among citizens, government agencies, and private stakeholders to address civic issues effectively. "Active collaboration and exercise of citizen participation, in modern times is the only solution to the city's issues, as no single entity can manage the complexities of urban governance alone," he concluded.

## AKMTTA demands govt action

Evaibiang Lyndem

**T**he All-Khasi Meghalaya Tourist Taxi Association (AKMTTA) organised a rally at Malki Ground, Shillong, on Wednesday, September 18, to raise concerns with the Central government regarding the impact of non-tourist cabs from Assam entering Meghalaya which has significantly affected their economic growth. Expressing their dissent, the association members said that the state government has ignored their concerns. Speaking to *The Beacon*, Parma, a Megha-

layan cab driver and association member, said, "The presence of non-local cab drivers taking tourists around Shillong has impacted our finances, leading to significant losses." He added that they do not seek a ban on outside vehicles but instead require an urgent intervention of the government to formulate a policy that addresses the drivers' demands. This also includes issuing an open letter restricting other state drivers from stopping at designated spots meant for local drivers.