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'Prajavani truly has been the voice of the people'

Madhu Mitha B.S. & Mythri C

The senior journalist and the editor-in-chief of the Kannada daily, Prajavani, Ravindra Bhat, is renowned for his exceptional contribution to the field of Kannada-language journalism. The Beacon spoke to the veteran editor about the challenges of doing journalism in the modern era. Here is what he had to say: Prajavani has consistently catered to the intellectual and serious section of society for decades. Under your stewardship, it has maintained the same legacy. What has been your golden mantra as the editor?

The main duty of journalists is to abide by the ethics of journalism rather than getting influenced by the people who are in power. Ev-

eryone expects journalists to be in their favour, especially politicians. But, Prajavani has always been the voice for people. We publish only what people need. Our newspaper is "Praja-Vani" (People's voice) and that is our core duty.

How has the journey as a journalist been so far?

Today, I have the opportunity to speak with a worker and at the same time, I can even sit and talk to The President, as well. Only a journalist gets such an opportunity. I have attempted to provide justice to all sections of society. That is why it has been a wonderful journey.

What is your opinion on the role of the media in raking up controversies?

There is an ongoing debate about whether activism should be involved in journalism or not. During



Ravindra Bhat (Editor-in-Chief of Prajavani)

the time of independence, journalism was a tool for activism, but now it has been commercialised to provide employment. Many people think of journalism as a business, but even business



should have certain ethics. At present, Media is giving weightage to the content that fetches them more profit.

Prajavani, for that matter Kannada media as such,

has been slow in adapting to new varieties in journalism like data journalism, digital journalism, etc. What have been the challenges?

It is not the problem of the

media but it is the problem of the readers. After I became the editor I started podcasts, and live discussions but the people are not responding to them. Even though the information is being published online, it is not making an impact on the audience. People still rely on print media as they consider it a reliable source of information.

What advice would you like to give to the young aspiring journalists?

Before you decide to become any kind of journalist, you should decide upon the language in which you want to work. You should be thorough with the language, the state, history, geography and politics. An individual should be multitasking like writing, anchoring, and audio/video editing rather than just being good at one particular thing.

Veteran intellectual Baraguru inaugurates AIKKMS conference

Blessy Jeremy

"Increased debt burden and suicides paint a grim picture of Indian peasantry. In the last six years, the debt of peasants has increased by 65 per cent, and more than four lakh farmers have committed suicide in the past 15 years," said Shankar Ghosh, All-India General Secretary of the All India Kisan Khet Majdoor Sangathan (AIKKMS).

He was speaking at the inauguration of the Karnataka State Farmers' Conference, organised by AIKKMS, held in Dharwad on Thurs-

day. The programme was inaugurated by Baraguru Ramachandrappa, a renowned Kannada writer and intellectual. Satyawar, President of AIKKMS and TS Suneeth Kumar, State President of AIKKMS (Karnataka) also addressed the farmers.

Following the inaugural ceremony was an open session with thousands of peasants from all over Karnataka.

"We are fighting for the interests of the peasants, particularly against the policies taken by the Central and State Governments in favour of multinational



corporations. The prices of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and other inputs are soaring. The government is privat-

ing everything. We demand all-out state trading, where the government should purchase agricultural produce

and sell it to the common people at a lower cost," said Ghose speaking to The Beacon.

Additionally, the organisation had a session at 5 pm with over 400 delegates representing the 50,000 primary members of the AIKKMS in Karnataka. All events of the conference were coordinated by HV Diwakar, State Secretary of AIKKMS, Karnataka.

The two-day conference is being held in preparation for the All-India AIKKMS Conference to take place from 1-4 March 2023.

Support pours in amid communal tension

Gabriella Syms

Students, alumni, and faculty of Clarence High School extended support to the school over recent objections to the Bible being taught as part of the school syllabus. Many said the Hindu Janajagruiti Samiti, who raised complaints claiming the school was 'imposing' the Bible, was just trying to stir communal tension.

"Hindu friends scored more in scripture than me. We never identified each other based on caste or religion," says Clarence High School alumni, Rahul Dias. Students and faculty countered that parents willingly sign the admission for their children and do not object to the Bible being taught. They maintain that the institution, established by Protestant Christian missionaries as a minority institution, was well within its right to practise teaching religious scriptures. "Every parent has consented to their child studying scripture in the admission form. Those who do not consent are free to join elsewhere," adds Rahul. However, other students and the general public expressed disagreement.

Punjab Universtiy stuns with 7-0 victory

Shriangana Pyne & Dolkar

Bengaluru: The Khelo India event threw up surprises for the hockey players and the volunteers as the scoreboard read 7-0 on 28th April, Thursday at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

The hockey match began at 9:30 am between Lovely Professional University and Punjab University, in which the latter overpowered the former. Harish Bawa from the winner's team said, "This is the third match that we played and we won all of them. Our



Khelo India

next match is the semi-finals."

He further added that he was confident on bagging victory in the next match. "I enjoy playing hockey and love representing my college team," he said.

Apart from the players, there are volunteers from Jain Uni-

versity who work throughout the day. One of the volunteers said, "It is a great opportunity and experience to volunteer for Khelo India." He added, "We don't mind the sun or the heat just like the players. We happily do our job like the players, who enthusiastically play to win."

Athletic meet back again after two years

Sudha Ankita Ekka

Faculty and students of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Bangalore are all enthusiastically set to showcase their strength, skills and sportsmanship at the 138th Annual Athletic Meet is scheduled for today. The events will begin at 8:45 a.m. on the college ground. Bharathi BL, International Athlete and Vice President of the Karnataka Athlete Association and Bindu Rani G, Former International Athlete are invited as the chief guests. The meet has

a lineup of many track and field events as well as a tug of war for both students and teachers of the college.

Hazel Mary Raju, Director of the Physical Education Department, said, "We are hosting the sports meet for the first time since the pandemic and I am happy that students are participating very enthusiastically even after a gap of two years."

Aaron, an MCom student taking part in the athletic meet, said, "I'm so excited for this event. I feel good, getting back to competing in sports after two years."