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Justice Hegde urges govt to resolve ASHA issues

Madhu Mitha Kumar & Mythri C

BENGALURU: Retired Justice and former Lokayukta, Santhosh Hegde on Tuesday slammed the Karnataka government for not working enough on the employment front and claimed that the government is corrupt.

Speaking at a huge rally of ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers at Freedom Park, he said, it is the responsibility of the government to resolve all the technical issues. "It is very unfortunate and condemnable that you all had to gather here for a protest. We can see the extent to which the government is corrupted; especially nothing is happening in the employment sector. What can we expect from such a government?"

The state-level protest was held to draw the attention of the government to resolve the issues in the Reproductive

and Child Health (RCH) Portal. They demanded a fixed monthly payment instead of separate incentives from the Central and State Governments.

"Equal pay for equal work is already a provision in the Constitution but it is not being taken seriously by the government," he added.

"Our government is using communal tensions to distract the public from issues like inflation, privatisation of public sectors and unemployment. But the unity of the working class cannot be divided," said K. Uma, state secretary, Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI), Karnataka. Addressing the gathering, she said, "After the introduction of ASHA, the institutional delivery rates have increased to 77%. They were the frontline workers during Covid. Even though every person praises the work done by ASHA workers, it is not reflected in



ASHA power: Workers demand the government resolve issues related to RCH, wage hike

Mythri C

their salary."

Remembering the farmers who lost their lives during the farmer's protests, SR Hiremat, All India President, Citizens for Democracy (CFD), said ASHA workers should take inspiration from them and continue to fight.

While speaking to The Beacon, Koushalya, Secretary of All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), Koppal District said, "We are not getting our incentives regularly from the government because of the issues with the RCH portal. We are demand-

ing for a fixed wage from the government instead of separate incentives. They make us do a lot of work but in return we are not getting paid properly and our concerns are not being addressed by the government. If our demands are not met, we will come together

in huge numbers to carry out protests hereafter until they resolve our issues."

Health Commissioner Randeep D also addressed the gathering and said that a meeting will be held on 27 May to discuss the issue with the Health Minister.

CM Bommai inaugurates 2022 Mini Olympic Games

Dolkar Choezom & Shriangana Pyne

BENGALURU: The 2022 Mini Olympic Games inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai kicked off on the 16th of May at Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Before the players prepared to compete against each other, an inaugural ceremony was conducted where the teams participated in march pasts and an array of traditional dances.

The 2nd Mini Olympic Games is organised jointly by the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) and the Karnataka

Olympic Association (KOA). Over two thousand athletes from the age group of 12 to 14 years are participating in the games.

Archery, badminton, basketball, and volleyball are a few of the prominent sports included in the olympics. "The motive of the event is to enable students representing their districts to mingle with people from different regions. This also helps them to learn new languages and cultures," said Vishwanath AC, the technical official for Karnataka Olympic Association, while speaking to the Beacon.

Harsha, a boxing coach, said they belonged to Mysore District and have six boxers from the age group 12 to 14 who had qualified for the quarter-finals on the 17th of May. One of his players added, "We had participated last year as well, but we lost in the quarter-finals. Hence, we have put our blood, sweat, and tears for a year, to get the trophy home this year and make our district proud."

On being asked how well the players are prepared, the coach replied that they are in a good position to win as he had trained them well.

A proud audience member



Marching towards the game of glory

Shriangana Pyne

stated that she had come to support her sister who is a Taekwondo player. Last year, she had participated in the event herself and now hopes to see her sister win the finals.

The chief guests included the Governor of Karnataka Thawar Chand Gehlot and K.C Purushothom, the Vice President of Karnataka Sports Authority.

Art meets meat at Murphy Town 'Mamsa Santhe'

Gabriella Symss

People came on Sunday to buy cuts of meat, fish, and various sweet and savoury dishes on offer, in a show of support for the local traders of the Murphy Town Meat Market in Halasuru.

The 'Mamsa Santhe' (meat market) was organised by Maya D'costa, artist and Project Coordinator with the India Foundation for the Arts. It was the brainchild of the first phase of her project, bringing together art and the exploration of communities

and neighbourhoods in Bengaluru. People were encouraged to come to learn about her project, and buy meat and food from the stalls to support the sellers whose trade has been affected by the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Maya's art was hung on display in the market's meat stalls and various food items such as kebabs, halwa, biryani and more, were on offer.

Some vegetarian

customers also supported the traders by buying fruits, vegetables, halwa, and dil pasand. "The last two years, sales have been down and this time, even during Ramzan, it is not like it used to be. I've suffered a loss leading to more loans," said Salim, who owns a mutton stall. Another trader added, "Sometimes, we worry about selling beef, especially because we are Muslims. We worry about selling enough to make profits. Everything is delivered on apps so it is harder for us local butchers."

A fusion of culture at SJC's food festival

Dolkar C & Shriangana P

BENGALURU: Despite trepidations following the food festival at St. Joseph's College (SJC) during the pandemic last year, organisers were in for a pleasant surprise when the festival turned out to be a success this year. The festival consisted of stalls by SJC students, with various dishes from different cultures.

The food festival was organised by the students of the Tibetan and North Eastern forums, guided by the staff coordinator Prof Clement Dsouza. It was coordinated by Saurav

Sewa and Yaho Konyak, the newly elected president and vice president of the North Eastern and Tibetan Student Forum (NETSF).

Speaking to the Beacon, a stall owner representing the food of Mizoram shared, "It has been a splendid journey and a word of thanks goes to both the organisers and the students who came to try out the food."

A student representing Tibet commented, "It was my first time here and I am glad that we could share our traditional food."

Language depts go against the grain:

Dr Arul Mani

Fiza Ziyad & Sudha Ankita

BENGALURU: The work of the language departments is to go against the current and ask tougher questions even if it is not to the liking of all, said Dr. Arul Mani, Head of the Department of English, St Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, on Monday in a panel discussion on the topic 'Why are English Departments still there?'. The discussion was organised by the Department of English and the SJC Literary Society as part of the tenth edition of Meta, the Josephite Festival of Literature.

"When universities are meant to accomplish a certain purpose, somebody has to ask questions that go against the grain, questions that bother people, questions that irritate people. This is the work of language departments," he said.

Pointing out the chaotic situation in the state after the National Education Policy's implementation, he referred to the Education Minister of Karnataka, Ashwath Narayan as 'Avasara Narayana'. "There are several 'bhookampas' (earthquakes) happening outside. One is in the form of the education minister (who is) in a hurry," he said.