

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

Wednesday 17 November, 2021 / St Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol :14 ; Issue :43 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

'Kannada must be learnt with a free will'

Afreen Hussain

The Karnataka High Court on Monday directed the Centre to make its stand clear about the state government's move to make Kannada a compulsory subject for UG courses. This was included by the state government under the National Education Policy 2020 although the policy doesn't mandate the learning of local languages of the state.

Vatal Nagaraj, Kannada Chaluvali Vatal Paksha president said, "Kannada should be made a compulsory language everywhere in Karnataka, from educational institutions to even the courts. If students from other states cannot learn Kannada, then they can study in their own states."

University Law College Bengaluru Dean Dr Dasharath N said, "Kannadigas studying Kannada is a good decision but the problem arises when the non-Kannadigas are compelled to study the language." The High Court's earlier had pronounced that non-Kannadigas can study Kannada as a "functional language" which will enable them to interact with people. "If one knows many languages, it will only be helpful to them. A person cannot be compelled to learn a language by force, it should be out of their own free will," he added.

Saitej A, an out-student from St Joseph's College, said, "I wouldn't mind learning Kannada if it helps me talk to the auto drivers here."

Asha workers protest dismal service conditions

Saishyam Srikanth

BENGALURU: One of the key roles in India's battle against COVID-19 was played by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, with many even succumbing to the disease. Yet, only one worker's family has so far received the ex-gratia of 50 lakh rupees by the central government.

The non-payment of ex-gratia is one of the many issues that the ASHA workers face. The workers held a sit-in demonstration and submitted a memorandum to Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Health Commissioner on Monday. The workers demanded that the incentives should be paid in full and before a specified date for each month. Rama T C, Head of the Workers Union said, "Orders to ensure that we re-



Sit-in protest by ASHA workers

Rama TC

ceive our incentives on time are there but they aren't being followed."

Every month, ASHA workers receive a fixed payment of only Rs 4000 from the state government. The workers have demanded the BBMP to pay them Rs 5000 every

month in addition to this. They justify this demand by stating that they go beyond their call of duty and even oversee the health of a population of 10,000 whereas a worker is only responsible for overseeing the health of a population of 2500. Addition-

ally, the high cost of living in an urban area like Bengaluru is a cause for concern. Sajida, an ASHA worker, told the Beacon that many of them have only studied till the 8 grade, yet they are burdened with computer data-entry work which is the responsi-

bility of other officials. They are even forced to take part in things like vaccination and testing drives. "We do 75 per cent of the work that medical professionals should do," Sajida concluded.

Many a time, these workers are asked to report for duty, far away from their designated centres and they have asked for free bus passes so that they don't have to spend on travel.

Sajida recollects that when they were trained, they were told that they would only have two hours of work and that would involve mostly motivating the expecting mothers. "Now, we are doing so much work yet why do we get such a low salary? At the least, shouldn't that salary be paid on time and in full?" she said.

Heavy showers inundate SG Palya

Adarsh S Babu

BENGALURU: Residents of Saddagunte Palya on Monday had to bear the brunt of waterlogging as heavy showers continued to pour late into the night.

Arakkal Shada Amina, a Masters student said, "I was travelling in an auto-rickshaw around SG Palya, and the auto driver stopped regularly to avoid the engine from breaking down. It delayed my purpose of travel." She added that vehicles were parked under the flyover as people waited for rains to recede.



SG Palya road

Adarsh S Babu

"Every time it rains, the road becomes flooded, and this has been going on for a

long time," she added. Jimmy James, another resident of SG Palya said,

"The logging is because of the overflow of water from Dharmaram Lake. Also, the fishes from the lake floated through the roads and local people were catching them." He also added that students and office-goers found it difficult to travel back home. Hawkers from roadside eateries were struggling due to the waterlogging too, he added. Pedestrians witnessed traffic congestion in the area for a long time and also complained about not having easy access to public transport for commute as the result of waterlogging.

Pet scam rises as demand for luxury breeds increase

Narayan B

BENGALURU: Sale of fake breed animals is on the rise as there is an urge to own exotic breeds of animals. Gayathry R, a pet owner from Thrissur, said, "I bought a pug and a beagle together from a pet shop, and the beagle was not purebred and died within two weeks because of a weak heart. We spent ₹20,000 on the beagle, which turned out to be a total waste and a lot of emotional baggage." Dog owner Chitra Baby said, "A pet seller sold me an Indie saying it was a German Shepherd. Even after continuously asking him to return the money he refused to take back the dog and give my money back."

The rise in pet scams cannot entirely be attributed to the pet sellers but also a result of people's fascination with exotic foreign breeds. A pet shop owner, on account of anonymity, said, "Persian cats sold in India are of different variants which are better suitable for Indian climate. The buyers want to purchase at cheap rates whereas purebred Persians are expensive."

Will Cristiano Ronaldo create history?

Joel P Anto

For Ronaldo, winning the Football World Cup would be the pinnacle of his career. As the needles of a remarkable career fly by, the only thing left for him to accomplish is the World Cup title. However, Serbia's victory against Portugal in the last match poured cold water on his dream. There's still a chance he and the team might make it to the World Cup, but the major concern is that if they don't, it'll be the worst thing a football

fan could experience.

Ronaldo is more than just a football player; he is a brand. He adds unmatched value to the cup. He is a source of motivation for young athletes who grew up watching the sport.

The 36-year-old footballer's skills go beyond the limits of his age. Millions of fans around the world are eagerly anticipating the last roll of dice of their favourite player while wearing his national colours during the upcoming 2022 Qatar World Cup.

Reality check on National Press Day

Sharon Anna James

BENGALURU: "Siddiqui Kappan is still in jail in UP, Avinash Jha was murdered in Bihar, Samriddhi-Swarna arrested in Tripura, 5 Journalists are booked in UAPA, tweeted News Click correspondent, Shyam Meera Singh on the occasion of National Press Day on November 16. As per World Press Freedom Index (2020) published by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), India's rank slipped from 140 to 142. The data mirrors the difficulty of practising free and fair journalism in India. The Beacon spoke to Power



Representational Image

Flicker

News's reporter Pranuth Kumar who said, "Today's news channels just inform you about the issue, only a few of them talk about whether what occurred was right or wrong, or if it benefits the public." The RSF report cited police

brutality, counterattacks by criminals, and ambushes by political activists on journalists as reasons for India's poor performance. Additionally, they also have been subjected to coordinated hate campaigns on social networks.