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Friendly relations prompted the decision on SA tour, say experts

Narayan B

India goes ahead with the South Africa tour amidst the outbreak of the Omicron virus in the host country. Several concerns were raised regarding the safety of players and speculation is rife about the decision, if this is prompted by commercial gains or to maintain a friendly relation. The tour, originally scheduled to begin from December 17 is now delayed by 9 days. When asked if extending just 9 days is enough, Bastab Parida, a Sports Journalist of Cricket.com said, "The date change is not because of the concern for the virus but resting the players as they had a heavy game schedule this year."

He added that CSA's major revenue depends on this tour and canceling this would prove expensive for the board which may disturb the relation between BCCI and CSA. The bio bubble proposed by CSA is the strictest and safest measure which has boosted the confidence of BCCI to go ahead with the tour.

BCCI doesn't get anything monetary by keeping India A team in South Africa, so it is inaccurate to say BCCI is continuing the tour for money, he said. "It is more likely for maintaining a good relationship with CSA and for giving the A' team experience in foreign soil," he added.

Anti-conversion bill or anti-Christian bill?

Sharon Anna James

BENGALURU: Margaret Alva challenged the Government of Karnataka to reveal the names of at least five people who have been converted forcefully and declared that she would quit Parliament if the Government could do that. Alva, a prominent political leader and former governor of multiple states strongly opined that the enforcement of the anti-conversion bill is unnecessary and questioned why it is only targeting the Christian community. She was speaking on Saturday at a peace rally protest held at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Bangalore, by the All-Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights



Screengrab

Bangalore Archdiocese/Youtube

(AKUCFH), against the anti-conversion bill and the survey of Christian missionaries and institutions. "We are a peace-loving, service-oriented, absolutely

nonviolent community, and we are proud of it," She said. The event was originally planned for 25,000 people, but due to COVID regulations, it was scaled back to

2000 attendees. Many prominent priests, speakers, and representatives from various religions were present on the occasion and condemned the bill. The Archbishop of the

Archdiocese of Bangalore, Reverend Peter Machado, who has been strongly vocal against the bill since its introduction, addressed the rally and said that the minority Christians would never bow down to the government or be afraid of its tactics. He urged the audience not to be passive against the injustice and to raise their voices so that their voices are heard for the right reason. The Archbishop questioned, "If a Christian girl marries a Hindu boy and becomes Hindu, are they filing an FIR?" Karnataka, being a progressive state and known as the IT hub, ranks third in the country in the number of attacks on Christians as per the 2021 report compiled by various organisations.

In Ambedkar's nation, women justify wife-beating

Niharika Bajaj

The statistics released by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) brought out a shocking revelation of how at least 30 percent of Indian women across 14 states and union territories justified wives getting beaten by their husbands under specific circumstances. Incidentally as the country observes the death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who advocated Women's rights, and believed the country's progress could be measured by the achievement of women



Representational Image folks, burnt Manusmriti that imposed the regressive rules against women, he could be turning in his grave on learning the sorry state of

Creative Commons affairs of women. Nilam Patel, a women's rights podcaster and activist, who took divorce after being subjected to 25 years

of domestic abuse said, "I was always scared of what society will think of me. I had two daughters. In family gatherings, we used to pretend to be a happy family till one day I decided to take this mask off. As women, we are always taught to adjust after marriage, accept everything as fate and remain silent, and forget about our individuality. This survey isn't a shock to me, it is the reality." Women have been conditioned to serve their husbands and family as their priority, believe many feminists.

Offline exams rescheduled after students protest

Afreen Hussain

BENGALURU: After continued opposition from the students, Mount Carmel College postponed the exams slated to begin from 6th December 2021, for the undergraduate and postgraduate students. Offline exams would be scheduled later in January or February 2022, the circular read. Srija (name changed), a 2nd year UG student who took part in the protest said, "One person staying at Shangri La hotel which is right next to the college was infected with the Omicron virus. Apparently, that person has escaped; this adds to the already existing scare regarding the spread of the virus. Several outstation students study here, the management should keep that aspect in sight." However, Vivitha MK, Head of the Department of Journalism, responded, "The protest was not at all necessary, the students just want exams to be conducted online since it is an easier option to them. The management has always been considerate towards the issues that concerns students. The management has already made it clear time and again that there are no positive cases reported in the college and essential precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of the students."

Heartfelt tribute to veteran journalist Vinod Dua pours in

Dolkar Choezom

Vinod Dua, a pioneer of Hindi television journalism, a Padma Shri awardee died at the age of 67 after a prolonged illness caused by a Covid infection at the Apollo Hospital on Saturday, in New Delhi.

His death was confirmed by his daughter Malik Dua on her Instagram where she shared a picture of her late father.

The journalists The Beacon spoke said they were heartbroken after hearing of the news of death of Vinod Dua. "Mourning the loss of a journalist, Vinod Dua. He was one of the journalists whom



Vinod Dua

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I admired and losing him was like losing our voice. He was the bravest and strongest journalist for me," said journalist Zompa Tenzin. Another journalist Arun said "We've lost another great

journalist in our time, another man who has contributed so much to the country. He was one of the journalists who spoke his mind. Condolences and prayers to Vinod Dua and his family."

Jawad turns into deep depression, heavy crop loss reported

Sudha Ankita Ekka

Heavy rainfall lashed the eastern coast damaging crops of vast hectares of land as Cyclone Jawad weakened into a depression on Sunday. As a result, the coastal area of West Bengal, including Kolkata witnessed incessant rainfall. "The deep depression, a remnant of cyclonic storm Jawad is likely to continue to move north-northeast, along Odisha coast and weaken into the well-marked low-pressure area during 12 hours," said Indian Meteorological Department. The unseasonal rain shattered the hopes of farmers in coast-

al Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak districts as bundles of harvested paddy crops went swept away in swirling water. "I had taken a Rs 1.5 lakh loan this year. As the ripened paddy continues to remain underwater, I lost all my hopes to harvest it," said a devastated farmer Peter Kumar, who hails from Odisha. "No damage has been seen till now as compared to Cyclone Gulab, but it's been raining since yesterday, and maybe it will continue raining till tomorrow," said Raju Rajbari from Kolkata. So far, 17000 people have been evacuated from low-lying areas in West Bengal.