

THE BEACON

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

Saturday, August 28, 2020 / St Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol : 14 ; Issue : 35 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

ONAM 2020: How Kerala celebrates during a pandemic

Nandita Narayan

KOCHI With the lockdown pairing with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's orders to make Onam a muted affair in the state this year, people resorted to alternative ways to celebrate the festival while keeping the precautionary measures in mind.

Aparna Rajeevan, 22, a law student, focuses on the positive aspect of the situation. "Onam is always incomplete without the sadhya and payasam. So could be an opportunity to learn how to prepare the traditional feast" she said. She also intends to design rangolis and spend the rest of the day with her kin at home watching malayalam movie marathons.



Representational Image

Creative Commons

However, it is a different story for Malayalis residing abroad and are unable to

return home for the festival. Christa Jose, 20, a university student in London shares her

plans of having a virtual Onam with her family. "Our families have decided to

meet on Zoom and follow our usual onam traditions like singing folk songs, narrate stories, and just catching up so that nobody feels left out," she said.

Many educational institutions have also decided to proceed with the festivities via their online classrooms. "We have conducted online games and other activities to entertain our class," said Rajini, a school teacher. She also mentioned how other arrangements like Thiruvathira and folk dances were added.

The free Onam kits through ration shops will resume this year as well. It's a relief option for people with unstable income due to Covid-19.

Delhi Riots 2020: the controversial

book
C J Rahul

"Twitter will decide whether a contract will be honoured or not? This is wrong" Says Advocate Monika Arora, author of the book Delhi Riots 2020: The untold story.

Controversy recently erupted when publishing house Bloomsbury India, decided to cease from publishing & distributing the book titled Delhi Riots 2020. In the last three months, advocate Malika had communicated regularly through email with Bloomsbury UK & sent them a draft, which they agreed to. The contract was signed and approved. Within minutes before the launch, she received a call from Bloomsbury India that someone had tweeted and tagged Bloomsbury UK and they are pressurizing authors to withdraw. Advocate Malika despite emailing the publishing house and posting the email on Twitter, did not receive any response. Arora commented "If you are upset with the speakers, boycott the launch. Why withdraw from the book you have published and sold?" Arora will now publish the book through Garuda Publications. Citing provisions of criminal breach of trust and violation of contract, Arora is considering legal action against Bloomsbury.

Lonavala: Continuing Ingress of Tourists

Jesly Pulikotil

LONAVALA While the influx of tourists in the city continues despite a lockdown in place, some local residents opened up to The Beacon about how they are managing to make inter-city journeys possible.

A law college professor from Mumbai said, "I stay at my vacation home, I keep switching between Mumbai and Lonavala, the only way to escape constant quarantine and paperwork, is to pay Rs. 2000 to the checkers. As long as they don't account for your quarantine too."

A celebrity manager from Pune said, "I know many top

politicians, they helped me out with the paperwork, including a medical certificate and got me permissions from the authorised people. No one inquired about my reasons to travel nor did I quarantine myself."

A local traffic police officer stated, "Tourist spots are not open to the public. If people do not account their purpose of travel as leisure, they are permitted to stay in the town. It is obvious that every accommodating inn is active, Chikki shops are crowded, heavy traffic all over the place, and all my department can do is pretend like we didn't see any of this."

Pandemic paves way for unconventional start ups

Anna Mariam

BANGALORE Social media has allowed people to turn their hobbies into ventures, and this is not just for performers. Knitters and crocheters like Bodhichitta Saiyana and Aabritee Rana have taken to these platforms to not only display their work, but also make a fortune!

Saiyana is a UG student from SJC, Bangalore who owns the Instagram page called 'crochetbysaiyana'. "Crochet seemed simple so I

started that when lockdown began. I thought about selling my crafts and thus put it up for sale which then caught some people's eye here in Darjeeling," she said.

Aabritee is another Josephite who hails from Darjeeling. She too runs an Instagram page called 'Adorbs Handicrafts' consisting of handmade knitted goods and more. "I started knitting, and doing other DIYs during the long stretch of lockdown. However back then there was not really a plan to form a

startup. But one night I finally decided to open a page on both IG and Facebook." She wishes to take this project to Bangalore provided she gets time as she is pursuing her Masters at the moment.

"Lately I've been checking out crochet tops but most of them were expensive. When Saiyo started her own business of the same, I was looking forward to purchasing from her. It's exceptionally perfect for a handmade item!" says Shiyona, a happy customer.



Representational Image

Creative Commons

Students Struggle As Restrictions Ease

Suhas Kashyap

BANGALORE The government of Karnataka has removed the 14-day Quarantine system and also the requirement of registration on Seva Sindhu portal for interstate travellers "I can concentrate more on studies now, but I fear spreading the virus" says Suraj K, a final year BA student of St Pauls College travelling from Goa to Bangalore ahead of upcoming exams.

The government of Karnataka has removed the 14-day Quarantine system



Representational Image

and also the requirement of registration on Seva Sindhu portal for interstate travellers. There is the question of safety and well-

being. People who weren't quarantined are likely to attend the exam in the current scenario. That is quite risky, apart from writing our final exams other reasons like rushed schedule ineffective online classes. We will be anxious over the spread of infection with the addition of exam anxiety. I am not sure if it is helpful or not."

A student of Bangalore University Farseena K A said "it should be made mandatory to quarantine after travelling because it can stop the spread of the virus. This decision is not an ideal one while

considering all the facts." "The removal of mandatory quarantine for the inter-state travellers in between exams is welcomed by the students of Karnataka.