

# THE BEACON

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## Netizens furious over killings in Kashmir

Abhimanyu Sharma

**BENGALURU:** "Article 370" trended on Twitter as netizens expressed their opinions on the gruesome spurt of civilian killings in Srinagar.

People displayed their anger and emotions loud and clear with their tweets. "It's article 370 that has led to the killings of minorities in Kashmir now, such shameful obfuscation. Like there is no history to these targeted killings," tweeted author and screenwriter Advaita Kala.

"The second exodus has already begun. You have already accepted defeat, asking minority Hindus to shut shops and not venture out." said Rahul Pandita, a journalist, in reply to a tweet explaining the tragic situation.

Veteran Lt. Col. Anil Duhoon joined the conversation as he tweeted, "Article 370 abrogation was to usher in peace and settling back Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir, but Kashmir sees another wave of non-Muslims leaving Kashmir, and China intruded Ladakh (sic)." He further questioned BJP about its methodology and approach saying "Why @BJP4India ? Where have things gone wrong? Or you never understood the problem?"

## 'Marks Jihad remark is communal & divisive'

Nandita Narayanan

**BENGALURU:** The recent remarks made by Delhi University professor Rakesh Kumar Pandey claiming how there has been an 'infiltration of students from Kerala' due to over admissions drew flak from the people with some criticizing the statement as being highly unjust and prejudicial.

It all began when an associate professor of Physics from DU's Kirori Mal College took to Facebook to start an online campaign against the 'infiltration'. "A college had to admit 26 students in a course having 20 seats, only because they all had 100 per cent marks from Kerala board. For last few years,



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Kerala board is implementing #MarksJihad," posted the former president of RSS-affiliated National Democratic Teachers Front. However, his statement

soon sparked political controversy on social media with netizens opposing his remarks, stating how it's highly discriminatory and unwelcoming for aspirants

from Kerala. Prominent political figures like Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and CPM leader John Brittas took to Twitter to voice how Pandey's comment is

'communal'.

The Beacon got in touch with students from Delhi University to get their opinion on the issue. "The numbers do show that there has been a higher number of students from Kerala, however, they do not dominate the student population," said Niharika, a Master's student. She explains how DU has always ensured that there is a diverse student body from various states on campus.

"I feel remarks made by professors from a position of high influence and power can cause an impact on the way students think," said Shaturupa, a student. She also adds that such statements also contributes to breeding Hindutva ideology.

## CIA's plan to kill Assange 'deeply troubling': NUJ

Arakkal Shada Amina

**BENGALURU:** The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) called for the immediate dismissal of the U.S.' appeal to extradite Julian Assange, after the CIA's purported plan to kidnap and assassinate him in 2017 was reported by Yahoo News, calling the whole ordeal "deeply troubling".

Yahoo News reported a story alleging that the U.S.' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had plotted to kidnap and assassinate WikiLeaks



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founder Julian Assange in 2017 during the Trump administration. The allegations were based on interviews the organization

conducted with former intelligence officials that remain unnamed.

In a statement issued by the NUJ, general secretary

Michelle Stanistreet addressed the allegations, and stated: "If true, the story from Yahoo! News blows a hole in the case made by the US government that its attempt to extradite Assange is not politically motivated."

The U.S. Justice Department, in 2019 appealed to extradite Assange on charges of espionage and conspiring to hack the classified documents. Assange has been in jail in London pending extradition hearings and faces jail time if extradited to the U.S.

Anthony Bellanger, general secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) also said, "If these accusations are true, it would cast a long shadow over all independent journalism and they would once again prove that extraditing Assange to the United States would put his life at serious risk. We are calling for a full investigation and for the British authorities to release him immediately."

The next appeal hearing for extraditing Assange to the U.S. is expected to take place on October 27 and 28.

## Teachers raise concerns over sanitary napkin distribution

Jesly Pulikotil

**BENGALURU:** As Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have also announced their initiatives to distribute sanitary napkins under the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS), Maharashtra school and pre-university teachers talk to the Beacon about the concerns of implementing it.

Sheela Furtado, principal of a higher secondary school, welcomed the idea. "Many states faced scrutiny with the implementation of this scheme. Distributing napkins for free or at subsidised rates is great, provided it is

consistent and of usable standards. It shouldn't be a namesake process," she said.

Mercy Paul, a higher secondary school teacher said, "For a few months we received sanitary napkins from the government. By the fifth month or so, it stopped and we never had access to that aid again."

Chetana Chatterjee, teacher and girls welfare officer at a government aided pre-university college said, "The napkins were made poorly. I checked it personally, and it was pathetic. We stopped taking the napkins from the government."

## Deepak Chahar wins off the field despite loss

Shahul Hameed

**C**hennai Super Kings (CSK) paceman Deepak Chahar proposed to his girlfriend Jaya Bharadwaj following CSK's defeat in their final group stage match against Punjab Kings (PK) held at Dubai.

Chahar took to Twitter and shared the video of the same and tweeted, "Special and one of the best moments of my life #love [sic.]" and he thanked BCCI and its Secretary Jay Shah in his tweet. Fans and family also took to Twitter to congratulate him on the



Chahar proposing to his girlfriend Twitter/@ChennaiIPL

occasion.

Chahar's sister Malti Chahar broke the speculation regarding the nationality of Jaya through her tweet, "she isn't a foreigner...Delhi Ki ladki h [sic.]" and stated that Jaya is from Delhi.

The team's official twitter handle had also revelled the couple's memorable moment by posting a video of the team members celebrating with the couple. CSK fans flooded social media with their responses positively

despite the team's loss against PK. PK captain KL Rahul scored an unbeaten 98 contributing heavily to the team's win.

Royal Challengers Bangalore, Delhi Capitals (DC) have qualified to the playoffs. The race for the fourth spot is between PK, Kolkata Knight riders (KKR) and Mumbai Indians. Given the scenario after KKR's win against Rajasthan Royals on Thursday, the former is likely to take the fourth spot with their positive net run rate. CSK is likely to take on the table toppers DC in the opening match of the playoffs.