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Kerala Covid cases rise: Pupils wary of returning home

Anjitha Eldho

KERALA: As Covid-19 cases in Kerala hit the 10-lakh mark on Sunday, February 14, youngsters from the state studying in other states said the situation is such that they are afraid to return home.

Hannah Starly, a student from Christ Deemed to be University, told The Beacon, "Most of us prefer to not go back to Kerala because we need to undergo a Covid-19 test and carry the disease-free certificate with us each time we travel."

She said even holidays end up being quarantine days. "Even if we get 10 days' holiday, we need to spend seven days in quarantine. Then there are those who skip this quarantine period, risking getting others infected," she added.

"Even though the rollout of vaccines plays a major role in avoiding the uncertainty in the community, I feel suffocated because of the overall fear existing in the community," said Jays Augustin, a student from CMS College of Science and Commerce in Tamil Nadu.

Despite having stringent rules initially, Kerala noticed high spike in cases post-lockdown.

"It's risky to put yourself in public buses or trains," said Kevin from Coimbatore.

BBMP takes skit-road to public hygiene

Anjali Ram

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is resorting to street plays and skits, like the ones conducted on Church Street on Sunday, in its efforts for a cleaner Bengaluru and a better rank in the Swachh Survekshan survey of 2021.

"This is a part of the outreach programme from our end to ensure that people are aware of waste management," BBMP Special Commissioner Randeep D told The Beacon.

"Places like Church Street are kept clean so people don't litter the place. But in areas where there is minimal garbage disposal, more and more waste tend to come up,"



Street play by BBMP

Anjali Ram

he explained.

"So we urge people to not be the first person to litter the street. As an alternative they

can use the bins or at least segregate the waste in one's house till the vehicle comes. This is the kind of awareness

we need to built in," he said.

He added that the initiative focuses mainly on youngsters to make them understand the

need of cleanliness and waste management.

"All major cities are there in the annual survey of cleanliness and Bangalore should not be left behind. The BBMP is eyeing a higher rank than last year's 214, with the help of the public," he said.

The BBMP on Saturday also conducted a cycle rally as a part of the ongoing efforts.

"Waste is going to be a serious problem in future unless the youth decides to make a change to ensure that our city is clean, that is the message we are driving here," said Randeep.

Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation conducted in cities and towns across India since 2016.

Disha's arrest irks students

Godwin Emmanuel E

BENGALURU: Students from across Karnataka expressed concern on social media over the Sunday arrest of 21-year-old student and environmental activist Disha Ravi over her links to the "toolkit" that Greta Thunberg shared on Twitter regarding the farmer protests in Delhi.

The Karnataka chapter of the All India Students Association (AISA) on Monday demanded Disha's immediate release and the dropping of the "false cases"



Disha Ravi

Twitter

against her.

"The only conspiracy here is that of the RSS-BJP government to malign the ongoing farmers' protest using police forces and draconian laws to hand over the agricultural sector to

Adani-Ambani," said an AISA member, who prefers to be anonymous.

Hamisini, a student from the Journalism department of Mount Carmel College in the city, where Disha studies, told The Beacon, "This is shocking on many levels. This is an attack on our democracy."

Meanwhile, Disha's sister used the activist's Twitter handle on late Sunday evening — hours after the arrest — to claim that some people were making fake Twitter handles in her name.

'City has police stations in every corner now'

Ahana Bagchi

CAMPUS: "Bengaluru City had only one police commissioner and two deputy commissioners during my time. Now, there are police stations at every corner and all of them are updated with latest equipment," said retired Deputy Commissioner of Police Victor Shaw D'Souza on Saturday, February 13.

He was speaking at the launch of Open Heart at St Joseph's College (Autonomous).

"Technology has really helped and everything is online now," he added.

He talked about how the police force in his time did not have many facilities to deal with cases and communal riots.

"We had telephones, that's it. Nowadays they have facilities like wireless communication" he said.

"Back then, after the Babri Masjid demolition, it was very tough. Nowadays, things are much more peaceful," he added.

Open Heart — a platform where people from different occupations with different and unique stories come together to share them with a large audience — is set to start on March 19.

Life finds a way, under Antarctic ice shelf

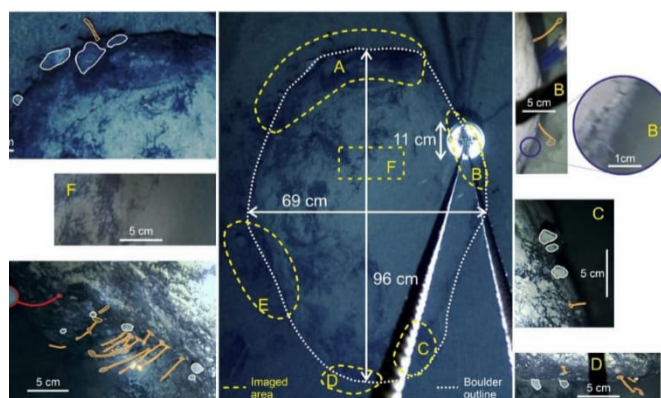
Aamir Sohail

A team of marine researchers from around the world have found filter-feeding organisms — like sponges — on a boulder deep under the Antarctic ice shelf.

This finding has raised significant questions as they are very far from where food sources for such non-moving living organisms is plentiful.

The finding was published on Monday in the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

The discovery was made in the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf, which is on the South



Boulder's close-up

Huw J Griffiths Et Al

Eastern Wedell Sea.

The researchers drilled bores 900 metres deep into the ice and came across a large boulder on which these

immobile creatures lived.

This area is reportedly "somewhere between 625 km and 1,500 km in the direction of water flow from the

nearest region of photosynthesis."

It shows that the area is very inhospitable as temperatures are below freezing point and no light reaches it.

The researchers have categorised the creatures into three main types of suspension feeders: a stalked sponge, non-stalked sponges, and unidentifiable stalked taxa (possible sponges, ascidian, barnacles and others).

The researchers also stressed the need for an interdisciplinary study to be conducted following this discovery.



Open Heart 2021 launch

File photo