

THE BEACON

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Internal security senario of Assam

C J Rahul

GUHWATI: Head constable Anup Das spoke in a interview about The United Liberation Front of Assam a.k.a ULFAs has been witnessing a transform in the last three decades of 21st century. At a time their dominance was biggest threat to internal security ,a challenge for central government to unite them and to be a part of India. The situation has changed for good locals have realized giving up violence meant peace. But progress is slow. The reminisce of deadly conflict in between tribes groups and security forces the wounds have not yet healed. Few smaller groups of ULFA who are still carry



Representational Image

C J Rahul

on with anti national activities are now deprived of finances. In order to maintain their status they have came up to various ideas of

kidnappings, extortions . modus operandi of ULFA is increasing at times of covid 19. Due to their hatred against ethnic group majority

of their targets are outsiders such as Bengalis, Biharis, Bangladeshi . Moreover due to involvement of "adhivasi" often leads to violent clashes.

Apart from ethnic groups various tea-estate , rich farmers or local business man are their targets, in fact ULFA members are also involved and endorsing few locals in poaching, hunting,flesh trade,those who go against their wishes faces death On the other side due to lockdown and layoffs of jobs there has been a rise in narcotics cases. Many youths are being involved in using drugs and involved in smuggling across the border. This is being patronized by insurgents as means of funds.The government however is managing to restore peace and stability, providing jobs to many local tribes and even to surrendered ULFA members.

Kota: From study hub to ghost town

Abhimanyu Sharma

KOTA: Aklank Jain owner of a food mess in Kota, Rajasthan says he is hopeless after pandemic induced national lockdown. The mess used to feed about 200 students daily but has not seen much of a business since the beginning of the lockdown.

Kota is a well known study hub of the country where lakhs of students migrate to every year giving rise to hundreds of hostels and messes that made money by housing students. Ever since the lockdown began most of the students have gone back home which has left these businesses to dust and huge losses."The city feels like a ghost town, there's barely any students left", said Krishnan Iyer who runs a hostel. With only 2 out of 20 rooms occupied presently he says the conditions are extremely bad and it's getting difficult to sustain with almost no returns.

Education sector on the other hand has been facing its own challenges and adapting accordingly. Alka Sharma who runs private coaching classes says, "We switched to online classes for students' sake and it's been challenging but fun", stating how important it is to adapt to the situations to make the best out of everything.

Is your pet feeling the stress?

Anna Mariam I

BENGALURU: With the lockdown restrictions coming to an ease, pet parents say their fur babies are feeling low as their humans return to work.

"Eva sensed my absence in the house quickly. Eventually she realised that I would be back home by 6:30 pm and around that time she'll be waiting at the gate. Nowadays she has a mandatory evening nap on my lap when I am relaxing," Kumar K, an architect from Lonavala said.

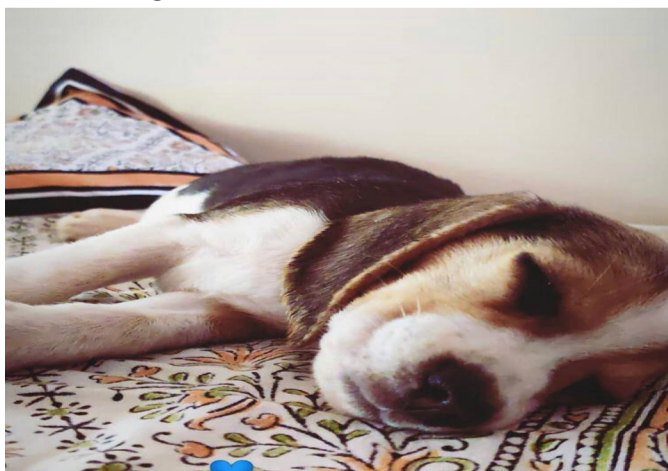
Chandrachur Palchaudhuri, manager of CUPA shares, "It's vital for pets to be safe and calm when their parents are not around. The lockdown unfortunately did more harm than good wherein pets used to staying alone have gotten used to

their parents' constant presence.

However, the workload of most pet parents intensified and pets are now bored and sad that their parents are with them but can't give them time.

The behaviour of pets will change slowly, anxiety levels will increase, and they will find it really difficult to cope. Owners need to start working on anxiety training soon to ease their pets when they start going back to work."

It's not just dogs, even cats face the same situation. Robin Varghese from SJC says, "Last month I had to stay away for a while and it was really disappointing because I never left my cat alone. I was sure that my parents would do the needful. I really missed him, and so did he."



Representational Image

Kumar K

Mayamma comes live at Webinar

Nandita Narayanan

BENGALURU: "I never wanted Maya to be a glorified drag queen but to be the voice of our community," said Alex Mathew, aka Maya, at the webinar - Shades of Alex hosted by the department of AD and PR of St Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru.

Alex spoke of his passion for the performing arts and inspiration from globally renowned drag artists like RuPaul and Dame Edna. "My first performance was in 2014. I wore my mother's

saree and sported amateurly done hair and makeup. But I believe I was a pro on stage. The act came easy for me," he said.

Yet it was not an easy task for Maya to go mainstream. He recalled how his interests in the queer community were not supported initially by his family. In due course of time, he altered his performances to educate the audience about the LGBTQ + community.

Alex candidly addressed that it was not a cakewalk to build his career. "I lost several jobs due to my sexuality but fortunately I

had an opportunity to work as a communications officer at an NGO called Solidarity foundation, exclusively for sex workers and the LGBTQ community," he said. He played an active role in breaking the stigma around them. Eventually during one of his performances, he met Keshav Suri the scion of Lalit Ashok hotel and was hired as their officer.

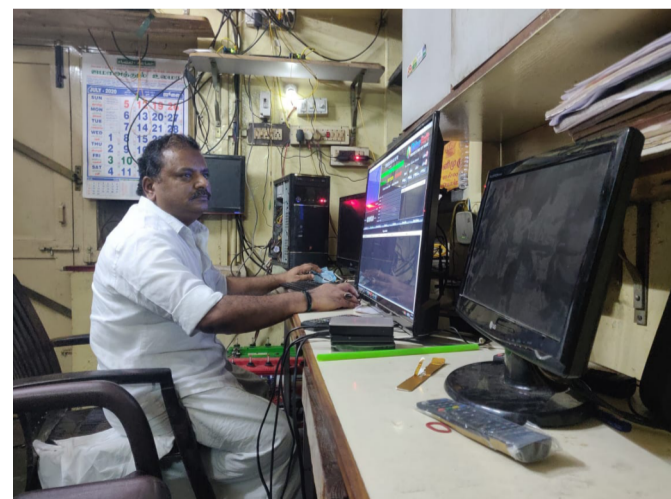
The session ended with Alex bringing Maya to screen, sharing some positive thoughts using her famous catchphrase "Ente kuttis and kuttans!"

Pandemic: A boon for cable operators

Shahul Hameed

POLLACHI: The cable TV service providers have an entirely different story when it comes to running their business in this lockdown. On the brighter side they have increase in sales compared to other businesses during this lockdown.

Mr. Hussain a Pollachi based cable service provider shared how lockdown impacted his business and the impact of digitalisation in the cable TV industry during our interview with him. He claimed cable TV is one among the few industries which benefitted out of this lockdown. As lot



Representational Image

Shahul Hameed

of new customers opted for a connection, hotels requested cable connection often as the

people who travelled back to their hometown, quarantined themselves in hotels. He adds

that the advent of mobile wallet has helped him as most of the customers opted for online payment which in turn reduced collection employee expense. The only drawback which he faced was to fix the technical faults which occur in homes, the technician would find it difficult to travel during the curfew and fix the issue. He also added that digitalisation hit Pollachi two years after its launch in India few years back. Payment, activation and deactivation of setup box has become much easier after the launch. It has provided a positive impact to this business.