

# THE BEACON

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

Wednesday, 31 August 2022 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 15 Issue: 136 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

## Town Hall rentals reduced to support theatre groups

**Mythri C**

**BENGALURU:** To accommodate more cultural programmes in the city and to compensate for the lack of sufficient Kannada theatres, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has revised the rental rates of the Town Hall.

As per the recent circular released by the BBMP, the revised rental rates of the Puttanna Chetty Purabhavana (Town Hall) will be in effect from 1 September 2022. Previously, the daily rates were Rs 70000 (air conditioner) and Rs 60000 (non air conditioner). After the revision, the current rates are Rs 60000 (air conditioner) and Rs 50000 (non air conditioner). All the programs with special permission will be getting a 50% discount.

"I think it is good that the government has reduced the rate, it would be better if it was free. We should focus on fighting for free access to existing public places. All these bans and restrictions make you wonder who these spaces belong to after all," said Shalom Gauri, an activist.

Yashas Manjunath from the theatre group Kranthi said that since Town Hall is in the centre of the city, performing there will give more recognition to the theatre groups. "If the government can charge a minimal amount for the maintenance instead of collecting rental charges, it would be more beneficial for the theatre groups," he added.

## Asian-Indians more prone to T2D

**Arushi Srivastava**

The consumption of carbohydrates in the Asian-Indian diet has led to type 2 diabetes (T2D) and consequently, there is also the risk for metabolic syndrome (MS) and cardiovascular disease (CVD) said the latest research. According to Cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, glycaemic index diets are linked to higher prevalence and incidence of T2D.

The research paper titled 'Are excess carbohydrates the main link to diabetes and

## Communal divide: From the streets to books

The nexus between religion and politics has become dominant in the Indian polity since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014. The ruling party has been successful in repeatedly demonstrating its allegiance to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and his Hindutva Ideology.

After the hijab row, communal rhetoric and unrest have been on the rise in Karnataka State. Savarkar was the first person to propose the theory of two nations in 1937, three years before Mohammad Ali Jinnah's declaration. While Savarkar addressed the 19th session of Hindu Mahasabha in Ahmedabad, he declared "India cannot be assumed today to be a unitarian and homogenous nation. On the contrary, there are two nations in the main: the Hindus and the Muslims, in India." The seed of communal divide sown by Savarkar's Ideology has encouraged false identity



Representational Image

hindi.thequint.com

consciousness in the majority and has posed a threat to the minority as they are subjected to suspicion and hatred.

Karnataka has witnessed numerous incidents in the process of 'idolising' Savarkar. Hindutva groups have planned to include Savarkar in Ganesha Puja by placing his photo alongside that of Lord Ganesha. Here the question that can be posed is concerning the validity of the

connection between Savarkar and Ganesha. However, the ruling party seems to be supporting these acts.

### OPINION

In a Class VIII Kannada textbook, in a poem describing the life of Savarkar in the Andaman Cellular Jail, the writer K.T Gatti expresses 'There was not even a keyhole in the cell where Sa-

varkar was incarcerated. But bulbul birds used to visit his cell and Savarkar used to sit on their wings and fly out to visit the motherland." Here though, flying around sitting on the wings of birds is a metaphor, it glorifies the deeds of Savarkar. The textbook committee which had decided to remove the title 'Sculptor of the Constitution' from the name of Ambedkar has however intentionally retained

the component that glorifies Savarkar.

During the reign of B.S Yediyurappa, despite stiff opposition, the BJP government was successful in naming a prominent flyover in Bengaluru after VD Savarkar. On August 24, with the aim of spreading awareness about Savarkar's 'contributions' and 'sacrifices', "Savarkar Rath Yathra" was also flagged off by Yediyurappa in Mysore.

The anti minority sentiment that was fuelled by the ideology of Hindutva is being supported by the right. Festivals such as Ganesha Chaturthi, known for promoting social harmony, are being used as a device of communal hatred. Young minds are being fed with falsely glorified content. The ruling party must curtail the acts that spread enmity and must take action to brew the spirit of harmony in the minds of the citizens.

**Thanmaya Prakash**

## Activist pushes for adoption of open prisons

**Gautam Nagar & Sanjana Anand**

**BENGALURU:** The current Indian prison system is in need of an overhaul, paving the way for wider adoption of open prison systems in India, said Smita Chakraborty, a civil rights activist, on Monday.

In a talk on 'Open Prisons and Life Sentence' delivered at the Alternative Law Forum, Chakraborty, associated with the non-partisan and advocacy group Prison Aid + Action Research (PAAR), cited numerous problems arising out of the current closed

prison system that ranged from congestion to understaffing, alongside instances of exploitation of the prisoners, lack of good hygiene and inadequate nutrition.

"The closed prison system is a failing system and has a redundant structure, wherein a prisoner is systematically broken down and tortured," she said.

Chakraborty dealt with the gravity of the issue of congestion in prisons, and said, "According to prison rules, a prisoner is to be given 36 sq ft. of space in a barrack." Chakraborty recalled an in-

spection in Phalodi, Rajasthan, where 74 prisoners were kept in a barrack constructed for a capacity of 17. A similar situation was witnessed in Bihar, where a barrack for four women had a total of 25 women prisoners, one of whom was pregnant.

As a humane and cheaper alternative to the "predatory and caged" closed prison system, Chakraborty praised the open prison system. "The open prisons operate on a trust-based and graded liberty structure. Prisoners engage in labour based on their skill sets. The prisoner community

within the system are awarded basic living amenities," she said. She went on to say how the system allows prisoners to be rehabilitated, for instance by gaining employment in nearby universities and restaurants.

Chakraborty was instrumental in getting a Supreme Court order passed in 2018 calling for establishing open prison systems in all states, with the order being finalised the following year. Additionally, PAAR files almost 1000 RTIs every year enquiring about the general and more recently the Covid safety conditions in prisons.

## 'Our priority is to maintain hygiene'

**Varsha Benedict**

**CAMPUS:** "Good food brings people together," said Jagdish Pujari, owner of JMJ Canteen. Jagdish along with his team have started serving a variety of dishes at an affordable price range on the postgraduate campus of St Joseph's University.

The PG Canteen at SJU has been taken over by new management on 29 of Aug. JMJ Canteen also serves the St Joseph's Law College, and has a history of running hotel chains.

"Our priority is to maintain hygiene which I believe was not the case previously, which is why we were hired by the Vice-Chancellor," said Jagdish Pujari. "It's only been two days and we have already started to receive excellent reviews from the students about the taste and quality of the food served."

They have also decreased the price by five to ten rupees and plan on expanding the menu shortly.

"I stopped having canteen food because of its quality but now the quality is much better and also a variety of dishes are served," said Sutapa Dhara, a student of the Department of Mass Communication.



Representational Image

wellthy.care

there will be excess glucose in our blood. Diabetes is nothing but an inability to utilise available blood glucose. Glucose consumed remains in the blood owing to the sedentary lifestyle. The metabolism pattern will be slower and all the problems mentioned will lead to diabetes."

## Is the Twitter podcast buzz worth it?

**Moksha Garg**

Following the announcement of the introduction of podcasts on Twitter, The Beacon interacted with a social media manager and content strategist, Kuber Jain, regarding the potential rise in engagement on the website. Since Facebook closed its Meta podcasts feature, Twitter has had an upper hand in the market with a chance at leveraging its huge size of the audience.

When asked about the competitive market of podcasts, Jain said, "It's not easy for Twitter to compete with other giants like Spotify as they

already have a well-planned mechanism for podcasts. No one would let go of the followership. Twitter might bring in more traffic but in my opinion, it might not be able to keep up with its actual USP."

Twitter recently made public that it will be adding podcasts to the platform as part of the redesigned 'Spaces' tab. The tab consists of audio micrologs with themes like News, Sports, Music and more. With this new feature, listeners will be able to access a more personalised selection of recorded Spaces on the topics most relevant to them.