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KL: Concerns over rise in deaths after stray-dog bites

Subadra Sarath

KERALA: About 21 people have lost their lives and a lakh have suffered from stray dog bites in Kerala in 2022. Of those who died, five had received anti-rabies vaccine.

The Supreme Court has observed that those who are feeding stray dogs must be accountable for the violence. Pet owners and housing societies are always in a rift when it comes to rules regarding them.

"Our association jointly decided that there won't be any pets allowed as children play here. We don't want any harm to our children," said the Association President of one of the apartment complexes in Thripunithura. Meanwhile, the state government has decided to take sudden action after these attacks.

"I don't think it's the dogs that should be blamed. We are the ones who treat dogs in a heartless way, so they would do the same when they get a chance. I have seen people throwing things at dogs. The dogs don't attack first, they are just reflecting on how we behave towards them," said a psychologist, Beena from Kerala.

In recent times, there have been several instances of stray dog attacks. In Kozhikode, a boy was attacked by a stray dog without any provocation while he was just standing outside his house. In Kannur, a child was chased by a number of stray dogs.

Over the past few weeks, concerns have been raised over deaths occurring despite victims taking the vaccine against rabies.

Spotlight on RTI: The common man's right

Fiza Ziyad & Pushparaj C

CAMPUS:As per the Constitution, Indian democracy means 'of the people, for the people and by the people'. However, citizens today do not know who the state is and why it even exists, opined Manohar R, executive director of CARE and member of Human Rights Defenders Alert (HRDA), India.

Manohar R along with Shujayathulla E, facilitator of programmes, Karnataka chapter of Indian Social Institute addressed the students of Institute of Communication and Media Studies, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru on Tuesday during a hands-on session on the Right to Information Act (RTI).

Lamenting about how people these days are least interested in politics, Manohar said, "Today we don't even have any link with the state. Who is the state? We don't



R Manohar and E Shujayathulla interacting with journalism students at ICMS

Siddhant Garud

know. Why is the state (exists)? We don't know. If you don't know, they (state) are very happy."

"Young students need to know that you have a cause. All of us have a specific purpose. There are some issues we are confronting - civic is-

issues, personal issues and all these things," said Manohar. He added that even though people are aware of such issues, they do not know how to resolve or who to approach for a solution.

Speaking on the lack of awareness about RTI es-

pecially among the youth, Manohar said, "You and I as citizens don't know what RTI is. It is important for us to understand that you are not a student first, you are a human being first. But the problem is we never understand the relation between our existence

and what is surrounding us. That is the danger we are seeing."

Stressing on the importance of RTI, Manohar said, "To hold a state accountable, RTI is important. To look at transparency, RTI is important." He emphasised that the governments and public bodies are only custodians of data but it is the people who are the real owners of the data.

Manohar also shared one of his experiences of filing an RTI regarding the lack of nutritious food in anganwadis in Karnataka. The principal secretary in charge of the contract to supply food was suspended as a result of the RTI. "In this country people are also playing with children's lives, who are the future. It (the RTI) changed the topography of anganwadis in Karnataka." Anganwadis in Karnataka now have to put up the list of food to be given to children every day.

BK calls out govt's selective sympathy for the elite

Afreen Hussain

BENGALURU:Bahutva Karnataka in an email addressed to the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai has called out the state administration for their "selective sympathy" and asked the government to look into the injustice that the working class citizens have been facing with regard to the recent flood situation in Bengaluru.

Bahutva Karnataka is a platform consisting of concerned residents from women's groups, dalit and minority groups, transgender rights groups, workers' unions, slum residents, student unions and



The flooded Munnekolala Slum PTI

several others. In the email, the organisation demanded the government to take certain steps, both for immediate relief and long term solutions to address the issues of climate injustice and housing crisis in Bengaluru.

Vinay K Sreenivasa, president of Bahutva Karnata-

ka said, "We have seen that there was a lot of injustice in the way the government dealt with the floods, that's when we decided that this issue must be highlighted. We wanted to call out the CM for visiting the Outer Ring Road and those areas whereas minister Ashwath Narayan visited the tech companies but none of them visited the slum areas."

He further added the people of the slum who had no role to play in the encroachment were the ones who were affected the most. He believes that this is climate injustice and that there must be a long

term strategy to ensure that people have decent housing in the city and the government must seek strategies to deal with climate change.

The organisation stressed on the basic housing problems faced by those who belong to the lowest income neighbourhoods of the city such as Bellandur, Munekolalu, Brookefield, Doddanekkundi, Kodigehalli and Mahadevpura zone. It further added that the makeshift tenements that the working class citizens of these neighbourhoods resided in had been washed away or waterlogged due to the overwhelmed sewage systems.

Hindi Diwas: A tradition since 1953

Sutapa Dhara

According to a Forbes India estimate, Hindi is the world's third most spoken language in 2021, with 600 million speakers. After Mandarin and English, this language is the third most widely spoken worldwide.

On September 14, the nation celebrates Hindi Diwas to promote and highlight its importance as the main language of the vast majority of Indians. As Hindi was declared India's official language by the Indian Constitution, the celebration of Hindi Diwas began after the nation gained its independence. The word "Hindi" approximately translates to "land of the Indus River" in Persian.

Misha Ghoshal, a Hindi teacher describing the history of the language says, "On the recommendation of Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti this day was dedicated to commemorate the language in 1953. The day was observed in order to emphasize how important the language is."

She continued by describing a few facts about Hindi - "Mahatma Gandhi first suggested establishing Hindi as a national language in 1918 at the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan.

A bitter-sweet victory for Narayanan

Saishyam Srikanth

Grandmaster(GM) SL Narayanan announced on Tuesday that he would not be taking part in the premier Julius Baer Generation Cup tournament. Narayanan had qualified for the event after he won the third leg of the MPL Indian Chess tour on Monday.

The 24-year-old from Kerala had emerged as the champion after scoring 28/45 points during the tournament. Fellow GM, Aravindh Chidambaram also tied with Narayanan on the same score

but lost the top spot since Narayanan had beaten him when they faced off in the 12th round.

"I already signed a contract with the Spanish league and it will be very difficult to skip that," Narayanan said while explaining his decision to not take part in the Generation Cup. Due to clashing dates, the GM was forced to choose between the tournaments.

At the early stages of the Indian Chess tour event, it didn't appear if Narayanan would emerge as the

champion. Acknowledging this he stated, "I was very casual during the start of the event and I wasn't doing professional work in terms of preparation." However, the first-round loss was a wake-up call for the GM, who pushed himself thereafter.

Narayanan was part of the India A team at the Chess Olympiad and stated how his first Olympiad was a tough experience. He explained that the India B team performed better than them since they were more consistent.

Unions lend a helping hand

Siddhant Garud

In light of the recent floods in Bangalore that wrecked havoc to various settlements across the city, 500 ration and educational kits were distributed to various families, said a press release by India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) and All India Students Association (AISA).

In the flood affected areas of Mahadevpura, BEML layout, Doddanekkundi, Kankanagar, Devarabeesanahalli, AICCTU and AISA have provided various ration kits to sanitation workers,

domestic workers, and daily wage laborers. The organisation collected around three lakh rupees from donations, which helped them to put together these kits for children and labourers.

The ration kits consisted of daily necessities like flour, rice, sugar and oil, for the workers. "We provided notebooks, crayons, pencils, sharpeners so that children from the Mahadevpura area, all those kids go to the Anganwadis, so the stationary will really help them" said Aratrika, a member of AISA.