

THE BEACON

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

Friday 20 January 2023 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 15 Issue: 46 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

AICCTU demand regular roles

Kannika Shembekar

Bengaluru: The All-India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) along with other unions organised a protest demanding permanent jobs for sanitation workers. Those gathering and disposing of solid waste in cities and towns around the nation, frequently lack permanent employment and employment benefits, despite their important role in maintaining public health and sanitation.

The AICCTU has demanded regularisation of roles for such workers and benefits such as pension and health insurance. The union has also demanded the implementation of minimum wage laws, as many are currently underpaid.

"There are two modes of employment: Direct employment and a contract system and since the workers have worked for more than 20-25 years for this, that is the reason they went on a 3-day-long strike. Thus the strike led Deputy Chief Minister Ashwath Narayan to concede that the direct payment workers will be regularised," said Maithri one of the lawyers working with AICCTU.

Maithri further added that the wages of these people will be raised gradually and this is the first step towards their improvement. Not only this, more effort is needed to be taken to provide them with better working conditions and tools.

Report raises concern on increasing disparity

Nikita & Ishika

Bengaluru: Elaborating on the nation's wealth gap, "Survival of the Richest: The India Story" dives deep into the division of the country's wealth. The report highlights socioeconomic and gender inequality, emphasising how India's progressive tax laws may help to reduce disparities.

According to an Oxfam report, since the pandemic started in 2020, billionaires in India have witnessed an increase in wealth of 121 per cent amounting to 3608 crores. The twenty-one wealthiest billionaires in India have a fortune of more than 700 million Indians. While 5% of Indians are said to possess more than 60% of the country's wealth, the poorest 50% of Indians own just 3% of it.

Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar, said, "While the country suffers from multiple crises like hunger,



Representational Image

USA Today.com

unemployment, inflation, and health calamities, India's billionaires are doing extremely well for themselves. Meanwhile, the poor in India cannot even afford necessities to survive."

According to the research, only 3% of the wealth created in India between 2012 and

2021 was given to the poorest 50% of the population, while only 1% earned 40% of that income. The combined wealth of the 100 richest people in India has reached \$660 billion, enough to cover the Union Budget for more than 18 months.

The number of hungry

Indians will increase to 350 million in 2022 from 190 million in 2018. The widespread hunger resulted in 65 per cent of deaths among children under five in 2022, according to the Union government's submission to the Supreme Court.

Behar called on the

Union Finance minister to implement progressive tax measures such as wealth tax in the upcoming Union Budget to address this "obscene inequality". "The country's marginalised – Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, Women, and informal sector workers—continue to suffer in a system that ensures the survival of the richest. The poor are paying disproportionately higher taxes and spending more on essential items and services when compared to the rich. He continued that the time has come to tax the rich and ensure they pay their fair share."

The research also indicates that, since 2020, the richest one per cent in the globe have acquired about two-thirds of all new wealth, and billionaires' fortunes have grown by \$2.7 billion daily, despite inflation outpacing the incomes of at least 1.7 billion people.

Expanding the horizons of youth culture

Dhamini D

A channel offering students a forum for self-expression and innovation, Under 25 is a pioneer in supporting youth culture. It believes that each of them is an artist with great potential to create a revolution.

The Under 25 Summit, one of their most beloved events, is said to return on March 3 after a three-year hiatus. It features over 1500 thought leaders like Armaan Malik, Alicia Souza, Zakir Khan, Anuv Jain, Jordindian, and others, and nearly 500 experiential zones, and meticulously curated art pieces. This year's



The brand's logo

Twitter

theme, "Encounter with Self, Surrounding, and Sensation," that time, and with time, it has brought into everything that a youngster would be interested in. So we cover multiple categories at the festival and focus on students' physical, mental, and spiritual growth."

He exclaimed that nearly more than 1000 students have joined their 'hustlers collective' for the summit, which initiated

the first-of-its-kind event and built curiosity and anticipation. He believes that there will be several transforming tales this year similar to previous ones.

On the significance of the presence of students for the summit as a whole, Bhat opined that Under 25 was launched by students through an app.

"We know the value that the students bring in, and no other brand currently recognises value. We pride ourselves on the fact that we are enabling them to do more than just what they would do in their institutions," he added.

The healing power of music

Angeline Claudia

Music therapy has been revealed to have a significant and potent impact on the treatment of disorders like dementia and Alzheimer's, said neurologist Dr Adarsh Kumar on Wednesday.

Music therapy is a distinctive form of treatment that helps patients connect to their suppressed memories and emotions. It uses music and musical aspects to enhance a person's physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs.

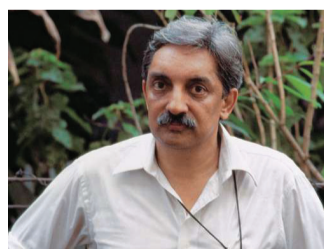
Kumar explained that "Dementia and Alzheimer's patients are someone who has difficulty with verbal communication, and music is one way that can provide them a way to express themselves and connect with others."

Speaking to The Beacon, Dr Kumar said it could also be utilised to stimulate physical mobility and exercise, which is vital for sustaining physical and cognitive function in dementia and Alzheimer's patients. He added, "It is important to note that music therapy should be as an adjunctive treatment rather than a replacement for traditional medical treatment.

'Protect the blue sky above us'

Bibhash R. Kalita

Bengaluru: The effort by millennials to combat climate change was elaborated by the Bangalore International Centre's (BIC) climate change awareness programme, which placed an emphasis on the responsibility of each individual to take action to save our planet. The BIC organised an event 'Biodiversity, Climate Change and You' to highlight the impact of climate change and to make the audience realise the need to take



Bittu Sahgal

Outlook India

action. Bittu Sahgal, an activist and founder of the Sanctuary Nature Foundation said that the climate and the natural environment are not at the edge, rather it has already started crumbling and if we do not take any action now

then it will be too late. He believes nature is a self-healing process that should not be bothered.

"All of us, regardless of our occupation or position in society, should plan to have a blue sky above us; this in turn will help us to lead a better life and solve most of our problems," he opined. He also added that economic development versus environmental protection is no longer a viable option, demonstrating the need for immediate climate change action.

ARDU against NY app

Sreeja Deb

Bengaluru: The much-anticipated Namma Yatri (NY) app is now fully operational. The app received mixed reviews across all media platforms even as it witnessed 10,000 downloads before the launch.

The Auto Rickshaw Driver Union (ARDU) of Bangalore, in collaboration with the Beckn Foundation, supported by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, launched the Namma Yatri app to provide auto rides to passengers at a low cost. It was finally put into

effect on November 1, 2022.

Speaking to The Beacon, Srinivasan, a member of the ARDU said, "Actually we are against it in general; we don't want an online business. There are users but not as many as Ola and Uber have. Our auto rickshaw drivers union have decided it because we don't have any respect and importance rather we are just used for the online business."

The auto drivers of Bangalore decided to emulate the Yatri app with a similar user interface just like the app used in Kochi.