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The darkside of gaming world

Nikita Priya

The tragic suicide of a 15-year-old teen has sparked calls for more education and knowledge of the dangers of excessive gaming addiction.

A 15-year-old boy in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, committed suicide because his family refused to repair his smartphone after he became addicted to video games.

Dr Amandeep Singh, a psychiatrist emphasised that playing video games can become compulsive behaviour for some kids and teenagers, which can have adverse effects on their mental health and general well-being. "This is a reminder of the dangers of excessive gaming and the need for greater awareness and education about gaming addiction," added Dr Singh.

Gaming addiction can have the same effects on emotion, behaviour, and cognition as addiction to other substances. He stressed how important it is for parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals to be on the lookout for indicators of gaming addiction, such as excessive thoughts about gaming, a loss of interest in other activities, and withdrawal symptoms when gaming is restricted.

"We need to recognise that gaming addiction is a real and serious condition that can have devastating consequences," said Dr. Singh. By raising awareness and providing education and support for families, we can help prevent tragedies like this from happening in the future, he added.

Accidental death or institutional murder?

Ishika Bhattacharjee

Bengaluru: The death of 26-year-old Abhijit Shinde, a first-year MA Development student at Azim Premji University (APU) on Friday, triggered outrage among students and student organisations. The Students Federation of India (SFI) has alleged that the death was caused due to participation in the hunger strike. It was not an accidental death but an institutional murder, said Vasudev Reddy K, the Karnataka State general secretary of SFI.

Shinde was an active participant in the APU students' hunger strike, which ended on Friday with a partial fulfilment of their requests regarding the shuttle fee charges imposed on them. The students demanded that APU remove the mandatory Rs 8,500 fee for shuttle services from the KGA hostels to the university campus, which is only about 3 kilo-



Students protesting at APU

The News Minute

metres away. After ten days of silent protest, the students announced on February 22 that they would go on a hunger strike.

Shinde collapsed while he was dancing in the annual cultural fest of the university that was going on alongside the hunger strike. It is not sure whether he had eaten

anything since morning. The university management tried to cover up the incident by saying that he had some prior health issues, said Vasudev. "And till now no one from the university has apologised or taken any responsibility for the incident."

Speaking to The Beacon, Rohan (name changed),

an APU student and active participant in the protest said, even after protesting for more than 13 days and calling a hunger strike, their demand for a waiver of the fees was not fulfilled by the administration. "We had two major demands - blanket waiver of the shuttle charges and returning the fees to the

students who have already paid. They did not accept the first one and the second one was accepted only under certain conditions."

Vasudev further said that the incident occurred solely because the institution failed to consider the reasonable demands of the students. "The university has a lot of anti-student policies and should have a student representative present while making such decisions that involve students. There is no democratic right present in the university".

The students have also started a Twitter campaign to protest against the issue. "The university management asked the IT cell to remove all the tagging which had been done through that Twitter campaign and didn't allow any photo or any posts to be there on social media," added Vasudev.

Sustainable practices encouraged at SJU

Jeba Janet

Campus: The Wildlife Awareness Conservation Club (WACC) organised Neerathon'23, a run intended to spread awareness and encourage water conservation, attracting more than 1500 students and locals. The event was inaugurated on February 26 at St. Joseph's University and was held in order to address the serious problem of water scarcity many countries are currently undergoing.

Speaking to The Beacon, Tavish Bhardwaj, one of the organisers said, "The aim of Neerathon'23 is to encourage people to conserve water and



Participants of Neerathon'23

Special Arrangement

to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. Bengaluru is projected to be one of the first cities to run out of groundwater, and Neerathon'23 seeks to address this issue by creating awareness about the importance of water conservation and the impact

of water scarcity on communities, ecosystems, and economies. The run aims to bring together people from all walks of life, including runners, walkers, and nature enthusiasts, to participate in the event and support the cause." The funds raised

through Neerathon'23 will be used to support water conservation projects, he added.

Aditi Shoapurkar, PR head of WACC, said Neerathon's sixth edition has been held annually for the past five years. A maximum duration of five years was specified in the agreement with the college. Nevertheless, the event has received an incredible response for the past five years and has been a huge success; thus, the college has requested that it continue. Megan, one of the participants, mentioned that throughout the event and even afterwards, everyone was enthusiastic.

KECA against privatisation

Shariq Ahamed

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Electricity Consumer Association (KECA), affiliated with the All India Electricity Consumers' Association (AIECA), condemned the privatisation of the power sector and the proposed scrapping of The Electricity Amendment Bill 2022. The association said it would lead to the selling of the power sector to "profit-driven private companies".

The KECA organised its first state-level conference of electricity consumers in the UVCE Alumni Association Hall in K R Circle on Sunday, which discussed the concerns of the consumers.

During the discussion, S R Raja Naik, the working president of the Karnataka Power Transmission Company Limited (KPTCL) Employees Union, stressed the significance of electricity as an integral component of the livelihoods of people. "The power sector is essentially a public service, and the government should bear the responsibility of running it, but today, the central and state governments are determined to sell the power sector built by the public to profit-driven private organisations," he said.

The unsung heroes of Arunachal

Yachi Jebisow

The unsung heroes of Arunachal Pradesh are not only a source of pride for Arunachal Pradesh but for the entire nation. We should be aware that the indigenous people made significant sacrifices to obtain independence, said Ajay Parisow, an assistant researcher and author of the book 'The Unsung Heroes.' Last week, on February 20, in the capital city of Itanagar, the book "Unsung Heroes" was published to commemorate Arunachal Pradesh's

statehood day. The book lists several tribal freedom fighters from Arunachal Pradesh, hitherto little-known, and details their contribution to India's struggle against the colonial power.

Speaking to The Beacon, Parisow said, "Our people also engaged in several conflicts with the British to defend their homeland. Yet, they have not earned recognition, and most mainland Indians think that only they were involved in the struggle for independence." He added that every

Arunachalee should know our heroes like Tage Raja and Medhi Raja of Buragamon, who relentlessly fought against the British during the early 19th century.

"To remember such great freedom fighters, we must make necessary changes to our curriculum, or else, our children will forget them and their triumphs.

The book, a part of India 'Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle' project on the occasion of the 75th year of Independence, is a step in this direction."

A step to end animal cruelty

Sreeja Deb

The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai announced the beginning of a new online program that will simplify the care and adoption of stray dogs.

Bommai in his budget addressed that the Animal Welfare Board would get Rs 5 crore to help stop cruelty to animals and support their welfare. The board also has plans to open mobile veterinary clinics at different places in Bengaluru to treat injured and abandoned animals.

Bommai also announced

that the board will provide a Rs 5 crore grant for the development of the Mudhol Hound breed, which has been recognised as an Indian native breed by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

"It is a good initiative because we hope as animal welfare people, the government should take a step and come up with different initiatives like finding homes for street animals," said Keerthan Vignesh, manager of Charlie's Animal Rescue Center, in an interview with The Beacon.