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Muslims face new hitch in education

Bibhash Kalita

The withdrawal of the Maulana Azad National Fellowship, decrease in scholarships for minorities and restriction on wearing hijab in educational institutions have raised concern about the marginalisation of Muslim students in Karnataka, although affordable education to underprivileged communities is given. However, it indicates that Muslim students are being prevented from attaining their academic objectives, opined the All India Students Association (AISA).

The Karnataka government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), eliminated the reservation for Muslims from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) on March 25, 2023, and the same has been allocated to two dominant communities of the state, namely Vokkaligas, and Lingayats.

Speaking to The Beacon, Aratrika Dey, a member of the All India Students' Association (AISA) said, "Caste-based discrimination is prevalent in all religions in the Indian subcontinent. To mitigate the impact of such discrimination on backward communities among Muslims, who already are facing communal attacks, social cushions like reservations are necessary. However, the government's decision to distribute the quota among dominant communities in the poll-bound state of Karnataka is an attempt to create divisions and undermine the harmony that remains between different communities."

The fight for inclusive blood donation policy

Nikita Priya

The Indian government's discriminatory policy on blood donation, which prohibits transgender and gay individuals, as well as female sex workers, from donating blood has been criticised by activist lawyer Astha Tyagi.

The government's response comes after Thangjam Singh, a member of the transgender community, moved the Supreme Court to strike down the ban on gay and transgender people from donating blood under clauses 12 and 51 of the 'Guidelines for Blood Donor Selection & Blood Donor Referral, 2017' issued by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) and the National Aids Control Organisation.

Speaking to The Beacon, Tyagi criticised the government's policy, stating that it was based on outdated and discriminatory assumptions that have no basis



Representational Image

Hindustan Times

in science or human rights principles. "Transgender, gay individuals, and women sex workers, are no more likely to transmit infectious diseases through blood donation than anyone else," she said. "It is time for the government to recognise that and end this discriminatory policy."

The policy introduced in 2017, requires blood donors to declare their sexual

orientation and occupation, and those belonging to certain categories, including transgender and gay people, as well as women sex workers are automatically disqualified from donating blood. "By singling out these communities and barring them from donating blood, the government is sending a message that they are somehow less

worthy or less deserving than others," she said. Tyagi believes that the policy violates the constitutional rights of these marginalised communities and perpetuates the stigma and discrimination they already face in society. "This is not only discriminatory but also goes against the principles of equality and dignity enshrined in our Constitution."

"We urge the government to listen to the voices of these marginalised communities and end this discriminatory policy once and for all," said Tyagi. She believes that blood donation should be based on a person's ability to give, not their gender, sexual orientation or occupation. "The case is ongoing, and activists are hopeful that the Supreme Court will rule in favour of lifting the ban on blood donation for these marginalised communities and promote a more inclusive and equitable society."

The case featured a 'interplay' between the constitutional rights to life, liberty, and equality for LGBTQ+ people on the one hand, and particular statute provisions that only take into account a marriage relationship between a biological man and woman on the other hand she added.

Inquilab, a celebration of people's resistance

Sreeja Deb

Bengaluru: Bhagat Singh might be a revered figure in Indian history but his ideals are not inculcated enough in the memory of Indians. We strive to remind the citizens about the contributions of this great revolutionary, said Saniya Nourin, a member of AISA.

An event "Inquilab: A Celebration of People's Resistance" was organised by the All India Students' Association (AISA) on March 25 to remember Bhagat Singh's shaheed divas (martyrdom day). AISA has been conducting this



AISA members performing at Inquilab

Special Arrangement

event since 2021 to celebrate revolutionary art and culture. This year's event took place at the Venkatappa Art Gallery auditorium, inviting people and artists from across Bangalore to join.

"The turnout was quite impressive, and people from various organisations

showed up to express their solidarity. The event was rightly called "Inquilab", as we used the platform to share stories of people's resistance and promote student-workers-farmers unity," said Nourin. The prime event involved a representative from the organisation

'Fridays for the future' speaking to the audience.

During the ceremony, Ashish from St. Joseph's University (SJU) sang his songs written by him and a few more sang ghazals. Poems were recited and lastly, the event also had a playback theatre performed by CityLamps.

The event ended with everyone singing "The Internationale", the hymn of the communist movement. Also, the slogans "Inquilab Zindabad", "Students-Workers-Farmers Unity Long Live", and "Chattra Ekta Zindabad" were chanted.

OnsOranje bounces back

Shariq Ahamed

The Netherlands has made a comeback with a much-needed victory after suffering a defeat against France in the Euro qualifiers.

During Monday's Euro 2024 qualifier match, Nathan Ake scored twice while Memphis Depay also contributed to the scoresheet, resulting in a 3-0 win against Gibraltar.

While Depay scored his 44th goal for the national team, it was Ake's two-goal performance that was the highlight of the match. The Oranje took the lead at halftime with a goal from Depay, and in the second half, Ake's double secured victory against a Gibraltar side that was down to 10 men.

"I didn't see enough goals tonight," Oranje's new manager Ronald Koeman told NOS, a sports news channel in the Netherlands. "The game and result against France was not good. Now we win and that makes sense. But overall, it was far too little," he added.

According to OptaJoe, the Netherlands had 50 shots and 101 touches in the opposition box against Gibraltar, more than in any other match since Opta collects this data in full.

The Kind: A minimalist's paradise

Dhamini D

Bengaluru: Whether enjoyed alone or shared with others, a warm brew can soothe the soul, create a sense of community, and bring people together. Kindness and brews are intertwined, each beautifully elevating the other, and a simple act of enjoying a cup of tea or coffee together is an expression of compassion and generosity, believe the founders of The Kind.

Offering a break from the hustle and bustle of the city, The Kind roastery and brew room, located in JP Nagar, provides a wide



Cafe 'The Kind'

Dhamini D

range of vegan or plant-based, gluten-free, and vegetarian food options and beverages along with a space for people to de-stress and relax in a serene setting.

Speaking to The Beacon, Shahram, senior community manager of The Kind, said, "Our

two-storeyed cafe offers a co-working space, fine-dining area for families and friends and an area to host open mics, mental health workshops, and book launches."

It has features that focus on one's well-being, such as nutritional food for the body, and facilities such as the raking table, called a zen garden; a helpful tool for unwinding and de-stressing. "The act of raking the sand and arranging the rocks can provide a calming and meditative experience, allowing one to clear their mind and focus on the present moment," he added.

Sports for support staff

Jeba Janet

Campus: The support staff at St. Joseph's University found themselves in the spotlight during a competitive event that helped to forge a bond between students and them.

The third-year Journalism, International Relations, and Public Policy (JIP) students under the English Department at St Joseph University organised a fun-filled tournament to involve the helping staff. The activities took place on the volleyball court at

SJU on March 27 and 28.

Gargi Nangalia, the student organiser said, "Ms Hazel, the head of the Sports Department, suggested that the students organise the event for the helping staff, as there is very little participation scope for them in college activities. The sports day that happens exclusively for SJU staff does not include them, and this event is an attempt to involve them in a leisurely tournament during the common lunch hour."