

THE BEACON

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

Wednesday, 17 April 2024 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 16 Issue: 98 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Cooking ingredients supplied instead of meal

Amrutha GP

CAMPUS: As part of the Karnataka government's decision to provide mid-day meals during the summer holidays, Anganwadis now provide cooking ingredients instead of cooked food. Earlier this year, the Department of School Education and Literacy extended the mid-day meal scheme during summer vacations, considering the drought situation. "Now, we are giving out all the essentials instead of midday meals, and this helps students be safe in the blazing heat," said Sharadhamma K, a helper in an Anganwadi in Hoskote. She said that the Anganwadi provides students with an egg, a few grams of milk powder per their age and weight, broken wheat, and about two litres of oil per month. She added that the government used to give green grams, jaggery, and rice, amongst other ingredients, but now it has stopped. Since only some Anganwadi students are coming to school and others have summer holidays, it is difficult to distribute the food, which often leads to wastage. This issue has been raised, and the concerned officials have been informed by the Anganwadi workers, explained Manjula C Bopanna, a teacher at the same Anganwadi.

Divided by disparities, united by the Constitution

Parvathi Nair

BENGALURU: Without understanding caste inequality, it isn't possible to understand the philosophy of social justice under the Indian Constitution, said Justice H N Nagamohan Das, retired judge of the High Court of Karnataka, on Monday.

Speaking at a memorial service organised by the Central Energy Research Institute (CPRI) in honour of BR Ambedkar, Das said that despite differences such as colour, clothing, food habits, and language, the Constitution unites us, and every person is equal in the eyes of the law.

Das opined that one gets assigned a caste at birth, which is attached to an occupation. These caste and occupation assignments can't be changed. "Inter-caste marriages aren't allowed; inter-caste dining isn't



Retd Justice H N Nagamohan Das, CPRI officers on the dais

Parvathi Nair

allowed. Even dead bodies aren't allowed to be buried in the same graveyard." Das said. He said that there also exists a difference in class between castes. The lower caste is a lower class, whereas the higher caste is a higher class. In this class, a distinction exists between political, social, and economic inequalities. He said that just like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Bud-

dhisim, and Sikhism all have a sacred text, the sacred text for all Indians is the Indian Constitution.

He stated that today, the nation is facing various challenges like terrorism, corruption, and cultural degeneration and is ridden with problems like hunger, illiteracy, lack of medical facilities, lack of housing and lack of transport facilities. Our fault as country citizens is that we fail to

read, understand, and implement the Constitution. Elaborating on the concept of a welfare state under the Indian Constitution, he added that it is the government's responsibility to cater to the minimum requirements such as food, education, health, housing, transport and employment of citizens. But today, even if the government neglects away from these responsibilities, we keep mum because

we haven't understood the philosophy of the welfare state and the Indian Constitution, he said.

While speaking to The Beacon, he said that even though ending the caste system may be difficult, it indeed has received a big blow thanks to the Indian Constitution. Commenting on sedition, he noted that it was a law brought by the British to suppress the Freedom movement. He deemed it unfortunate that all the successive governments after independence continued this law, and even though the Supreme Court of India had occasions to strike it down, it didn't. "The situation is worse today. In the name of bringing substantial amendments to the Indian Penal Code and Indian Criminal Code, we are continuing the same law in a different name with more aggressive and severe punishment," he added.

Bengaluru voters may use QR code to locate booth

Prajwal SK

BENGALURU: The Election Commission, to eliminate manual enquiries about booth locations, has introduced QR code scanning so that voters can find the booths easily. This facility ensures a faster and hassle-free experience at the polling booths, said KA Dayananda, Bengaluru North election officer. This innovative approach is being implemented in the upcoming elections to simplify the voting process and enhance accessibility for voters, said the Election officer, KA Dayananda. The voting tickets issued to the voters will feature QR codes. "With a simple smartphone scan,



Vani Mohan addressing vigilance issues

DEO BBMP X

voters will instantly receive their polling booth's location. Voters will be empowered with accessibility and convenience on election day by using QR codes to quick-

ly and easily navigate the electoral process", he added. Enhanced election vigilance

Addressing the importance of vigilance during election time, Mohan said

that the SST (Static Surveillance Team) and FST (Flying Surveillance Team) work in three different shifts. "We are increasing the strength of these squads in order to assign them to various parts and function effectively," she added.

Election officer KA Dayananda directed the officials to increase surveillance to prevent illegal activity throughout the election season. "All suspicious vehicles should be checked properly at check posts. Any liquid cash, alcohol, drugs, or other things found without documents should be seized and reported immediately", he said

Judicial voices for environmental protection

Sonia Sebi

BENGALURU: Speaking about the worsening environmental conditions, such as water shortage and drastic climate change in Bengaluru, Abhay S Oka, a Supreme Court justice of India, said on Saturday that those taking initiatives for the environment are often labelled as development opponents. To raise awareness about the judiciary's power and limitations in ensuring fairness in environmental matters, the DLN Rao Foundation hosted its annual seminar, "Road to environmental justice for all," on 13 April at Cubbon Park. The panel also included Sunil Dutt Yadav, a Karnataka High Court Justice. Oka insisted on reconsidering the definition of development, as many misconceptions are associated with it. "The idea that environmental concerns have to be balanced with the need for development has always persisted," he said. The panellists discussed various strategies for obtaining environmental justice and protecting the city's lakes from encroachment. Justice Yadav said, "The road to guarantee environmental justice involves adopting sustainable choices, inclusive actions, and promoting equitable practices." Environmentalist Nirmla Gowda shared insights on the equitable management of water, wastewater, and groundwater in Bengaluru.

First rural camp makes a mark

Sherin Johnson

CAMPUS: To encourage community service and teach social responsibility, the All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) of St Joseph's University organised its first-ever rural camp at Pandithahalli, Mandya district.

The camp, held from April 9 to 14, aimed to engage students in cultural exchange and present an opportunity for community service. In addition to organising cultural programs and documentary screenings



AICUF team at Pandithahalli

Dravid A

for the villagers, the students were also required to clean the Kaveri River basin, roadsides, and drainages of the village as part of manual work.

"The participants were very cooperative in the camp. We all became

one family even though all were part of different teams," said Dravid A, outreach coordinator. He said the NSS rural and Magis Camp influenced manual work and community participation.

Footprints: A cultural spectacle

Sneha Thomas

CAMPUS: Despite any discrimination we may face, this is a platform for us to showcase our culture and traditions, making us feel at home, said Yash Hrangkhaw, president of the Northeast and Tibetan Students' Forum (NETSF) of St Joseph's University. NETSF held Footprints, an annual cultural festival honouring the eight Northeastern states, Darjeeling, Ladakh, and the Tibetan diaspora, on April 13. Dr Tenzin Pasang, the principal of the Dalai Lama Insti-

tute of Higher Education, attended the event. The students displayed the unique cultural identity of each state through traditional performances like dance, singing and fashion shows, paying homage to their roots with a turnout of more than a thousand guests. "We are all aware of the situation in places like Manipur and Ladakh, but there isn't enough media attention in these regions. This year, we observed silence to honour the lives lost in Manipur," added Hrangkhaw.