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Faulty BMTC website icks students

Srishti R J

BENGALURU: Bengaluru: Students are venting against the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) because of an 'error' on the website to apply for a student pass. This is happening now when most of the colleges in Bengaluru are starting their academic year. Anil Budur Lulla took to the social media platform 'X' on July 15 and tweeted his views, tagging BMTC. "Looks like @BMTC_BENGALURU is trying to mop up ticket revenue from college boys. Thousands of college kids cannot apply for student passes because of a 'system error'. Forced to buy monthly passes at Rs 1050 and weekly Rs 300 passes (ordinary) for regular earning men." Shaheen Shasa, a member of Bengaluru Bus Praynikara Vedike, speaking to The Beacon, said, "BMTC, being a government body, must ensure its smooth online application process as it is one of the most used platforms students use to apply for the bus pass". Shasa added, "Just like the government starts preparing for the monsoon by clearing drains and repairing roads, it should also keep the online portals running during the time of the year when the admissions start and students start applying for yearly student passes." She also highlighted that not just female students but even male students must be allowed to travel on the buses for free.

Govt conveniently quotes unemployment data

Dattatraya D

Although unemployment continues to be a major issue in the country and rightly became one of the central poll planks of several opposition parties during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Central government denies it to be a persisting challenge. BJP ministers, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have been quoting the RBI's KLEM (Capital, Labour, Energy, Material, and Services) data that 4.7 crore jobs were created in the fiscal year 2024. Modi mentioned at an event in Mumbai that the BJP-led government, through its various schemes of skill development and employment, has created eight crore jobs in the last three or four years and has silenced those spreading fake news and narratives about unemployment in the country. However, on the



Representational Image

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other side, private entities like the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) and Citi Group report findings indicate an insufficient employment rate and rising unemployment. According to the RBI report, employment numbers for the past decade have been substantially increased. India has created 12.5 crore jobs in FY 14-23, compared to 2.9 crore in FY 04-14. Another Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report depicts an improving trend in labour market indicators related to the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of age 15 years and older during 2017-18 to 2022-23. For instance, the WPR has increased

from 46.8% in 2017-18 to 56% in 2022-23, indicating a jump in the employment figures. Similarly, labour force participation has also increased in the country, from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 57.9% in 2022-23. The unemployment rate has declined from 6.0% in 2017-18 to a low of 3.2% in 2022-23.

However, CMIE survey data depict a stark unemployment problem in the country. According to CMIE (Consumer Pyramids Household Survey), the unemployment rate in India sharply rose to 9.2 per cent in June 2024 from 7 per cent in May 2024.

Another Citi Group report estimates that only 21 per cent of rural India has a salaried job, which is lower than the pre-COVID rate, which stood at 24 per cent. The report also further estimates that real wages in rural India are decreasing by 1-1.5 per cent.

Youth movement demands end to inequitable education

Pratham Basu

Over 500 members of Collective, a student-youth movement, submitted a petition to the governor's office on July 15, urging India's Education Minister to "Scrap NTA and end coaching racket." Concerns were sparked after irregularities were found in the NEET 2024, with an unprecedented 67 perfect scores, a sharp rise from previous years' 2 to 3. Similarly, JEE Main 2024 saw concerning disparities in percentiles. The abrupt cancellation of UGC NET after nine lakh students appeared and the ongoing issue of paper leaks in the Karnataka Police recruitment

exam, along with 47 more instances of paper leaks affecting 1.4 crore applications in the past five years, were highlighted in the petition. "This issue, often seen as corruption and inefficiency, actually stems from a deeper problem," Shambhavi Sharma, General-Secretary of Collective, told The Beacon. "The real issue is the systemic disparity and erosion in India's education system." She noted the increasing reliance on coaching centres for specialised training, highlighting that students from CBSE backgrounds typically perform better in competitive exams. Shambhavi emphasised how these centres commodify student aspirations and charge

exorbitant fees, adding a financial strain to families already under pressure as their children compete for limited spots in top institutions. "Data from the All India Forum for Right to Education (AIFRTE) reveals that despite government promises, only about 6% of STs, 8% of SCs, 9% of Muslims, and 10% of OBCs complete schooling through Class 12. This significant exclusion is now being masked by terms like 'exit/entry options,' 'lifelong learning,' and 'flexibility,'" said Amal Nath, a member of Collective. The recurring leaks, cancellations, and unfair practices in exams by the National Testing Agency in education," she concluded.

Naxalism fizzles out: AISA

Unnati Mishra

BENGALURU: The Naxal Valley movement died out after most of the central committee leaders were arrested or killed. It eventually split into so many factions that it can no longer be counted as a coordinated movement, opined Aratrika Dey, an AISA convening member. The AISA (All India Students Association Karnataka), which voices the concerns of the radical students' movement, discussed 'Naxalbari and its aftermath' on July 14. The theme focused on paying tribute to Martyr Charu Mazumdar (CM), a key figure in the Naxalite movement, who died on July 28, 1972.

The interaction pivoted around the lives and legacy of CM and the historical perspective of forming the Communist Party of India (CPI) and Majumdar's ideology.

"CM played a crucial role in forming the CPI movement and initiated the Tebhaga peasant uprising. When he left Congress, he joined the Undivided CPI, which focused on the peasant movement. He worked primarily among the Jalpaiguri peasantry, gaining popularity as a leader. The way he changed the course of the Indian Communist Movement deeply influenced his belief in protecting the land," said Riya G, an activist.

BBMP's waste management workshop

Prajwal SK

BENGALURU: To tackle critical environmental changes, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) organised a two-day workshop to advance comprehensive waste management and ecological sustainability.

As part of the Bengaluru Action Plan (BCAP) launched in 2023 by the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, DK Shivakumar, the workshop was held at Vikas Soudha on Monday, July 15. More than 100 delegates, including BBMP officials, local partners, and officials from 15

cities across India, attended the workshop.

The government has undertaken many initiatives to eliminate solid waste in the city. S Umashankar, BBMP Administrator, said the government has identified 50 - 100 acres of government-owned land for integrated waste management. "Mandatory segregation of the dry waste will be implemented effectively from now on. A waste-to-energy plant is being set up in the corporation," he added.

Addressing concerns posed by fluctuating global temperature changes, Tushar Girinath, BBMP

Commissioner, stated, "The temperature change will greatly affect the pollution. We all have to work together to stop increasing pollution. This will lead to many deaths in the future due to health reasons."

Girinath also emphasised the importance of managing building debris, which significantly contributes to air pollution. "We need to fix the disposal of building debris in the city. Dumping of building debris everywhere causes air pollution. Suitable measures should be taken immediately," he added.

Include curriculum on Dementia

Diva Batavia

BENGALURU: Highlighting the importance of creating dementia awareness in the curriculum, the Dementia Alliance conducted a session with the education heads at the Indian Institute of Science on Saturday.

Dementia is one of the primary psychological disorders that mainly affects the elderly population, 60 plus, and it affects their memory power. Many cannot retain the names of people, nor can they recognise people. Speaking to the

Beacon, Psychiatrist Anuj Yadav said, "It should be made mandatory for college students since they would be required to have prior knowledge regarding the illness. The students would also be dealing with senior patients and not only patients who have the mild form of the illness." As soon as students are done with their education, they would be required to work in OPD and rehabilitation centres, for which knowing everything about Dementia is crucial," he added.