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Defective elevators disrupt patient care

Aadil Sirfan

A faulty elevator that has been out of service for months is causing serious challenges for the patients of Pathanamthitta District Hospital. The lift, which is crucial for transporting patients to the operation theatre on the third floor and labour room on the second, has left patients, including those with fractures or mobility issues, in distress. Patients in critical condition are being transported on stretchers to and from surgery.

An elderly patient named Leelamma said, "It's very tiring to climb stairs when you have arthritis." She also pointed out that she had to cancel appointments at various times as it was stressful.

Amogh P, a patient recovering from a fractured leg, said moving around the hospital was challenging due to the non-functional lift. Using crutches made it difficult to navigate the stairs as there was always a fear of falling. "Once, I had to wait nearly 30 minutes for help to get upstairs for an x-ray. It slows everything down and adds to the frustration," he added.

Hospital supervisor Prashant Nair explained that repairs have been delayed due to sourcing issues. "We've arranged for staff to assist patients manually, but it's not ideal," he said. The hospital expects the lift to be operational within a few weeks.

Dissent against alleged illegality stifled by 'false' FIR

Errol Moraes

BENGALURU: The Bengaluru East Cybercrime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) Crime Police Station police allegedly filed a false FIR based on the complaint filed by Sanjeev Rayudu under 66 (c) of IT Act 2000 against Namma Whitefield Residents Welfare Association Founder and Sandeep Anirudhan last week. Sharing evidence on X (formerly Twitter), Anirudhan had accused Karnataka Minister of Energy KJ George of 'engineering floods' by illegally blocking the traditional "Rajakaluve" (primary drain) on Abhayadhama road in Whitefield for commercial exploitation of the land, leading to the risk of flooding. Following this, a defamation case has been



Sewage cesspool caused by the blocked drainage

Errol Moraes

filed against Anirudhan. The encroachment created a sewage cesspool affecting the adjacent Holy Cross School, the Arya Lotus Apartments, and the Mims Springdale Villa Apartments. Speaking to The Beacon, the respondent, Anirudhan, said that the case was filed to inconvenience and intimidate him. The authorities target vigilant citizens and eventually dispose of cases, citing

insufficient grounds for proceedings against the accused. He also added that the non-cognisance nature of the bailable case is unlikely to lead to any punishable consequences. In a judgment countering the abuse of power by the police, the High Court of Karnataka made it mandatory for the State police to provide a copy of the FIR along with the notice summoning a person to appear for

questioning. Namma Whitefield Residents' Welfare Association member Sailesh Nair said, "The police summoned Anirudhan for questioning without issuing a formal notice or sharing complaint details. The FIR was filed following the questioning. This is intimidation." The respondent has questioned the relevance of the cited section. Former state public prosecutor

BT Venkatesh backed the respondent's claim, saying, "The Supreme Court has unequivocally declared that no person shall be prosecuted under Section 66 of the Information Technology Act 2000 for defamation as it goes against the freedom of expression. The ambiguous provision was formerly used as a weapon to silence dissidents." Civic activists have been at the focal point of protesting illegal and commercial exploitation of resources at the cost of ecological destruction. A 2024 Indian Institute of Science study reported that 93% of Bengaluru has lost its lakes and forest cover to concrete and construction. "There is a breakdown of urban planning as mandated in the 74th Amendment of the Constitution." There is a nexus of builders, politicians, and police, he alleged.

Spectacle Cobras inside houses at NGEF create panic

Kiran R Patil

BENGALURU: NGEF layout, an area in east Bengaluru, has recently seen multiple incidents of Spectacled Cobras being found inside residents' houses, creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety. The first snake was reported inside the water tank of a house owned by a 75-year-old woman on September 10th

"I had gone to check the water level to make sure I had water, and the snake was sitting on the pipe, so I immediately called for help." The forest department arrived, helped relocate the snake, and advised keeping all



A Cobra found in water tank at a resident's house

Kiran R Patil

entries into the house closed. "The reason the cobras are coming into the area is because of the excess amount of trees and lands being used to construct new apartments, giving them nowhere to create

nest," said Babu, an official from the forest department assigned to relocate the snakes. The latest case occurred on September 15, where the snake was found inside a child's shoe. Although it

was a snakelet, they are highly venomous and can kill an adult. "I had let him out to play, and I heard him scream, and when I rushed out, the snake was in his shoe," said the mother, Sarika M. This has led the parents to restrict their children from leaving the house. After multiple incidents, the resident welfare community conducted an educational awareness meeting with department officials, discussing precautions that residents of the NGEF layout can take to ensure the safety of their children and pets.

Tax fraud alleged at Naturals parlour

Dishita Sharma

BENGALURU: A recurrent practice at Natural Ice Cream, Ashok Nagar, has been the non-issuance of bills to customers, raising questions on transparency, tax evasion, and consumer rights. The absence of the store manager was stated as the reason. The shopkeeper deliberately denied customers a bill. A Shanti Nagar resident, Varsha SB, said that when she insisted, they requested she pay and leave since many customers were present.

Another customer, Rupa, said, "I initially ignored it a few times, but last time, I told them if they did not provide me with the bill, I would not pay. The shopkeeper said he would send it online, but I never received the bill." Commenting on this practice, Advocate Megha (name changed) opined, "Section 132 of the GST Act 2017 declares the non-issuance of the bill as a crime purely through the lens of a person's tax liability and attempts to evade the same.

A folk and fusion evening

Sudheeksha Easwar

BENGALURU: An evening centred on folk fusion was serenaded by authentic music, audience interaction, and unreleased music by Shubham Roy. The Bangalore International Centre (BIC) hosted a musical performance titled 'Barefoot Melodies', a folk and fusion evening by the Shubham Roy Collective last Saturday. The acclaimed trio, Sidharth Bharadwaj on the flute, Sidharth Ravi on the percussion, and Shubham Roy on the vocals, mesmerised the audience.



The Shubham Roy collective on stage

Sudheeksha Easwar

They discussed performing a mix of popular Hindi, Kannada, and Bengali songs, adding that the evening would contain a few unreleased tracks from The Shubham Roy Collective. Blending popular Hindi songs was suggested to add a twist. Speaking to The Beacon on his

experience performing at BIC, Shubham said, "The show was amazing. I got nervous when I was told that the show was houseful. But once I took the stage and glanced at the crowd and began singing our first song, Lori, I reciprocated the crowd's energy and had a lovely time."

Residents protest ESA proposal

Kelitta Mathew

Residents of Seethathode and neighbouring villages in the Perunad Panchayat, Pathanamthitta are protesting against the Central government's proposal to decide on their areas as the Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) under a sixth draft notification on August 2, 2024. Villages like Vattappara, Thulappally, and Naramathode are included, as concerns about restrictions on land use, agriculture, and construction, can disrupt their livelihoods. Farmers and residents fear the ESA classification could limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides, reducing

crop yields and profitability. Bobby Thomas (name changed), Panchayath President, said that the Panchayat is working to make sure the people's voices are heard, where urgent Gram Sabhas are being called to address concerns. Shanthamma, a resident and protester, said that the government's approach has lacked transparency, where several notifications were released without proper consultation. Protesters argue that the ESA classification could harm agriculture, local markets, and small businesses, all of which are important to the village community's economy.