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AISA calls for boycotting Israel

Krishnapriya M

BENGALURU: Israel has decimated all educational institutions in Gaza over the past year, and ties with Israel should not be supported, stated Aratrika, Bangalore district secretary of All India Students Association (AISA) on Thursday. "AISA strongly condemns any ties that any academic institution is looking to forge with Israel," she said. This follows the Innovative International Film Festival's (IIFF) decision to revoke its invitation to Israeli authorities and end collaborative ties with them on October 1 following backlash from student groups. The festival, endorsed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the National Film Development Corporation, has associated itself with Israel even as the country is alleged to have committed genocide against Palestinians. This led student groups like AISA, Students for People's Democracy (SFPD), COLLECTIVE Bangalore, and the Students Islamic Organisation of India to start a petition revoking any invitation to Israel.

Shri Lakshmi, executive committee member of SFPD, said that the students must speak up to ensure that Israel's actions are not legitimised. Israeli speakers or ministry should not be given a platform in universities or any event that universities are affiliated with. "In order to ensure this, students from all colleges should come together and show their discontentment," she remarked. The student groups have lauded the decision of IIFF to cut ties with the Israeli Consulate.

HM Geetha propels govt school renaissance

Merwin Mathias

A 101-year-old Urdu Government School in rural Mangaluru has made a spectacular comeback, with enrollment rising from 9 to 55 students for the past two years.

Headmistress Geetha Judith Saldanha is credited with this improvement. She admitted many underprivileged children, most attending school for the first time and beginning to learn Kannada, bringing hope amid concerns about the quality of education in Karnataka's government schools.

Upon arrival at the Higher Primary West Urdu School in Bolara, Mangaluru, Geeta found only nine students and two teachers amidst inadequate facilities. Initially disheartened by



One step nurtures the rest

Geetha Judith Saldanha

the school's condition, Geeta was determined to make a difference. After completing her daily work, she wandered into the surrounding neighbourhoods like the slums and migrant settlements and areas near fish factories. She engaged with families, persuading parents of the importance of education and urging them to send their children to school. The very next

day, 47 children showed up at the school. It was a 'moment of joy', children who had never set foot in a classroom walked through the school gates for the first time, she said. "These students are from North India, and they do not know Kannada. I had to explain to them in Hindi and Kannada. Mostly, there were children from Bihar; currently, we have 55 students."

However, limited infrastructure has paused further admissions. While speaking to The Beacon, Geeta said, "Though we immediately received provisions for mid-day meal, we are in greater need of a kitchen, toilets, and good furniture for the school."

Rekha Kumari (name changed), another government teacher, called Geeta an inspiration for her

dedication to gathering children from slums. "I can say that teacher Geeta is a living Mother Teresa of our times." Kumari also urged the government to end the Nali Kali teaching method, a multi-grade, multi-level teaching system, citing its challenges for students and teachers in schools with only 2 to 3 teachers managing Balawadi to 7th standard.

Praveena Kumari Rai, Mangalore Education Officer, said, "We are proud of Geeta and of providing education to North Indian children in our school, having distributed uniforms and provided mid-day meals." She promised to provide basic facilities such as toilets and adequate furniture. She mentioned that the construction of a kitchen has taken off.

Political threats drown school's flood complaints

Chukki

BENGALURU: Despite repeated complaints to clear the blockage of the Rajakaluve near Holy Cross School in Whitefield, school officials were allegedly threatened not to lodge an FIR by Revenue Minister Krishna B Gowda and other senior officials, said Sandeep Anirudhan, a civic activist and President of Namma Whitefield.

The rajakaluve was blocked since August 28 allegedly for some construction activity by KJ George, Energy minister of Karnataka, and his associates. On September 28, the blockage led to the flooding of the school beside the drain with stormwater and sewage, gushing into the premises



Storm water floods Holy Cross School

and petrifying the students who were rudely woken up to find their belongings swept away. In response, residents from D'Silva layout, Arya layout apartments, and others filed a complaint, along with Sandeep Anirudhan, against the revenue minister, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara

Palike (BBMP), Karnataka Tank Conservation & Development Authority (KTCDA), and others. "But the police didn't consider that case seriously and did not respond well," said Anirudhan. He pointed out that the flooding was caused by the blockage on the land owned by

the revenue minister, which has put the children's lives at stake, yet no one has taken any responsibility. He further alleged that the school officials had not filed a complaint due to threats from senior government officials. Additionally, he claimed that companies like Puravankara and Whitefield Denteres were responsible for blocking the rajakaluve under the orders of the ministers.

Sailesh Nair, a resident of the layout, described the impact on the children, saying, "We can see the fear in the children's faces because of this issue." He explained that the children struggle to sleep at night because of this.

Rs 34.8 crores jackpot sparks legal questions

Echenren

A KFC employee in Delhi won a staggering amount of more than 34 crore Rs on Monday after depositing only 200 Rs in an online casino. This win has sparked a discussion about the legal framework surrounding the country's online gambling practices.

The Public Gambling Act of 1867 prohibits gambling in India. However, in recent years, gambling has evolved into online casinos. According to Prof Manjunatha Hegde, lawyer and teacher at RV Institute of Legal Studies, the Act does not directly mention online gambling as it was enacted long before the internet was conceived, leaving a grey area in terms of legality. "States like Nagaland and Sikkim have passed laws to legalise online gambling while Maharashtra has explicitly banned it. Gambling laws fall under the jurisdiction of individual states, allowing each state to regulate or prohibit gambling within its territory. This leads to considerable variation in how gambling is treated across the country," he added.

Salem's Lot: Flat and forgetful

Ourouge R F

Stephen King revives another RL Stine treatment with a third take on Salem's Lot, which, if anything, proves vampires not only need fresh blood but also fresh material.

Director Gary Dauberman skipped a theatrical release and released the film exclusively on Max on October 3. The 2024 adaptation of the infamous Stephen King novel falls painfully short of expectations, delivering an underwhelming experience for both King fans and newcomers.

When author Ben Mears (Lewis Pullman) returns to his childhood home in search of

inspiration for his next book, he discovers that people in his hometown are mysteriously turning into blood-sucking vampires.

Unlike King's novels, which generally have rich character development, this version of Salem's Lot gave up all that strength and presented the audience with flat, one-dimensional characters to which no attachment can be made. Vampiric rules are best described as variable—and anything remotely along the lines of a cross reduces them to nasty fireballs, making the lore feel cheap and

unearned. Adding insult to injury, the film is riddled with jump scares that belong to a cheesy haunted house attraction rather than a Stephen King thriller.

On a level of production design, it does the film no favours—most often looking overtly fake. One of the refined moments in the film is the transition between scenes. For instance, comparing IT and Annabelle Comes Home by Dauberman, Salem's Lot is more of a stepchild. Borrowing some of those films' atmospheric dread and tension would have made Salem's Lot a cult classic.

Phase 3 fuels real estate prices

Gitanjali

BENGALURU: With the Union Cabinet approval of Phase 3 of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC) project on August 16, covering 31 new stations, the real estate prices along this belt are said to boom, and the property owners are jubilant, anticipating an appreciation of their property values owing to improved connectivity. The areas covered under this phase are the orange line from JP Nagar's 4th phase to Hebbal, the dark blue line covering Hosahalli to Kadabagere, and the red line

covering Sarjapur to Hebbal.

The rate of apartments, residential houses, and plots is set to rise once the metro project is completed. "Due to the construction, the land rate is increasing; sellers have raised the prices, and builders and landowners take advantage of the opportunity," said Suresh from Zobra Real Estate, discussing the rate change.

This market change was also observed after the last two phases of the Metro Project. Connectivity is vital for people in Bengaluru, as a new metro line means greater accessibility.