

THE BEACON

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'On time every time?' Not anymore

Sharon Anna James

Numerous passengers have taken to Twitter to express their grievances brought about by the unexpected flight cancellations and delays by the IndiGo airline in the past week.

Ashok Shrivastav, a television journalist and public broadcaster for DD News, tweeted on Monday, "Yesterday I missed the award function at Delhi due to delay of @Indigo6E flight. And today my Nagpur flight is cancelled. Standing at the airport, no option by Airline. The worst experience of my life. Thanks@Indigo6E".

Most of the passengers were stranded in airports for more than three hours with no proper information as to what to do next and how to reach their destination. Many passengers even found it difficult to connect with the customer care of IndiGo.

Moksha Garg, another passenger who was flying from Bangalore to Delhi, faced a similar problem as her flight was cancelled in the morning when she had to fly out in the evening. She inquired about the reason and was told that it was due to a technical issue. "IndiGo themselves cancelled the flight and rescheduled it with another, which was delayed for 3 hours due to bad weather in Delhi," she said. She found it easy to contact the customer care service, and they responded to her queries, she added.

Authority and residents lock horns as conflict escalates

Pavana J

Earlier this month, the governing body of the township of Auroville, Tamil Nadu, filed police cases against six Aurovillians following which the police sealed the Town Hall and booked them for offences under the IT Act. The township's Residents' Assembly claim that the Auroville Foundation (the governing body) has constantly been overstepping its role as defined in the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, to silence the town's people from speaking up against the violations being committed in the last five months.

Since December 2021, the residents of the township have been battling the Foundation, in an attempt to protect their land and its people. The Auroville Town Planning



Land taken by force creates agony

File Photo/standforaurovilleunity.com

Authorities have allegedly been destroying parts of the community, especially areas around the Bliss Forest for further town development and the extension of the Crown Road creating disputes between the residents and the governing body. Despite orders from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Zone, Chennai, to pause all development works related to

the Crown Road until harmony is restored, the Foundation continues to fiddle with the town's environment.

The Foundation has also taken over all of the web services including the intranet of Auroville, Auronet, and SYSOP (the service in charge of the domain name of Auroville), and the email addresses of the residents. "This is a major breach of trust and security

as the Foundation will now be able to access all our private information. They have no respect for our privacy and completely disregard our voices," said an Aurovillian who wished to remain anonymous.

The idyllic township that was envisioned by The Mother, Mirra Alfassa, over half a century ago, based on unity and harmony is now enmeshed in a crisis unanticipated by its residents. "For the last 30 years, the residents and the governing body have always cooperated and have collectively taken decisions for the town's overall development. But with the new Secretariat, it has become impossible for the two to see eye to eye. In fact, the many attempts of the residents to seek reconciliation and defuse

tensions with the new Secretariat Jayanti Ravi have only failed," lamented another resident. "We, as a community, are not against the development of the town but the route in which the Foundation and the officials appointed by the Centre are headed towards is completely against the ethos of Auroville," she continued.

The right wing's attempt to take over has divided the heart of Auroville. This attempt comes in many forms - like intimidation of foreigners over their visas, bribery, and undermining the ideology of the community - the spiritual evolution of the human race, unity, and harmony.

This induced crisis by the powers that be is a ploy to end the autonomy that Aurovillians have enjoyed over generations.

Coordination key in governance: BBMP Chief

Afreen Hussain

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to strengthen the Zonal Commissioners' authority in order to control and ensure better coordination between the departments.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath stated that Zonal Committees were constituted in accordance with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020 while providing the Zonal Officers with the responsibility of formulating oversight plans



Bringing in reforms

Special Arrangement

and human resource control in order to coordinate with the various departments under the BBMP. "This would

enable the departments to continuously deliver work and services effectively to the citizens," he said.

He stressed the importance of coordination in the field of governance which would help in addressing the grievances of the general public which makes the role of Zonal Commissioners important. He listed out the orders which would strengthen the offices of the Zonal Commissioners which directed that the offices of the heads of all departments functioning in the zonal jurisdiction are vested with the Zonal Commissioners except certain technical departments as mentioned in the press release.

Despite the odds, Pegasus provides cricketing delight to SJC

Pushparaj C

CAMPUS: The overwhelming response on Tuesday to the St. Joseph's Sports Committee's inter-class tournament prompted the organisers to proceed with the super-over matches in the group phase as they were faced with the challenge of giving the teams a fair chance and ensuring that they could complete the event swiftly.

The inter-class intramural competition conducted by the Department of Physical Education on the campus was participated by ninety-eight teams.

Franklin, one of the organisers said, "The tournament has four pools with 24 and 25 teams in each pool. The men's cricket matches are currently taking place."

He added that the tournament follows standard BCCI cricket rules, and no special considerations are made. "Based on the rules, we qualify and disqualify the teams," Franklin said.

The tournament started with the Pool A matches at 10 o'clock and 25 teams clashed in super-over matches. Four-over matches will be played once the third round commences.

The tournament was conceived a long time back, with the planning phase in January under the title Pegasus - "A Big Dream Ahead". The poster for the same was launched on April 4, with the first phase of the inter-class competition starting the following day.

Notion of white supremacy drives school shootings, says psychologist

Subadra Sarath

When basic needs are not met, people will resort to violence, and when guns are easily available, they would be used as a weapon, opined Dr Mamatha Shetty, a psychologist, whilst speaking on the Texas school shooting.

On Tuesday, a gunman opened fire at an elementary school in Texas, killing at least 19 children and two adults. Law enforcement officers shot and killed the shooter on the spot, according to authorities.

Analysing the situation in the USA, she said, "From all over the world, people want to settle in the US, so it is no longer the country of whites. There is also the problem of il-



Tragic carnage

The Rolling Stones

legal immigration and settling. Most of the crimes are being done by white children sometimes with the feeling that their needs are being pushed away as they feel other cultures are invading their space. So, when they get upset they create violence."

President Joe Biden addressing the White House questioned if these instances can be attributed to mental health issues alone, and said despite the tragedies and mental health issues elsewhere the deadly carnage is witnessed rarely.

Rajasthan sails royally with Samson at the helm

Joel P Anto

You do not have to worry about the storm when you have a good captain, said VA Shekar, a cricket analyst from the Kerala Cricket Association (KCA). In a season where the toss became crucial, Sanju Samson, the captain of the Rajasthan Royals, led the team to the knockout stages, despite losing 13 out of 15 tosses.

Sanju Samson received support from the management and was given an experienced squad to work with. He has gone on to make the best use of the individual talents that the team possessed.

The main question, however, surrounding the squad was

whether their young captain could lead the highly competent team to success. While it is easy for casual viewers to believe that the Rajasthan Royals qualified merely due to the capability of the strong squad, Shekar attributes the team's success in the ongoing season to Samson.

"As a batter, he was not up to standard, but as a captain, Samson deserves full credit," he added. Shekar stated how because of changes witnessed in bowling at specific intervals, along with sensible player selections and use of senior players' experience, the Rajasthan Royals have had a very successful campaign so far.