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Activists smell a rat in the minister's clarification

Mythri C

B E N G A L U R U : The Karnataka State Government after coming under fire from various quarters for removing the content on 'Bhagat Singh' from the class 10 textbooks, issued a clarification on Tuesday and said the allegations were false and misleading.

"In the Mass media, it is broadcasting that the lesson on 'Bhagat Singh' has been dropped and added a lesson on 'Hedgewar'. But the fact is that the lesson on Bhagat Singh has not been dropped in the revised 10th standard Kannada textbook. At present, the revised textbook is in the process of printing" (sic), the clarification read.

"Until and unless the government shows us the revised edition of textbooks, we are not going to believe them."

The clarification noted that the committee under the chairmanship of Sri Rohith Chakrathirtha had reviewed the Social Science and Kannada language textbooks of the 10th standard for the academic year 2022-23.

Ajay Kamath, Bengaluru District Incharge of All India Democratic Students' Organisation, said, "When we checked the index of 10th standard textbooks on 16th May, the Bhagat Singh chapter was not there. After they issued the clarification, the sale of the textbooks stopped. Until and unless they show us the revised edition of textbooks, we are not going to believe them."

Pupil celebrates his guru's legacy

Shriangana Pyne and Sudha Ankita Ekka

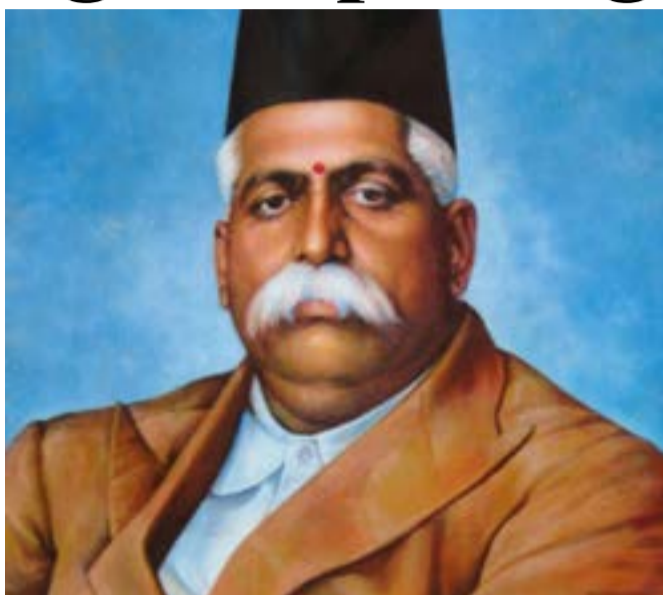
Struggles of renowned artists are known but not much is said about the human side of their toil, which is very much a part of the final product they produce on stage, Pt. Nagaraj Havaladar, a leading Hindustani classical artist said.

On the birth centenary of the musical prodigy and Bharat Ratna award winner Bhimsen Joshi, his disciple Pt. Nagaraj Havaladar launched a book on Joshi's

Are renegades packaged as patriots?

"The Mighty alone can afford to be merciful and therefore where else can the prodigal son return but to the parental doors of the Government?" wrote Vinayak Damodar Sarvarkar, hailed as the founding father of Hindutva, in a letter to Sir Reginald Craddock, then Chairman of the Indian constitutional reforms committee.

Sarvarkar's petitions for clemency from the British Government in India paint a picture different from that which an upcoming Class 9 history textbook in Haryana presents. In multiple letters asking for his release from imprisonment, Sarvarkar not only pleads with the British Government for freedom but also makes promises of fidelity to the colonial power. He wrote that he was ready to serve the British in any capacity,



File photo of Keshav Baliram Hedgewar The Avenue Mail

including influencing "all those misled young men in India and abroad who were once looking up to me as their guide".

Members of the right-wing still adamantly uphold that this was nothing more than a ploy to secure his release, and it seems this

argument has also found its way into educational texts. The proposed history textbook praises Sarvarkar as a staunch enemy of the British and "strong opposer of Partition".

Similarly, speeches from Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, founder of the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), have been added to the Haryana textbook and to upcoming history textbooks in Karnataka. Hedgewar is also being positioned as a key fighter in the freedom struggle and the RSS has been exalted, among other things, as an organisation "against the caste system and untouchability".

Hedgewar, however, cultivated a healthy distance from the freedom struggle. He maintained that the RSS would not participate in the Salt Satyagraha of 1930 and remained subservient to colonial rule. Even his time in prison, according to his biography, was with the intention of finding like-minded people to "discuss the Sangh with them and win them over for its work". All this while he derided freedom fighters who were imprisoned

for what he claimed they "considered a sign of patriotism".

The textbook places the fault of Partition on what it terms the 'appeasement politics' of the Congress in conjunction with Britain's divide-and-rule policy. Hedgewar is said to have strengthened the freedom struggle with 'cultural nationalism'. While the term might seem innocuous enough, there is a deeper danger. 'Cultural nationalism' is being posited against historical facts, leaving young readers confronting the notion that one manufactured cultural identity is what we have centered our Independence struggle around. This then begs the question- who has a right to this identity and who does not?

Gabriella Symss

'Mountains don't have gender-bias': Mohite

Blessy Jeremy

From trekking the Sahyadri ranges of Maharashtra to scaling the mighty Mt. Everest, Priyanka Mohite has inspired many across the country as the first Indian woman to climb five mountains above 8000 metres.

The 29-year-old from Satara District, Maharashtra, made history with her most recent feat of climbing, Mt. Kanchenjunga (8586m). On 5 May, she conquered India's highest peak and the third highest peak in the world.

Speaking to The Beacon, Mohite said that her summit

ritual whenever she reaches a peak is to bow down and say 'thank you' to the mountain she has climbed.

Mountaineering comes with a series of challenges and Mohite has braved them all. She stated that the main challenge is to get acclimatised and if one can do so, then they are really fit for the mountains. Good clothing and equipment are also key in handling the climatic conditions.

"Taking one step back is not a big deal," said the climber, referring to when she had to cut her Dhaulagiri expedition short, suffering



Making History Special Arrangement

from second-degree frostbite. "Maybe there will be many failures, but we have to keep going," she said.

When asked about the hurdles she faced as a female mountaineer, Mohite said, "It

used to be a male-dominated field. But mountains don't have gender-bias." She also spoke of how menstruation is a challenge for female mountaineers who climb even with great pain.

"My dad always says 'keep faith' whenever I'm in a difficult situation or struggling to get sponsorship," said the climber, when asked about the best advice that she has received.

The young adventurer's message to those who look up to her is that one should be disciplined, consistent and work hard in silence to let their success make the noise.

India awaits 5G as PM promises 6G

Vandana K P

As India still awaits a 5G network, Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday announced that a 6G network will be available in the country by the end of this decade.

Speaking at the silver jubilee celebrations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), PM Modi talked about the efforts made by TRAI and other regulatory bodies in introducing 6G services.

"For years, India has been preparing its 5G deployment, but it continues getting pushed. According to the latest information, the implementation should be completed by March 2023 at least, if the government's current round of frequency auctions go as planned. That is a significant 'if'," said Unnikrishnan, Deputy General Manager at Vodafone Idea Limited.

"India has to significantly ramp up its production of high-quality Internet Protocol (IP) in order to achieve its goal of becoming a leader in 6G. Investing in its research institutions across the public and private sectors is necessary in order to achieve this," he added.

Red alert: Tomato prices shoot up

Narayan B

The word "tomato" has been on the front burner for a hot minute now, be it the "tomato flu" or the sudden skyrocketing of tomato prices across several parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. However, tomato prices have crossed Rs 80 per kilogram in Bengaluru forcing common people to switch to alternatives or cut down on their daily usage of tomatoes.

N Devaraj, President of Horticulture Produce Growers Co-operative Marketing & Processing Society Ltd

(HOPCOMS), Bengaluru said, "Waterlogging due to the cyclone is causing damage to the crops. The price of beans has also increased along with tomatoes as both the crops are sensitive to cultivate." He added, "HOPCOMS is selling one kilogram of tomatoes for Rs 75 and farmers are selling it for Rs 60 to us."

Lakshamma, a house help said that the lemon prices touched the sky and it is easy to replace lemons, but tomatoes are an essential part of cooking and it is difficult to find an alternative for it.

"It is not necessary to be a student of music to understand the rhythm of music"

across the country but not much in the field of classical music. It does not belong to any one section of society, it is open for all.

He expressed his gratitude towards his guru, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi for the first life lesson that he taught him which was to personify the rhythm of Raga, and dedicated this book to him.