

# THE BEACON

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## Minorities, Dalits under scanner: Archbishop

**Blessy Jeremy**

**BENGALURU:** Despite the appeal of the Archbishop of Bengaluru, Peter Machado and a Christian delegation to not approve the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Ordinance, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot gave his assent to the ordinance, on Tuesday.

Last week, a proposal for the issuance of the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021 as an ordinance was approved by a cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Although the Bill has been passed by the Assembly, it is yet to be presented in the Legislative Council in which the ruling BJP is one seat short of the majority. For now, the Bill is brought into effect through the ordinance which needs to be approved



**Governor of K'taka Thawar Gehlot and Archbishop Peter Machado**

The Free Press Journal

by both the houses within six months.

"We will put our case in front of the Governor and the Governor is the head of the state, who has to be neutral, who has to be impartial and surely generous to people who do good things," Archbishop

reportedly said last week.

However, a day after the Christian delegation appealed to the Governor, he gave assent to the ordinance amid the opposition from various quarters.

Speaking to The Beacon, Rev Machado said, "They

seem to say that it is not targeted against Christians but (applies to) all religions where conversions are taking place. But the fact is, it is understood that they are targeting us. We can't say this because a Bill is a Bill for the public."

He said that action must be taken against forced conversions, however, he added that a Bill for the same is unnecessary.

"As the Bill has been enacted, you will see that the many provisions are hurting not only the Christians but others (too). People will have to think twice of falling in love with another community person. Especially Dalits, will have to think two times about taking help from the Christians. Whatever we do freely will be considered as suspect now."

The Archbishop, on NDTV, also mentioned that perhaps the government is pressurised by certain groups to pass the Bill to polarise the communities so that "someone gains something out of these divisions and accusations."

Suryanarayana, All India Co-Convenor of the Bajrang Dal (a right-wing youth

"Whatever we do freely will be considered as suspect now."

group) said that he was in support of the decision taken by the government.

"The Christian community is targeting Hindus and converting them to their fold. It is not correct, and it is illegal. They are luring them with something and converting them," he added.

## Citizens concerned as LPG cylinder prices rise again

**Narayan B & Sudha Ankita**

**BENGALURU:** Urban India yet again bears the brunt of a steep hike in the prices of commercial and domestic LPG cylinders for the second time this month.

The LPG cylinders breached the four-figure mark, the highest since May 2014. On May 7, there was a hike of Rs 50 which was followed by the current hike of Rs 3.50. With the latest revision, domestic LPG cylinders (14.2 Kg) will be sold for Rs 1003 in Delhi and Mumbai, Rs 1029 in Kolkata and Rs 1018.50 in

Chennai. In Bengaluru, the cost of a cylinder would be Rs 1005.50.

Anusha, a resident of Delhi said, "As the prices of commodities like tomato, mango and lemon increased, it became a challenge to manage daily expenses. This has added to the existing burden."

The commercial LPG cylinders (19 Kg) will cost Rs 2,354 in Delhi, Rs 2,453.50 in Kolkata, Rs 2,305.50 in Mumbai and Rs 2,507 in Chennai.

"I think it has affected every individual who is directly or indirectly



**Representational image**

DNA India

dependent on LPG. In my case, I would say that LPG is one of the primary resources that is needed to run a good business and it has affected us badly," said Aniket

Bhattacharya, owner of a food joint in Kolkata.

"The funny thing is, the wholesale inflation is more than 15% now and the price of commercial LPG is around

Rs 2453, but we as food business owners cannot do a price hike in our menus. Even if we do a hike of Rs 5-10 per item, it affects the flow of customers badly," he added.

## "So Far So Good" is a treat for EDM fans

**Shriangana Pyne**

The Chainsmokers return with a bang after a two-year hiatus with their fourth studio album "So Far So Good", representing the genre of Electronic Dance Music (EDM) to the surprise of their fans.

The album contains thirteen songs with no features with Andrew Taggart as the primary songwriter and Alex Pall as the producer and DJ.

Before the release of the album, they had tweeted,

"2016 is back!" where the 11th song of the album 'In Too Deep' resembled a previous track called 'Takeaway' with similar beats and drums. The overall style of their music remains almost the same but has a tint of experimentation and development. 'Riptide', the first track is a blend of melodic trap and electro-pop where powerful beats created from the electronic drum pads and synthesizers have been used. The ninth track 'Channel 1' is a slow synth song that decelerates

the flow of the tracks. The album ends with 'Cyanide' showcasing the magic of the fusion of electronic music with other genres flawlessly, produced by the duo.

The EDM pop duo witnessed a breakthrough with their song '#Selfie' which was a blockbuster in 2014. They have also created alluring songs like 'Don't Let Me Down' and 'Closer' in 2016 which were successful too.

The album has a mixture of both symphony and melancholy.

## BBMP draws flak from trade unions

**Dolkar C**

**BENGALURU:** Trade Unions on Thursday denounced the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) as rains wreaked havoc in the city leading to the overflow of the drainages and disrupting the lives of the underprivileged.

The heavy showers in Bengaluru over the past two weeks have only exposed the vulnerable state of infrastructure in the city.

"There is no proper drainage system in Bangalore. That's why today we are

facing this kind of situation. Both BBMP and people have to work on it to solve this crisis," said Shanmugam PS, district president of All India United Trade Union Centre.

Trade unions demanded compensation for those who suffered losses as they blamed the poor management of the drainage system.

A construction worker from Koramangala speaking to The Beacon said, "The construction work has paused due to rain. Now neither I'm earning here nor I can go back home."

## Heavy rains leave delivery partners in peril

**Fiza Ziyad**

**BENGALURU:** As Bengaluru witnessed torrential showers on Tuesday night, food delivery executives across the city had to battle the rains and wade through pools of water to make timely deliveries. Despite road blockages and waterlogging in many parts, food delivery platforms continued receiving orders forcing delivery partners to work all through the night.

"It was very difficult for us to make deliveries. There were situations when I had to park my scooter at a place and walk through knee-deep water to deliver the food," said Mahesh, a delivery executive. Talking about the strain of riding two-wheelers in the rain, he added, "It was risky to drive in the rain and I was continually scared of my scooter skidding."

Meanwhile, the cooperation of customers even after delayed deliveries was a reassurance for many agents. "Most customers were very understanding. One of them even asked me to take shelter inside his house till the rain subsided," said Vishnu Dev, another delivery partner.