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## Tibetan students denied admission

**Dolkar C**

With the announcement of new guidelines by the Chinese government, it is now official that Tibet University, the largest university in China's designated Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), should deny admission to students who are in support of the Dalai Lama. Students have neither the right to learn their own language nor the right to follow their own religion in the university.

Nyiwoe, a researcher at the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, said, "Restrictions on the display of the Dalai Lama's photos, and celebration of his birthday have intensified in recent years. Possession of photos of the Dalai Lama, has long been banned." 121 Tibetans were detained from a single locality in 2021 alone due to possessing photos of Dalia Lama, he added.

Prof. Vijeta K from the English department of St. Joseph's college stated, "The very gift of being a student is that you don't have to decide what you believe, what you choose. That is the gift of the student. I think in any nation and any country, freedom of making choices by students should be protected by the government instead of making such unnecessary guild lines. unnecessary guidelines".

Dr Arul Mani, Head of the English Department said, "If a student is really desperate, they can lie. It is a way of trying to humiliate people and (is) putting them in a position where they have to make a tough choice. It's a way of expressing power."

## Teaching tolerance through street play

**Narayan B**

**CAMPUS:** A street play stressing the importance of tolerance amid communal tensions was performed by the students of MA in Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) on Thursday.

The event, organised by the Institute of Communication and Media Studies of St Joseph's College (Autonomous), was aimed at spreading a social message in an effective manner.

Dr Anupama Sharma, the director of the play, said that it is essential for commu-

## CM Bommai appraises plans to avert floods

**Madhu Mitha B S & Mythri C**

**BENGALURU:** During his visit to the waterlogged areas of Bengaluru on Friday, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced the necessary steps that will be taken to prevent such flooding in the city.

Due to heavy rains that have hit the city in the past week, houses in several areas were flooded, disrupting the lives of residents. In low-lying areas, the floods were so severe that many families were unable to remove rainwater that had entered their homes.

During his visit to Sai layout, Nagappa Reddy layout and Pai layout of Mahadevapura, the Chief Minister surveyed the areas and announced the measures that will be taken to address the concerns of the people.



CM and other officials discuss plans to prevent flooding

Special Arrangement

"Concerning the sewage water treatment, I have given instructions to build an additional water plant. Since the drainage here is very small, a 900 meter additional drainage system will also be built," stated CM Bommai. He also said that he will be halting the construction work that is taking place above the

drainage system in some of the areas, which is one of the main causes of waterlogging.

"In the month of June, a task force consisting of MPs, MLAs and engineers, headed by the ministers will be set up in order to look into such issues caused by rains. They will be given full liberty to make decisions about the

floods and also regarding the development works," he added. He further said that eight task forces will be set up, which will be directing work related to the drainage systems in eight different zones.

"The encroachment of lakes and poor drainage systems is the main reason

for all the trouble caused. Poor city planning is the next big issue, especially in Bangalore," said Nagesh Aras, an activist. "Lakes are the lowlands where water accumulates. If people build buildings over it, where would the water go? Also, drainages on normal days should not overflow, rather it should hold only 10% of its capacity so that when it rains, it will have enough space for the rainwater to flow," he added.

MLA Byrati Basavaraj, BBMP Administrator Rakesh Singh, BBMP Chief Tushar Giri Nath and BBMP Special Health Commissioner Dr Trilok Chandra were also part of the visit. Other officials, namely, the BWSB Commissioner Jayaram, BDA Commissioner Rajesh Gowda and Managing Director of BESCOM P Rajendra Cholan were also present.

## SJC mourns the demise of Prof. Somashekaraiah

**Shriangana Pyne**

The St Joseph's College (Autonomous) family expressed their sympathies at the condolence meeting of the Late Lt of Naval Base, Dr. B.V. Somashekaraiah, who taught Chemistry for 24 years. On May 19, he succumbed to a cardiac arrest.

Graduating from Sri Venkateshwara University, Tirupati, and finishing his PhD from Mysore University, he joined the faculty of Chemistry at SJC in the year 1998. He also was the PG Coordinator of the Chemistry Department from 2019-21.

Dr. B.V. Somashekaraiah is the only faculty in the history of the college to be awarded a gold medal by the Admiral of the Indian Naval Affairs.

The Principal, Fr Victor Lobo said, "He was gentle but firm. He was very soft-spoken and a great supporter of young researchers. He was restless and committed to his work. Even after his ailment, he was up and running."

Saif, a former student of Prof Somashekaraiah said, "He was a very calm and nice person. He was so knowledgeable and I loved his lessons."



Fr. Victor Lobo giving his tribute

Gautam Nagar

"He was a dashing naval officer of the 1990s. I remember once, on Independence Day, he underwent surgery and could not make it so he called me to

give suggestions to organize the event. That really touched me and it proved that he was a man who loved helping (others)," said Anup Lal, HOD of Sociology and Industrial Relations.

Theresa Mary Urumbath, a second-year Chemistry student stated, "His lessons had a colossal effect on me. He had his own way of teaching. He was (a) man of integrity and he will keep inspiring us through his achievements that will be cherished forever."

He was, is and will remain an inspiration for all and he will be missed immensely.

## Scholars to confer for policy change

**Gabriella Symss**

**BENGALURU:** Member of the All India Scholar Conference Preparatory Committee for the Democratic Research Scholars' Organisation (DRSO), Arghya Das, told The Beacon that problems with research cannot be solved only in laboratories and libraries.

The DRSO's upcoming All-India Scholars Conference on 21 May at Jadavpur University, Kolkata will be the first of its kind in the country. The conference seeks to tackle what it sees as the challenges facing the research community and society at large.

"Several policies by the Government hinder research," said Das. The DRSO's list of demands include 3% of GDP to be allocated for research and an end to what it terms the anti-research policies in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Numerous scholars have sent messages of solidarity to the DRSO, including eminent intellectual Noam Chomsky. Bhatnagar awardee Prof M N Murthy, Prof Vishweshwar Rao Dean, Faculty of Arts, Osmani University are among the speakers.



The team behind the production

Special Arrangement

generation, we must accept that religion is just one aspect of our identity and we can live with multiple such identities," he concluded.

## Kerala govt neglects fishermen

**Fiza Ziyad**

The ban on fishing due to heavy rains in Kerala has impacted the livelihoods of the fishermen community. With no timely assistance from the government, most fishermen are uncertain about how they would survive. This is the community that was at the forefront of rescue operations during the 2018 floods.

"I doubt we can go to the sea anytime soon. If the government does not compensate us immediately, I don't know how we would survive," said Abdul Khader, a fisherman from Kochi.

Referring to his community's involvement in rescuing people during the floods, he said that it was their choice to help people. "We did not do it for fame or special allowances. All we expect from the government is help when we actually need it."

Michael, another fisherman, expressed his dismay from not receiving compensation on time. "There is no point in giving us money months after a crisis happens. Instead, it should be given when we are actually facing a crisis," he said.