

# THE BEACON

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## Four years of GRAP, has it failed?

Niharika Bajaj

New Delhi's air quality has consistently remained poor for over a month now. The Supreme Court has repeatedly questioned both the Centre and the Union Territory on their failure to tackle this problem. This also raised concerns on the efficiency of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which is in its fourth year now. GRAP was notified by the Environment Ministry to initiate action when the pollution levels of a region reach an alarming limit. Shankar Singh, Founder of Vrikshit Foundation said, "Shankar Singh, Founder of Vrikshit Foundation said, "GRAP usually comes into action only when air pollution starts worsening in Delhi around the season of harvesting and festivals. If GRAP works round-the-year, the issue will not rise to such harmful levels." Earlier this week, the Delhi Government closed the schools for the second time; considering the worsening AQI, construction activities too were halted. The Beacon spoke to the owner of Dharaksha Eco solutions, Arpit Dhupar, who said, "The solution visualized by the government to solve the problem is to add smog towers across the city, which I think is a waste of money because the damage is already done. We should eliminate the problem at the source using biotechnology" The government should support green startups, added Arpit.

## Peace is an illusion unless justice is served

In 1992, Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished by Kar Sevaks who alleged that the mosque was built on a temple site and asserted this was the birthplace of Lord Rama, leading to protracted litigation, which eventually came to an end when the Supreme Court pronounced the verdict on the civil case in July 2020.

The Ram Janmabhoomi site was provided to Hindus for the construction of the Ram temple, while the Sunni Central Waqf Board was allocated 5-acre property elsewhere for the construction of the mosque. Since the Supreme Court's decision on the subject, neither the Babri demolition

anniversary is observed as the Black Day (Yaum-e-Gham) nor the Hindu community's Shaurya Divas (the day of courage) have been commemorated in Ayodhya. Ayodhya is poised to move on from its traumatic past, unlike previous years.

On November 9, 2019, a five-member bench led by the then-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India Ranjan Gogoi, issued a unanimous ruling declaring the entire 2.77 acres of disputed land in favor of Ram Lalla and ordering the Center to allot a plot of land to the Sunni Waqf Board for construction of the mosque. Later on August 5, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi laid the foundation stone of the Ram temple here, capping a campaign that fueled the BJP's surge and fulfilled a key election pledge. There is no doubt that twenty-eight years is a long time, but in India, the wheels of justice often take that long to turn. After a string of high-profile failures, the CBI yet again failed to establish a criminal conspiracy in the destruction of Babri Masjid. The trial court found no evidence of a conspiracy against LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, and other leaders of the Ram Mandir agitation. Ashok Singhal, for example, was found to have attempted to stop the "anti-social groups"

responsible for destroying the mosque. In its report, the Justice Liberhan Commission dismissed the claim of spontaneous rioting. The court observed it was "tasked with the settlement of a dispute whose roots are as old as the concept of India itself" before issuing its decision. "Title cannot be established on the basis of religion and belief," it stated unequivocally. However, despite invoking the Constitution and constitutional ideals of justice, fraternity, basic human rights, and religious equality, it is unfortunate that the apex court considered the issue more like a land dispute rather than addressing the

underlying cause borne out of the ever-widening chasm fuelled by communal propaganda, since decades.

This brings up the question: Was the judgment prompted by the thrust to satisfy all, rather than adhering to the principles of jurisprudence. Did the Allahabad High Court's decision granting three-way ownership of the land in dispute serve as a cue to the parties? These questions remain unanswered as yet. Nevertheless, there is one thing for certain: Genuine peace can't be brought about by cutting corners. It's a tortuous path that has to be tread before we could heal the wounds.

Vandana KP

## Students up in arms against imposition of NEP

Subadra & Joel

BENGALURU: Degree students from all over Karnataka held a protest against the chaotic situation because of hurried imposition of National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).

Students began gathering at Mysore Bank Circle and raised slogans against the government's decision to implement the new syllabus from this academic year. They complained that neither the curriculum was circulated in time nor the faculty were trained to handle the new



Students on war path

subjects. Rajashekar VN, Vice President of All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) said, "The government is

mainly concerned with maintaining its prestige. This is a problem that will affect the entire country, not just Karnataka. The entire education-

al system is unfavourable to students, since business and money take priority."

"We are protesting today across India against the hurried implementation of NEP 2020; they are implementing sudden changes without any notice or preparations.. Teachers are unsure about the syllabus and curriculum, which is why we are protesting and requesting that the new implementations be removed and a meeting with students, staff, and other authorities be held," said Aishwarya, District Vice-President of AISEC.

## Domestic helpers in a fix over guidelines on apartment entry

Sudha Ankita

BENGALURU: Following the detection of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the state Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday announced that only those who have been vaccinated with two doses will be allowed to enter apartments in order to ensure the safety protocols. The government has told residential associations to conduct meetings only with people who are fully vaccinated.

However, many associations would want to implement the decision only after a clear advisory is issued by the State Government.

With this new guideline, domestic workers have been in a fix as most of them are not fully vaccinated and are scared that they might lose their jobs.

"I have taken only one dose of vaccination and I am worried that I might lose my job," said Anjali, a domestic worker in an apartment. However, some workers are happy with the decision of the government as they are worried about the rising Covid-19 cases in the state. "I am fully vaccinated and supportive of the decision taken by the government to control the new variant," said Nirmala, a cook who works in an apartment.

## SJC bags second positions in table tennis and throwball

Narayan B

BENGALURU: The Men's throwball and table tennis teams of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, bagged the second position in the Infini National Sports Fest, an inter-collegiate tournament organized by PES University that was held from December 4 to 7. Guru Shastri, one of the players from the table tennis team, said, "We played four matches and won three, becoming the runners-up of the tournament. The winners were the PES-A team who won all the four matches." Rahul G, the captain of the Throwball team, said, "The college was extremely sup-



SJC Men's Throwball Team

Rahul G

portive throughout the tournament. Lawrence sir along with Hazel ma'am took care of all our needs. Thiru sir was the head coach who improved our game significantly. A special mention

to Amogh Gowda who was awarded the 'Best Player of the Throwball Men's Team'." "A title has been achieved by SJC's throwball team after a very long time," he further added.

## PU students demand cancellation of offline mid-term exams

Vandana KP

BENGALURU: Many PU students backed by National Students Union of India (NSUI), protested on Wednesday near Maurya junction as they were not allowed to protest outside the Department of Pre-University Education. They demanded that the examinations be postponed or conducted online, due to the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases and the spread of the Omicron variant. The PU mid-term examination is scheduled to begin from December 9.

"We had given a memorandum to the director of the PU board one month back. The board had asked some time to escalate this to the education minister to

take a decision. However, later the director was not ready to meet us with regards to this," said Farooq Bayabe, state vice president NSUI. "Previously, mid-term examinations were held at the college level, which meant that the question papers were created by the colleges based on the syllabus completed at the respective institutions. Then why are they insistent on doing it at the board level?" he said. Three NSUI protesters have been arrested today. On November 12, the DPUE issued a circular announcing that the mid-term examinations for pre-university students will be held like a Board exam. This implies that the Board will set the question papers centrally.