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BCU resolves BNU students' issues

Madhu Mita BS

BENGALURU: The allegation of discrimination in allotment of seats in Bengaluru City University by the students of Bengaluru North University and the consequent resentment among them seem to have finally been resolved after a meeting was held with the Vice-Chancellor of BNU, Prof. Niranjana on Wednesday.

Students were assured that they could apply for all the courses in BCU and the seats would be allocated based on merit. This is applicable only for the current year.

Four colleges under BNU have started MSc Chemistry courses, with 165 new seats. The VC said that the government has approved to appoint 56 permanent faculty for 8 different courses. To begin with, 100 crores has been allotted to set up a new campus. Vice President of SFI Soma Shekar speaking to the Beacon said, "We have put forward all our demands on behalf of BNU students. We got a positive response and Prof. Niranjana assured us that all will be resolved. Fee hike, delay in announcing results and arrival of textbooks are some of the other issues which will be resolved shortly."

Other issues like corruption in the appointment of syndicate members from private colleges and refunding the additional fee charged from the students during the pandemic are yet to be resolved.

Churuli movie draws ire from movie-goers

Pushparaj C

Churuli, a Malayalam movie by director Lilo Jose Pellissery has become a bone of contention among some moviegoers, who contend that the movie should have been family friendly, with reduced swear words. Dr. Amutha Manavalan, a professor at the Institute of Communication and Media Studies in St. Joseph's College Autonomous opines that film ethics should be followed if the content is for all age groups. However, in this scenario she feels that one should respect the court's decision regarding the film after the petition was filed.

Services hit as bankers go on strike

Bincy Joseph

BENGALURU: Banking and financial services were severely hit across the nation as the bank employees' declared a two-day strike beginning from Thursday against the Banking Law (Amendments) Bill 2021, yet to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament. The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) spearheading the agitation said that the proposed bill will pave the way for the privatization of public sector banks and would affect the economy of the nation.

"Not for allowances, salary or any other service condition amendments but keeping in mind the responsibility towards next generation we are on the streets to raise our voice," said Ravi Kumar, General Secretary, United Fo-



Bankers protesting at Azad Maidan, Mumbai

rum of Bank Unions (UFBU) while addressing the protesting bankers in front of Regional Business Office, State Bank of India.

Speaking to The Beacon, Sethu Hareendran, Deputy Manager of SBI said, "The PSBs act as a catalyst to the economy and provide a fi-

ancial succor to the needy and economically weaker sections of the society. Privatization of PSBs closes doors to the economically weaker rural population. Privatization shifts the banking space to a completely capitalistic, profit driven economy which in the long run increases the

economic gap between the masses," he added.

According to bankers, in the previous financial year, banks across the nation have written off bad loans amounting to a total of ₹2.02 lakh crores. In the last ten years Indian banks have written off a total of ₹11.68 lakh crores in the form

of NPA (Non-performing Assets). Out of this ₹10.68 lakh crores were written off during the BJP's tenure alone. These figures were revealed following an RTI request. The banks did not release the names of the defaulting companies or High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) whose bad loans had been written-off.

Some of the UFBU office-bearers were of the opinion that the banks in India after privatization will discriminate between corporations and the common man while lending. Despite earning super profits by the corporate companies in a given financial year their bad loans are being written off surreptitiously whereas the same privilege is not offered to the common man even when they are experiencing severe distress, they opined.

Police in cohort with Hindutva forces in attacking Christians, media too indicted

Saishyam Srikanth

BENGALURU: There were a total of 39 incidents of hate crimes against Christians in the state over the past eleven months. This was revealed in a report released by The People's Union for Civil Liberties, in its report titled 'Criminalising the Practice of Faith'.

The booklet has been published at a time when the Karnataka government has proposed a controversial anti-conversion bill in the legislative assembly.

The report states, "The per-



Cover illustration for the report

PUCL

petrators behind these communal hate crimes in all the 39 instances are Hindutva organisations, namely Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Bajrang Dal, Hindu Jagrana Vedike." It emphasises that in

almost every crime, the police were enabling the Hindutva organisations through their complicity.

The report adds that casteist slurs were hurled at worshippers in many instances.

"These casteist slurs must be seen in the context that Christians in rural India largely comprise of daily wage workers, agricultural labourers and people from Dalit communities."

The report launched a scathing attack on the media and mentions that through misleading statements, one-sided reporting and bias in favour of Hindutva forces, the media has strengthened the narratives about the myth of conversion. Veteran Journalist Aakar Patel was also present at the launch of the report.

It is a blessing in disguise for hospitality industry in Kerala

Fiza Ziyad

KERALA: The restrictions imposed by many states on travellers from Kerala has indeed turned into a boon for the hospitality industry of the state. Kerala is witnessing a steep increase in the number of intrastate travellers with hotels and homestays getting booked to the maximum capacity.

Demand has also gone up for low budget homestays as it is considered safer by tourists. Praveen P, a homestay owner in Chalakkudy said, "Most of the guests we host now are very specific about hygiene especially in terms of regular sanitization and homely food. They say they prefer homestays to big hotels because it is less crowded and easier to follow COVID protocols."

A private resort owner, Tissan speaking to The Beacon said, "The number of bookings this year surpasses that of last year. We did not expect this much demand considering the state has cases of Omicron." He also added that most of the guests are from within Kerala. "Usually, we get many travellers from other states and few are foreigners. But this year surprisingly, most of the guests are Keralites," he added.

Childcare institutions flout norms, hold birthday parties and invite celebrities

Mythri C

BENGALURU: Few of the government and government-aided childcare institutions are found violating the protocol issued by the government in the backdrop of the threat of new variant Omicron, which imposes a ban on celebrations, birthday parties and on inviting celebrities and outsiders.

The Karnataka Government on October 16, issued a circular stating that no outsiders, politicians, staff and celebrities are allowed to celebrate birthdays in childcare institutions. This was also to protect the mental health of those children who might feel deprived when they witness

the birthday celebrations of others.

Nagamani, Project Coordinator of Child Rights Trust says, "It is true that few institutions are still allowing outsiders to celebrate birthdays and it has to be brought to the notice of government officials and the Directorate of Child Protection because it is negatively impacting the children."

There was a mixed response as few orphanages are allowing small groups of outsiders to celebrate birthdays by following the COVID-19 protocols whereas few others have stopped such celebrations altogether. Some are allowing outsiders to spend time with the children and are accepting donations in kind.



A still from the trailer

YouTube

Another professor in St Joseph's College, Shabin PK speaking to The Beacon said, "Most of the youngsters are exposed to those words in this film which are not very common in movies or

art forms. Other than that if the content and visuals are according to the story, then there is no need to remove it. But keeping children in mind, watching it alone is suggested."