

# THE BEACON

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## SC and ST groups demand hike in reservation

**Thanmaya Prakash**

Demanding an increase in reservation percentage, protestors belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, have been protesting for the last 49 days at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. Under the aegis of Sri Valmiki Prasannananda Mahaswamiji, the Satyagraha started on Feb 10, demanding the implementation of the H.N Nagamohan Das Committee Report that recommends the increase in reservation from 15% to 17% for SCs and from 3% to 7.5% for STs.

Prabhu Swami, a protestor said that the population of the SC has increased from 2 lakhs in 1954 to 70 lakhs now. "With the increase in population, the reservation percentage must also be increased. The Government must increase the percentage to 7.5% and make sure that our community gets all the opportunities," he added.

The protestors have also demanded the deletion of the 7D column under the SCSP and TSP act; the filling of the vacant posts reserved for SC and ST in the various departments of the government.

"Karnataka Government has already taken measures to increase the percentage for home schemes and economic sectors, so we are requesting the government to increase the percentage to avail the benefits in education and employment sectors," said Hanumanthappa, a protestor from Raichur.

## A long way to go for RCB

**Mukesh N. & A.S Mandira**

The 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) kicked off on 26 March at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) commenced their campaign for the season by playing their first match against Punjab Kings on Sunday. Despite scoring a huge total of 205 runs, RCB ended up on the losing side along with new captain Faf du

## It's history in the making, 19 girls inducted to NDA

**Arushi Srivastava**

Not long ago, the Supreme Court ordered, that women should be permitted to join the NDA. The first batch of girls gave their NDA exam for June 2022, 19 of them are to be selected out of which 10 will be for the Army, 6 for the Air Force and 3 for the Navy. They will begin their three years of training, and the NDA camp will be an inclusive one post six decades since its inception. Subsequently, this would be a step towards empowering women of this generation in a real sense by finally providing them with equal opportunity. National Defence Academy is also known as the cradle for leadership for the Indian Armed Forces.



History being made

It's the only tri-service Training Academy in India. The recent decision allowing entry of girls after class 12th to the NDA is a welcome one and has been long overdue. "It's a major step towards opening fresh avenues to women in the Indian armed forces. This

will pave their way for the inclusion in all arms and services in the Army, Navy and air force," said Lt Col Mayur Ambastha (Retd) from Mechanised Infantry Regiment and a former NDA and former IMA.

"It's a good decision by the Government; equal

chance has to be given. There are a lot of women who are ready to go through tough training and willing to serve the nation. Who says only a man can be patriotic, a woman can be too! And it's a good opportunity for them to show their strength and what they

can do for the nation. I wish the very best for the first batch. It won't be easy, however, it isn't impossible either. They are the first batch and will set an example for the upcoming batches and generations of women," said Lt. Arjun, who serves in the Indian Navy.

The High court in September said to the Union government that the women trying to join the military ought to be permitted to take the NDA exam in November 2021, days after the Government informed the court that the academy will be prepared to welcome the very first group of women cadets in January 2023, after they give the NDA exam in May 2022.

## PVR INOX merger: Boon for shareholders, bane for movie buffs

The recent merger of the PVR - Inox will create a mega entity in the cineplex space with a network of more than 1500 screens.

PVR dominates the multiplex industry in metros and big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. Even though INOX is very competitive in terms of total screen openings, they faced issues dominating the market in big cities. In terms of viewer consumption and adver-

tising budget, 80- 90% of the corporate advertisers are based in these major cities.

So, the merger deal with PVR can increase the services of INOX, thereby increasing their advertising revenue. Even though people use OTT platforms for movie viewing, the OTT players want to ensure the success of these films in theatres before being released on the OTT platforms.

In a large market like India, both OTT and multiplexes co-exist. The merger deal is favourable as both companies have been determined to target not just movie content but also non-movie content.

The IPL season will be a boon for the cineplex space, which has been struggling due to the pandemic. Due to the merger deal, PVR INOX can now re-rate the prices of movie tickets. The

companies like Cinepolis and Carnival, who were already struggling with huge debts, might now face more losses.

With the merger deal, the market share of PVR INOX will increase by 65%, which makes them huge in the market in terms of bargaining power against the movie distributors. The customers are at a disadvantage as they will only have limited choices.

**Bincy Joseph**

## Many households faced unemployment reveals COVID Impact Survey

**Siddhant Garud**

A Bengaluru COVID Impact Survey conducted by Azim Premji University found that as high as 40 per cent of the households could not find work during the first and second wave of lockdowns. The survey had a sample size of about 1000 individuals from various communities.

The survey found that PDS ration schemes and Jan Dhan Yojana were some of the significant projects which helped the people survive during the pandemic. "PDS is one of the most effective schemes from the government, according to our study," said Amit Basole, faculty at Azim Premji University. The sample size is from a list of families who have already received certain support from NGOs during lockdown phases. "We will do a literature review of other researchs which have looked at families without NGO assistance, but such research is hard to come by," said Basole.

## Blood donation drive at SJC campus

**Sutapa Dhara**

The NSS unit of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) along with the Lions Club International Vaishnavi - District 317A collected 110 units of blood at the voluntary blood donation camp at the college campus on 30 March.

Muruli Krishna, President of Lions Club said to The Beacon, "Even though a lot of people volunteer for blood donation, due to medical conditions, many are rejected, which is why

more people should be willing to donate blood."

The blood collected by the club is donated to the paediatric department of Kidwai Hospital. "During the pandemic, there could be no physical blood donation drives and this caused a massive shortage in the blood bank reserve. Colleges and universities are the best places to conduct the drive as we see great student participation," said Dr H.N. Shivananjiah, the Executive Director of Lions Club.