

# THE BEACON

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**15th Civil Services Day: A celebration of responsibility, accountability and impartiality**

**Moksha Garg**

The Department of Personnel and Training is commemorating National Civil Services Day with a two-day celebration in New Delhi on the 20th and 21st of April. The event will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 will be presented to district units to implement Priority Programmes and innovation in different categories. Every year approximately 10 lakh students apply for the civil services exam in India. It is considered one of the most prestigious and highest-paying jobs in the country.

Ankit Chhikara, an IAS aspirant said, "The profession gives authority and you have that level of constitutional power to empower people. Even after you have retired, you still have multiple options to serve your country."

The Prime Minister will also be releasing e-books on Priority Programmes and Innovations consisting of success stories. A film on the Award-winning initiatives will be screened at the ceremony. Four sessions will be organised on subjects related to PM Gati Shakti, Digital Payments, and Good Governance through PM SVANidhi Yojna, One District One Product Scheme, and Aspirational District Program- Saturation.

## Is economy not an important issue for the nation?

The pandemic did contribute to the present slowdown. However, the crisis seems to have begun much before the health crisis set in. This is evident from the fact that the GDP growth nosedived in the two years preceding the pandemic. Rather than adopting policy measures to halt the downward trend, all the government did was manage the resentment of the public by handing out doles in terms of cash transfers and free rations. To finance its social welfare measures, the government invariably expanded its indirect tax net by steeply increasing the duty on crude oil and collected a whopping amount of 8 lakh crore in four years which is un-



Downfall of Indian Economy

precedented.

It's a double whammy for the Indian middle classes who largely pay the direct taxes, as well as, now bowed down by the hefty increase in indirect taxes. This also gives a sense that the powers that be, care two hoots for the taxpaying aam aadmi.

Connected to this is the question of growing fiscal and current account

deficits. A huge sum of revenue has been used to finance this burgeoning deficit and at the same time as the country's performance on the employment front is abysmal, there is little hope of strengthening the basics. It is an unfortunate situation for citizens of the country. Instead of debating the country's growth, there are talks on com-

munal issues such as hijab, controversy related to Azan, and Halal meat. Unfortunately, recent spate in communal violence in Delhi, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh seems to be orchestrated with the tacit support of the government and this fire will soon turn into a conflagration. The campaign of the political leaders is focused on these loaded

issues.

The government seems to be in no mood to relieve the consumers by cutting down the fuel price which is having a cascading effect on all the commodity prices. Prices of food products, edible oils, toiletries, electricity, and other necessities including public transport have sky-rocketed.

Considering that the earnings of a large section of the working classes have stagnated, they have nothing left to save or even handle the healthcare costs of their families. It's high time that we cry a halt to mindless fanaticism being indulged by the fundamentalists of all religions as it pushes the country backward.

**Arushi Srivastava**

## Tourists disappointed as prime spots at Lalbagh closed for renovation

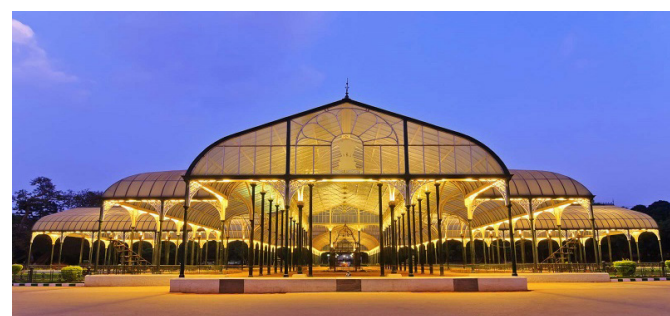
**Siddhant Garud**

Tourists planning to visit Bengaluru's Lalbagh Botanical Gardens are sure to be disappointed as some of Lalbagh's key attractions including the Flower Clock Tower and the Bonsai Park have been closed for renovations for the past few weeks, especially on weekends.

According to the Department of Horticulture, Lalbagh used to attract around 12,000 visitors on Sundays. This has now reduced to

6,000 after a series of lockdowns. However, as the city opens up for tourists, they seem quite eager to visit the prime attractions which, however, are closed currently for renovation.

Swati, a student, expressed her displeasure about the visit to the Botanical Garden, "At first I was excited to visit the garden, but when I found out that most of the attractions were closed, I just roamed around. But the trees were not much of an attraction.



Lalbagh Glass House

Creative Commons

I have visited other parks like Cubbon Park and the aesthetics were better." She also added that she plans to come back when the Bonsai Garden is open.

While one can take a stroll around the garden, buying

a ticket to witness the attractions seems to be futile for the tourists. Currently, there is little to no indication on the website of the Karnataka tourism department on the status of completion of the revamp.

Activists, lawyers, political parties condemn alleged attack by Bajrang Dal

**Mukesh N**

Demanding an immediate action against Bajrang Dal for their purported attacks on Ambedkar Jayanthi rally last Thursday, a number of organisations held a protest demonstration on Wednesday at Freedom Park.

The Ambedkarwadi Yuva Sangh (AYS) had organised a bike rally, on which the Bajrang Dal allegedly attacked with knives and sticks. The attackers tore banners and urinated on them, read a release of from All India Lawyer's Association for Justice (AILAJ).

"This attack was mostly ignored by the state and national media and only became public after videos of it were released on Twitter" said Lekha Adavi, an Advocate and a member of CPI(ML).

Amedkarwadi Yuva Sangh, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (CPIML) along with All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICTTU), All India Progressive Women's Association, All India Students Association participated in the protest.

## KGF 2: Worth the hype?

**Thanmaya Prakash**

Ever since the movie KGF: Chapter 2 hit the theatres on April 14, it has gone on a record-breaking spree. The movie has been directed by Prashanth Neel and produced by Hombale films starring Yash in the lead role. After the thumping success of literally the visual treat, KGF Chapter 1 in 2018, audiences and fans were eagerly waiting for

Chapter 2. It's a package of loaded action, unexpected twists and turns, and unlimited hype delivered to the audience. The Unique Selling Point (USP) of KGF Chapter 1 was the setting. This element seems missing in KGF 2 as the screenplay depends more on traditional cuts, style, and dialogues. The precision of the cuts in the movie by the editor Ujwal Kulkarni has been

hailed as magnificent by critics as it depicts events in the same screenplay with a few cuts. Sadly, like the previous chapter, this is also about men and machismo. Ravi Basur's BGM in KGF 2 seems dull compared to KGF 1. Although the storyline seems more interesting in chapter 2, the movie hasn't catered to the expectations of the audience, especially in the settings and music.

## WhatsApp is all Meta now

**Niharika Bajaj**

WhatsApp in its official statement announced a few upcoming engaging features in its application which includes reactions, communities, increased file sizes, and group polls. This involves replicating the user interface of other giant members of the Meta family - Facebook and Instagram.

Tech enthusiast Ritick opined, "Meta is trying to make the whole messaging experience synchro-

nous across their different products, making the brand identity stronger." Some of these features were already available to beta testers on Android and iOS platforms.

Meta's core concept of building communities is said to be very similar to that of Facebook groups. Communities will allow users to bring smaller WhatsApp groups under one umbrella group. Admins will also be given more autonomy.