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Services to be disrupted as Docs plan stir

Riya Joseph

BENGALURU: The much-lauded role of doctors as the front line COVID-warriors is after all a lip service; this seems to be true considering they haven't been paid the risk allowance they were entitled to, for half a year.

Namratha C, President, Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors told the Beacon that junior resident doctors and interns across the state will stage a protest on Wednesday, October 7th in response to the deteriorating working conditions of Post Graduate Trainees (PGT) in Karnataka. "Almost all government medical colleges were turned into Covid Care Centers. So, we were only made to work under Covid



Representational image

pixabay.com

related areas because of which nothing related to our academics happened. We understand that it's a pandemic and being doctors we have to work for the nation. But, we worked at the

cost of our academics." she said.

Risk allowance associated with the perilous working environment also saw no response with PGTs being left without months of unpaid

dues. "We worked from day one of Covid. We wanted risk allowance during the peak of the first wave when many of our PGT's tested positive. It was during this time that the government denied proper

quarantine facilities. We do not want charity. We are asking risk allowance for whatever work we're doing," she adds.

The protest came in the wake of the hefty fee hike for the PGTs. "In 2018 our academic fees were just Rs. 30,000. All of a sudden in 2019 our fees were hiked to Rs. 1,30,000, nearly five times more." In comparison, she noted that the stipend was hiked from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 45,000.

She also pointed out that they had to resort to such drastic measures as the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education, K. Sudhakar failed to address their concerns even after repeated attempts.

Chennai sees a -rise in dengue cases

Shahul Hameed

CAMPUS: Amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Chennai has been witnessing a spike in Dengue cases. The estimated record counts up to 2617 as of now. A total of 231 cases were recorded in August and 201 in September.

Community medicine postgraduate student and a Chennai resident, Dr. Aamina Hussain said that the workload of doctors will be increased if the situation gets out of control. "The patient has to be isolated until the COVID negative report is provided and this will lead to delay in curing the disease," she added.

Dr. Aamina also stated that the residents should avoid stagnating the water as it facilitates the breeding grounds for the mosquitos. She suggested that everyone should be equipped with mosquito repellants and sanitise their surroundings.

Tamil Nadu Health Minister M.A. Subramanian inspected the prevention campaigns organised by the corporation on Monday. Chennai recorded 2410 cases back in 2020 and currently records 20 new cases every day. The cases are expected to rise further in October owing to the upcoming monsoon season.

Schools flout Maha Govt's order on attendance

Jesly Pulikotil

BENGALURU: Parents are concerned about children's health and academic progress after schools impose conditions to ensure that every student attends offline class, despite Maharashtra government's directions that the attendance shall be voluntary.

Saju Antony, electrical technician at Sahara Aamby Valley City, Lonavala said, "My son's school is implementing the voluntary attendance option. My daughter's school however, is not making it easy for her in class 10. The school authorities said she will miss lab hours and marks. They are not introducing online alternatives either." He added that his daughter attended

class on Monday and social distancing norms were not followed, hence he is worried about possible health issues.

Animol Jixon, a pharmacist in Pune said, "My children have mandatory offline attendance on Mondays and Fridays, so that nobody leaves the city for weekend holidays." The schools also have an attendance rule. "Failing the rule, students will not be promoted. My eldest is in class 9 now and next year is important for her. This is so insensitive," she added.

Aditya Wagh, an entrepreneur in Mumbai said, "Nothing is completely back to normal, and attendance is voluntary for a reason. The authorities said my child's marks are at risk if we are not ready to send him to school.



Representational image

unsplash.com

Microsoft's Win.11 promises..

Pranav Shriram

Microsoft, on Tuesday, announced the release of the next version of the Windows software - Windows 11. The application was made available in all timezones through a free upgrade on compatible Windows 10 PCs, as well as on newly purchased devices through pre-installation.

Microsoft CEO & chairman Satya Nadela tweeted, "We can't wait to see what you create."



Representational image

Microsoft.com

Windows+ Devices Chief Product Officer Panos Panay, highlighted the features made available in the update. He presented a preview of the updated design and interface, which claims to give a "more modern, fresh and beautiful experience."

Updates were ensured to the

'Start' menu, Taskbar, Microsoft Teams and Store, multitasking features protection, among multiple others," he added

"It's a pity that Microsoft did not develop the former menu and decided to start with a new one instead," said a twitter user.

Brands react to Facebook outage on Twitter

Vandana Nampoothiri

CAMPUS: Technology, sports, and food giants across the world took to Twitter on Monday to take a jibe at Facebook following a 6-hour outage the social media company encountered. Users expressed their displeasure about the situation on Twitter through memes, which were later taken up by the companies.

The discussion was initiated by Twitter when they tweeted "hello, literally everyone" to which the companies reacted in a creative way. Apps like



Screenshot of the tweet

Twitter

Microsoft Teams and Zoom reacted with reference to the meetings conducted on the platforms. Microsoft Teams tweeted, "*unmutes mic* Hey everyone," while Zoom tweeted, "hi can everyone see

my screen."

Twitter also became a platform for users and companies to interact with each other. For the tweet "Sup. We're doing laundry and tweeting. What's everybody

else up to?" by Samsung, a user named 'ckprrtor' responded, "My phone broke, gimme a new one?"

In a statement on Tuesday, Facebook clarified the reason for the outage. "Our engineering teams have learned that configuration changes on the backbone routers that coordinate network traffic between our data centers caused issues that interrupted this communication. This disruption to network traffic had a cascading effect on the way our data centers communicate, bringing our services to a halt."