

THE BEACON

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Kannada literature setback in Bidar

Sudarshini

BIDAR: The pandemic has meted out similar treatment to the writers in the Bidar district as it has to the rest of the world, literature and its discussions has been affected. Various literary associations in the district have conducted literary events virtually, but the atmosphere is definitely not similar to the real-life events conducted in the past.

Writer and teacher Shantamma Ballur said, "This year is a zero year as there has been very little progression in the field of Kannada literature in the north-eastern region of the state."

"The connection between the veteran writers and young



Book release event held by Jilla Makkala Sahitya Parishat, Bidar

writers is lost. Due to social distancing, the young writers have no guide to show them the right direction," she added.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Ativale, President of Karunadu Sahitya Mattu Samskrutika Vedike, Bidar said, "It's the artists that had it most

difficult during the nationwide lockdown due to the pause on cultural discussion."

Parvathi Sonnare, President

of Jilla Makkala Sahitya Parishad, Bidar said, "Children interested in writing would be motivated to write when we visited their schools for workshop on literature and writing, but due to lack of such opportunities many young writers are lost."

Hamsakavi (pseudonym), founder of Dharinadu Kannada Sangha, Bidar expressed disappointment as their plan to publish few books this year were put on pause due to the ongoing pandemic. The association could not conduct any literary event since March, 2020. He said, "We are eagerly waiting for the vaccine, to resume our activities. Until then we plan to publish few this year."

Winner Winner, who is the killer?

Alwin Benjamin Soji

NEW DELHI: Indian gamers' preference for less violence and a more tactical approach contributed to the game Among Us achieving the top spot among them ever since PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) was banned in the country.

"Shifting from a shooting game to a more tactical one wasn't a problem, the factor that remains constant is that you get to play with your friends. Using the Discord application, we can talk to each other and question who is acting suspiciously, so it's more fun to catch the imposter," said Rahul Joy, a fourth-year B. Tech student.

He added, "The game is very tactical because you need an alibi and anybody can blame you as being the imposter, so it's very tricky and fun."

"In PUBG I could only play with 3 of my friends but in Among Us, I can play with 9 other friends," said Mirza Lamih, a student from PA First Grade College, Mangalore.

"PUBG involves a good hand and eye coordination along with strategies like when to attack and how to attack. PUBG is a great game, but Among Us is a more subtle game" said Pranav Shiram a 1st year MA student in St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru.

'Okay October' campaign launched by students

Nishitha Rachel

CAMPUS: Consilium, the group of students at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) advocating for mental health awareness on campus, has started, in view of World Mental Health Day, a campaign called 'Okay October' to remind students and faculty that it's okay to ask for help. And that it's okay to not be okay.

"The campaign started on 10th October. We wanted to bring out something to our college because with the ongoing pandemic it's really hard for some people to stay at home and be okay for the past 7 - 8 months," said Ancy Wilson, a second year UG student and the organizer of the campaign.

The association has come up with various events for the students and faculty for the month. "We have an open mic that's happening this Friday and an Online Play Day for all the students as a stress buster. We do have few events under planning right now," said Wilson. The students have also been promoting the campaign on their social media platforms.

Pets left behind as unemployment rises

Arakkal Shada Amina

DUBAI, UAE: Pet adoption groups on Facebook and other social media in the UAE have witnessed a rise in traffic as more people are forced to list their pets for adoption or foster care after losing their jobs due to the pandemic.

"Our volunteers calculated thousands of cats stranded on the streets because of the pandemic," said Imtiaz Shah, a 32-year-old Recruitment Manager from the UAE. Shah is the admin of a



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Facebook group called Pets for adoption Sharjah and Dubai that currently has around 20,000 members. The

group is one of many such platforms where people can list their pets for adoption or foster care. "The pandemic

has rendered us helpless, my husband and I will have to find a new home for our cats if this continues", said Nada Chashmi, a resident and pet owner.

"We adopted Alfie through Camelan after his previous owner got stuck in Abu Dhabi due to travel restrictions", said Keertana Neeraj, a business owner in the UAE.

Camelan and Dubizzle are some of the many platforms pet owners have come to rely upon to find a suitable home for their pets.

Mrs. Bhardwaj's Going Green All the Way

Pavithra Prabhu

CAMPUS: "You don't have to be a journalist to be an environmentalist," said environmental journalist Meera Bhardwaj.

She was addressing a webinar on Environmental Journalism 'Going Green All the Way', organised by Josephite Media Forum (JMF) from the Department of Communication of St Joseph's College on 14th October.

During the webinar, Bhardwaj emphasised on several environmental issues

and in particular, the illegal coal mining activities in the Bellary district of Karnataka and Project Tiger, a comprehensive conservation effort by the government to set-up and maintain tiger reserves.

Focusing on environmental reporting she said, "You can't do environmental reporting without your own source of informants. Every district should have some or the other wildlife people who are working in a particular area. There are a lot of groups who are working with social organisations."

'Thirike' to star down syndrome actor

Vandana Nampoothiri

KOCHI: "Working with someone like Gopi was an eye opener for all of us" says Sam Xavier, the director of Malayalam film Thirike, which stars Gopikrishnan, a youth with down syndrome, who shot to fame via Tik Tok videos, and is now making his debut through this family entertainer.

"It wasn't much of a challenge to work with Gopi, because there is a very smart, thinking actor inside him and he was someone who understood the technicalities of acting in front of the camera" says Xavier. The

shooting of the movie was planned in such a way that Gopikrishnan wouldn't have to exert himself too much. "We had already researched about people with down syndrome, like how they react to situations. Before the shooting began, we had many workshops and interactive sessions with Gopi, which helped him get comfortable with us" says Cherin Paul, cinematographer of the film.

The movie is written by George Kora, who is also the co director of the film. "He conceived this idea, two or three years ago, the story of two brothers, with one

brother having down syndrome" said Xavier. "It was important that we cast a person with down syndrome for the role, or else it wouldn't look authentic" says Xavier.

The movie is gearing up for an OTT release. "We haven't figured out who we would be associating with for the release, because we are just in the final stages of completing the film. As of now, because of current situation, OTT would be our ideal place to release the film" he further added. Sam Xavier has previously worked as assistant director for film, Solo.