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Women in STEM laud progress in office

Riya Joseph

KERALA: On the occasion of International Day of Women and Girl in Science, women in the sciences told The Beacon that although workplace discrimination does exist, much progress has been made and this has changed attitudes towards workplace culture, opening doors for inclusivity and equality.

Dr Aida James, a practising dental surgeon, said sometimes she does face gender disparity, however it does not come from coworkers.

She said, "It is usually from some patients who consider female dentists to be inferior to male dentists."

Tessy Sebastian, a software



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engineer, however, said, "Nowadays women employees are considered

more superior than men. I receive more respect for being a women."

Archana Nair, also a software engineer, echoed the same sentiments. She said

she has never encountered any discrimination in her workplace.

"Nowadays, there are equal opportunities for both men and women in the field of science, and my workplace provides equal opportunities for everyone to excel, irrespective of gender," she said.

Dhiya Varghese said she is the only girl who joined as a research scholar for physics in her batch.

"I don't know why girls are reluctant to get into research. Even though the government is supporting and encouraging girls in science by giving scholarships and fee consideration, there is still very low participation. Lack of awareness is also a reason for this," she said.

India to give Covid-19 vaccines to Canada

Suhas Kashyap

Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed on Wednesday, February 10, that India would send vaccines to Canada, hours after talking to his Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau over the phone.

Trudeau said if the world managed to conquer Covid-19, it would be significantly because of India's tremendous pharmaceutical capacity.

He praised Modi's leadership in sharing India's pharmaceutical capacities.

"India would do its best to facilitate the supplies of Covid-19 vaccines sought by Canada," Modi wrote on Twitter late on Wednesday night after his conversation with Trudeau.

He thanked Trudeau for his sentiments and also said both countries agreed to continue to collaborate on other important issues like climate change and global economic recovery from the pandemic.

The leaders also reiterated the geopolitical issues and the common perspectives of both the countries over it and are looking forward to meeting each other on various important international fora, in the later part of the year and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Tsunami scare down under

Shahul Hameed

New Zealand authorities on Thursday warned people living in northern coastal areas to stay away from the shore after a nearby undersea earthquake led both New Zealand and Australia to first issue then withdraw a tsunami warning.

Australian Bureau of Meteorology confirmed a 7.7-magnitude earthquake under the sea near Loyalty Islands during the early hours of Thursday, local time.

The bureau tweeted that the earthquake was strong enough to generate tsunami waves and there were eyewitnesses of small tsunami waves near Lord Howe Island, but the

mainland was apparently never in danger.

The bureau also mentioned the observation of 35cm waves in the Gold Coast area and smaller waves down the East Coast of New South Wales.

The New Zealand National Emergency Management Agency warned the locals to stay away from the shore since there could be chances of strong and unusual currents.

The Australian authority also said on Twitter that people might think this was a rare occurrence in Australia, but there was a similar situation in the east coast in 2010 when Chile had a massive earthquake, and in 2011 when Japan had its earthquake.

Centre slams Twitter, warns tough action

Nandita Narayanan

With the ongoing feud between The Centre and Twitter over free speech, Union Minister of Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, February 11, that the misuse of social media to spread fake news would not be tolerated.

"We have immense respect for social media as it has empowered the citizens and has played a major role in the Digital India programme, but if the platform is used to



Ravi Shankar Prasad

File photo

incite any kind of violence or fake news, tough action will be taken," he said during Question Hour.

He also said that social media giants are welcome to the country to invest and do business, but will have to

respect the legal framework.

"I want to clearly state that be it Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn or WhatsApp they are free to work in India but they need to abide by the Constitution of India and laws of India," he said.

India eyes Sweet Revolution via honey projects

Jesly Pulikotil

India is planning a "Sweet Revolution" through the honey industry, with the Central government allocating Rs 500 crore in the National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) from 2020-21 to 2022-23, said the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in a statement on Thursday.

It claimed India's honey production had already increased nearly 60 percent from 2013-14 to 2019-20, while honey export had more than doubled.

The NBHM, being



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implemented through National Bee Board (NBB), will look to better those numbers.

It aims to "promote holistic growth of the beekeeping industry for income and

employment generation for farm and non-farm households," said the ministry.

The mission also aims to "enhance agricultural and horticultural production, and

develop infrastructural facilities like honey testing labs, bee-disease diagnostic labs, custom hiring centres, api-therapy centres, nucleus stock and bee breeders," said the ministry.

So far, 11 projects of Rs 25.6 crore have been sanctioned under the NBHM "for awareness and capacity-building in scientific beekeeping, empowerment of women through beekeeping, technology demonstrations on impact of honeybees on yield enhancement and quality improvements of agricultural and horticultural produce," said the ministry statement.

Map from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology about the warning. [Twitter/Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#)