

THE BEACON

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COVID-19: Cloud kitchens spur businesses

Athul Krishna

KERALA: The pandemic has resulted in the growth of the food business of cloud kitchens in Kerala. Unlike regular restaurants, the safety measures taken by cloud kitchens are much more pleasing during the pandemic time, say food enthusiasts in Kerala.

"Due to fear of Covid-19, ordering food online was risky for me. Regular restaurants tend to follow strict rules from the government regarding their working procedure," said Ananthan KS, a foodie from Thrissur.

"Nowadays numerous cloud kitchens including in-house cloud kitchens have been established in my area. The in-house cooking procedures in these places make their food safer than regular restaurants. So I prefer cloud kitchens now," he added.

"We strictly maintain all the measures to ensure safety in the preparation and delivery of food to the customers. Apart from Zomato and Swiggy platforms, some of us have our own delivery service. It helps us to deliver our food directly to our customers by ensuring safety measures. It helped our business to a great extent in this time of Covid-19," said Zunoon, owner of a cloud kitchen in Palakkad.

Tamil Nadu to nullify NEET?

Ishwarya Lakshmi B

SALEM: Tamil Nadu's chief minister had announced that the new government is working on getting consent from the president on a new law that would exempt Tamil Nadu from NEET.

Poornima, a medical student from Salem says that it took her three years to clear the examination, and a lot of her school classmates who were medical aspirants could not clear the exam.

"It is true that medicine is relatively harder compared to other courses. The entrance exam is actually easy if you compare it to the medical books. So I personally believe that if the students are not able to clear the exam then they will have a harder



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time studying the course. I see it as something that prepares students for what is yet to come." said M.Nivedita, a medical practitioner from Madurai.

But many people are of opinion that, students who study in Tamil medium schools have a greater disadvantage and it would not be fair to place them

against more privileged students who were sent to coaching classes.

As per DMK's election manifesto the government formed a committee headed

by justice AK Rajan to study the effects NEET has on socially and economically backward students. Since it has been found that the majority of the students are against the eligibility exam, the state government is now working on introducing legislation and obtaining consent from the president.

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Orphanages struggle for funds

Priyansha

JHARKHAND: During pandemic, orphanages in Bengaluru have been struggling to keep up due to lack of sufficient funds. People donating occasionally have been the only source for them to carry on with the noble work.

"Our organisation totally depends on our local visitors and we are not tied up with any company. Due to Covid in previous months we have even struggled for one time meal," said Bhunath

Bhuchakravarthi, founder of Mother Teresa Navachetana Charitable Trust.

Another orphanage in the city, Janaseva Orphanage, has been struggling with food management and inability to pay for children's yearly education fees. "Due to no regular funds it's very tough to manage food three times. We need to pay for children's education at school, around 2k to 3k for every single child, yearly, Our payment to school, orphanage's water & electricity supply are all pending," said Kavitha Bai,

the caretaker at the orphanage.

She added, "These days the only source of funds is when people choose to donate on their birthdays and anniversaries. Sometimes we end up calling these people for help. We don't have a regular donor."

Narayana M, founder of Home of Faith Charitable Trust said, "When there is little or no grocery we call our friends for help. There are some volunteers who are kind enough to donate groceries in tough times."

Shikshak Parv 2021 to kick off from September 5

Akshara DM

CAMPUS: Indian Shikshak Parv 2021 to kick off from September 5

The Ministry of education will be organising 'Shikshak Parv- 2021' from September 5th to 17th with the theme "Quality and sustainable schools-learning from schools in India".

The 10-day event comprises of nine webinars scheduled to start from September 7.

The sub-themes are based on the features of the New Education Policy rolled out in 2021.

"Pandemic has created a large vacuum in quality of education being provided to students. Many are being deprived of physical activities which have invariably affected a child's quality of growth and it is important for teachers to identify this and bring innovative methods of teaching, I'm looking forward to how these issues will be addressed in these webinars," says Sunitha HM, parent of a 7th grader.

"After 35 years the Indian government has taken initiative to implement the New Education Policy, as a professor, I wholeheartedly welcome this. The chosen sub-themes - Indian

knowledge system, arts and culture, vocational education, skill-building are meaningful, relevant and have my attention," says Udaykumar Hiremath Assistant Professor at Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.

Dr Kiran Magavi, visiting faculty at the Ramaiah Institute of Technology feels that there is a need for awareness of new pedagogy. "From the students' point of view," he said, and added, "Education should not just be the syllabus and content, it is also about rising to new challenges," says the professor, who hopes that the webinar highlights these issues.

President of India Ramnath Kovind will be distributing special awards to 44 teachers. Prime minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on September 7 and will launch various initiatives to strengthen education policy and recognize the efforts of teachers.

Citizens and educators have the opportunity to pose questions related to the webinar topic and can participate by registering themselves using the link provided on the official website innovateindia.my.gov.in.

ABBA reunite after 40 year hiatus

Nishitha Rachel

Swedish pop band ABBA have some exciting news for their fans. The band is reuniting after 40 years for a digital concert and are set to release a new album - 'Voyage' out on November 6th.

The pop band has been extremely popular over the years with hits like 'Dancing Queen' and 'Mamma Mia'. This is their first performance since 1986. "This is the most exciting news ever. I was just scrolling through my phone when I saw a notification



All members of ABBA

Twitter

from Spotify and it said that ABBA had new music. I immediately went and listened to the songs. I can't wait for the whole album now," said Delilah Adrian, a student in Dubai.

The band surprised fans by dropping two singles prior to the album release. A ballad "I Still Have Faith In You" and a classic disco single - "Don't Shut Me Down". They have also officially announced a

digital concert on May 27th, 2022, which was first announced in 2016. "I've been listening to ABBA since I was a child because of my parents. And I am so happy I am here for their comeback. I listened to the two singles and I can say, they still got it. I can't wait to listen to the album with my parents and watch the concert with them." said Harlene Jones, an employee at a firm in Chicago.

The digital concert will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's arena in London.