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Centre won't hike age criteria for govt jobs

Anna Mariam Ittyerah

The Central government has refused to increase the age of eligibility for civil service candidates. They had asked for this increase in age to take into account the missed chance to enter the services due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown last year. While conducting Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination-2020 on October 4, 2020, the UPSC also gave aspirants the option to change the centre for the examination so those who moved to a different location before or during the pandemic could also appear for it.

However, increasing the maximum age limit by two years for all eligible unemployed youths who are seeking state government jobs is up to the concerned state governments, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh said in a written statement in the Rajya Sabha.

He said in the statement that with the UPSC option given last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, "the need for increasing the maximum age limit for recruitment" to Central government jobs "does not arise."

Farmers call Bharat Bandh on March 26

CJ Rahul

BENGALURU: The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the organisation at the forefront of farmer protests in Delhi, has called for a Bharat Bandh on Friday, March 26, to continue its opposition the recent farm laws introduced by the Central government.

The bandh has been called from 6 am to 6 pm on Friday.

Narendra Singh, a resident of Sultanpura in Punjab and a farmer-protester, told The Beacon, "We are totally against what this government is doing. They don't care for us. Our small businesses will perish [because of these laws]. We, all members of the SKM, are calling for this bandh until the government



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does something."

He added, "We farmers have already been facing a lot of

financial issues due to the lockdown, and we are doing everything to sell our goods

at the local mandi."

This is the first major push for agitation by the farmers

since a tractor march on Republic Day this year landed in controversy over clashes between the farmers and the Delhi Police.

The farmers have been protesting outside Delhi since late last year against three Central laws that they feel will cause problems for them.

They have received support from all across the globe, with a major push coming after Barbadian pop-singer Rihanna took to social media to lend her support to them.

Since then, celebrities from across the globe, including Indian-origin actors like Vir Das and politicians from as far as Canada have thrown their weight behind the farmers, who have been denied entry into Delhi.

Maharashtra, Goa tap art to vaccinate

Abhimanyu Sharma

BENGALURU: The Maharashtra and Goa governments have deployed 89 groups to perform street plays advocating the Central government's vaccine drive through the months of February to May.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting said in a statement that 11,400 strategic locations across 36 districts of Maharashtra and two in Goa have been chosen for the troupes to perform and disseminate information about Covid-19 in regional



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Press Information Bureau

languages and local dialects.

The troupes are equipped with vans and LED displays to maximise the impact and reach of the campaign, the ministry said.

The script reiterates updated information about the disease, Covid-19 health protocols, and vaccination to address concerns and counter vaccine hesitancy.

The campaign is run by Regional Outreach Bureau of Maharashtra and Goa under the ministry, in partnership with the Public Health Department of the Government of Maharashtra.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has come out in support of the governments in assessing the impact of these activities in selected districts.

Documentary calls for judicial reform

Shahul Hameed

CAMPUS: "There will definitely be controversies when you talk about bringing change in the biggest institution of the country," said lawyer Vasanth Adithya J, who is trying to do exactly that in India's judicial system through his documentary *Cleaning The Courtroom*.

Speaking on the sidelines of the screening of his documentary at the St Joseph's College (Autonomous) Auditorium on Wednesday, March 24, Vasanth told The Beacon the film is about reforming the judicial system.

He pointed out five problems the common man faces when seeking justice: delay, infrastructure and budgeting, implementation issues, corruption and bribery, and independence of

the judiciary.

He said information and communication technology can solve these five problems, with the intervention of middlemen eliminated via technology.

He added that technology wouldn't entirely solve the problems but there needs to be a behavioural intervention. He shared some instances of ethical fading, where a crime like bribery is normalised. He also said society was equally responsible for this.

He said that he as a lawyer is morally responsible for bringing change in the system, much like Raja Ram Mohan Roy who brought about the abolishing of Sati.

The documentary is currently a non-profit film, but if it rakes in money, Vasant said he wished to donate the profits for the education of slum children.

Sanitiser drying your hand? Follow expert tips

Varsha Benedict

BENGALURU: Regular use of hand sanitisers to prevent Covid-19 infection often leads our hands to turn dry. Here are a few expert tips on how to prevent it and keep them soft.

Dermatologist Dr Prema Latha and makeup artist Ranajoy Basu both suggest continuously moisturising your hands to keep them from drying.

"Washing your hands along with the use of sanitisers is a must," said Dr Prema Latha.

"The high alcohol content in it dries out the hand, which can lead to the skin-



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cracking," she added.

"Use a very good moisturiser in the morning

and always keep a hand

cream handy to keep moisturising throughout the

day," she said.

"Massage your hands with coconut oil at night before bed," she added.

According to Basu, it is also important to eliminate dry skin.

"Scrub your hands with a homemade sugar-and-lemon scrub twice or thrice a week, depending on how dry your skin feels," he recommended.

"Follow it with your favourite moisturiser," he added.

He concluded by saying that over-exfoliating the skin or doing it on a daily basis was not a good idea and would not help.



Vasanth Adithya J at the screening

Shahul Hameed