

# THE BEACON

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## Dalit family fined Rs 60,000 for touching Hindu idol

Angeline Claudia

**KARNATAKA** : Eight residents of a village in Malur taluk of the Kolar district are booked by the police for allegedly fining a Dalit boy of Rs 60,000 after he entered the temple and touched the Bhootamma (a village deity), an idol of a Hindu god. Chetan, a Dalit, attempted to carry the idol on his head when the temple was all set for a celebration. According to an IANS report, the parents of the Dalit boy have been informed by the village elders not to enter the village until they have paid the fine. Chetan's mother has been receiving threatening calls ever since.

"The comfort of living in (dominant) caste does not confront any laws; these people are so comfortable in their caste that no amount of law is enough to stop them," lamented Vijeta Kumar, a professor at St Joseph's University. She added, "If the community is willing to invest their energy and time into making a young boy's life miserable, they can invest crores of money to insert this idol into one of the most expensive sanitisers in the world. If the threat of imprisonment or fine of imprisonment is not enough for these people, I don't know what is." Religion should not interfere with any institution or its flow and working, she added.

## Raju Srivastav, the man who made everyone laugh, passes away at 58

Ishika Bhattacharjee

Popular Actor-Comedian, Raju Srivastav passed away at the age of 58 on September 21. The comedian was on ventilator support at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

According to ABP News, he suffered a heart attack while he was working out in a gym in South Delhi. He underwent an angioplasty earlier that day and had been on a ventilator ever since.

Srivastav, often credited as Gajodhar, the chairman of the Film Development Council Uttar Pradesh who had also been in the entertainment industry since the 1980s, shot to fame after participating in the first

## Mistrust galore as restrictions are levied at CU

Bibhash Kalita

**CHANDIGARH**: Students at Chandigarh University (CU) claim that more skeletons are tumbling out of the closet even as the university administration underplays the gravity of the foul play.

Speaking to The Beacon, the student's union secretary of Chandigarh University termed the situation as "horrendous", and said that the police are hiding the facts. "Both the police and the college authorities are trying to hide important information and are trying to distract the public and the media from the main angle of the situation at hand," he said.

Last week the university was rocked by students'

protest after an objectionable video of a girl student went viral on social media. Even as the police claimed this was an isolated incident involving a girl student who filmed herself voluntarily and posted it to her boyfriend, the girl inmates refused to buy the explanation. Refuting the police's version Varun (name changed), a third-year BCom student, said, "This girl from first-year MBA programme filmed videos of fellow hostel-mates while they were taking bath and then sent them to some boys. Those boys, in turn, uploaded those videos on various social media platforms."

Students also questioned the logic of the police behind withholding the



Media outside Chandigarh University

BBC

name of the arrested girls. The matter took a serious turn when allegations of suicide by those students

aggrieved by the incident did the rounds. The police, however, denied the allegation of suicide attempts

and asked students to refrain from spreading the rumours. "There is a gathering of forensic evidence. No recorded suicide attempts have been made thus far," said the Station House Officer of Mohali.

The suspicion of the administration being hand in glove with the perpetrators is strengthened by the way the matters are being handled. Students question the stern measures of the university invoked against those who leak information about the unfortunate incident. "Network jammers have been installed to ensure surveillance at all times. If students are caught talking to outsiders about the incident, they are at risk of being terminated," said the college union secretary.

## Workers urge govt to keep its promise

Dhamini.D

**BENGALURU**: For almost three months now, Pourakarmikas and All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) members have been protesting against the government of Karnataka and BBMP. The protesters state that aren't paid adequate pay for their work.

Since July 1, the BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha and other groups connected to the AICCTU, a central trade union, have been protesting at Freedom Park to advocate for the rights of workers from across the country. The protesters received assurances from the



Protesters camp at Freedom Park

Twitter

ministers of the Karnataka government that all of their requests would be honoured.

Ratna, one of the protesters, said, "The appalling situation is due to the BBMP which

is not providing us adequate pay for the work which we do. Pay is irregular, and the salaries which we receive are not enough." She also added that they did not receive

any help from the government during the recent rains.

AICCTU demanded that the current contract system be abolished, and drivers, loaders, underground drainage employees, cleaners and pourakarmikas be paid directly by the government.

Maitreyi, an advocate who is associated with the AICCTU said, "One of our main demands is - Equal Pay for Equal Work. We also want all the jobs to be made permanent."

Ratna said that the chief minister assured them he would regularise the workers. "All we are asking is for him to stand by his words," she added.

## Vedic Maths row laid to rest as government backs out

Nikita Priya

**KARNATAKA**: Buckling under pressure from various quarters, the Karnataka government did a volt-face withdrawing its plan of teaching Vedic Mathematics to SC and ST students barely after a day, the proposal was mooted.

On 15 September, the government stated that 25% of the gram panchayat fund would be allocated for teaching Vedic maths to Dalit students. Ajay Kamath, state secretary of the All India Democratic Student Organisation (AIDSO) said that the subject is unnecessary as students are already learning mathematics.

"No students should be taught Vedic maths as it's nothing but some tricks." Introducing such an 'unscientific' subject to only one community is an agenda of the BJP government. So 25% of these funds the government decides to allocate for implementing this scheme is for salaries of teachers, training and materials.

He also pointed out that the government through such schemes is misusing funds meant for the welfare of the students.

"Students do not get scholarships on time, and for the past two years, there has been a lot of demand for hostels. In this scenario, all funds should be used for their welfare, for hostels and colleges," he added.

## Azim Premji University unveils open access digital repository

Aparna Liz & Yachi.J

"Access to the foundational and conceptual material that lay down the basic perspective and structure in regional languages would also facilitate students to eventually contribute to the discourse in regional and other languages," stated the press release of Azim Premji University Translation Repository.

The University launched a repository 'Anuvada Sampada' at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Convention Centre on Tuesday evening, virtually inaugurated by the university Vice-Chancellor Indu Prasad. The initiative aims to provide free and accessible academic

resources in Indian languages. Shanta K, a member of the translation initiative team, said the repository was developed by the University of Southampton and is available on e-print version 3. Almost 200 to 300 academicians and students have worked for the initiative, she added.

Kumara Swamy, Lecturer, College of Teacher Education, Mangaluru, said, "If you give me material in English, I'll browse through it, but if you give me material in Kannada, I'll read it." He added that the main reason students choose English is that it sells. Reading in their own language helps in better understanding and self-gratification, he opined.



The man who made millions laugh

Source : News18

season of the reality stand-up comedy show, The Great Indian Laughter Challenge in 2005.

Uttar Pradesh Assembly observed a two-minute silence to pay respects. PM Modi tweeted, "Raju Srivastava brightened our

lives with laughter, humour & positivity. He leaves us too soon but he'll continue to live in the hearts of countless people thanks to his rich work over the years. His demise is saddening. Condolences to his family & admirers. Om Shanti."