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Satyagraha Yatra to reach B'luru

Meghana S

Bengaluru: While truth and non-violence are Gandhian values, equality, liberty, and fraternity are Dr B.R. Ambedkar's values as enshrined in the constitution; adhering to these values the people's satyagraha has been organised, said KV Bhat, state president of Karnataka Rajya Akshara Dasoha Naukara Sangha on the farmers' agitation to be held today.

Protests are scheduled at Freedom Park on January 11 by farmers' and workers' organisations: Pradhan jatha from Kudala Sangam; bhavaikyate Jatha from Mangalore; community land protection jatha from Kusanul and Constitution protection jatha from Kolar.

Protestors demand the repeal of three farm laws passed by the state government, agricultural produce purchase and support price guarantee, maintenance of communal harmony, taming the unemployment, curbing violence against women and price hikes, expansion of employment guarantee scheme and increase in daily wages. "Central government has withdrawn the three anti-farmer agricultural laws but the state government hasn't, so a group of people are marching towards Bangalore from three corners of the state," said K V Bhat.

"It is a pilgrimage of farmers, workers, women, students and young people. This is to pressurise the government. The ongoing yatra is the right given to citizens by the Constitution to fight against the government when they are anti-people," said a press release of the organisation.

Girls enrolment halved post hijab ban: PUCL

Aasline Dsouza

Bengaluru: The enrolment of students from a minority community in state-run educational institutions has dropped down to half as a result of the ban on Hijab in several educational institutions. This was revealed in the report released by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) on Monday. The state-run authorities and vigilante forces have violated and deprived them of their rights for more than a year now claimed the report.

The report, titled "Closing the Gates to Education: Violations of Rights of Muslim Women Students in Karnataka" was released to commemorate the birth anniversary of Fatima Sheikh, a social reformer and an educator considered to be India's first Muslim women teacher.

The fundamental rights of female students



Asianet Suvarna telecasting hijab wearing students in Maulana Azad school

PUCL report

are violated such as their right to education, right to dignity, right to freedom of expression, right to privacy, right to non-discrimination and right against arbitrary state action, the report stated. "...There has been a deliberate misinterpretation of the High Court's order... around 1080 students have dropped out due to this," the president of PUCL-K, Arvind Narrain said during the press

conference.

Upon gathering the data from experts, officials, journalists, activists, college authorities and student testimonies, the report mapped the causes and impacts of the imposed ban and described the roles of authorities, administrative officials, police forces and the media. "This incident has incited hatred in the young minds; the Muslim

students confessed to feeling uncomfortable and unsafe among their own classmates. The commentary and mild broadcasting of minor Muslim girls in loops by the media channels cannot be dignified," said Aishwarya Ravikumar, PUCL-K member.

The organisation has dubbed the move unconstitutional and baseless as enforcement of the ban was

implemented by educational institutions abruptly while examinations were around the corner. The nation which encouraged children to pursue education has failed to protect the student's rights to education by cornering them into choosing between hijab and uniform, he said.

"Living in a country like India is like living in diversity and has never caused any difference. It is not unusual; we have lived with diversity. Likewise, Muslim women in India belong to heterogeneous groups; they cannot be clubbed under one category. Each one has different choices and opinions on whether to wear a hijab or not. People have co-existed with each other despite their differences, so why is a question coming up now," said a PhD Scholar, Shaima Amatullah.

Next phase of traditional dance through documentary

Chandrasoodeshwar

Bengaluru: The book 'Contemporary Dance in India Today' and the documentary 'Dance India Today' by Annette Leday, a Director, Choreographer, Dancer & Translator describes the transition of dance from a traditional to a contemporary form.

The presentation of these pieces was held at Bangalore International Center as a part of Prakriti Foundation's Silver Jubilee celebrations on Monday.

Describing the production process of her work, Leday said she surveyed Indian



A discussion on "Dance India Today"

Chandrasoodeshwar

contemporary dance before the pandemic began. She recorded a series of interviews in India, with dancers and choreographers of contemporary and classical backgrounds. The primary purpose of the survey was to understand the transitional journey of dance from traditional

to more contemporary and radical forms. "I also tried to overview what was the structured environment for dance teaching, themes trying to explore how and what were their processes and all these things can be found in the book," she said. These

interviews served as a record for her book and are available on the Narthaki Official YouTube channel.

The clips were used in filming a documentary in collaboration with Cyrille Larrieu, a French director. This brought Leday's studies of contemporary dance to life.

After the screening a panel discussion was held which was moderated by Ranvir Shah, founding trustee of Prakriti Foundation with Larrieu and Leday and Jayachandran Palazhia, dancer and choreographer. The discussion included topics on special art forms and dance.

2022 Dec: Warmest since 122 years

Joyce Rodrigues

Bengaluru: According to Indian Meteorological Department, last December was the warmest in 122 years. The average mean temperature set a record at 21.46 degree Celsius. As per sources climate experts and meteorologists suggest the climate crisis is behind the unusual temperature.

The maximum and minimum temperatures were 27.32 degrees, and 15.65 degrees respectively. There was no cold wave, cold day and dense fog conditions over northern and central parts of India till December 15, 2022.

Cold wave spell commenced mainly on December 18, 2022 night over northwest India.

Speaking to The Beacon, Nagesh Hegde a retired scientist and environmental activist said, "Usually when there is heavy rainfall, the pressure at the ground level is high, which causes winter to be very severe, but due to rise in the temperature of the planet, we are not witnessing this." Hegde said that there should be a reduction in the release of greenhouse gases to reduce the earth's temperature.

He went on to say that December being warmer is not a good sign for farmers, especially the Rabi cultivators who require winter for sprouting.

Joining hands for better travel

Parnika S

Bengaluru: Buoyed by the public response to the re-opening of the pre-fixed auto counters at selected metro stations, the authorities might open a few more at other stations to make the experience more efficient for the passengers of public transport.

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in collaboration with the Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) re-opened the pre-fixed auto counters at MG Road and Cubbon Park

metro stations on January 4. Since then, the agencies have planned the opening of more counters at stations with a denser population.

Suresh (name changed) a traffic police officer at the MG Road counter spoke to The Beacon about the application that is used at the counter. "For now it is called BMRCL auto booking which is only used at prepaid auto stands by the BMRCL staff and not for public use." He added that this application is right now on a trial period.

When questioned about the counter post opening, Suresh remarked that with the abundance of government buildings and businesses nearby, many people were using the booth to commute easily. "There were quite a few people who used it to get to their office."

He stated that formerly traffic police would take the initiative, but now the BMRCL has taken over. The two agencies involved intend to open 15 more counters in metro stations following the initial response.

Spark: Voice of voiceless

Kavya S

Bengaluru: A publication to spark discussion rather than one with a business motive, Spark magazine was launched in the city by the All India Students Association (AISA). It is India's first magazine, claimed the organisation, that focuses on the needs of the youth, education, unemployment, and societal issues.

Spark is a monthly publication which is published by students and youth and was launched on January 1.

"We are basically a group of student activists who feel that this society needs to change. Be it students, workers, or peasants- all are being crushed by this oppressive system. We want to be an outlet for that societal distress," said Aratrika of the editorial board of the Spark and a member of the AISA.

Students can email the Spark magazine at spark-karnataka@protonmail.com to provide feedback. The first issue covers the topic ranging from education to democracy.