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A case of warnings unheeded

Jesblin Joseph

Studies and surveys have revealed that the city is suffering from a poor drainage and sewer management system, as a result of which waste is seeping into the soil and loosening it from within. This problem faced by Joshimath will lead to disaster, remarked Maikhuri.

Former All India Students Association (AISA) president Indresh Maikhuri from Joshimath expressed how the government is ignoring the issue faced by Joshimath residents in his Facebook live programme organised by the AISA on Tuesday.

Residents have been protesting for over a year now against the government for failing to take appropriate action, including the stalling of major construction projects in the region.

Atul Sati, Uttarakhand CPI-ML leader was the one who began writing and informing people about the danger that can be seen in front of Joshimath, he said. Sati and his party asked the government to conduct a geology survey for the region. "The government will always be the same, and will always ignore the problems faced by the people who rely on them," Mankhuri said.

Sati with the assistance of three reputable and independent geologists, Dr Navin Juyal, S P Sati, and Shubhra Sharma surveyed the region. The reports were sent to the government with no response, he said. Following numerous complaints and pressure, the government formed a committee of geologists to look into the issue.

Garment workers hold 'post card' protest

Kaustubh

Bengaluru: The hike in the minimum wage has been stalled owing to the lobbying of the management, said Pratibha, a member of the garment and textile workers union (GATWU)

Garment workers protested the delay in the revision of the minimum wage by writing postcards to the chief minister. Around 2,500 workers held a 'postcard' protest near the general post office. The garment workers' minimum wage has not been revised since 2014. The protest was organised by the GATWU which demanded an immediate revision of the minimum wage from December 14 2022.

Pratibha explained, "The management gives money to the election fund of the ruling party. That is why the management can lobby with the government



Post card protest by garment workers

Special Arrangement

to not raise the minimum wage. The government always sides with the management and against the workers." She said that the government never listens to any of the workers'

demands and they have to go to court which takes a lot of time. In this instance, the government has not raised the minimum wage although the Karnataka High Court ordered the government to

revise the minimum wage.

She pointed out that the wages for garment workers are only 10000 rupees per month which is less than other scheduled workers who get 16,000 to 17,000 per

month and added that wages for garment workers had not been raised in ten years.

When asked if the government had given any reason for not increasing the minimum wage, she said that they have not given any real reason for not doing so. She added that the management claims that they cannot increase the minimum wage because that will lead to loss and some workers have to be sacked. She exposed that this claim was not true and that management has been saying the same thing for years.

"The Supreme Court had said that the actual minimum wage should be 28,000 rupees. This was based on what a worker would need to live a life while being able to afford things like nutritious food, clothes and shelter."

Deceptions that aid in human trafficking

Aasline Dsouza

'You will get stomachful food' is a very strong reason for vulnerable people to agree to human trafficking, said Umesh Kumar Thapliyal, Commandant 68th Bn Sashstra Seema Bal(SSB), Border Guarding Force(BGF) on Wednesday at the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2023.

The School of Criminology & Behavioural Science along with the National Resource Centre on Human Trafficking organised a talk on Human trafficking along with the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan Borders and

countermeasures by BGF.

Human trafficking is the third largest organised crime in the world. It is an act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or sale of people by taking advantage of their vulnerabilities through force, fraud, coercion, or deception. "One essential movement of human trafficking is the movement of people from one place to another, but a careful distinction should be made to determine whether this movement is migration, immigration or human trafficking," said Kumar.

Highlighting the modus

operandi of the traffickers on Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders, he said, "Traffickers operate under the guise of marriage bureaus, placement agencies; old-incapacitated sex workers target victims from poverty-stricken villages and allure them of better job and marriage assurances. They carry a false identity and make frequent changes in their modus-operandi."

He stated that while considering the international scenario, India acts as a destination as well as the transit point for human trafficking. "It is a serious problem in developing countries, mostly

active in those areas where a pair of two adjacent countries with one being economically poor and the other relatively developed. India & Bhutan are one such example."

SSB is guarding 1751 km Indo-Nepal and 699 km Indo-Bhutan borders covering 30 districts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. "There are no restrictions on the trans-border movement of nationals on either side along these two borders. The cases of human trafficking have significantly increased after the devastating Nepal earthquake in 2015," he added.

Voice of Global South Summit

Aasline Dsouza

In the 21st century, global growth will come from countries of the south, remarked Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Voice of Global South Summit' on Thursday in New Delhi.

India is hosting a two-day special virtual summit on January 12 and 13 with the theme, 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose', bringing the countries of the global south together to provide a common platform to share their perspectives, priorities and concerns relating to various global challenges.

The prime minister flagged concerns over the economic impacts of Covid-19 and natural disasters through changes in climate over the years and the rising prices of food, fuel and fertilisers. As per the report of the Times of India, PM Modi said, "We have turned the page on another difficult year that saw war, conflict, terrorism and geo-political tensions. It is clear the world is in a state of crisis, and it is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last."

"The need of the hour is to identify simple, scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform our societies and economies," tweeted the PMO.

MVU: A milestone in vet care

Abhirami Nair

Kerala state has launched 29 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) to provide doorstep veterinary solutions to support farmers and improve the health of the country's livestock. The State Animal Husbandry department will be deploying the MVUs soon to provide veterinary services to people's homes.

The Union Minister for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Parshottam Rupala, and Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muralaeeharan, launched the



MVU's ready to depart

Epashupalan

their livestock from qualified professionals along with good healthcare facilities. It would also make it possible to take healthcare for animals to remote areas. "With India having a rich population of livestock, it will further add to our economy," she added.

The MVU will be equipped with tools for diagnosis and necessary medications. It will be staffed with a veterinary doctor, an assistant and an attender. The project is set to be expanded to 24-hour servicing. Currently, it functions from 1 pm to 8 pm.

A political agenda in disguise

Parnika

Bengaluru: The Chickballapur Utsav seemed more like a platform for gaining political score than a celebration. This was implied in the inauguration speech delivered by Basavraj Bommai, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, and Sudhakar, the Minister of Education and Health.

Speaking to The Beacon, Vani (Name changed), a political enthusiast opined that the ministers have politicised a cultural event. "As elections are nearing, they want to gain more support from the

people only by talking. They need to show their efficiency by fulfilling their promises instead. Only then, will people prefer them," she opined.

Sudhakar in his speech listed the progress made in Chickballapur and credited CM Bommai besides usurping the credit for allocating 23000 crore rupees for the Yetinahole project.

Later, Bommai commended the effort mentioning Sudhakar for the development of the area including launching medical colleges and hospitals.