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"Against imposition, not against Hindi"

Chandrasoodeshwar & Meghana

The language question is a part of National Education Policy 2020 and has several disastrous recommendations that need to be resisted said Maria Joseph, secretary of the Loyola Group of Institutions in the South Zone Save Language Convention held on Friday at Thyagaraju Hall of Chennai organised by the All India Save Education Committee(AISEC). The convention was on the proposed language policy change that seeks to replace English as the language for official purposes and education with Hindi. "For nearly a century, individuals have fought against the linguistic policy of the central government, often risking their lives in the process," said Kumaresan joint editor of The Modern Rationalist. Beginning with a protest in front of the hall, protesters held banners and shouted slogans such as "Never against Hindi, but against Hindi imposition" and "Hindi - Hindu - Hindustan - A slogan to divide the people." Such events opposing the centre's "dangerous" language policy of replacing English with Hindi in higher education, will be organised in many cities in the northern states, said the AISEC. The convention was addressed by prominent personalities, including Prof Jawahar Nesan, Prof Karunanadan, Prof Durubajothi Mukherjee, Prof Chandrasekar from Andhra, and Journalist BRP Bhaskar. Around 700 students from various colleges and universities in Chennai attended the event, and hundreds more from Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Pondicherry also participated.

A 'habba' for a better society

Abhirami Nair & Parnika S

Bengaluru: To build a stronger community for a better tomorrow, we planned on organising a pilot project for our organisation, said the founder and president of Smitam, Meghana Murty. On Sunday, Smitam, a non-government organisation conducted 'Beedhi habba' at the Sarakki junction. This event observed a plethora of events that aimed at displaying community support and stepping out of one's comfort zone to make a difference in society.

Speaking to The Beacon,

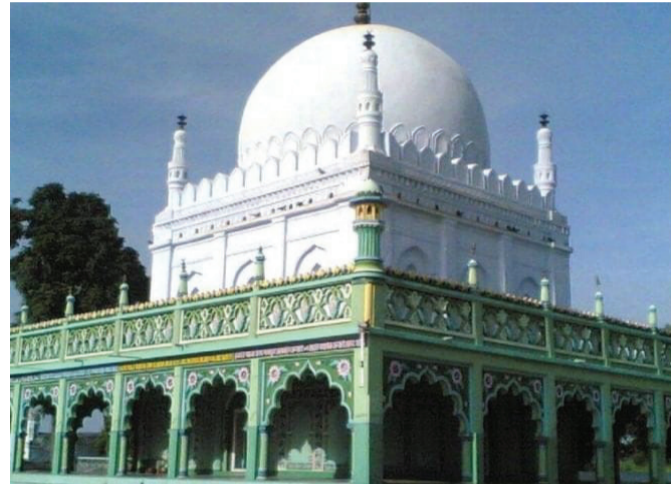
Rejoining the frayed thread of religious unity

Anjela Patrick

After years of communal strife over offering puja in a dargah on Mahashivaratri, the Waqf Tribunal put an end to the rift by allowing representatives from both Hindu and Muslim communities to perform Maha Shivaratri puja as well as Urus on February 18 at Hazrath Mlikul Mashak Yaik Makdum Ladle Dargah (Hazrat Ladle Mashaikh Ansari Dargah), in Aland, Karnataka. This verdict has come as a big relief for both communities and has given people and activists across the state renewed hope. However, it has triggered an exchange of diverse opinions on the issue.

This dargah has been a shared place of worship for Muslims and Hindus, but considering the clash that happened last year over offering puja to the Shivalinga (Raghava Chaitanya Shivalinga) inside the dargah

on Mahashivaratri, police officers were deployed and checkpoints were set up within a 2-kilometre radius of Aland following the Waqf Tribunal Court directives.



Ladle Mashak Dargah

Deccan Herald

The tribunal issued an order allowing defendant No. 1 (Siddalingaswamy Karuneshwar temple and others) to perform puja on February 18 from 2 pm to 6 pm. The defendant may select 15

members of his community, including himself, for the puja. Following the puja, they must leave the premises by 6 pm, according to the order. Anand Mishra (name changed),

a social activist, stated that, given the communal disparities that exist between all religions, such incidents can bring great peace. "Karnataka is a state known for its religious unity. However, in recent years, the

state, like the rest of India, has seen communal schisms on several occasions. The most disastrous clashes occurred between Hindus and Muslims. However, I believe that such occurrences demonstrate that people from both groups can live in harmony only if the decision is left to them. Such acts are a big comfort to both communities. It allows them to rekindle their thoughts and look at each other with less hatred and as equal members of the country," he explained.

Speaking to The Beacon, Mishra stated that the fact that such heavy security was required to ensure the peaceful execution of the puja and Urus demonstrates the country's frayed thread of unity. "Security has always been deployed at such events. However, both parties people have a great deal of distrust for each other. They are terrified that one group will

harm the other in every way possible. If you look back 10-15 years, the situation would be very different. People were more united and accepting of each other's presence back then," he added.

Mishra also stated that such occasions can also be used by those who wish to exploit religious schisms. "It is up to the people to decide whether they want to continue the unity or base their actions on the plots of the wrongdoers," he exclaimed. When asked how after so many clashes, such instances will contribute to establishing peace between the parties, Mishra said, "There always existed love between both the communities, especially in Karnataka. It's just that people's minds have been conditioned to fight each other, which is causing clashes. However, such acts will undoubtedly dwindle hatred in the coming years."

'Social Justice seeks to balance inequalities'

Aasline Dsouza

Today there is a need to create a socially integrated society; it is a consciousness that we all need to have, said Ambassador Akinremi Bolaji, Director, Economic, Trade and Investments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria on Monday, at the occasion of World Day of Social Justice 2023.

The African Peace Magazine organised the conference with the theme focussed on the recommendations of common agenda to strengthen global solidarity and to rebuild trust in government by 'Overcoming Barriers and



Representational Image

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Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice.'

Sixteen years ago, on November 26, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared that February 20 will be observed annually as World Day of Social Justice

every year. It recognises the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protection. "Social Justice is seeking

to balance inequalities in our society. It cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and freedom. I think of fairness, equality, welfare, good governance, transparent democracy, equity and human rights while speaking about social justice," Bolaji said.

Everybody deserves equal social, political and economic rights and opportunities regardless of their status, power, religion, age or nationality. "It's not about how much our country can do for us, but it's about how much we can do for the country."

Nuances of history across the pages

Jesbilin & Chandrasoodeshwar

Bengaluru: "As it has been with many other historical personalities, the fact that they are Muslim is enough to make you want to avoid hearing about or admitting that they ever lived in this nation," said Sabah Khan, a feminist activist and the co-founder and managing trustee of Parcham. On Friday, February 17, the Alternative Law Forum and Parcham, an organisation dedicated to creating a just and diverse world, discussed Sabah Khan's book 'The Queen, The Courtesan, The Doctor, The Writer' which documents the radical and enduring legacy of Muslims in India and counters negative stereotypes.

The book includes fifty inspiring stories of individuals who made significant contributions to sectors such as education, martial arts, administrative reform, and technical advancement, such as Fatima Sheikh, Azizun Nisa, and the Begums of Bhopal. The book's purpose is to serve as a reminder of a bygone era and the significant contribution made by Muslims to the creation of India.

"We use football to engage with adolescent girls. Through the game, what we're trying to do is, break the stereotype around how people expect girls to be," said Khan.

An act of good samaritan

Joyce Rodrigues

Bengaluru: As Turkey and Syria continue to overcome the hurdles caused by earthquakes, Bangaloreans came out to assist the devastated countries by providing relief materials through the Turkish Embassy.

On February 6, Turkey and Syria encountered an Earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes that devastated the nations. The death toll has crossed 46,000 according to Al Jazeera.

Mohammed Ibrahim from Beyond Boundaries, an NGO based in Bangalore

collected relief materials such as blankets, diapers, sanitary pads, generators, fans, and medicines. "The Turkish embassy notified us that there is a need for tents. The response of the people was tremendous, mostly the general public came to help," said Ibrahim.

Aahwahan Foundation, another NGO based in Bangalore also came up with a drive named 'Unnathi' to help the people affected by the earthquake. According to their vice president, Braja Kishore Pradhan, Unnathi works for disaster management relief.