

# THE BEACON

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## A bus load of victories

**Unnati Mishra**

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is creatively engaging with the masses and actively adhering to public suggestions.

Recently, at the Asia Business Quality Awards held in New Delhi, KSRTC bagged awards across four categories: Branding and Marketing, Transport Safety, Employee Welfare, and IT initiatives. A spokesperson from KSRTC explained to The Beacon, that the efforts behind the Branding and Marketing, the back-end process, and the department's operations in this category.

"We invite participants by posting on social media. Recently, we shared a post asking for name suggestions for the new buses to be introduced in the city & we received multiple entries through tweets, Whatsapp texts, emails, and SMS with nearly more than a lakh suggestions," he said. The entries received are monitored by the public relations and media department, and the winner is finalised, he added.

This KSRTC-initiated co-creation process was recognised with variety of awards. "We have a cash prize of 10k and a free ticket to travel in the KSRTC buses for the winner of Best Tagline, but excluding that, no other benefits are being offered."

The felicitation took place in the presence of Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale.

## Monthly payouts heralded as poverty relief

**Fiona Vaz**

**BENGALURU:** Unveiling the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, one of the ambitious schemes of his government, CM Siddaramiah expressed confidence on Wednesday that it would alleviate the financial hardships faced by numerous women across the state.

This initiative stands as the third out of the five assurances made by the Congress Party in the state, all set to be executed within the initial 100 days of governance. As per the decision reached during the inaugural cabinet meeting on May 20, each woman heading a household in Karnataka will receive a financial aid of Rs 2000.

The scheme was officially inaugurated on August 30 by Karnataka CM and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, joined by fellow cabinet ministers and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun



Organisers inaugurating the Gruha Lakshmi Yojana.

Fiona Vaz

Kharge at Maharaja College Ground, Mysuru.

The occasion commemorated the distribution of the initial instalment of Rs 2000 to beneficiaries in Karnataka. Bengaluru alone boasts 6,16,480 registered members. K M Shivalinge Gowda, a member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, elucidated, "The Gruha Lakshmi Yojana will help women keep track of their

expenses, and will benefit them when market prices rise. Under this scheme, the government will provide Rs. 2000 to women in every household, easing their day-to-day struggles."

A parallel event was organised at Bangalore's Town Hall, broadcasted live across the city, spanning East, West, South, Bommanahalli, Mahadevpur, Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, and Rajarajeshwari Nagar

divisions of the BBMP. Tushar Giri Nath, the BBMP Commissioner, noted, "With the assistance of Bangalore Metropolitan Corporation, I was able to arrange the live telecast in 198 wards all over Bengaluru. The two-way communication in every district has helped to talk and interact with key speakers." The wards were provided with LED screens and amenities, including seating, power supply,

refreshments, and restrooms. Assigned officials, including zonal joint commissioners, deputy commissioners, ensured continuous oversight in each ward.

With a vast coverage spanning 11,000 locations, a considerable number of women stand to gain financial assistance through the scheme's launch, thereby augmenting monthly family incomes, stated the CM. Muniyamma, aged 48, expressed, "As homemakers, we face regular economic instability. We cannot tell our own family about it. Through this scheme we can pay our children's fees, have food on our tables, and buy our important necessities." The Gruha Lakshmi Yojana aims to incentivise women's greater participation, fostering their contribution to the state's development. CM Siddaramiah has honoured his electoral promise by implementing the Scheme.

## Advocates oppose BAR Council's UCC panel

**Aatreya Bose**

**BENGALURU:** The choice of the primary speaker and the absence of women and LGBTQI representatives from a conference on the Uniform Civil Code organised by the Karnataka State Bar Council has caused discontent within the state's legal community.

The event titled, Uniform Civil Code – Pros and Cons is slated for August 31, and features advocate J Sai Deepak as the main speaker on an all-male panel. A group of 32 advocates and law students from Karnataka composed a letter articulating their concerns and urging

either the event's cancellation or the arrangement of an alternative set of speakers.

According to the letter, "The main speaker proposed for the event is known to be a staunch supporter of India being turned into a Hindu Rashtra, a proposition that runs afoul of our constitutional democracy. He has also called for the denunciation of secularism by terming it as a Western idea."

Allegations against Sai Deepak, a practising advocate, include issuing successive Islamophobic statements, levying criticisms against Christians, and branding

educational institutions as "anti-Hindu". Despite being aware of secularism being the foundational value of the country, he advocates that non-Hindus must leave India as it is not their motherland, the lawyers said.

Sai Deepak's opinions gained widespread attention through Ranveer Allahbadia's BeerBiceps podcast and YouTube channel. In an episode centred on the CAA, Modi, and Citizenship, he advocated for the departure of historians Romila Thapar and Irfan Habib, alongside journalist Barkha Dutt, from India. These remarks incited

a wave of angry reactions on various social media platforms against the historians.

Members of the legal community have highlighted Sai Deepak's stances on minority issues and questioned the rationale behind his selection as the keynote speaker, fearing an unbalanced discourse.

In these precarious times, lawyers must work to give dignity to humanity and nurture a brand of courageous lawyering that stands against injustice, and is grounded in resistance, the advocates added in the letter to the BAR council.

## Racial abuse marred the football match

**Utsav Pradhan**

In response to the racial abuse faced by North East United fans from East Bengal supporters, Dibyangana, a North East United supporter said that she felt like a foreigner in her own homeland.

On August 29, The Durand Cup semi-final clash between North East United and East Bengal, which took place at Salt Lake Stadium turned distressing as the home fans threw objects and racially abused the North East United supporters. After the match, the Indian army negotiated, providing support and escorting the fans to safety.

Dibyangana expressed how she felt horrified and fearful for her safety. "I wonder what I did wrong to deserve so much hate," she added. She said that she was hit by a stone and could only hear people chanting 'Chinese maal.'

"Our sole purpose was to support our team and enjoy the sport. The cruelty and lack of compassion shown tonight have deeply pained us," she added.

## Pragyaan rover-s on Hydrogen hunt

**Navya Y**

Discussing the identification of sulfur and oxygen near the South Pole of the moon, Suresh (name changed), a thermal engineer, highlighted the elemental characteristics in relation to the ongoing groundbreaking in-situ experiments aimed at determining the moon's physical properties.

On August 28, the Rover was reprogrammed as it came closer to a four-meter-wide crater on

the lunar surface near the South Pole. The Pragyaan Rover incorporates the scientific method LIBS (Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy), which delves into lunar surface chemistry.

Speaking to The Beacon, Suresh said that sulphur will be used as a fuel and they are presently in the process of detecting oxygen and hydrogen, which have been physically verified in Chandrayaan 3. "A few days prior to that there

had been an experiment where they made a hole to detect the temperature in order to measure physical properties such as the ingredients present in the soil, amount of charged and uncharged particles, and melting the soil through the laser beam to detect the composition."

However, Rover is in the process of detecting Hydrogen as indicated by the graph presented by the LIBS emission spectrum of the lunar surface, he added.

## Thalaiva pays surprise visit

**Afiya Amreen**

**BENGALURU:** Emerging from a humble beginning, once known as Shivajirao Gaikwad, superstar Rajnikanth had his start as a bus conductor at Jayanagar BMTC depot in the 1970s. Amid the success of his film "Jailer," he surprised the city on August 29, 2023, by revisiting his former workplace, showcasing his journey from modest origins to stardom.

Rajnikanth arrived with his friend and former colleague Raj Bahadur in a white MUV. The surprise visit left

the staff and crew members joyous and awestruck.

BMTC bus driver Abdul Majeed shared how Rajnikanth's humility resonated with everyone. "He was very humble and polite towards us, he also agreed to take pictures with us being in the same room as he made us all feel very lucky to be there."

During the 15 to 20-minute visit, Rajnikanth shared his experience reflecting on his remarkable journey from a bus conductor to a superstar. vividly demonstrates the transformative power of diligent efforts.