

# THE BEACON

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## 'Anti-worker' policies flayed

Amrutha GP

**BENGALURU:**The All India Municipal and Sanitation Workers Federation (AIMSWF) held its third national conference in Bengaluru on Friday to combat what it describes as the anti-worker policies of the Modi government.

During the conference, delegates unanimously agreed to intensify efforts to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), in the upcoming elections. They declared the need to resist the government's attempts to perpetuate the contract system and deprive safai karamcharis, or sanitation workers, of their benefits, said Mahendra Parida, general secretary of AIMSFWF.

It is not difficult to mechanise cleaning manholes, garbage collection, or road sweeping if the government sets its mind to it, said Parida. "But the Modi government wants to enslave the safai karamcharis by keeping them under the contract system and depriving them of their benefits," he added. Shankar, National President of All India Central Council of Trade Unions, denounced the Modi government for enacting "anti-labour codes" that violate employees' rights to regularisation of employment. He accused the government of being casteist for functioning based on the ancient Hindu text Manusmriti, rather than the Indian Constitution.

The conference unanimously adopted the conference report and the election of a 39-member national executive committee, headed by Mahendra Parida as general secretary and Uday Bhat as President.

## Revamping the coaching guidelines for students

Shruti Srivastava

**W**ith the new coaching guidelines launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, on 18th January, there seems to be a panic that has set in, in the coaching centres in the country. They are preparing to make changes in the curriculum and the class schedule of the enrolled students, told Manoj Gupta, a private coaching centre owner from North India.

The guidelines from the ministry mention that the students should not be under 16 years of age. While talking to The Beacon a private coaching centre owner mentioned that they do not run a coaching centre for competitive exams hence their group of students is from class 7-12. "Before Corona, we used to run



Aakash Institute, a leading coaching institute in the country

Times of India

classes for competitive exams as well but after that, we have stopped and now we teach only school kids," he added.

They have been running this coaching for more than 25 years and have followed all the guidelines which the government previously issued, he said. "A few years back the government said that there should

be a fire extinguisher and two exits in all the coaching centres. We have complied with those guidelines," said Gupta.

Talking about the mental well-being of students and refraining from taking extra classes on Sundays and holidays, he said, "It has to do mostly with parents' pressure of taking tests on Sundays and holidays

since the students don't study at home but after the guidelines we are trying to change that," said Gupta while talking to The Beacon. He further added that they are planning to stop taking classes on Sundays to reduce the burden on the students.

Another coaching centre owner who runs his institute fully online said that since their coaching

centre caters to the students who are preparing for competitive exams, the age limit prescribed by the government does not apply to them. "The age group enrollments of students are mostly from 25 to 32 years old. It depends on the type of exam the students are preparing for; if it is UPSC, the age limit is 35 years," said Dhritiman Datta, a private online coaching centre owner from Assam.

The government also issued strict guidelines for the fee structure of these coaching institutes which are to be followed or the centres can face legal charges. While talking to The Beacon, Datta mentioned that since their coaching operates only online, their fee structure is as low as Rs 2000 while the upper limit is quite high hence this does not strictly apply to them.

## Overuse or controlled usage? Bengaluru GAFX 2024

Divya Batavia

**BENGALURU:** Social media and online gaming cause technological addiction and to combat the level of addiction and promote a healthy lifestyle on online platforms, Bengaluru GAFX conducted its first-ever meeting.

The three-day Bengaluru GAFX meeting witnessed the launch of policy related to animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality policy. In 'Bengaluru GAFX 2024' the Karnataka government announced that in collaboration with All India Gamers Development



Healthy technological usage

Representational Image

Federation (AIGDF), they would introduce the 'Digital Detox' campaign. During the launch event, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and ITBT Priyank Kharge said,

"Karnataka is a responsible government that wants to create awareness of the ills of the sector and instead bring an environment gaming."

Trisha Verma, a psychologist said that it is

important to encourage students to take part in such campaigns. "Giving them live examples, discussing similar case studies with them or research papers would be another good way of scientifically backing up everything we are trying to do," she added.

Rohan, an undergraduate student, said, "In today's time it is very essential that we should actively participate in such campaigns since the level of addiction caused is harmful to our health both physically as well as mentally".

## City's unplanned growth ignored

Sonia Sebi

**BENGALURU:** The Citizen's Agenda for Bengaluru has undertaken a poll on social media platform X to ascribe responsibility for the government's inaction, as over three decades, Bengaluru has suffered from unplanned development due to the non-compliance to the 74th amendment of the Constitution (1992). Despite the Constitution mandating a 'Metropolitan Planning Committee' for organising master plans for the city, no action has been undertaken, said Sandeep Anirudhan, founder of Citizen's Agenda for Bengaluru while speaking to The Beacon. "Even elections for any form of municipality haven't happened here for the last 4 years; this has become a colonised city. The Supreme Court in January last, criticised Bangalore for being an example of unplanned growth. A notice was even sent not to replicate Bangalore as it creates urban ruin," said Anirudhan. Despite the previous BJP government promising adherence to this amendment in their manifesto, no action was taken. The government evading responsibility even after 30 years underlines the lack of awareness and apathy of the people, he stated.

## Urban solace's display of love

Sneha Thomas

**BENGALURU:** Wall of Love stands out as the single biggest art installation, transforming Urban solace into something truly magical and memorable. Guests have shared their experience, noting that this initiative represents one of the most unique and extensive experiments during the Valentine's Month celebrations, said Perry Menzies, owner of Urban Solace Art Cafe.

Urban Solace, one of Bengaluru's first art cafes, came up with an idea called Wall of Love in 2010, where customers come to the cafe, pick



The Wall of Love

Perry Menzies

a hand-cut heart, and write what love means to them.

The Wall of Love collected 1001 expressions in 2022 and intends to reach or exceed the number this year. "We intend that guests would leave the cafe with a spring in their feet, an experience of gratitude for all

the love they have experienced in their lives; and that love is an energy, love is free and love is for sharing," said Menzies.

"This year we are curating a mini festival of love films on February 11, where three films of love will be screened back to back," he added.

## Neerathon: A run for conservation

Rhea Sundara Raju

**BENGALURU:** The Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club (WACC) is gearing up to host one of their flagship events, 'Neerathon' on February 25th, at 5:30 am. 'Neerathon' is an annual run that focuses on water conservation awareness. The objective is to get people to be a part of the run and spread awareness about water conservation, said Karan JP, President of WACC. The Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club is an association under St Joseph's University, started by a group of students who aimed to create

awareness for endangered species and protect them. They also call for recognition towards environmental issues such as sustainability, climate change and animal cruelty. There are three categories for this year's run- the 5 km, 2 km and 1.5 km run for people with health conditions or impairments, which was introduced six years ago, said Karan. "There was a high demand to introduce a category for specially-abled people and we are already receiving multiple registrations," he stated.