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Fishermen community sceptical of govt aid

Fiza Ziyad

As the fishermen community in Kerala struggle to tide over losses due to the recent flood, the state government on Wednesday announced a financial aid of Rs. 3000 per month to fishermen families. However, most of the fishermen are unaware of the move and remain doubtful as to when they would receive the amount, or if they would receive it at all.

The Government declared that Rs. 47.84 crores from Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund would be allotted for this purpose. Abdul Khader, a fisherman from Kochi told The Beacon, "I was not aware of this decision until now. But if it is true, it would be beneficial only if we get the money soon."

On being asked whether the allocated amount would suffice, he added, "Most people from my community are suffering from the extreme financial crisis for the past two months due to a ban on fishing. At this time, any amount of money would be of huge help." Michael, another fisherman, also said that he was unaware of the move. "We are always the last people to know of such schemes usually," he said.

The current scheme would benefit about 1,59,481 fishermen families who were affected by floods. Earlier, the state government had sanctioned financial aid of Rs. 1200 per month for a period of six months.

SC hears petition challenging Modi

Blessy Jeremy

Supreme Court on Thursday continued the hearing of Zakia Jafri's petition challenging the clean chit given by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi and others involved in the 2002 Gujarat riots. Zakia Jafri lost her husband, Congress MLA Ehsan Jafri, to the Gulberg Housing Society Massacre during the Gujarat riots of 2002. The widow filed a complaint on 8 June 2006 before the Director-General of Police saying that the riots sprung out of a larger conspiracy. Since her FIR wasn't registered and the High Court refused to be involved, she was forced to move the Apex court. The SIT constituted was directed to look into



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Zakia Jafri's complaint by the SC. Zakia Jafri took to the SC through a Special Leave Petition challenging the SIT's closure report. The SIT's closure report of 2012 concludes that there is no criminal offence commit-

ted by the state and suggested the closure of the case.

The report gave a clean chit to Modi and other high functionaries who allegedly favoured those who engineered the riots. In the past three days, Advo-

cate Kapil Sibal, arguing for the petitioner, presented the documents to the bench in order to prove that the SIT has failed in investigating the matter. S.J. Swamy, Chairman of World Human Rights Commission Chen-

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nai said, "We really cannot predict anything about the justice system of the country. It purely depends on the arguments put forward by the advocates. But I hope the justice is served." The 2002 Gujarat riots broke out on 27 February when two carriages of the Sabarmati Express carrying Karsevaks from Ayodhya were burned at a Muslim neighbourhood in Godhra, killing 58 passengers. This gave rise to Hindu-Muslim clashes all over the state that claimed over a thousand lives. Mobs set homes and the business establishments of Muslims on fire and destroyed the mosques and cemeteries as well. The state government was criticised for not bringing the situation under control soon and for not taking adequate action against the perpetrators.

Health officials in Kerala clueless about the online health portal

Bincy Joseph

KERALA: The health officials and patients in Kerala remained clueless about a new decision on booking tickets through the e-health portal made available by the Health Department on Tuesday. Few details about the online facility of booking tickets are mentioned on the website of the department, however, people were unable to download the M e-health app. With the launch of the portal only the hospitals which are registered under the project are meant to be streamlined through the initiative. Shobha P, head nurse in the



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super speciality division at Medical College, Alappuzha said, "No written circulars or guidelines were received from the health department yet, hence the working and effectiveness of the online

service can't be predicted. The launch of the portal was informed via newspapers leaving the officials confused without internal guidelines." Sona P.S, Assistant Professor at Medical College,

Alappuzha said "Since health officials are not informed well in advance about the implementation of the app, we are unable to genuinely help the patients especially the less tech-savvy ones."

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Gyms & pools yet to reverse the buckling trend in demand

Pushparaj, Sutapa Dhara

BENGALURU: Though the fitness centres in Bengaluru are recovering after they were thrown open to the public recently, coping up with the new situation is turning into quite a challenging task. The government's Covid protocols regarding social distancing and hygiene in gyms and swimming pools are adding to the slump in seekers for these services.

"Clients reduced coming to the gym after the second wave of COVID-19. They are scared of issues regarding social distancing and hygiene. Due to this, the gym is facing a lot of financial stress," said Srivatsa Athreya G, an employee of Snap Fitness, a gym in Kalyan Nagar. "People should get back to their fitness lifestyle because it is also important for boosting immunity against covid-19," he further added.

"After the pandemic, a lot of things got affected. Especially, maintaining the extra hygiene and adhering to Covid protocols has resulted in extra expense. Due to that we had to send a few of our employees to home," said Lata Mohan, owner of Pooja Aquatics, a swimming pool in Banashankari.

Rapper G-Eazy grieves mother's death

Shriangana Pyne

Rapper G-Eazy penned down a heartfelt message on Instagram dedicating it to his late mother, Suzanne Olmsted who passed away on Wednesday. He thanked his mother for motivating him to go to rehab for alcohol and drugs. "As deeply as I was worried about you and your physical health, I didn't realize the extent of just how worried you were about me until you sent me the hardest letter I've ever

had to read. Going to treatment for alcohol and drugs was my decision but your letter was what ultimately persuaded me," the letter stated. He also shared an emotional voice memo from his mother who told her son just how proud she was of him. You will always be my biggest inspiration," he added. He and His brother James, who shared a close bond together have said that they have decided to keep her memory alive.

Korean band BTS bags second Grammy nomination

Arushi Srivastava

Korean pop band BTS, has been nominated for the second time at the Grammys. The band was nominated for the hit song 'Butter' in the Best Pop Duo Performance category and they are the first Korean group to get nominated twice. Lepakshi Naik, a student of Christ University pursuing law told the Beacon, "It is so good to see them doing so well. It

is well deserved; they write such meaningful songs and their songs always help the individual to be a better person always."

Akshita Srivastava, expressing her love for the band said, "I have been an avid fan of BTS for quite a few years; this has been by far one of the huge achievements of BTS, and we are so proud of them! We know how the song that once climbed the ladder had not left its throne

for such a long-time breaking record after record. It is one of the proudest moments for our armies (The fans)." She further added, "The song that provides us comfort, gives us happiness, is what makes the BTS what it is. All their hard work and efforts reflect a hope that now and forever these rewards keep increasing. We love them so much and it would be amazing if we could witness them receiving the award."