

THE BEACON

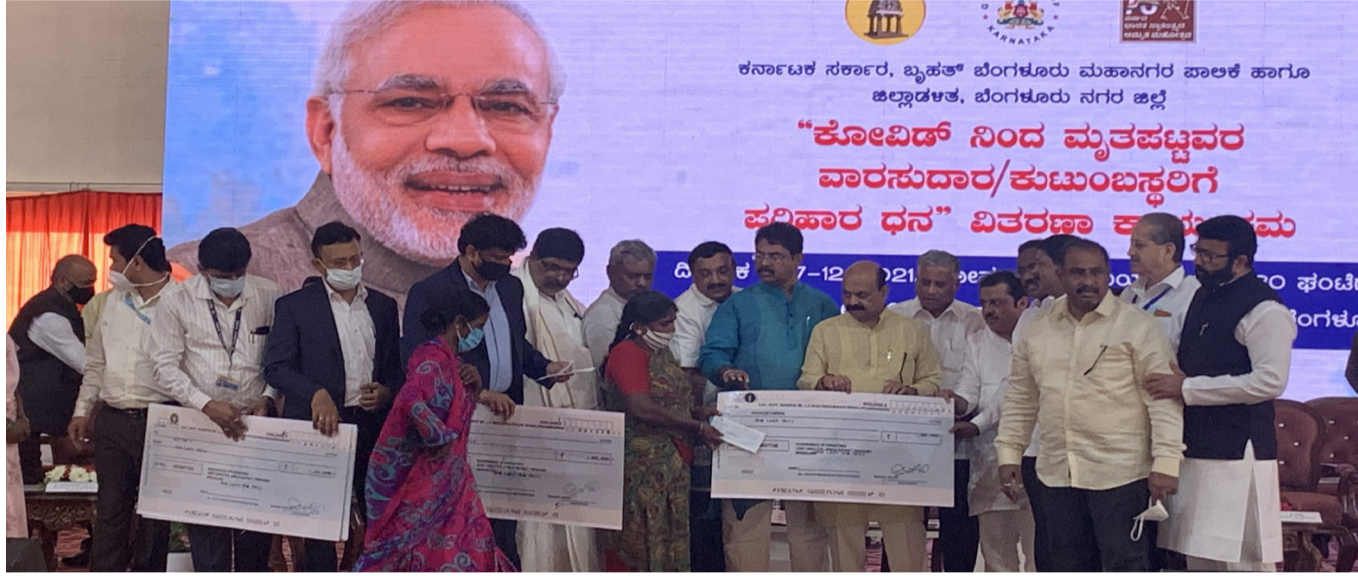
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After 6 months wait bereaved families paid ex-gratia

Afreen Hussain & Narayan B

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in the presence of a majority of his cabinet ministers and the opposition party MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan finally disbursed a compensation of 1 lakh rupees to the below poverty line (BPL) families who lost adult members to the pandemic. This, after it was initially announced six months ago. The event was organised at the National College Grounds, Basavangudi on Monday, December 27. Apart from the compensation by the state government, the central government will pay its part, a compensation of Rs. 50,000 to both BPL and above poverty line (APL) families. CM Bommai said, "I am placing myself in the shoes of those who have lost their loved ones to Covid-19. This disease has ruined many families. It has left so many



Compensation finally delivered: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai handing over cheque to the BPL families

orphanded, no one would have imagined that a disease like this would ever come." He urged the people to come together as a society at such testing times and asked them to follow the Covid protocols and raise awareness towards the same. "As we all know,

India's population is greater than the other countries and hence, we must be more careful than the rest." He spoke about the success of vaccination in India, about the initial problems, and the major questions that arose at that time regarding the vacci-

nation. He said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with the immense support of the front-line workers, India succeeded in vaccinating almost 60% of the country's population with the first dose and 40% of the population with both

the doses. Speaking about the improvements in the health infrastructure of the state and the preparedness to tackle COVID-19 further he said, "We have added ICU beds, normal beds, other required medical essentials. Bengaluru now has more than 100 RT-

PCR testing centres across the city. The state government is here to constantly assist the people of the state. We have planned many other developmental programmes to develop the state further in the coming days." Additionally, he said that the state government will take complete responsibility of those children who have been orphaned due to COVID-19. "We will make sure that the children who have lost both their parents to COVID-19 will be provided with educational and health facilities by the Karnataka government." He concluded the speech by thanking everyone and handing over the compensation to the families in the form of cheques. He also mentioned that the state government is contemplating a compensation of Rs. 50,000 to the bereaved families from the APL.

Demand to increase age limit for PC posts

Sharon

BENGALURU: Karnataka police aspirants went on a protest at Maurya Circle on Monday demanding an increase in the age limit for enrolment as a police constable to 32 years. In the other states, the age bar is set at 35 while in Karnataka it is 25 for the general category and 27 for SC, ST, and OBC categories. The protestors also pointed out that several of them had lost the opportunity to apply as recruitment was frozen owing to Covid for the last two years. Chanakya Bhaskar, a police constable aspirant, said, "The government has to consider the Covid situation, we lost two years. We will protest until the government takes action on this." He criticised the chief minister and the home minister for not taking the necessary action and not showing concern for their woes. Ashok Kumar, President of Karnataka Spardhathmaka Parikshhe Okkuta, said, "They have increased the age limit for PSI (Police Sub Inspector), and they are not doing this for PC (Police Constables)." He added there should not be such biases when it comes to the age limit.

Medical fraternity demands action against Delhi Police, stand-off escalates

Vandana KP

BENGALURU: The stand-off between the resident doctors and the government is all set to escalate as various medical associations across the nation have called for a complete shutdown of services in protest against the manhandling and detention of protesting doctors at the national capital on Monday. Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) has called for a Black Day protest today to express solidarity with resident doctors protesting in Delhi over the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling. On Monday, the resident

doctors in Delhi protested demanding the expedition of NEET-PG 2021 counselling which later took a violent turn when the police officers started to assault and detain the protesters. According to both the protesters and the police, several people were injured. Female doctors alleged that they were manhandled by the male police. Police have denied the allegations and said 12 protesters were detained and released later. Dr Vasudhendra, general secretary of Medical Service Centre, expressing concern over the issue said, "The issue

was brought to the government's attention a few months back, but no serious action has been taken. The final year PG students are idling while the senior batches on the floor are understaffed. This deliberate delay of action by the government cannot be attributed to Covid or to the pending cases in Supreme Court. We will stand with the doctors and are committed to showing our full support," he said. "Normally, there should be three batches on the floor at any given time; however, due to the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling, there



Save the saviors

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are only two senior batches on the floor, which is exhausting and burdensome for young doctors. With the peak in Corona, young doctors who used to work 24 hours away from families is

now have to work 72 hours. The number of patients a doctor treats is now greater than five which ought to be in the ratio of 1-1," said Dr Namrata, the president of KARD.

Bhovi community protest against irregularities

Sudha Ankita

On Monday, Akhila Karnataka Bhovi Yuva Vedike staged a protest demanding a fair investigation into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment process of the Bhoi Development Board. They alleged that the aid provided to the board since 2016 has been misused. In addition, they demanded a 2000 crore rupees grant to the board. "In the guise of forest laws

and environment protection, we are being harassed by the officials. Several of us are being slapped with cases and are being made to run to the courts. We want this to be stopped," said Huligappa Dandihodru. The association demanded the government to withdraw all the cases against them and also to ensure that all the stone related works be sub-contracted to their community.

183 was enough for winning the World Cup but is hyper nationalism enough to win accolades for 83?

Kabir Khan's 83 to begin with, kicked off well and hooked the audience to the screen. But the real question to be answered is, 'how much fictionalisation and masala could be added to one of the greatest sporting events of the country?' 83, far from being a biopic of the World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev, is a movie showcasing the events of India winning the World Cup in an overly dramatic fashion. Khan was barely able to hide the use of hyper-nationalism

to sell the story. Man Singh (Pankaj Tripathi) standing on top of the roof and saluting relegated the game to the background and brought the political agenda of the then ruling dispensation to the fore. The insinuation to the effect that the victory was in fact a shot in the arm that came in handy to the then PM Indira Gandhi to divert the focus from the communal violence incidents, further bores testimony to the fact. The cast did a good job showcasing the legendary

players, especially Ranveer Singh who aced Kapil Dev's bowling action, regarded as one of the hardest. The initial hype around Deepika Padukone starring as the wife of Kapil Dev turned out to be a letdown as her character was not strong enough. Overall the movie was a good representation of what Indian cricket was before in terms of its performance. However, as a sporting representation, it is a sad failure.

Narayan B & Afreen Hussain

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