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MM opens Mollywood's super-hero account

Subadra Sarath

Minnal Murali, Tovino Thomas's much-anticipated Malayalam superhero film is finally here and it does not disappoint. Despite the film's minimal budget, it does a great honour to the genre. Basil Joseph's third directorial effort is full of humour, action, and emotion, and it is as entertaining as the first two films. Apart from some cliché events and shots, the movie has made a mark. Minnal Murali is a film set in a small town in Kerala in the mid-1990s that follows Jaison's life events (Tovino Thomas), a common guy with big ambitions. On an eventful night, his life takes a turn when he is struck by lightning. He survives the cosmic bolt and gains superhuman abilities. A twist in the plot occurs when another man in the town, Shibu (Guru Somasundaram), is struck by the same lightning and gains superhuman abilities. The movie shows how power is used by two different people and how society influences their choices. "The movie is well shot and has an average script but it has many new elements to it," said the Saina media house's project manager and movie enthusiast Febin Muhammed.

Karnataka medicos express solidaritiy with Delhi doctors

Vandana KP

BENGALURU:As a show of solidarity with the protesting doctors at the national capital who were allegedly manhandled on Monday, the Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) took out a candlelight march at Victoria Medical College on Tuesday evening. They termed it a black day in the history of the medical fraternity. They said they will continue to support their counterparts at Delhi until an official action is taken about commencing NEET-PG counselling. NEET 2021 was held in September instead of May owing to the Covid-19 second wave that wreaked havoc. The counselling process has



United we stand, divided we fall

been halted as the Supreme Court is adjudicating a case about the application of the Economically weaker Section (EWS) quota. Due to the delay, PG qualified students

are idle while the two senior batches work on the floor for 72 hours each, said Dr. Vasudhendra, the general secretary of Medical Service Centre. "The government has repeat-

edly given us false assurances. In the beginning, the doctors protested they were told that the government will be take action within 14 days. However,

Special arrangement on Monday, the cops attacked the 'overworked and exhausted' doctors who were peacefully marching towards the Supreme Court. The government hailed us as Corona warriors just a few months ago, and how we are being treated now is not acceptable," says Dr. Naveen, the president of KARD. "Our representatives from the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FOR-DA) will meet the Health Minister again to get a concrete assurance on this matter, but until we receive an update we will continue to protest nationwide, which will impact services in the hospitals," he said. The next hearing on EWS quota is scheduled on Jan 7.

Danish Siddiqui posthumously awarded Recollections of a journalist & a close friend

Niharika Bajaj

Reuters Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui who lost his life while covering the Afghanistan crisis is being posthumously awarded the prestigious RedInk award on December 29 "for his spectrum of the investigative and impactful body of news photography ranging from the Rohingya and anti-CAA protests to Covid-19 and the Afghanistan Civil War", said the Mumbai Press Club. On this occasion, The Beacon spoke to the renowned Journalist at NDTV Shams Naqvi,

Danish's close friend in Delhi who had seen him grow from the time when he didn't even own a camera and used his mobile to take pictures. Siddiqui, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for covering the Rohingya Crisis, left a well-paying job in television journalism to pursue his passion, he recollected. "He was always there to document an important story, his personal well-being was the last thing on his mind even when he was covering risky events like global wars, Covid 19 pan-

demic, or communal riots. He had the knack of being there at the right place at the right time. Invariably almost every good picture appearing in newspapers was taken by him," said Naqvi. Danish who died on the field earlier in July this year, was also a winner in the recently held Hong Kong 25th Human Rights Press Awards 2021. His work on the COVID-19 crisis, titled "Documenting India's Greatest Healthcare Crisis", was exhibited in the Visa Pour l'Image Photojournalism

Festival held in August 2021. "That was the legacy he had created for himself in a short career in which he grew very rapidly. It feels great that he is remembered very fondly courtesy of his great work," added Shams. This year marks the 10th edition of the RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism instilled by the Mumbai Press Club. The RedInk Awards were instituted a decade ago to recognize good investigative and feature writing and to raise the bar of journalism in the country.

Remembering Nadaprabhu Kuvempu

Afreen Hussain

BENGALURU:Rashtrakavi Kuvempu had said, "Caste/religion has imprisoned us; it has become the noose around our neck which is throttling the development of our nation." Isn't this more relevant now than ever, questions Dr Suneeth Kumar Shetty, convenor of the Avishkara Cultural Forum, Bengaluru, which is organising a series of programmes on the thoughts of renowned Kannada poet, Kuvempu on his birth anniversary. "This is why Kuvempu asked everyone to come out of the temples, mosques and churches and work for the betterment of society," he says. Speaking about Kuvempu's thoughts on god he says, "He believed that god is where there is righteousness, not only in religious institutions. His concept of god was different from others, it wasn't limited to the boundaries of religion." Speaking of Kuvempu's ideology of "Vishwa Manava", he said, "We are all humans first, and the concepts of religion, caste and creed divides us and therefore, education is essential for a human to remain above these dividing concepts." "We talk about the various achievements of Kuvempu, but we forget to realise the importance of his teachings and ideas. We must recognise the value of his thoughts and opinions, and learn from it to make our society a better place," he added.

Indian Cricket in 2021: An unforgettable year for the men & women in Blue

Joel P Anto

People around the globe would like to forget 2021 and, if possible, erase it from their memories due to the dance of death witnessed during the pandemic. However, the same can't be said about the year for Indian cricket which saw miraculous comebacks, memorable debuts, mighty falls and players making a name for themselves in Test cricket. The Indian men's cricket team began the year with a 2-1 Test series win over Australia on Australian soil, while the women's Test team, led by Mithali Raj, inspired hard-fought draws against both England and Australia. Rish-



A new start BCCI Indian women's team ending Australia's 26-ODI winning streak will live long in the memory of cricket fans. From Axar Patel's breakthrough series against England, Rohit Sharma's maiden overseas Test ton, World Test Championship final loss, a shocking T20 World Cup exit, ousting of Kohli from the captaincy, and to the appointment of new head coach Rahul Dravid, this was a year of breakthroughs and heartbreaks. With the conflict between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and a few players, the year wraps up with a few raised eyebrows from fans and a glimmer of hope that 2022 will be a better year.

NEP promotes Brahminical values, alleges Ram Puniyani

Dolkar

Education is both a national and state subject and the National Education Policy (NEP) would shift the balance of power to decide on the curriculum towards the centre to the detriment of the states, opined Prof. Ram Puniyani former professor of IIT Bombay, medical researcher, writer, and public speaker. He was addressing a webinar on December 24, organised by the Science Education Group, IIT KGP Shibpur Democratic Students Collective and spoke extensively on the Hindu Nationalist Agenda and NEP. Terming that NEP promotes conservative aspects

of Indian values he said, "In a way, it is a decoy for the promotion of Brahminical values. It does proclaim to promote Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit, but in practice, it will be more of a promotion of the elite Sanskrit language." He is known for his bold views on issues such as communal politics, human rights, secularism, Uniform Civil Code, the partition tragedy, the Kashmir Imbroglio among others. He said that India has been swept by a series of protests that first began in December 2019 over a new law that eased access to citizenship for non-Muslims. "The law is a part of the Hindu nationalist agenda," he said.