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Disagreements among unions

Yachi Jebisow

Strongly disagreeing with the All Nyishi Students' Union (ANSU) and the Pan-Arunachal Joint Steering Committee's (PAJSC) decision to declare the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) examinations as null and void in their 13-point charter of demands, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) has demanded maintaining status quo until the investigation report is out.

With the backing of ANSU and PAJSC, aspirants protested in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, on December 27, 2022, in response to the paper leak controversy that occurred in August 2022. In contrast, AAPSU remains steadfast in its decision to hold re-exams.

One of the executive members of AAPSU, Atul (name changed), speaking to The Beacon, asserted how crucial it is to avoid postponing the APPSC exams since doing so might create a backlog for candidates and have a negative effect on individuals close to the maximum age limit for eligibility.

AAPSU also rejected the idea of handing APPSC over to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), claiming that "doing so would be devastating for APST (Arunachal Pradesh Schedule Tribe) candidates, considering the 80-20 ratio of job reservation."

He further expressed, "A free and fair investigation should be conducted. Anyone found guilty must be arrested, suspended, and terminated from the job."

A first-of-its-kind, menstrual leave is here!

Shariq Ahamed

In a historic, first-of-its-kind move towards recognising the gender-specific needs within an educational set-up, the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) has granted the girl students a two per cent attendance per semester as menstrual leave.

On January 11, a proposal by the CUSAT Students Union and several student organisations was accepted by the Vice-Chancellor. Currently, a cap of 75% attendance is mandatory to be eligible to write the exams. In light of the recent announcement, it will be



Representational Image

Shiksha

reduced to 73% for female students. Speaking to The Beacon, Namitha George, the student union chairperson, said,

"We received excellent responses from political leaders and many students from various universities. Students

from different universities have been calling us since the news, enquiring about the process. All of this brings us happiness, and we hope for students from every institution to have menstrual benefits." According to George, the first

move in any initiative is to seek the students' requirements formally, and a union that advocates for students is crucial. "A union is necessary to advocate for student's rights, and this encourages all students to demand their reason-

able needs. The issues that students encounter go unnoticed and unaddressed when there is no union. If the management commits any wrongdoing, no one will speak up or ask for their rights. A student union will always have a power of its own," she opined.

She highlighted the initiative's impact on the Calicut Medical College students who had already requested menstruation leaves after this initiative.

After successfully fighting for menstruation leave for students at CUSAT, the students' union aims to persuade the Kerala government to adopt a policy on the matter.

Cabin crew calls for a ban on unlimited alcohol

Ishika Bhattacharjee

Serving unlimited alcohol to business class passengers should be banned as it results in chaos and misbehaviour by the passengers on board regularly, said Soham Singh (name changed), a senior cabin crew of a popular airline.

The Beacon spoke to one of the cabin crews of a famous airline in the wake of the incidents that were recently highlighted in the Air India flight AI-142 and flight AI-102. Last November, in the business class of an Air India flight between New York to Delhi, a drunk passenger



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news18

was accused of urinating on a seventy-year-old female co-passenger. "We are always advised to keep a track of passengers' liquor consumption but in business classes, an unlimited amount of liquor is served which leads to such incidents. The cabin crew failed

to control the situation when they had the authority to stop it. There are many aviation laws for it," he said while speaking to The Beacon.

Pointing out the failure of the cabin crew of the airline Soham said that if the same incident would have hap-

pened in economy class then the crew would have taken quick action. "Just because business class passengers pay a lump sum, the crew overlooks such misbehaviour."

Applying aviation laws based on economic discrimination is not right. The aviation laws and actions should apply to all unruly passengers irrespective of business or economy class, he said. "We have plenty of rules, like handcuffs and many other restoring devices; if the crew wanted they could have easily stopped the incident from escalating."

Can't we stand romantic relations?

Janet Jeba

More than 20 per cent of the cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are found to be cases due to non-acceptance of romantic relations by family members. The 18-month investigation by the Enfold Proactive Health Trust focuses on how the POCSO ACT affects adolescent sexuality. Authors, Swagata Raha and Shruthi Ramakrishnan have found out that out of 7478 special court judgements, 1715 cases were identified as romantic cases under the POCSO act. Romantic relationships are ones in which the accused and victim both acknowledge their relationship.

The POCSO Act, passed in 2012, was intended to create a specific statute to deal with sexual offences against children. Earlier, there was no law in India against the child abuse, these cases were tried under available IPC sections.

According to this study, adolescent criminalisation impacts their right to life and liberty; it burdens the legal system. Additionally, it acts as a barrier for teenagers to receive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, which results in unsafe and illegal abortions.

'Action matters, not just words'

Angeline and Kannika

The Bangalore International Centre sponsored a talk show to analyse the best practices on financing and institutional frameworks for implementing climate actions in cities, as Bangalore is in a challenging position to accomplish climate targets, and aspire to balance growth and quality of life, as per climate experts.

The discussion held on January 16 included guests Rogier van den Berg and V Ravichandar who spoke about the new initiatives

such as the Revised Master Plan (RMP), the Clean Air Action Plan, and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy, which can be useful tools for accomplishing Bangalore's climate goals.

Berg, the global director of WRI (World Research Institute), mentioned that the authorities must step up their game when it comes to climate and see if there is an integral part towards their national climate agenda.

"While these new initiatives are a very good and desirable step towards cli-

mate change, I'm afraid it will only remain a document while our conditions get worse. Just making a document statutory is not necessarily going to fix it

Unless an idea is politically embraced on a higher level we will be operating at a level of smaller officers across the system struggling to get approval, followed by a climate action cell given a bureaucratic setup, the climate action plan is dead in the water," stated Ravichandar expressing his concern over the new action plans.

Tips for healthy eating habits

Sreeja Deb

Eating stomachful is good, but to improve health, one must eat at the right time. Planning meals in advance is the key to preventing over-eating, said Maitreyi Bokil, a professional nutritionist. She was speaking in a workshop, "The Art of Eating at the Right Time". She initiated this campaign to educate the public on the importance of eating meals at the appropriate time.

"If you are a person who sees yourself sticking to an intermittent diet for-

ever without thinking about the end to it, then that is the diet for you," Bokil said..

"You have to always remember that elimination diets are not the best because they will produce a nutritional deficiency."

The keto diet, on the other hand, was originally developed to treat special needs children or children with epilepsy, but it is now popular as a healthy diet. However, if one consumes a healthy amount of protein, vegetables, and fats intending to follow the diet, one will benefit, she said.