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An appeal for welfare

Shariq Ahamed

Head of the Karnataka budget, Slum Janandolana Karnataka has sent a petition to Chief Minister, Basavaraj Bommai and other ministers demanding welfare measures for slum dwellers.

Slum Janandolana Karnataka, an organisation that has been working for the rights and empowerment of slum dwellers in the state, submitted a list of demands to The Chief Minister of the state. The petition pointed out a number of issues including a delay in the distribution of funds and inadequate funding for housing and basic facilities for slum people in urban and local bodies.

The organisation has demanded a budgetary allocation of 2000 crores for the development of slums, an increase of six lakhs towards subsidy under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and promulgation of the Right to Housing Act. The urgent need to develop an employment guarantee scheme for slum dwellers was also mentioned in the demand. "The Comprehensive Right to Housing Act should be put into effect for the landless in the state, and the families with Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards should be given more subsidies. Additionally, 500 crores should be granted to establish the "Karnataka Slum People's Development Corporation" in order to advance the socioeconomic, educational, and cultural condition of slum residents of the State.

The petition was also presented to the Karnataka Slum Development Board Commissioner.

Farm to womb: Pesticides pose threats

Nikita Priya

A recent study has discovered high levels of pesticide content in the breast milk of lactating mothers in the country, sparking concerns about the health of both mothers and their infants. This has led to discussions about the potential dangers posed by these toxic substances.

Research conducted by Lucknow's Queen Mary Hospital has revealed the presence of pesticides in the milk of pregnant women in the Maharajanj district, reportedly responsible for the death of 111 newborns in the past ten months. This finding raises concern about the potential dangers posed to the health and well-being of pregnant women and their infants.

Speaking to The Beacon, Swati Agrawal, a practising gynaecologist, said, "This is a cause for concern as these chemicals can have a damaging effect on the health



Representational Image

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of both the mother and the baby."

When asked about the potential health impacts of these chemicals on mothers and their children, Agrawal explained that pesticides are known to be toxic and can lead to a range of health problems, including reproductive issues, delays in develop-

ment, and an increased risk of certain cancers. Exposure to these chemicals through breast milk can also affect the growth and development of infants and weaken their immune systems.

"Mothers can take steps such as choosing to eat organic foods, avoiding pesticides in their homes, and opting for

alternative pest control methods," she said.

Agarwal emphasised being mindful of personal care products which mothers use on an everyday basis as they contain harmful chemicals. "Their health and well-being should be a top priority, and it's important for them to make informed choices to

reduce their exposure to these toxic substances," she added.

Women who work in agriculture or in areas where pesticides are heavily used are at a higher risk of exposure. To reduce their exposure to these chemicals, Agrawal suggested that these women take extra precautions, such as wearing protective clothing and avoiding contact with treated fields.

In addition, the government has also taken steps to regulate the use of pesticides in the country. A new law has been enacted that requires all pesticide products to be labeled with clear warnings about their potential health risks and banned the use of the most toxic pesticides. The government has also established a task force to monitor and enforce these regulations, and to investigate any reports of illegal pesticide use.

Jallikattu: A cultural sport or cruelty?

Jeba Janet

At least 15 police personnel were hurt during a demonstration last week held against the refusal of permission to hold the traditional bullfighting sport, Jallikattu, in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district.

On February 2, they started the protest when they learned that the permission to conduct Jallikattu had been denied by the Krishnagiri district authorities. The protest turned violent, and they blocked the Chennai-Bangalore road for around 6 hours.

An animal rights campaigner named Ashok (name



Representational Image

Times of India

changed) stated, "Suppose Jallikattu is historically very relevant to Tamil culture, does that neglect the fact that these are violent and dangerous sports? But the point is that we are constantly saying that, because it's rooted in culture, we should allow it. It's not that we can do something to

make it less cruel; the government of Tamilnadu repeatedly said this year jallikattu will be done differently because they have changed the rules, but now eight people have already died this year, and so it's failing." There is no safe way to do jallikattu because the sport is an inherently un-

safe sport, he added.

There is a lot of money to be made because people also said that culture is often used as an excuse to justify something that is very violent. "Just remove the lens of culture. As a lot of money is to be made, it is actually a commercial sport, and this is deeply dangerous for animals and humans."

He added, Jallikattu is not an animal's natural behaviour. Animals are tortured to behave in that way, and this leads to really bad retaliation to the public, the players and the audience are also getting hurt.

Smash your stress away

Ishika Bhattacharjee

Bengaluru: Bengaluru's first Rage Room could be the perfect spot if you are looking for a therapeutic way to release your frustration after a hectic day at work, a heart-break, or just to let out your pent-up emotions.

Rage Room, launched on February 4, is a new concept in Bangalore by Ananya Shetty, a 23-year-old digital marketer from IIT Madras. The Rage Room, located in Basavanagudi, gives people a channel through which they can release their anger and deal with their trauma by shattering a variety of objects like chairs, tables, glass items, television sets and wooden items.

Highlighting the significance of rage rooms, Shetty said, "In metropolitan cities like Bengaluru, spaces are constrained, and we don't have space or freedom to vent out frustration in a healthy way, and we can't destroy things at home. So a place like this is going to help people. I thought if rage rooms are a huge success in countries like the US and the UK, why not India?"

Only individuals who are at least 18 years old are permitted access to the location.

Revolutionising air travel with DigiYatra

Kannikaw

DigiYatra is a government-led initiative that seeks to completely transform the way that travellers experience Indian airports. Various airport procedures, including check-in, security, and boarding, are made easier by the app. The app gives tourists a seamless and hassle-free experience while maintaining high standards of security and effectiveness.

The DigiYatra app is the biometric-based check-in process. With this function, visitors can check in without

using paper boarding passes, by using their government-issued ID and biometric data. Additionally, the app provides real-time updates on gate information, aircraft status, and details about airport amenities and services.

A key component of the app is the way it communicates with the security system at the airport; it enables real-time data sharing between travellers, airlines, and security organisations, enabling speedy and accurate security checks. Moreover, the app also provides a "fast

lane" option, for frequent travellers that enables them to skip lines and go through security checks more swiftly.

It gives airlines useful information about customer behaviour and preferences, enabling them to make informed decisions about their operations and services. The airports will now have a platform with greater coordination and communication with airlines and security organisations, resulting in increased effectiveness and a better travel experience for passengers.

Winning the next decade

Bibhash Kalita

The "Make in India" policy didn't do enough in terms of labour engagement, neither did it focus on what was truly needed in India, said Dr Ganesh Natarajan, founder of 5F World and author of 'India's Pathways to Success'.

On the release of the book, 'India's Pathways to Success', the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) held a panel discussion on February 8 to examine how India must develop its economy using a variety of techniques and presented an in-depth

study on the economy. India will have the third-largest economy by 2029, and despite our achievements, we are not where we should be, he opined. "India has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be the global success story of this decade, as the globe battles the twin demons of inflation and potential inflation". Giving priority to only one sector will not help in development; each sector contributing to the country should be given equal consideration, added Natarajan while speaking to The Beacon.