

# THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Friday, 4 August 2023 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 16 Issue: 11 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

## Manarkeni App : A boon or a bane?

**Chandrasoodeshwar**

Teachers find a new app to be challenging, and question its impact on students' learning and classroom effectiveness, said Sheela (name changed), headmistress from one of the government primary schools.

The Tamil Nadu government launched a free educational app called Manarkeni with English and Tamil videos based on the State Board syllabus on July 25, created by State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT), to enhance digital learning for all classes.

The application features videos covering the first term syllabus of Class 12, with plans to upload lessons on over 27,000 topics from the Class 6-12 syllabus. The initiative aims to ensure students from diverse economic backgrounds can access video lessons.

Speaking to the Beacon, Sheela said, "The app has been launched, and invitations have been given. But, there have been no updates or proper training for teachers on using the app effectively. Being a headmistress, I am yet to fully understand its usage, as it was launched only a week ago."

The app requires an internet connection or Wi-Fi to be used. Many teachers do not have Wi-Fi access and may need to use their data, which is insufficient for a single class period. Some teachers might take advantage of this situation and avoid teaching effectively, said Sheela.

## No change no ride: BMTC staff hurls abuse

**Abhirami Nair**

**Bengaluru:** The conduct of staff on Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses has sparked widespread concern, causing distress and anxiety among passengers. Complaints range from verbal abuse towards non-Kannada-speaking students to deliberate misinformation about bus routes. Riding on BMTC buses has become a daunting experience for commuters relying on public transport.

In a recent incident, Abhirami, a postgraduate student, was ejected from a BMTC bus when she couldn't provide the exact ticket amount and instead gave a 100 rupee note. The conductor refused any compromise and compelled her to disembark even as other lady passengers joined to support Abhirami. Left with no alternative, she had to walk to another bus station to continue her journey.



Representational Image

Deccan Herald

"The most disturbing part of this incident is that I saw the conductor returning the change to another fellow passenger who gave him a 200 rupee note, and I'm very sure he got the change to refund others, as he had gone to issue tickets for other

passengers," she recounted. Helpless due to her lack of knowledge of Kannada, she endured a continuous barrage of verbal attacks from the conductor until she was forced off the bus. Many Right to Information (RTI) requests to the

Transport Department in June unveiled BMTC's lack of a clear policy addressing the issue of providing change to customers. Attempts to seek information were thwarted using flimsy excuses, misquoting the RTI Act.

The distressing treatment extends beyond language barriers. Non-Kannada speakers often face xenophobic comments, exacerbating the situation. Nikita Priya, a college student, shared her harrowing experience with The Beacon. "Once when I was travelling in the bus, a conductor was reluctant to give me ticket. He was scolding me in Kannada for not knowing the language. As I was about to reach my stop, he came and talked to me in Hindi. He told me that we (state) are providing you education and a job, so go learn Kannada and then travel in bus," she said. Conductors

often persistently converse in Kannada, even when they are proficient in Hindi or English.

Even Karnataka residents face similar mistreatment, engaging in futile arguments over minor issues like a lack of change for Rs 5. For those who cannot speak the language, confronting such behaviour becomes virtually impossible. "Some buses have boards only in Kannada which makes it hard for people, and I have seen instances where the BMTC staff tell people the wrong route and often make them get down at a different place. With Bangalore traffic, it is really hard for people to reach on time at their working places or colleges after all these," expressed Vidhya, a working woman. With traffic challenges in Bangalore, these issues significantly impact people's punctuality at work or college.

## Educationists decry 'autocratic' move of govt

**Kavya S**

In a democratic country like India, giving enormous power to any individual irrespective of their authority is autocratic, said Rajashekar VN, vice president of the All India Save Education.

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amendment Bill, 2023 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 28, 2023. The amendment bill gives the powers to the president of India to visit the IIM regularly. Additionally, It confers the right to audit the IIM and approve and remove the directors. IIMs provide post-graduate



Representational Image

PTI

education in the field of management and allied areas.

"IIMs are autonomous bodies; so now giving such powers to the president of India is a direct infringement on the autonomy of the institution. Because, in

any autonomous body, the functioning should be democratic. Democratic means there should be a democratically constituted body..., representatives from academicians, educationists, professors and student

representatives (must be included)..., and they should look after the administration of the institution. That is the correct way of functioning," said Rajashekar.

While talking about new reforms needed at IIMs, Rajashekar pointed out the exorbitant fee structure and said it has become difficult for the meritorious students of poor and middle-class families to get admission at the IIMs.

"It has become very elitist now. The IIM fee structure should be brought down where even a common man, a poor boy or a girl should be able to study the course," he added.

## AI enters the match-making domain

**Anjela Patrick**

Recently, Andreessen Horowitz created an AI tool that allows users to design and customize their ideal partner by writing their backstory.

Andreessen Horowitz is a venture capital firm in Silicon Valley that supports entrepreneurs who are building the future through technology. The AI project allows users to construct their companions from scratch and offers pre-made personalities like Evelyn, Alex, and Sebastian. They also posted a tutorial on GitHub that demonstrates how to create adaptable 'AI companions' with various personalities and histories.

Talking about the benefits and drawbacks of the AI tool, Anuranjan (name changed), a technology consultant, said, "Among its drawbacks, it may lead to exaggerated hopes, a lack of authenticity, and privacy issues. For its benefits, individuals may become more self-aware about their preferences, be encouraged to describe the qualities of their ideal partner, and help users move beyond superficial judgements based on appearance alone."

Speaking to The Beacon, Anand (name changed), a cybersecurity consultant, said that the tool is not a personal threat unless it misuses personal information.

## An artistic tribute to H S V Murthy

**Kaustub**

**Bengaluru:** H S Venkatesh Murthy is the greatest Kannada poet of our generation, said poet BR Lakshman Rao on Wednesday. He was speaking at an event organised by the Karnataka Sugama Sangeetha Parishat at Ravindra Kala Kshetra in Bengaluru to pay tribute to H S Venkatesh Murthy. The event included the launch of the book *Nenapina Orate*, which is an autobiography of H S Venkatesh Murthy. Rao added that Murthy was not just a great poet but also



Release of 'Nenapina Orate'

Kaustub B

a playwright, film writer, novelist, and worked as a Kannada professor for 30 years. "I will read some poems of Murthy on stage including *Buddhacharana*, which is his greatest work," said the intellectual and poet, Doddarange Gowda.

The event also included a magic performance by the magician Ramesh. Other guests at the event included the writer Narahalli Balasubramanya, film director T S Nagabharana, the actor Srinivas Prabhu and the film and TV director T N

## Platform X upsets scholars

**Parnika S**

What Elon Musk is doing is sad. People are migrating to other applications to continue being in that safe space and that is breaking the Academic Twitter community, said Nikita Ghodke, a research assistant at New York University and Cambridge University. Academic Twitter is a space that can be created with an algorithm where one follows certain people from your branch of interest. Then the application only shows you posts and content that are catered to your arena. It is beneficial for

understanding the functioning of collaborations and conferences in a hybrid mode. Speaking to The Beacon, Ghodke said that in the academic community, there are growing conversations that she did not think would usually happen. "It's all about the kind of space you create on this app and it has great potential to reach in all different branches of studies. But with where it is going for the community, I am not positive because of the changing trends. People are moving to platforms like LinkedIn and Mastodon, which is popularly used as an