

# THE BEACON

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## Cambodia embraces Indian 'Fempreneurs'

**Amrutha G P**

Being one of the 25 women out of 53 selected from Karnataka was an immense pleasure and honour and a great initiative to put women entrepreneurs at the forefront. The encouragement that they received from the chief minister has motivated them to strive for the best, said Megha Pavan, CEO of ARKAA Pvt Ltd.

The government of Cambodia has taken up an initiative for the first time to encourage budding entrepreneurs across the world. The women's felicitation programme is scheduled from Aug 26 to Aug 29, 2023, which is observed as 'Women's Equality Day' at Siem Reap, Cambodia.

"I'm really proud to represent Karnataka and India, most importantly, my company. I will forever be grateful to my husband for this continuous support. The event was full of networking between Cambodian delegates and Indian delegates; got the opportunity to explore more on agriculture sectors," Pavan said.

"Attending the first day of the event encouraged me not just in a corporate way but also on a personal level to make the best out of my business. Meeting the people who share the struggles that I have been through will be a moment to cherish forever," she stated.

On August 22, CM Siddaramaiah extended his congratulations to the delegation of women entrepreneurs who were selected for the event. "The women entrepreneurs going to Cambodia to represent India have my gratitude and encouragement to pursue and excel in their endeavour," he tweeted.

## Passengers least of Akasa's concern

**Shruti Srivatsava**

With the rapid increase in the footfall of passengers of the nascent Akasa Airlines, there have been many discrepancies that have come to light.

On August 23, a flight from Bengaluru to Kochi was cancelled on operational grounds. There has been a pattern that has come to light after the airline has been suddenly cancelling many of their flights without stating any solid reasons.

Spandan Bhattacharya, a passenger who was supposed to travel from Bangalore to Pune had to book another flight because of the sudden cancellation of Akasa's flight. Talking to The Beacon, he said, "They cancelled my ticket because the seats were overbooked. They gave me two options. Either I could book a flight for another date and time or



Not ready for a takeoff

The Hindu

get the refund." He further added that the change of date and time did not work for him because he had to leave the very next day, hence, he booked another flight with Air Asia and asked for a refund from Akasa Air.

Passengers accused the airline of being inefficient in their management and communication. A passenger, Yashovardhan Prakash, who was travelling

from Varanasi to Bangalore in May, shared his "horrible" experience with the airlines. He said, "They had chaos at the runway when passengers were boarding the flight. They made a mess and weren't able to handle the situation." He said that the passengers were asked to make separate lines for senior citizens, males, females and children but this added more to the chaos. Two senior citizens were

on wheelchairs and instead of putting a ramp for them, four people from the ground staff lifted the wheelchairs and other passengers waited for more than 20 minutes, he said. Prakash also stated that the checking of the boarding pass was not accurate as well and the passengers entered the flight without getting their passes checked.

The main attraction for booking tickets with Akasa

Air amongst the flyers is the discounts and cheaper rates of the tickets. Also, the novelty of the airlines and more facilities offered by airlines draws passenger's attention. A cabin crew from IndiGo, Aditi Vyas (name changed) said, "Aditya Ghosh started Akasa Air. He knew what all things were missing in IndiGo and that is why he included most of them in Akasa Air." Naming a few new features of Akasa Air, Vyas said that there is an availability of charging points and there are more food options too. The aircraft are also bigger because these airlines mostly have Boeing while the other airlines have Airbus. Considering one of the main reasons for Akasa's rapid success, Vyas said that the hiring strategy of the airline was well thought out. The airline was keen on hiring experienced staff rather than hiring freshers, to make customer engagement easy.

## 'Grab all opportunities coming your way'

**Rhea Sundara Raju**

**CAMPUS:** The most important piece of advice for everyone is to always be prepared to seize any kind of opportunities that come along and never be ignorant when it comes to fulfilling those responsibilities, said Anikha Surendran, a Malayalam actress.

On August 25th, Open Heart, a brand at St. Joseph's University hosted their Investiture Ceremony at the University's Auditorium. The event was organised by the Office of Public Relations who invites prominent speakers to share their stories to inspire the



Open Heart team with Anikha at investiture ceremony Kiran Sanker

upcoming generation leaders to elicit intellectual conversations. The actress was invited as the Chief Guest to felicitate the new office bearers.

"My career in acting

it and striving for the best," Surendran added. Devansh V Bakhai, Student of St Joseph's University and Convener of Open Heart said, "Open Heart is a celebrity symposium where we invite celebrities from different backgrounds to share their personal experience through stories and inspire the students and show them the right path." "We look forward to embracing the responsibilities and challenges that lie ahead with renewed enthusiasm and dedication. Today marks where we are and we look forward to the day where we will be," he added.

## A nominal fees for independent rides

**Kiranmai Basavaraj**

Namma Yatri is going to be the future, with everybody doing their bit of work and zero involvement of middlemen, said Sathya, chief technical editor to the Government of Karnataka.

The Namma Yatri app is introducing a subscription fee for auto drivers from Sept 1, and it will be used towards technical expenses incurred on the app. Approximately 9000 auto drivers opted for the subscription.

"Before the launch of the



Representational image

Swarajya

subscription fee, the company 'Jus Pay' (developer of the Namma Yatri app) had invested in the expenses," said Sathya.

Namma Yatri faces operational hiccups in engaging with its users. To surmount these challenges, drivers should

shoulder subscription charges, to ensure seamless service.

"This is on a cooperative basis; how many auto drivers come forward to pay subscription equally reduces the price to everyone, so it's dependent on the drivers," said Sathya.

## 900 objections raised for maps

**Neenu M**

Around 900 objections were raised by the public about the release of trial maps on the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) website, said N R Ramesh, a former Member of the Legislative Council.

On August 21, the Urban Development Department of the BBMP released trial maps of 225 wards that laid out details of all the wards and boundaries. The department is open to considering any objections

against the maps via post until Sept 2.

"If there are any objections, 5 to 10 per cent of the changes will be done, and the final map will come out on September 15", he added.

Speaking to the Beacon, Mr Ramesh stated, "This is actually done by a Pixel company and not by us. It can take almost one and a half months to make corrections. After the changes are done, it will be sent for government approval after September 15."

## Indian Air Force reaches new heights

**Parvathi Nair**

As a first, the Indian Air Force is all set to participate in Exercise Bright Star-23 at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt.

An IAF contingent departed on Sunday to participate in the 3-week long exercise scheduled to begin on August 27 according to the press release by the Ministry of Defence.

Since its inception in 1980, many countries have taken part in the multinational tri-service exercise held every two years. This year, the exercise will reportedly consist of 34 countries including India for the first time. "The objective of the exercise is to practise planning and execution of joint operations.

Besides leading to the formation of bonding across borders, such interactions also vAs per the statement, the IAF Contingent will consist of five MiG-29s, two IL-78s, two C-130s and two C-17 aircraft. Personnel from the IAF's Garud Special Forces, as well as those from the Numbers 28, 77, 78 and 81 Squadrons will be participating in the exercise.

The IAF transport aircraft is also said to be providing airlift to approximately 150 personnel from the Indian Army as per the report. The exercise will also see participants from contingents from the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.