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Bengaluru on-a-go-slow

Amrutha G P

BENGALURU: Bengaluru, the thriving tech centre of India, grapples with a traffic problem that has come to represent the city's incredible rise in population.

The city police have enlisted the law and order police to assist their traffic counterparts in facilitating traffic flow during peak hours to address Bengaluru's notorious traffic bottlenecks. This recently garnered headlines during the recent turmoil on Outer Ring Road (ORR) ahead of the long weekend.

"You can't always have a free road, but traffic police are doing their best to control it and have taken all necessary steps to reduce traffic in congested places. Traffic occurs mostly because of metro constructions," said Inspector of Police, Rajendra Prasad (name changed).

The city's roadways are constantly congested with an increasing number of automobiles, which makes commuting difficult and raises stress levels among Bangaloreans.

"It took me precisely 30 minutes to get from KR Puram to Tin Factory on Tuesday, and I arrived quite late. This has happened before, and it often happens after the weekend and sometimes when people have very long weekends," said Sandhya, an IT Professional. Since the bikers are in a hurry, they ranch the side mirror of cars, she said.

Cauvery heats up, protests erupt in B'luru

Prajwal S K

BENGALURU: The Cauvery River water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been raging in the state for the past few weeks. Pro-Kannada organisations, farmer unions and political parties have called for back-to-back 'dharnas' at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru. The Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samithi, an umbrella outfit of farmers' associations and other organisations led by farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar, held a silent sit-in protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday, October 3.

On September 26, Bangalore witnessed a bandh against the decision of the Supreme Court on the Cauvery water issue. On the 29th of September, several farmer associations met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to discuss and immediately stop the release of water to Tamil Nadu, call a special



Protest by various associations

Prajwal S K

Legislative session and withhold the release until the crisis formula is implemented. Usha Mohan, AAP leader said, "The Cauvery Water Management Board is giving blind orders and unscientific decisions. The reason behind the protest is to request the Supreme

Court to abolish this board and create an independent functioning Election Commission-like Water Management Authority."

"The struggle is being neglected without taking the sentiments seriously. The chief minister has not announced a tough deci-

sion to stop the water supply. The movement started today will wake up the entire Bangalore City and lay a trap for the destruction of the government," Former MLA Mukhyamantri Chandru said. "The government is not aware of the plight of the common

people and is failing to do what it says. Therefore, a continuous movement is necessary. We have planned to hold continuous sit-in till 7th October," he added.

Speaking to The Beacon, Farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar criticised the state government. "Bangalore has already been shut down twice and we have warned the government. The government should be concerned about the poor farmers. But the government has not stopped flowing cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. I also regret saying that there is no action taken by the government."

Sahiti Talakadu Chikrange Gowda, convener of the Karnataka Water Conservation Committee Purushottam, Gurudeva Narayana, Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjith Kumaraswamy, Hattalli Devaraj and the leaders of several organisations like Vakil Kisan, Mohan, Usha Mohan participated in the protest.

Women in the Wild: Triumphant uncharted territory

Parvathi Nair

BENGALURU: "I did not get as much support from the males in my own field, very strangely I got a lot of support from the forest department that I was working with," said Vidya Athreya, Director of Wildlife Conservation Society India in conversation with her fellow panel members on Tuesday.

Vidya Athreya was joined by other female biologists at the Bangalore International Centre for the launch of the book "Women in the Wild" which is a collection of essays featuring women biologists of India.

While talking about the field being male-dominated, Athreya said that she seldom received the



Launch of "Women in the Wild"

Parvathi Nair

support of her male counterparts and that the field was mostly a boys' club at the time. "It's a road not as less travelled as it was in the 70s when I started doing fieldwork. This book will hopefully make a big difference" added Zai Whitaker, Managing Trustee, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. She also said that we should

think about setting aside several places for women in scientific institutions which could provide a lot more opportunities for women.

Ghazala Shahabuddin, Senior Adjunct Fellow, ATREE & Visiting Professor, Ashoka University said that by the 90s a lot more women came into the field. She also said that while

things have gotten better in terms of female participants in the field, in government institutions it's going in the opposite direction, it's mostly male-dominated. "I think because of age restrictions, a lot of women lose out on opportunities through government institutions," added Molecular Ecologist, Uma Ramakrishnan.

Purva Variyar, Conservation and Science Editor asserted that the idea of women in the field is still considered an exception from the norm. "Certain things which would make the workplace conducive for women are considered as a burden, as an extra expense when it should be normal", she added.

Textile mastery shines at CKP

Neenu M

BENGALURU: Aiding the legacy of textile mastery, Bengaluru witnessed Vastrabharana 2023, an attempt to promote textile craftsmanship and an all-India open platform for textile craftsmen to showcase their work.

In this era of online shopping, the Crafts Council of Karnataka (CCK), hosted the thirty-first edition of Vastrabharana as a fundraising event for reforming all craftsmen around the country at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath from September 28 to October 2.

"We conduct workshops; we also need money from our office and other things. We do a lot of enrichment programs and design development programs for the craftsmen, so we need money for that. So, this is our kind of fundraising which we use for them; to pump it back to them," pointed out Padmaja Sakhamuri, convener of the event and member of CCK, in conversation with the Beacon. It was first initiated by Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay in 1985, to keep the dying art of craftsmanship alive in the country, Sakhamuri added.

A writer's take on globalisation

Rhea Sundara Raju

BENGALURU: For the last three decades, the central point for change in the world has been globalisation, open market economy and technology. Without the infrastructure and the funding provided by globalisation, technology would not have survived nor would it have flourished as we see it today, said Vivek Shanbhag, author, editor and playwright on October 4, at the Bangalore International Centre. Vivek Shanbhag and Srinath Perur, Writer and translator came together for a discussion



The panel interacting with the audience

Rhea Sundara Raju

on Shanbhag's novel 'Sakina's Kiss', written in Kannada in 2021 and was recently translated into English by Perur. Shanbhag and Perur discussed the novel in depth while also highlighting the effect of globalisation on the world from a

writer's perspective. Writers find it difficult to ignore the major changes introduced by globalisation in our everyday lives as a sense of conflict accompanies it, said Shanbhag. "In literature, conflict is like a goldmine", he added.

An opportunity for artisans

Kiranmai

BENGALURU: The Artisans Bazaar exhibition aims to bring together talented artisans from various states, providing them with a platform to showcase and sell their artwork, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of India.

Artisans Bazaar takes place at Chitrakala Parishath from 29 Sept to 7 Oct, featuring artisans from different states exhibiting and selling their traditional handiworks. This exhibition is to repre-

sent the different cultures and works of all states to the public from various states including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

"Our 40-year-old handloom company is based in Kolkata; instead of trading with other companies, we have an NGO where a group of women weave the sarees," said a vendor. A saree takes at least a month to weave and costs between 700 to 15000. It is a collaborative work, he said.