

# THE BEACON

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## Does co-virus link cervical cancer?

**Afiya Amreen**

**CAMPUS:** Though there are quite a few reproductive cancers, such as vulvar, vaginal, and penile cancer, cervical cancer is the most prevalent one in India, said Dr Betty Daniel. Staging guides can aid doctors in assessing prognosis and selecting treatments, however, recent studies also examine the presence of co-virus particles that may trigger the development of cancer, she said. Dr Daniel is a cancer specialist with over three decades of experience working on cervical cancer cases.

On February 13, she was invited as the guest speaker at St Joseph's University by the Department of Botany to create awareness about the disease among students.

Speaking from her research study at AIIMS Delhi, she said, "We wanted to see whether there are any co-viruses associated with cervical cancer. HPV per se is not sometimes enough, because if your immune system is good. The presence of HPV alone can't contribute much to the development of cervical cancer."

Explaining how cervical cancer develops in the female, she highlighted, "The early stage of cervical cancer starts at the junction between the vagina and the early cervical region. The normal epithelial cells are changed into another type of epithelial cell. That itself is a great shift. This is the area, which is vulnerable to all the infections." She stressed the significance of recognising symptoms, particularly post-menopausal bleeding. "There should not be any bleeding from your cervix at all. If there is bleeding, immediately you'll have to go see the doctor. That is a

## Lack of vacancies hinder army recruitment process

**Navya Y**

The issue that is hindering the selection process of senior officers into the Indian Army is a lack of availability of suitable vacancies and not the intelligence of the personnel, say the army veterans.

Recently the army has ordered the IIM Ahmedabad to review its selection process and suggest changes to make it transparent. The study aims to improve the selection process of senior officers of the ranks of colonel, brigadiers, major general, and lieutenants among others.

Analysing the existing selection process followed by the Service Selection Board, recommendations deal with a novel procedure that will cut down on the time taken



Representational Image

Idrw.org

to evaluate candidates. The study focuses on deciphering the overall policy and examining the selection process by matching them with their technological skills and expertise.

"Firstly, The problem is that only 20% of those who apply for Colonel board positions are chosen. Two to three individuals may be chosen from each batch in the Colonel rank. To

solve this issue, the waiting period of 10 years should be reduced. The second thing is that the waiting should take place in the senior ranks and not in the junior ranks, and subsequently, the other ranks should be adjusted. In the rank of major, somebody who waits for seven years does not solve many purposes, whereas senior-rank officers will be able to contrib-

ute more positively. Adding to that, in terms of technological advancement, the augment of artificial intelligence and manufacturing procurement requires specialised skills and a specialist who can perform that particular task," said Col. Ramesh Choudary (name changed), Madras Regiment.

The two major aspects for army personnel are financial

and promotional. When the rank structures are made to command the troops, they also need to be improved. In such cases, the senior official should be promoted and the vacancies should be increased, he stated Col. Ramesh, while emphasising the importance of promotion and increasing the vacancies to enhance the selection process.

The Indian army is the largest and has the most manpower, with a service strength of around 1.2 million. The competition gets too intense by keeping a fixed number of vacancies at each rank. There are around 7,200 vacancies for these ranks, including around 90 vacancies for lieutenant generals, 300 major generals, 1,200 brigadiers, and 5,600 colonels.

## CM: First state to unveil empowerment initiatives

**Fiona Vaz**

Karnataka is the first state to introduce reservations in job promotions, said Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on February 11. Leases worth up to 1 crore are allocated to benefit the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.

In the state pre-budget discussion for the fiscal year 2024-25, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, addressed leaders of Dalit organisations, the Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission, and senior officers, highlighting the state's significant changes in its approach



CM addressing leaders of Dalit organisations

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to social and economic empowerment, acquiring nationwide attention.

With the CM depicting his government as a caretaker of the poor, he lashed

back at BJP leaders calling them out for their 'jealousy'. "The central government, which had refused to provide the rice required for the Anna Bhagya scheme,

is now selling the same rice under the brand Bharat. The Central government, which had refused to provide rice at Rs 33 per kilo when we asked, is now selling it at Rs 29 per kilo," he said.

By pointing out Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on the state policies, the CM lamented on how Kannadigas are "Tatsara" (negligent) for Shah. "Opposing the Kannada flag, and trying to impose Hindi, are all achievements of Amit Shah," he said mocking Shah.

With the elections approaching, the stage is set for narrative and counter-narrative by both the ruling and opposition parties.

## Police stress on helmet safety

**Kiranmai Basavaraj**

**BENGALURU:** The Bengaluru traffic police department is mooting on a rule that will make the usage of helmets mandatory for students older than six years to prevent accidents. A special drive was conducted by the traffic police in the city where 177 cases were reported around schools, said ACP Traffic police.

School children riding bikes without helmets in the city are being fined. The traffic police reported over 600 vehicles near schools and warned parents about letting minors drive without licenses.

Speaking to The Beacon ACP Anjali H (name changed) said, "Helmets are compulsory for school children who are above 6 years and not required for children under the age of six. It is improper to ride a bike with three or four school children without a helmet on."

During this initiative, they issued a directive highlighting the importance of helmets by advertising on TV channels to create awareness among the people and advised parents to ensure their kids wear helmets while biking to school and not ride with more than three children on a bike.

## Law's role in cultural evolution

**Unnati Mishra**

An understanding of an artist's intent is often difficult, as it is not the artist who exists but the artwork itself. To appreciate the beauty in Indian art, we must essentially focus on the maker's perspective, the language of poetry, the language of cinema, and especially when the artwork was created, opined Ganesh V Shivaswamy, a lawyer and author.

On February 10, Shivaswamy addressed 'Raja Ravi Varma: Law, Lawyers and Art', a talk show held at the Bangalore International Cen-

tre. He emphasised the legal fraternity's role in art and culture, examining whether these fields have converged or aided each other's evolution.

"We as the audience are not interested in what the artist thinks because the artist has made it and gone. And the only involvement when the artist is there is when he is making the picture. Post that, we are not supposed to look into what the intention is.

It's all centric to the viewer's intention. So the intentionality debate is a very interesting and emanates from here. Intentionality, intuition, and the

creative genius of the maker are the starting points, and then it moves on, and then it disappears somewhere. It's all about the viewer and how others look at it. This issue about religious images is particularly discussed in Volume 3 of Raja Ravi Varma: An Everlasting Imprint," he said.

Shivaswamy believes that law and art are not entirely apart since the entities have assisted each other and evolved simultaneously. Bringing these together can make us look some distance past what we see on the screen, he added.

## OPS reinstated in Sikkim

**Utsav Pradhan**

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has announced the restoration of the Old Pension System (OPS) for state government employees.

It was announced during the State Level Temporary Employees' Convention held at Public Ground Rangpo, Sikkim on February 9, marking a significant move ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections.

This decision, impacting employees appointed on or after April 1, 2006, positions Sikkim as a pioneer in the Northeast for reinstating

OPS. "It provides a sense of security and stability for my future retirement," said Ongchu Lepcha, a government school teacher.

The reinstatement of OPS is anticipated to positively affect retirement plans, offering superior benefits and financial security compared to the newer system. Despite the welcome news, concerns persist regarding administrative challenges during the transition. Many state employees view the decision as a step in the right direction while remaining cautious about its implementation.