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Call to boycott Muslim fruit vendors finds no takers

Fiza Ziyad
BENGALURU: After the Hijab row, Halal row and the restriction of non-Hindus on temple premises and festivities, yet another controversy has sparked in Karnataka as a Hindutva group in Bengaluru targeted Muslim mango traders. The group demanded that the wholesale market of mangoes should be dominated by Hindus. However, vendors opined that this new campaign to cause disharmony among communities would not be successful.

"I don't know why there is a lot of hatred based on religion and especially when it comes to matters like food. We (vendors) don't treat each other differently based on religion. At the end of the day, we are all here to sell our respective goods for our livelihood," said a Hindu fruit vendor in Bengaluru. The street where his shop is located is dotted with fruits and vegetable shops owned by people from different communities. Syed, a Muslim vendor from Bengaluru who sells mangoes in a pushcart said that he had encountered shopkeepers from other communities who were kind enough to give him shelter when it rained or when it got too sunny during the day. "In times of need, nobody questioned me about my name or religion. They were just helping a fellow trader," he added.

Flight bookings soar as airline industry bounce back

Gabriella Symms

As the summer season sets in firmly, bookings for flights have once again started gaining momentum. The travel and tourism industry is noticing a boom after the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Global Travel Trends Report by American Express Travel-based on data from several countries including India, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Australia- 91% of Indian respondents surveyed said they would like to book their dream vacation this year. Even though the rise in the cost of jet fuel has pushed ticket prices upwards, many

Threat to diversity of ideas raises concern

Madhu Mitha & Shriangana Pyne

A State-level webinar on how the dominance of one religion and marginalizing the other diverse cultures has led to an imbalance in the educational system of the country was held on 7th April by the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC).

Partha Majumder, a Professor from Kolkata spoke about his work and his issuing of rebuttal to IIT Kharagpur's claims. He said, "Forty years of my work has been towards studying DNA of individuals of various communities and trying to identify the mixing of communities." He explained, "Hindu Culture is not the only religion and should not be the only religion to be highlighted in the textbooks



Mr A Murigeppa, VC of Hampi University in a webinar

Special arrangement

for students. There has to be a change in the way the issues related to diversity are taught."

"First of all, we have to define what traditional knowledge is; ours is not just a multi-cultural

country. We have many sub-castes under the religion, people from different backgrounds if mandated to follow one particular spiritual script, then a resistance crops up," said, A Murigeppa,

the former Vice-Chancellor of Hampi University. "We should research and gain more knowledge before introducing any religious scripture into the textbooks," he added. KC Raghu, a Policy Ana-

lyst said that people have to choose what they want. He also advised the teachers not just to stick to the textbooks but to teach the students beyond that. Science is intoxicating to students; it is left to the teachers how to make the students understand. There should also be a balance between the textbooks and also what they teach outside of the syllabus.

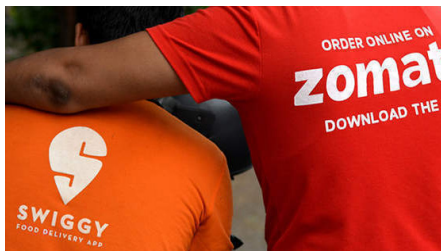
All the members, teachers and guests paid tribute to the late Dr. Rajesh Kohhar, the author of The Vedic Period. In the end, Bharat Kumar a teacher from Bijapur announced about the protest which will be held against commercialisation, Communalisation and corporatisation of education in Jantar Mantar, Delhi on May 9.

Food delivery apps on scanner for over-charging

Narayan B

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) will conduct a probe on Swiggy and Zomato which have attracted the ire of the customers and has raised questions on the functioning of these leading food delivery apps.

The probe was initiated in light of these apps being called "neutral" platforms. Chitra Baby, a regular customer of food delivery apps said, "I always had a feeling that there were some pricing problems with these apps but it became evident when this probe was initiated."



Representational image

TechCircle

Gayathry R, who is also a regular customer of online food delivery apps mentioned that she has noticed a few hotels charge nearly double the price of what you buy direct-

ly from the hotel. She further added that the apps favour a few brands over other hotels by manipulating the placement of the favoured brands on top. Harikes Menon, who

has been a customer of online food delivery since its inception said, "I do not think there is any fault in the over pricing of food on Zomato because they also need to make profit as the delivery fees are for the delivery partners."

While the probe was intended to focus on the neutralisation of the competition the reaction from the public is regarding how these apps are not being fair to customers and the hotels. These apps are deeply rooted in the lives of the public and is likely to become a big issue for both the apps and the public.

Now you can avail BMTC passes online, passengers happy

Sudha Ankita Ekka

BENGALURU: The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) passengers are in for good news as they never again need to stand in long queues to get passes. The BMTC has now introduced the purchase of daily, weekly and monthly passes on a mobile app in collaboration with Tummo, a company that offers online payment for transport service providers. The launch of the project took place at the BMTC central office in Shanthinagar on Wednesday.

A college student said, "I think it's a very good system that's coming into use. Usually, for students, it becomes a big deal to carry cash and buy tickets where sometimes we don't get the change back. With this system, we can go cashless which is a hassle-free ticket buying process. Now I wouldn't have to go to a bus stop to get a monthly pass if it becomes online."

Soyena, a daily passenger said, "I am happy with the step taken by the BMTC as we have to get caught up in the rush and the long queue for tickets, however now, we can easily purchase tickets through our phones."

The passes and tickets can be validated by tapping on the QR code scanner option on the app and scanning the conductor's code.

Coal crisis haunts the country yet again: Wither the solution?

Blessy Jeremy

A decrease in coal inventories in March has led to the worst electricity shortage India has faced since the last October's coal crisis. The rise in demand for power resulted in India cutting coal supplies to the non-power sector and putting fuel auctions on hold.

Mohan Hegde, CEO of SELCO Solar Light Pvt. Ltd, a rural sustainable energy service company, describes the challenges that India faces in shifting to alternate forms of energy as a solution to the decline in coal supplies.

"Energy consumption has increased by five to ten times in the last ten years. Hydroelectric power is not a good

option as there's insufficient rain and water sources. We are growing with atomic energy, but the nuclear plants coming up will not suffice. With solar energy, we have abundant supply but storage is the issue," he said.

Hegde mentioned that batteries for solar energy storage cost more and there is also the scope for distribution losses in the process of transporting electricity from the big power plants to mini grid systems and homes. Furthermore, solar panels in big plants need to be cleaned regularly for efficient energy consumption which brings us back to the issues of water scarcity and high costs.



Representational image

iStock

remain undeterred. Bengaluru travel enthusiast Mark says he would like to visit Vietnam this summer. "That was the plan in 2019 and I'm excited to finally make it happen. I also feel less afraid to travel now," he added. Chief Operating Officer

(COO) of MakeMyTrip, Vipul Prakash, as reported in The Hindu, said, "As per current data patterns on the MakeMyTrip platform, domestic travel bookings for leisure travel will hopefully surpass pre-Covid levels in the coming weeks."