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Group Captain who led the surgical strike at Balakot honoured with Vir Chakra

Arushi Srivastava

DELHI: Abhinandan Varthaman, a Group Captain at the Indian Airforce received the third highest gallantry award, Vir Chakra awarded by President Ram Nath Kovind in Rashtrapati Bhavan for shooting down the F-16, a Pakistani aircraft on Feb 27, 2019. The Vir Chakra was announced back in 2019. He was awarded on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Abhinandan was captured by Pakistani Army on the same day in 2019 in the aftermath of the Balakot strike carried out by the Indian Air force in response to the Pulwama attack in which 40 Indian soldiers martyred. He was

operating the MiG -21 Bison Jet which was shot down by Pakistani Air force during the dogfight.

Flight Lieutenant, Abhimanyu Kumar (name changed) said that he has done his job and valiantly done justice to the oaths that he took on the grounds of training academies. All juniors look up to him and he will be a source of inspiration to everyone.

Deep Pathak, a young defence aspirant told The Beacon, "I am proud that an IAF officer headed the surgical strike right after the Pulwama attack."

Wing Commander Rakesh Awasthi (name changed) told The Beacon, "Abhinandan is a great soldier who is serving his country with pride and dignity. His daring act



Abhinandan Varthaman receiving award from president Ram Nath Kovind

Instagram

behind the enemy's lines was deserving enough to receive this award." He further added, "The central government

is not providing sufficient funds for the defence sector, no wonder we are still using obsolete model aircraft. But

we are honoured by the fact that we train our pilots in the toughest condition and are ready for any challenges."

IT COs offering higher packages to freshers raises eyebrows

Madhu Mitha B S

BANGALORE: Due to the 'great resignation', IT companies in Bengaluru have gone on to recruit freshers, paying them better annual packages than the experienced employees were hitherto offered. The great resignation is a new situation post-pandemic in the IT industry that denotes a condition where experienced employees voluntarily are quitting their jobs due to the long commute and salary issues.

"Ever since the pandemic started, there has been a shortage of employees. People who have experience are resigning, and the freshers are in demand," said an IT professional who wished to remain anonymous.

"Even though the salary package remains a secret between the individual and the organization, it is evident that freshers are paid higher than the ones who have put their heart and soul into the company for many years. This unfair payment pushes the sincere workers to the edge," he added.

"Few companies have provided a hike to the old employees who raised a query about the situation. Due to market correction, the percentage of hike was also increased," said Umesh, a tech lead from Bengaluru.

India's top companies Infosys, Wipro, and Tata are recruiting fresh graduates, offering them a high package.

Zee News found guilty of violating the code of ethics

Shriangana Pyne

The News Broadcasting and Digital Standards (NBDSA) formerly called NBSA on Wednesday observed that the Zee News has violated the code of ethics last January when in their prime time show, Thal Thok Ke, the anchors linked the protesting farmers to Khalistani terrorists and dubbed the protest as an act of war against the state. It further directed the channel to take down the video from its website immediately.

"We looked into the complaint, response from the broadcaster and we also gave due consideration to the arguments of both the complainant and broadcaster after reviewing the footage," stated NBDSA.

The complaint was in respect of two programmes aired on the channel related to the farmer's protest. These programmes violated several of the NBSA guidelines.

The guidelines include among others that the reporting should not sensationalise an event, should not report an issue to stir a controversy or further the enmity between the groups, should correct the errors in facts at the earliest, and shall air the broadcast of the correct version of fact.

'Being in love not a consent for sex' order appreciated

Pushparaj

KERALA: Kerala High Court in a recent judgment stated that being in love does not account for consent for sex. The verdict is now being appreciated by the public all over the country. The apex court recently sentenced 26-year-old Syam Sivam, who was accused of forcing his partner for sexual intercourse in 2013. Justice R Narayana Pisharadi in the order stated that merely because the victim was in love with the accused does not mean that she had given him the consent for sex-



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ual intercourse. The accused was convicted under the sections 366 and 376 of Indian Penal Code. "The judgment given out by the Kerala High Court is absolutely correct and I believe that it would be

great if other states also incorporate it," said Farhana, an Asha worker from Karnataka. K Ashok Kumar, a lawyer at Chennai High Court said that the judgment needs to be appreciated. "This will protect

many victims from the toxic relationships," he added. Chennai High Court said that the judgment needs to be appreciated. "This will protect many victims from the toxic relationships," he added.

Candlelight vigil held in remembrance of trans-people

Siddhant Garud

BENGALURU: "Even after the courts in India have recognised the legality of transgender existence, there is a long battle to be fought. The courts' intervention might have helped in adopting the gender within the Aadhar card but the practicalities on the ground are very different," said Ayaan who was a part of the candlelight vigil that was organised by Alternative Law Forum on Saturday.

The candle light vigil was organized by various human

rights groups - the organisers of the yearly Namma Pride parade in Bangalore.

Swathi, a student who was part of the vigil talked about the hardships faced by transgender people and the importance of forming strong communities.

"The purpose of the vigil was to remember all who continue to face discrimination because of the flaws in the legal system, which with all the promises it makes, fails ultimately to sufficiently protect the rights of the transgender community," she said.

BJP stokes a controversy yet again

Bincy Joseph

KERALA: Just when the halal-certified Jaggery controversy is dying down a new controversy has erupted in Kerala over the halal food with BJP pitching for the closing down of the restaurants with Halal certification boards.

BJP's State President, K Surendran, stated that many hoteliers in Kerala are serving food that religious clerics have spit on to turn it into a halal food. In all the major cities of Kerala, halal boards have sprung up in hotels, he said.

According to CPM branch member of Thaneermukkam Panchayat, Jose P Jo-



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seph, "The halal controversy is stirred by Sangh-Parivar and its political arm, the BJP doesn't have any other vital issue concerning the common man to raise."

Haneef, the owner of Malabar fast food from Kannur,

said that this will hurt the Indian meat export industry and will pose serious threat to the foreign exchange earned by exporters. It also makes trade with Islamic nations in the Middle East difficult, he added.