

## National Seminar on 'Implementation of NEP-2020 in Karnataka' on Jan. 9



### Karnataka State Open University has organised a seminar on the implementation of NEP

Mysore/Mysuru: A one-day national seminar on "Implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 in Karnataka: Opportunities and Road Ahead," organised jointly by Karnataka Rajya Mahavidyalaya Shikshak Sangha – Mysore University Vibhaga; University of Mysore, Karnataka State Open University, Karnataka State Higher Education Council, Bengaluru and Centre for Educational

and Social Studies, Bengaluru, will be held on Jan. 9 from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm at Vijnan Bhavan, Manasagangothri in city.

The Karnataka Government is upbeat about becoming the first State in the country to implement the NEP and it is the right time to discuss on the implementation of NEP-2020 in Karnataka, to complement the process and vision of the Government in creating qual-

ity institutions, a culture of innovation, and a highly skilled workforce in the State.

The seminar offers platform for academicians, NGOs and policy-makers for discussion and exchange of ideas on effective implementation of NEP in the State, that would help to empower and support the higher education system. The papers must be original or unpublished.

## World Braille Day Observed on January 6th in Vignana bhavan



Mysuru/Mysore: Marking World Braille Day, Clean Mysore Foundation, Yuva Brigade, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and other organisations had organised a programme at Vijnana Bhavan in Manasagangothri here yesterday, where scholarship of Rs.10,000 each was distrib-

uted among 84 visually-impaired students.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Krishna Hombal, HoD of Political Science, University of Mysore (UoM), opined that the University should not just provide education for visually-impaired students but should also provide facilities.

### Best NSS Volunteer Awardees

Mysore/Mysuru: Two girls from city have been selected for Best NSS Volunteer Award in University of Mysore level for the year 2019-20.

Nivedita, a final year B.Com student of MMK and SDM Women College, Mysuru, had participated in the College camp, national integration camp, South Zone Inter-State March-Past Camp and Republic Day Parade held in January last year.

Lalitha, a final year B.Sc student, has bagged Prof. U. K. Subbarayachar Memorial Best NSS 'Swayamsevaki' Award. She has bagged several prizes in cultural competitions.

## Mysore University VC releases six books brought out by ORI



The VC of Mysore University releases six books brought out by the ORI (Oriental Research Institute) at a programme in Crawford Hall.

Mysore/Mysuru: University of Mysore (UoM) Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar released six books brought out by Oriental Research Institute (ORI) at a programme jointly organised by ORI and Prasanga at ORI near Crawford Hall here yesterday.

The books released were — 'Kavijana Kamadhenu Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar' (author – Dr. S. Shivarajappa), 'Siddasidhantha Padhathi' (edited by Dr. C. Parvathi), 'Ashwalakshanam' (edited by Dr. M. Geetha), 'Prof. H. Deverappa – Baduku Baraha' (author-G.N. Siddalingappa), 'Shree Chamundika Laghunigan-tu' (edited by S.C. Shobha) and 'Suryachandravamsanucharitham' (edited by Dr. Diddigi Vamshi Krishna).

Speaking after releasing the books, Prof. Hemantha Kumar said that ORI is a research Institute with a collection of very rare palm leaf manuscripts and paper manuscripts.

Pointing out that the ORI was established by the erstwhile Mysuru Maharaja Mumma-di Chamaraja Wadiyar in 1924, he said that the ORI now has a collection of more than 70,000 works in Sanskrit and Kannada, with 222 of them under publication by the University's Prasanga.

Noting that the Prasanga has so far published over 2,800 works of different languages, he said that the Prasanga has created a record of sorts at the University level in the country for its publication of English, Sanskrit and Kannada editions of very rare palm leaf and paper manuscripts.

### Managing Coronavirus in Schools and Universities

Mysore/Mysuru: University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar and Research Scholar Dr. Naveen Mourya are teaming up with international scientists Vishal Dineshkumar Soni from the Department of Information Technology, Campbellsville University and Dr. Syed Baker, Krasnoyarsk State Medical University, Russia, to address the management strategy of COVID-19 at Universities and Schools.

The team is coming up with Novel Social Distancing Device. This device is intended to be used in the classrooms at ed-

ucational institutions around the world. With COVID-19, the device is a marvel of scientific excellence and it is backed by the principles of thermal sensing and artificial intelligence. Vishal Dineshkumar Soni, one of the three co-inventors of this device, while talking about its features and benefits, said: "The device is completely automatic and it will not only be monitoring the social distance between students in a classroom, but its thermal sensing ability will also be helpful to identify tentative suspects infected by COVID-19."



## Himalayan Impasse | India-China standoff

In the Depsang Plains and at three other spots, including the shores of the picturesque boomerang-shaped Pangong lake. The incursions led to a violent skirmish in the Galwan Valley on June 15 in which 20 Indian soldiers, including the commanding officer Col. Santosh Babu, were killed. An unknown number of PLA soldiers were also killed in the melee, the largest clash between the two sides since the 1967 Nathu La and Cho La skirmishes in Sikkim. A countermove in late August saw Indian Army special forces, including ethnic Tibetan fighters, occupying strategic heights south of the lake, overlooking Chinese positions. Nearly eight months later, the two armies are locked in a standoff, with close to 100,000 soldiers from both sides deployed at extreme altitudes of

over 12,000 feet. At some locations, such as Rechin La which army chief General M.M. Naravane visited during a recent tour of the frontlines, troops and tanks on either side are just a few hundred metres apart.

What has beguiled New Delhi is that despite India sitting out of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road initiative and protesting the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), relations between the two countries were better than they had been in years, seemingly helped by personal summits between President Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The second summit, at Mamallapuram, was in fact held just seven months before the May incursions. One key government official believes Beijing's belligerence was as much about safe-

guarding Chinese interests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as it was about showing New Delhi that China is Asia's pre-eminent power. India has indicated it will accept nothing less than a restoration of the ground situation as it existed on April 2020. It has hit back with a series of economic measures aimed at restricting Beijing's access to Indian markets from smartphone apps to Chinese telecommunication equipment. Foreign minister S. Jaishankar has called relations between India and China "significantly damaged" and said the only way they can improve is if China pulls back its troops. Even as both sides hunker down through a brutal winter, the next year will see who blinks first.

## Why women stay silent about sexual harassment in public spaces

"I still remember a man sitting next to me in a public bus gradually slipping his hand under my frock. I was in class 3 then. Of course, I did not know what to make of it but I can still relive the discomfort I felt that day. It was over the years that I realised such kind of violation would be a life-long challenge." – 32-year-old working woman from Delhi

"I was going to college in a crowded metro. I could feel a man brush his genitals against my back. As it was crowded, I was afraid to speak up as I had often seen girls being asked to get off the train if they had 'too much problem'. I was feeling guilty for not speaking up but I also didn't want to be late for class so I kept my calm. I shared this story with my mother and she said that while she was feeling sorry and angry at the same time, it was something that I needed to be prepared to keep facing throughout my life." – 24-year-old student from Kolkata

Such incidents are commonly experienced by most Indian women who travel in public transports. A woman's immediate reaction in such a case would be to try her best to avoid physical contact with the perpetrator, be it by leaving

her seat or shifting within the crowd. But why not raise her voice? That is because even if she does, it is quite likely that she might find herself all alone in her fight, humiliated amid a group of muted bystanders. Women, from a young age, are taught to live with such 'minor' incidents of harassment; while getting habituated to deep-rooted patriarchy, even the older females in the family often end up ignoring it and expect their younger generation to do the same.

What if the police refuse to file FIR? "Firstly, she can write an application to the judicial magistrate under Section 156(3) of CrPC, who will then direct the police to lodge the FIR and commence an investigation. Secondly, if a woman has sufficient evidence to prove the incident then she can file a complaint case under Section 191(a) CrPC. Thirdly, a woman can directly approach the High Court of the concerned state under the purview of inherent powers vested to the court by Section 482 CrPC. Fourthly a woman can directly approach the Superintendent of Police under Section 154(3) CrPC," Singh says.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Abolish free time to political parties on public-broadcasters

Sir, Prasar Bharti should abolish practice of giving free time to political parties on Doordarshan and All India Radio (Akashvani) during election-season.

Practice started in an era when only these two public-broadcasters were there with no private Television-channels and radio-network existing has lost relevance because political parties afford huge money in election-campaign on private TV news-channels and other modes of communications.

Otherwise also since political parties are not complying with full-bench CIC-verdict

holding them under purview of RTI Act, it is senseless to provide such indirect government-funding to political parties in form of precocious time on Doordarshan and All India Radio (Akashvani).

### Education only solution to eradicate superstition

Sir, The refers to the report, 'Religious heads demand law against superstition No law against such beliefs will remove such acts by people, only continuous education of people starting in schools and colleges and self help groups could bring about a change. Superstitions are prevalent in all religions and across nations.

Beliefs which cause dangers

to others should be prohibited by law. Going to places such as temples/churches/mosques/gurdwaras are on individuals belief and does not cause problems to others. Prostrating before deities and gurus can not be superstition. Education on these is the solution and not law.

### Students prefer board exams over CCE

Sir, This refers to the report 'Students want board exams back' The students' suggestion that they want the board examinations back need be considered seriously.

Despite several reported drawbacks, the board exams have the potential to orient the students towards a better academic achievement, and

is a better assessment method than the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation process.

Ideally, no doubt, CCE is the best form of assessment. But one has to genuinely doubt, as the students have learnt, the success rate of this method for several obvious reasons in the prevailing scenario in the education sector in the country. Similarly the students are right in opting for the marking system over the grading pattern. After all, grading, as followed in our system, is done after evaluating the answer scripts based on marks.

What is probably needed is to strengthen and refine the board examination system by plugging the loopholes at var-

ious stages of the process.

### Capital Aberration

This is a rebuttal to the editorial 'Capital Aberration' published in The Times of India on August 6, 2020. Referring to the examination of Prof Apoorvanand by Delhi Police in connection with the February riots in North-East Delhi, the author castigates the investigating agency for spinning "a deceptive narrative". It is difficult to comprehend how the lawful examination of a person is "absurd and self-defeating".

The sub heading of the article claims that Delhi Police was shamed by the rioters – nothing could be farther from the truth.



## The gap between Karnataka's SDG action plan and decision-making

Karnataka is ranked as one of the most dynamic states, with an enviable economic growth rate. Governments staunchly promote economic growth justifying it by claiming that this growth would enable them to spend much more on essential services and the welfare of their citizens. But one will be shell-shocked to note that a mere 2.03% of the state's GSDP is being spent on essential services -- 1.85% on education, 0.18% on health and a minuscule 0.0031% on social protection as of 2017-18. These figures can be found in none other than the recently released Vision Document 2030 on Karnataka's Strategy and Action Plan to achieve

the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. Goal-wise indicators, targets and monitoring systems have been set, along with the budget requirements for achieving the goals. The state has the ambitious hope of raising the spending on education to 6%, on health to 3% and on social protection to 3.5% of GSDP by 2030, bringing the total spending on essential services to 12.5%. It is estimated that Rs 9.87 lakh crore would be required over the next 10 years to meet the SDGs -- Rs 1.99 lakh crore more than current spending.

To achieve SDG 1 -- 'no poverty' -- the Karnataka government hopes to identify the

poor as per the comprehensive Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for which data is available as of 2015-16. Also, for Goal 1, 11.5 million households are to be covered under Ayushman Bharat scheme and maternity benefits. But there are nine social security benefits to be provided under ILO Convention No. 102 and not just these two benefits. In fact, the Social Security Code does not universalise social security at all and has practically nothing for the 93% unorganised workers. While all those with MGNREGA job cards are to be covered, there is no similar provision for an Urban Employment Guarantee. There is also no significant provision

for increasing land ownership by the landless, which is a sure way of removing poverty.

What is curious is that all anti-poverty measures appear to be limited to the extension of existing government schemes, with no obligations on the private sector, where most of the 93% informal sector workers are employed. Thus, raising the Minimum Wage would be the surest way of meeting several SDG goals, especially those on reducing poverty, inequality and malnourishment. But sadly, the document states that agricultural labour wages, along with DA, was Rs 3,169 per month as of 2018, which the Action Plan hopes to increase to Rs 4,500 by 2030.

This is way below the Rs 18,000 set by the Seventh Pay Commission in 2016 itself as the need-based minimum wage. A 2019 UN Report of the 'Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development' says that combating inequality and achieving the SDGs will require addressing of the "falling wage share". Further, the new Labour Codes dilute all labour laws, making achievement of Goal 8 on 'decent work' a mirage. The most crucial question is whether there will be political 'buy-in' for the SDG Action Plan.

**By: Srigiri B.S**



## Fairy tales teach kids morality

Increasing numbers of parents in recent years have avoided reading classics such as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" to their children because of concerns that they stereotype minority groups. However, child development expert Sally Goddard Blythe has said fairytales, including "Rapunzel" and "Cinderella", are crucial to children's development, reports the Telegraph. They nurture moral behaviour and show young people the strengths and weaknesses inherent in human nature, by contrasting good and evil, rich and poor and vanity and valour, she said.

In her new book "The Genius of Natural Childhood", Blythe argues that while fairytales may tackle difficult issues and prepare them for life in the

real world. "They also enlist children's innate wish for good to triumph," she said.

"Fairytales help to teach children an understanding of right and wrong, not through direct teaching, but through implication. They help to develop imagination and creativity and they help children to understand their own emotional dilemmas in an imaginative way rather than through direct instruction," said Blythe, director of the Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology in Chester.

"When you don't give children these stereotypes of good and bad, you don't give them a moral code on which to start to develop their own lives," she added.

"Far from demonising the dwarfs, the story of Snow

White shows that underlying the physical diversity there can be greater kindness and generosity than is found in the stereotypes of beauty and wealth so lauded by celebrity-worshipping cultures," she writes in the book.

"These stories are not cruel and discriminatory; rather they help children to understand, firstly, the quirks and weaknesses of human behaviour in general, and secondly, to accept many of their own fears and emotions," she added. Blythe argued that children do need to learn that life isn't always easy or fair and that there is "joy and sadness, love and loss, growth and degeneration".

**By: Srigiri B.S**

## Book review

### The Chipko Movement: A People's History' review: When nature speaks out

Life of struggle

Chipko evolved as a response to wanton environmental degradation. "In this northern State, though nature can be found at its most beautiful, its spartan and frightening aspects are seldom obscured. The homes of peasants and small-town dwellers frequently nestle in sylvan and foliage-full environments, but the people within them mostly live a life of hard struggle. The past two centuries have seen an onslaught on local resources, and this has led to the present economy of dependence," writes historian Shekhar Pathak in his account of the Chipko movement.

The epigraph reads: "for all our communities who know most truly the many meanings in our forests." It is not surprising that Pathak's interest in the relationship between forests and communities emerged organically out of his years of work on the oppressive feudal and colonial system of forced labour known as 'begaar'.

A fascinating section of the book tells of Uttarakhand's early forest struggles, which were inextricably linked to people's quest for livelihood and dignity. After taking power from feudal rulers, colonial officials began to expect the same free labour and supplies from local people that the feu-

dal rulers had demanded. But there had been sporadic protests against 'begaar' through the 19th century. In 1903, villagers in Almora refused to provide free labour and provisions to officials. Despite fines, they fought the matter up to the High Court. A 1910 editorial in The Garhwali wrote about the constitution of reserved forests by the colonial government, pointing out that until then, the forests had only been used for the benefit of the people. In 1918, at the Provincial Council, lawyer and editor Tara Dutt Gairola spoke about coolie 'begaar' and forest rights, quoting the bitter words of a Kumaoni soldier from the war in Europe: "We are fighting here to protect the Empire while our brothers are bearing the misery of begaar and the forests."

In independent India, forest issues became central in hill society and politics by the 1960s. The forest question came up repeatedly in the Legislative Assembly. Indramani Badauni, the legislator from Devprayag, spoke of how contractors were ruthlessly chopping down even unmarked trees.

In the story of Chipko, everything is profoundly interconnected: livelihood, sustainability, equity, and dignity.

**By: Srigiri B.S**



## Demanding better facilities and food, Gangothri Hostel students stage snap stir



Mysore/Mysuru: Alleging lack of civic amenities and poor quality of food, over a hundred students of the Old and New Post-Graduate (PG) Men's Hostels at Manasagan-gothri staged a snap stir near Kuvempu Statue at the entrance to the campus from Bogadi Road side this morning.

Claiming that the inmates of the old and new hostels were served food at the common Dining Hall in the old PG hostel, giving a go by to physical distancing norms and other COVID-19 protocol, the protesters alleged that despite several representations to the hostel authorities, they are being served with sub-standard food, with go by given to daily menu.

Also, the hostels lacked civic amenities such as drinking water and sanitation facilities, they alleged and urged the authorities to immediately address the issues raised by

them, considering their health and safety.

They also demanded that they be provided with laptops as promised by the Government.

Upon coming to know of the snap stir, University of Mysore (UoM) Registrar (Administration) Prof. R. Shivappa and Student Welfare Officer S.T. Ramachandra visited the spot and assured the protesters that the issues raised by them will be addressed in a couple of days, following which the stir was withdrawn.

The protest was led by UoM Research Students Association leader Maridevaiah and others.

Meanwhile, Registrar Prof. Shivappa, speaking to Star of Mysore this morning, said that the hostel students have submitted a memorandum seeking better quality food and adequate drinking water. They have also demanded distribution of laptops to everyone as

promised by the Government and also to re-open the shut gate facing Hunsur Road beside a vehicle show room, he said.

Stating that practical measures will be taken to address the issues raised by the hostel students, he said that the distribution of laptops has to be done by the Government.

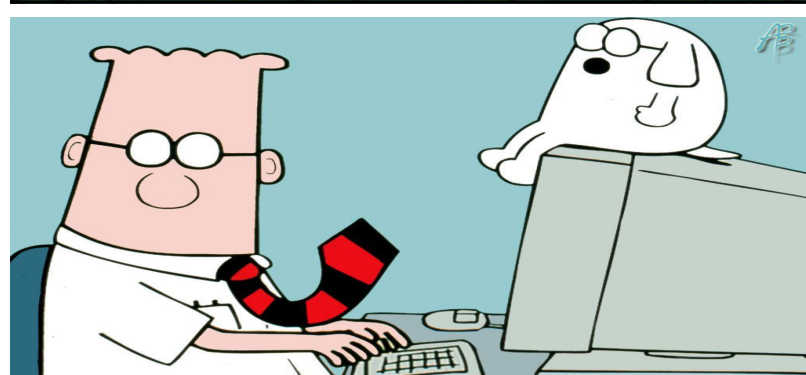
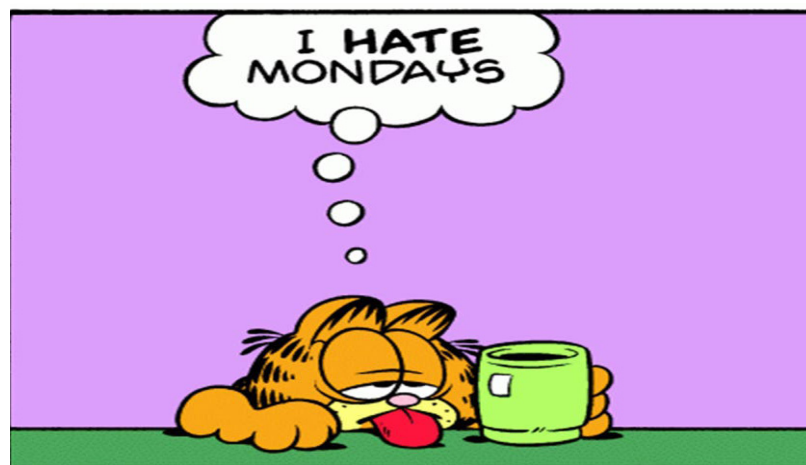
Maintaining that the University has written to the Government in this regard a couple of times, he said that, however, the University too is looking at other ways of laptop distribution from its side.

In respect of the demand for a separate kitchen, he said that the University has planned a centralised kitchen system to cater to the needs of students and added that the University will take all possible measures to ensure the safety, security and health of all students.

**By: Srivalli Rattehalli**



India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and is 'serious'.



## Movie review

### Mission Mangal review: Celebration of desi science



Cast: Akshay Kumar, Vidya Balan, Tapsee Pannu, Kirti Kulhari, Nithya Menen  
Director: Jagan Shakti

Rating: Two and a half stars

Pooris, plastic and cushion covers are what Mars dreams are made of. Under Akshay Kumar, India's frugal mission to the red planet is more home science than rocket science. No complaints. Even APJ Abdul Kalam dials up from the stratosphere to say shabash. So our humble PSLV carries an even humbler satellite and tons of technology derived from pooris that turn fluffy even when the gas stove is off, sail boats that adorn our cushion covers, and the all-withstanding plastic we casually throw into the oceans.

Most of the eureka moments in Mission Mangal are contributed by the five graceful women on Akshay's team. Project lead Vidya Balan is a Mommy Cool who finds a perfect foil in husband Sanjay Kapoor (Dad Paranoid).

Nithya Menen has serious mom-in-law issues while Kirti Kulhari fails to find accommodation because of her Muslim

surname. Tapsee Pannu is the biggest challenge on Indian roads; she mistakes her driving teacher's nether regions for a gear lever. Sonakshi Sinha fares better. She smokes and sleeps around.

All these scientists are scooped out of their comfortable ISRO projects and huddled into MOM (Mars Orbiter Mission). The journey is feel-good, but the science is all cardboard, with the lay person in mind. Sigh, the viewers deserve smarter bites. Instead, what they get for a villain is NASA-returned Dalip Tahil who is quick to tsk-tsk anything Indian.

And all this while, Akshay Kumar hums and butchers old Hindi songs. Nutty scientist, got it?

The mission looks amateurish but one must agree a tricolour in space, at the end of it all, lights up the whole show.

Wait, the show isn't over yet. As the end credits roll, Modi makes an appearance and stakes his claim to a project launched by Manmohan Singh.

Mission hijacked.