

# THE BEACON

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## Cyber justice needs human oversight

Yashaswini J

**BENGALURU:** Artificial intelligence cannot independently or accurately determine cybercrime with complete reliability along with the expectations of a hundred percent success rate is not possible, says Pranav MB, Governing society member at the Centre for Internet and Society, Bengaluru. Karnataka is planning to establish an AI Integrated cyber command centre to detect online fraud, monitor cybercrime trends and improve efficiency across the State.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Pranav said, "AI cannot independently apply cyberlaw or determine criminal activity with complete accuracy". He added "even trained professionals do not achieve perfect results, making hundred percent success is technically unrealistic". He further noted that cybercrime is not uniformly defined, which complicates AI system training. Reliable AI performance depends on a well structured data set, but in India limited enforcement and inconsistent reporting makes such datasets difficult to establish.

About privacy concerns, Pranav clarifies that AI can be trained using de-identified or non-personal data, but different categories of personal data carries different levels of sensitivity and it must be handled responsibly, he said. He further stated that, if he is designing the cyber command system, it would not primarily depend on AI but would focus on training the different government teams to identify the cyber offence and educate citizens particularly the vulnerable groups such as elderly individuals and children.

## Bengaluru strike protesters taken to Adugodi

Sheza C & N Rishika

**BENGALURU:** On Thursday, thousands of workers from different sectors across Bengaluru came together at Town Hall for a protest, only to be detained by the police and taken to Adugodi.

The protest was collectively called by several central trade unions demanding the withdrawal of the four labor codes. The 29 existing codes were replaced by the four labor codes, and merged into the Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code, Occupational Safety Code, and Code on Social Security.

Srikanth, a labor worker who participated in the protest, expressed his dissatisfaction with the police reaction while talking to *The Beacon*. "If we are not even allowed to ask for our rights, then



Protesters gathered in front of the Town Hall

Sheza C

what kind of fundamental rights do we have?" He further said that the new labor codes would directly affect workers like him and they fear that the working hours will increase more than the current eight-hour shift. According to him, this fear, combined with the workplace restrictions, makes it worse for the workers who are already paid less. "Most of us earn between 20000 to 30000

Rupees is not enough to manage the living costs in Bengaluru," he added.

Harsha, another protestor, expressed concerns about the lack of government support for the protest. "The government won't permit us. But regardless of that, we will still protest." He further stated that even if they are taken to Freedom Park or Adugodi, the protestors would continue

to raise their voices from there. The detained protestors, even after being arrested, continued to raise slogans against what they described as the "anti-worker" policies introduced by the Central government.

In contrast, the police officials said they were posted at the venue as a precautionary measure and to avoid any situation going out of control.

Tippaswami, a police officer present at the precinct of the Town Hall said, "We are here for their protection. If any riot kind of situation arises, they will be moved." He added that the force had moved the protestors as a part of their crowd-control measures.

As per the official release of the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), the trade unions have constantly been on the path of agitation against the "anti-worker" policies of the Centre. They have, in the past, put out statements against the central government regarding the same. However, no considerable measures have been taken by the government and this reaction to the protest might add more fuel to the already existing unrest among the workers.

## Workers stay offstage despite 'farm to cup' promise

Joswin Pereira

**BENGALURU:** The India International Coffee Festival 2026, announced as a 'farm-to-cup' celebration, drew thousands of visitors on its first day at Chamara Vajra in Bengaluru on January 12, putting roasters, brands and baristas in the spotlight but leaving the labourers who pick and process coffee largely confined to posters and video loops.

Dr N K Pradeep, who runs training programs for growers and labourers, said healthcare was a key challenge, blaming low awareness and motivation due to easy access to cheap liquor. Yet he called labourers



Stalls at IICF-2026, Bengaluru

Joswin Pereira

"one of the major links in the coffee chain," adding, "Without workers there will be no plantation... They should also be allowed to come and present their views."

Karthik Aiyer, a commercial grower from Tamil Nadu, opined that

labourers are the "spine" of plantations. He argued that only long-term staff should be showcased, saying, "Good coffee sales will come from good practices and good practices make good labourers... When the boss profits naturally, it goes to the

labourers." But, he added, the effect of the open market, which has "decentralised" cultivation, leaves labourers with only seasonal work. It prompts estates to hire cheaper migrant workers from northern India between November and February.

At festivals like these, built around the journey from 'farm to cup,' the people who harvest the cherries are still struggling to secure a place on stage. Their labour is celebrated in branding and visuals, but their voices are absent from the conversation, panels and decision-making spaces.

## Crow deaths in Chennai trigger surveillance

Vedasmrithi RR

**D**espite being one of the most resilient bird species, crows in Chennai are dying in large numbers, prompting doctors to question why a bird like this is being affected while other species remain untouched.

Laboratory tests have confirmed H5N1 avian influenza in crow samples and Dr. Isaac C.B, said that the pattern is unusual. He called for wider testing across multiple species and laboratories by pointing out that if H5N1 is the sole cause, the other birds should also be showing symptoms as crows are considered to have rich immunity compared to others.

He also said that H5N1 is a highly pathogenic influenza A virus that mainly affects birds and rarely humans. In humans, symptoms may include fever, cough, breathing difficulty and body pain, particularly among those with asthma or weak lungs. Human to human transmission remains rare.

Dr. Issac reassured that there is no immediate danger to the people. However, he urged the officials to keep a close watch and advised the public to follow basic safety hygiene and precautions.

## Euphoria: not just a crime story

Shanmitha SJ

**Euphoria** (2026), directed by Gunasekhar, is a social drama inspired by the 2022 Jubilee Hills pub case in Hyderabad. This film focuses on drug use among youth, parenting failure, and the importance of consent, "no means no". It shows that one mistake can change many lives and raises the question of who's responsible when children make mistakes.

The story follows Vikas, a school student who is spoiled by his parents and surrounded by friends who are influenced by



A poster of the film Euphoria

BookMyShow

drugs and pub culture. And one day it leads to a gang rape case, which changes many lives.

This film not only explores the crime, but it also explores emotional aftermath, guilt, and the role of families in shaping their children's lives. In the first half, a quote pinned on her notice

board reads, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it," showing the film's central message.

The second half undermines the film's tension, but overall it remains engaging and reflects justice and the possibility of transformation.

## New board system raises questions

Dimple Maria

**T**he introduction of the two-attempt board examination system by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has sparked mixed reactions, with many students considering the second attempt as a backup option rather than a main plan, raising questions about whether the reform reduces stress or extends academic pressure.

Under the new policy, Class 10 students can appear for board examinations twice in an academic year, with the best score being considered final. It is meant to reduce

exam anxiety and encourage competency-based assessment.

Mohammed Fizan, a class 10 student, said he is focused on performing well in the first attempt and sees the second examination only as a backup. He said, "preparing for the same syllabus again within two months feels repetitive and mentally draining... It can increase the stress period instead of reducing it."

However, the policy reduces the fear of failing, giving students emotional security in case of underperformance, he added.

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