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Introduce childcare during exams in private sector: employees

Vedasmriti P R

BENGALURU: A recent Karnataka High Court judgment expanded childcare leave (CCL) for government employees, not only for exam days but also for preparation days, triggering discussions over lack of similar support for private-sector parents.

The ruling clarifies that CCL should cover pre-exam dates when children need parental guidance. It benefits public employees under service rules, but many private employees do not have access to such provisions.

Rekha Vinod, a private sector parent, says the decisions could make a difference for working parents. "Board exams are an important phase... having the option of the child care leave would help parents balance work and their child's academic needs better," she said.

However, her workplace only provides maternity and paternity leave. "If my child needs support during exams or illness, I usually take casual leave, sick leave, or sometimes work from home," she added. Unlike structured government CCL, private sector parents often have to adjust their work schedules during crucial academic times.

Activist Tanveer Ahmed, from Bengaluru, welcomed the ruling as a "positive step towards recognising worker rights and the importance of parental support in education." However, he pointed out the limitation of the ruling.

Waste segregation is about discipline: residents

Angel Hannah & Dimple M



Representational image

Deccan Herald

BENGALURU: As the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) moves to introduce a two-dustbin rule to improve waste management, paying guest (PG) accommodations and rental housings face challenges and complications in implementing the policy. Dwelling units with more than two floors are soon required to keep at least two waste collection bins on its premises. The proposal was announced by GBA

commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Tuesday at the east corporation public meeting.

Although this new mandate seems like a step in the right direction for waste management, its implementation remains uncertain. In a city that produces nearly 6,000 tonnes of solid waste every day, managing segregation continues to be a major challenge. Building owners say they are concerned

about operational costs and uncertainty in effectiveness.

According to Susheela, a rental building owner in Bengaluru, PGs and student housings generate significantly more waste compared to family households. "Students usually don't follow waste segregation. I haven't seen many of them doing it properly until today," she commented. According to her, concerns over the

additional operational cost to implement this new mandate might go wasted if tenant behaviour does not change. She also added that the timings of waste collection are problematic for many residents, leading to inconvenience in the issue of waste disposal.

Sr Mary Philip, hostel warden of St Joseph's University Bangalore, echoed similar concerns, stating that it is more a matter of discipline than disposal mechanism. "Students prefer doing things easily and don't always take the trouble of segregating waste properly," she added. Devi, a PG resident in Bengaluru, made similar observations while talking to *The Beacon*. "It's harder for waste segregation in PG than in an apartment since it's a common area and everyone has to follow it uniformly." According to her, the consistency in waste

management is also affected by regular changes of tenants.

The two-dustbin rule still remains a proposal, with little information available about its implementation. Most residents are not yet aware of it. Susheela said, "There has been no clear guidelines from the authorities about how to implement the rule." The GBA has not yet released any instructions or clarifications on how the rule will be implemented or whether it will apply across Bengaluru.

While implementation remains uncertain, the proposed rule could help address several waste management issues faced by both residents and waste collection workers. However, without proper awareness and collective actions, building owners and residents fear that the new rule may not contribute much to improving the situation.

Raise pension to 5,000: rural women protest

Sheza C & Joswin

BENGALURU: On Thursday, around 500 rural women from 21 districts across Karnataka sat in protest at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, demanding for 200 days of guaranteed work and an increase in pensions for widows, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

Protesters said that the rollback of the recent changes in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has affected the rural employment scheme, by stripping workers of their power and rights.

At the heart of the protest was social security, with members of the All-India Democratic



Women protesting at Freedom Park

Joswin

Women's Association (AIDWA) demanding that pensions be raised to Rs 5,000, while beneficiaries currently receive Rs 600 to Rs 1,200 a month.

The protestors marched to the legislature, while drawing attention to issues of rural unemployment, women's welfare, and social security. They urged the government to

address these concerns as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is set to present the State budget on Friday.

They also pointed out that states such as Kerala and Andhra Pradesh offer higher benefits. "How do you live with BP, sugar and rising prices on Rs 800?" asked Devi Kumary, secretary of AIDWA, adding that it is a question of dignity rather than charity.

The agitation also targets micro-finance practices, with protestors demanding low-interest bank credit and laws to curb coercive recovery methods. They also called for a special investigation into murders, rapes and "unnatural deaths" linked to Dharamsthala-based institutions, and implementation of laws against honour killings and sexual violence.

According to Jayachandra Kumari, a protester, atrocities and sexual violence against women and children are increasing.

Additionally, Karnataka's flagship free-bus scheme came under scrutiny, with women from villages saying that "zero-fare" travel rarely reaches their routes.

Know your rights, women told

Rishika N

BENGALURU: Women should know that the law protects them because empowerment begins with awareness, said advocate Ruth Anila from Bengaluru, urging women to be confident and claim their rights. She said equality is a constitutional guarantee that should be understood and exercised.

The talk on women's empowerment was organised by the Women's Cell of St Joseph's university in collaboration with the institutions innovation Council on Thursday as part of the Women's week celebrations.

During her talk, she explained that article 15 of the Constitution allows the government to create provisions for women and children to protect them from discrimination. Anila also spoke about the contributions of women who helped shape India's Constitution and mentioned the judiciary, including Justice R. Bhanumathi and Justice Fathima Beevi who have played an important role in delivering landmark judgments.

The session encouraged students to engage in conversations about equality and leadership while inspiring them to contribute to an inclusive society.

Too many applicants for few seats, say UPSC aspirants

Yashaswini J

BENGALURU: For many government job aspirants preparing for competitive exams like UPSC, IAS or IPS, the cost of application forms is not the real issue. The biggest concern points to limited number vacancies and the growing competition among candidates, says Sharath Manjunath, a Bengaluru based UPSC aspirant.

This comes after MP Raghav Chadha recently raised the issue of refunding exam fees for candidates when recruitment exams are cancelled or affected by irregularities. He argued that aspirants should

receive refunds in such cases.

"The application fee for most candidates is around Rs 200, while women and those from certain reserved categories are exempted from paying it," Manjunath said. However, the major expense concerns the preparation process. Coaching classes, test series and study material can cost nearly Rs 50,000 a year. "Before I started my preparation, I was working and earning around Rs 60,000 a month", said Manjunath, adding that quitting his job to focus on the exam has been a financial sacrifice.

Subedar: Anil Kapoor shines as former soldier

Sneha L

Subedar, directed by Suresh Triveni, shows a raw portrayal of Arjun Maurya (Anil Kapoor), a retired army subedar facing his rough hometown after years of service, only to find out that his hometown was controlled by sand mafia. As the story unfolds, family problems get mixed with local corruption, and Arjun ends up facing powerful gangsters like Prince (Aditya Rawal) and jailed gang leader Bibli Didi (Mona Singh).

The film builds a strong emotional core by showing Arjun returning home and trying to reconnect with his family. It slowly brings out his strict discipline that clashes with the corrupt world outside the army.

The story moves smoothly in the first half. It builds the quiet paternal longing, especially in Arjun's growing bond with his daughter Shamyra (Radikka Madan), while violence around him keeps increasing that tests his old soldier instincts.

Kapoor's acting shines through his internalised fury, shown in tired looks and short brawls, backed by Saurabh Shukla's steady support as a loyal friend and Mona Singh's chilling calmness as the crime boss.

The ending of the film feels too dramatic, making the rural crime look unreal and too loud. Society is shown old-style, bad local against good soldier, without showing real issues like poverty or how the sand mafia really works.