

# THE BEACON

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## Seasonal flowers attract public

**Yashaswini J**

**BENGALURU:** What began as a small experiment seven years ago has now grown into a vibrant platform to teach, engage and spark curiosity at Cubbon Park's flower show. Dr Jagadeesh, additional director of horticulture (Parks and Gardens), said this year's show is not just about putting flowers on display but about creating a space where learning blends naturally with entertainment.

Cubbon Park will be at its brightest for the 11-day flower show, running from November 27 to December 7. The show is open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, drawing early morning walkers, families and students. Featuring varieties of flowers and plants, winter favourites and themed arrangements, the park carries a different kind of energy.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Dr Jagadeesh said the flower show includes 150 stalls offering everything from rare fruits to eco-friendly products and gardening essentials. Students can walk through sections featuring military equipment, sculptures and a range of plant varieties.

Saplings for the show were sourced from companies like Indo American Hybrid Seeds and Maruti Nurseries, while several others were raised in the park itself. Winter favourites like marigolds, petunias and other seasonal annuals stand out. The department has spent about Rs 42 lakh on this event, he said. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Shalini Rajneesh.

## SIR leaves voters confused ahead of local polls

**Angel Hannah & Dimple M**

**C**oncerns arise among politicians in Kerala over the overlapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the local self-government elections, as it causes confusion for citizens who have to deal with these complex electoral processes around the same time. The local self-government election is scheduled for December 9 & 10 in Kerala, and the second round of SIR is currently underway, with a deadline on December 4. Although the state government has been actively trying to postpone the SIR process to avoid further complexities, the attempt has been quite unsuccessful.

Both these processes are quite complicated, with the elections covering over 23,600 wards and



*SIR in progress in Kerala*

**Kerala Kaumudi**

the SIR including over two crore citizens. These uncertainties have created concerns among the people and politicians across the state, as there is a lack of time to educate them about the processes that are not familiar to the common people. "Even though Kerala has a high literacy rate, almost 60% are unaware of such technicalities in politics," commented Dr Ullas V

Krishna, a member of the Congress party, while speaking to *The Beacon*.

The majority of the commoners are unaware of the separate lists for panchayat and parliamentary elections. Since voters are guaranteed that their names are included in the voters' list for local self-government elections, people might not take the SIR seriously, thinking that both come

under the same list.

Similar concerns were also highlighted by Ms Mini Nair, a Booth Level Officer (BLO) at the Election Commissioner's office in the state. She commented that even though the officials were given proper training and instructions to avoid confusion, the same cannot be applied to the public. "Many were clueless, especially the

elderly. A number of people came with empty forms, as they had no idea what information to put in the forms." People who migrated after 2002 are facing another challenge, as it becomes nearly impossible to find their old constituencies. Along with the confusion that the common people are facing, this particular problem has made the work of BLOs harder through progeny mapping.

Even as officials assure that no eligible person will be left out of the rolls "by mistake," the overlap has undeniably created confusion among citizens. At its core, it is a question of political right, prompting political experts and the public to collectively opine that the SIR could have been scheduled at a more appropriate time.

## Red carpet dominates over screenings at IFFI

**Joswin Pereira & Vaishnavi**

**T**he International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, held from November 20 to 28, is drawing criticism for drifting from its original vision as a space for serious cinema that seldom reaches mainstream audiences. As concerts, celebrity appearances, and red-carpet spectacle take centre stage, filmmakers and students fear that the festival's core purpose of genuine film appreciation is being eroded in the process.

Goan filmmaker Miransha Naik said that the change is visible both in scheduling and priorities. Earlier editions focused on screenings,



*Photo-point of IFFI at Goa*

**Vaishnavi**

workshops, and interactions. "Today, more attention goes to concerts and celebrity shows. Serious films play in half-empty halls," he said. He believes that the public money, which is meant for promoting cinema, should not be spent on optics. Student delegate Lisanya

from RV University said the shift in audience interest was obvious. "I saw a director practically begging people to attend his screening," she recalled, while the crowd rushed to a celebrity masterclass happening at the same time. She also criticised how student

delegates were sidelined during important discussions. "We were given student passes, but many panel talks and venues were closed off for us," she said.

Regular festival-goer Muktha Chand, assistant professor at St. Joseph's University, sees merit in both sides. She says glamour can attract new audiences, but it should not come at the cost of independent filmmakers who depend on festivals for visibility.

Voices across IFFI warn that unless the festival recentres its focus on films and their makers, it risks drifting away from the core identity that once made it special.

## Emergency meet over voter lists by activists

**Sheza C**

**BENGALURU:** An emergency meeting held at the Bengaluru office of Jamaat-e-Hind brought together citizen activists on Wednesday to discuss concerns over voter deletions following the recent Bihar elections. Tara Rao, a member of the People's Political Campaign, highlighted the growing difficulty faced by citizens in preventing the removal of their names from electoral rolls.

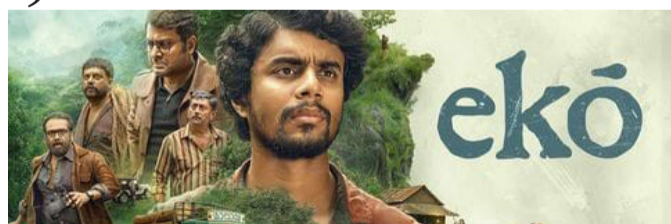
Rao stated that the process of rebuilding the voter roll was completely opaque, making it difficult for people to understand the complex procedures. She also pointed out that voter names are removed solely based on the submission of certain documents by the voters, allowing the Election Commission (EC) and the Booth Level Officers (BLO) to decide whether one belonged on the voter roll or not.

Questioning the intention behind these changes, Rao said, "If the Election Commission's mandate is to not exclude, but to include... they should ensure that no voter should be left behind because that is what makes a democracy."

## One master, endless echoes ekō

**N Rishika**

ekō, Dinjith Ayyathan's haunting end to Bahul Ramesh's Animal Trilogy, is a Malayalam mystery thriller. Ramesh's own cinematography makes Kerala's steep, mist-drenched hills feel alive—constantly watching and listening. Kurichan (or Kuriyachan), a reclusive dog trainer who vanished without warning, left behind his Malaysian wife, Mlaathi Chedathi and caretaker Peeyoos, who lived quietly in the hills of *Kaattukunnu* among the dogs Kurichan



*A poster of the film ekō*

**Special Arrangement**

loved dearly. But old enemies and curious foes started to circle the mist-covered house, and buried truths began to surface.

The dogs aren't just props or plot devices but performers. Their reactions were natural and convincing. With just the shift of an ear

or a look, they carried the whole scene, and the camera treated them with a narrative respect. The sound design is minimal, giving the story room to breathe. There's a slight dip in energy mid-film, but it fades with the final twist, which was clean, emotional, and fully deserved.

## Semmozhi Poonga brings greenery

**Shanmitha SJ**

**C**oimbatore environmentalist Marimuthu Yoganathan says that the newly inaugurated Tamil Nadu's largest urban ecological park, Semmozhi Poonga, fills the long-standing need for accessible green space in the expanding city.

Semmozhi Poonga Park was announced by former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi in 2010, and after 15 years, it was inaugurated on 25 November by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Coimbatore. Semmozhi Poonga Park

covers 45 acres of land with a botanical garden, walking trail, children's play area, and it also has rock sculptures honouring the Tamil language and culture.

Yoganathan, also known as "Tree Man of India", pointed out that the oldest park in the city is poorly maintained. "VO Chidambaram Pillai Park is not being looked after properly, and it is not clean. This new park has modern infrastructure, but its upkeep will depend on how the authorities maintain it," he said.