

# THE BEACON

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## Madras' role in non-mainstream sports

Timeus Christian Sunder

Madras took centre stage with a lively panel discussion at the British Council where the panellists highlighted the important roles Madras has played over the years in bringing attention and nurturing non-mainstream sports as well as fostering inclusivity in athletic communities. The panel discussion included Prabh Mani, a parkour practitioner, Viji Saraswathi, an Ultimate Frisbee player and Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, former national paralympic swimming champion and was moderated by Thirupurasundari Sevel, the secretary general of the Madras Literary Society. The event took place on August 29 which was International Sports Day. The discussion focused primarily on the personal experiences of the panellists and how Madras had played a crucial role in their lives. "Chennai is one of the few cities that has created an ecosystem around parkour," claimed Mr. Mani as he praised Chennai for playing an important role in the growth of parkour as a practice. Agreeing to his point Ms. Saraswathi added that Chennai, in the Ultimate (Frisbee) also has a community driven and a deeply value based system. Latha went on to add to their point, "Only in Chennai, we have a 25-meter pool, hydrotherapy pool with arm facilities." She also mentioned the various basketball facilities for wheelchair basketball that most states did not have.

## Bengaluru's global concert boom

Aaryan Raj Pradhan

**BENGALURU:** Bengaluru is fast emerging as the nation's global music stage. Once famous for hosting Iron Maiden's historic 2007 Eddfest and Metallica's thunderous 2011 performance, the city had slipped into a lull. Now, with the return of international acts, the music is back and it's louder than ever. In recent months, audiences have welcomed a diverse mix of legendary and contemporary artists. Classic rock names like Deep Purple and The Goo Goo Dolls have performed in the city. At the same time, celebrated

## Mizoram railway line transforms connectivity

Nancy Lalengmawii

Mizoram is all set for a transformative leap in connectivity as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the newly completed ₹5,021-crore Bairabi-Sairang broad-gauge railway line in the second week of September. The 51-kilometre project, a first for the state's capital region, will officially connect Mizoram's capital, Aizawl, to India's national network, fulfilling a long-awaited dream for the state's residents. With 48 tunnels and 142 bridges, the 51.38-kilometre line is acclaimed as an engineering marvel for overcoming some of India's most difficult terrain. It is set to transform Mizoram by cutting the 10-hour journey to Assam to just over three hours, boosting border security in this vital region, promoting tourism, and strengthening the local economy by



Bairabi-Sairang Railway

The Hindu

enabling farmers to transport perishable produce efficiently. "The Bairabi-Sairang New Line Project is the fulfilment of a decade-long cherished dream of the people of Mizoram for railway connectivity," an official with the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) said. The official highlighted the broad benefits for students, medical patients, and business travellers seeking safer and more affordable travel

options across the country. Beyond individual convenience, the railway promises to reshape local commerce. For farmers like Rodingliana from the Aizawl district, this efficiency is critical. "Previously, a large portion of our crop went bad during transport to Assam," he stated. "By using the train, we can offer fresher goods like ginger, pineapple, and oranges to distant markets and secure higher prices."

The project's impact is already generating optimism among residents. Lalnuntluanga, a taxi driver in Aizawl, sees both personal and professional gains. The new service will allow his daughter, who studies in Silchar, to come home more frequently. He anticipates more business transporting passengers between the city and Sairang, about 20 km from the capital. The tourism sector also stands to benefit. A travel vlogger

familiar with the route noted the dual advantage of cost savings and scenic beauty. "With train access, I can now visit Mizoram more often. It saves money, and the journey itself offers a train moving through the picturesque hillocks, green forest, streams, and rivers." This railway project marks the second-largest infrastructure endeavour in Mizoram's history, following the opening of the Lengpui Airport in 1998. It also makes Mizoram the fourth north-eastern state to have its capital connected to the national rail network. Following a successful trial run in May, the entire line is now ready for operation. The project is a key part of a larger national strategy, with a senior NFR official confirming Indian Railways' plans to connect the capitals of Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Sikkim by 2030.

## "Water is Life" campaign to curb water borne diseases

Farhana Abdul Rahim

"Water is life" campaign, an initiative by the Kerala government, was carried out in Kozhikode district on August 30 and 31, 2025. The campaign was organised in response to the increasing cases of Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), a rare but deadly waterborne infection caused by Naegleria fowleri found in stagnant water bodies. The infectant enters through the nasal track causing fatal infections in the brain. The active cases is currently 41, seven alone from Kozhikode,



Naegleria Fowleri enters nasal tract

Times of India

and two deaths reported. Speaking to "TheBeacon" The Kozhikode District medical Officer (DMO), Dr Rajendran N has confirmed the 100 percent completion in the chlorination of public and household wells in Kozhikode. "The initiative was taken by

the local self government and the campaign was carried out with the help of Asha workers, harithakarma sena, Kudumbashree, Anganawadi workers and health volunteers. The technical guidance and training was provided by the state government" he said. He

further added that chlorination of water will also prevent other water borne diseases like viral hepatitis, Amoebic dysentery, Viral diarrhea and typhoid. The campaign, launched by the Haritha Kerala Mission (HKM) formed by the government, is a mass action plan to "scientifically chlorinate" and successfully eliminate microorganisms responsible for fatal diseases. The programme officer, Satheesh RV has said that they are yet to receive the data on the completion of chlorination in other districts. HKM has further advised residents using piped water to clean their storage tanks as well.

## Doctors overworked, health overlooked

Sruthi Lakshana

For doctors, the white coat comes with hidden costs. Long working hours, disrupted sleep, and constant stress gradually affect their health. The pressure to always put patients first often leaves little space for rest or self-care, leaving their own well-being overlooked. The recent passing of Dr Gradlin Roy, a 39-year-old cardiac surgeon who suffered a fatal heart attack on duty at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai, has highlighted the physical and emotional toll of the profession. Dr Krishna, a postgraduate student in ENT at Chettinad Hospital, Chennai, said that irregular eating and extended surgical hours steadily erode doctors' health. "Try to fit in some physical activity during the day, however busy your schedule is," he advised young doctors. Dr Adwaith, a junior resident at ESIC Gurgaon, stressed the need for standard working hours and an end to normalising self-sacrifice. "Know your hours, leave on time and treat the job as a job, not sainthood," he said.

## Debate over feeding strays

Nanasu Raghuram

**BENGALURU:** Animal caregivers in Bengaluru condemn the harassment against feeders in Delhi in the wake of videos of them being threatened and beaten for feeding dogs on the street going viral on social media. Politician and animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi addressed the issue and stated that people can legally continue to feed dogs like before until proper boards are set up. Reacting to the issue, animal rescuer Ashrayii N Ram called dogs "territorial protectors" and stated that protecting them is

our fundamental duty. "First of all, I'd say that this is all media hyped, they build a psychological fear in people's minds," she criticised. Contrarily, supporting the Supreme Court's judgement prohibiting the feeding of stray dogs in public places, Deepthi Sushanth, a resident in Malleswaram, voiced her concerns about being chased by aggressive dogs. "As a person who is extremely scared of dogs, this has become a torture," she expressed, while also saying several others feel the same way.