

# THE BEACON

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## Startups to restructure business models

Akhil Raj

**BENGALURU:**Chronic traffic and deteriorating roads are forcing startups to restructure business models and reconsider their entrepreneurship in Bangalore, with founders reporting an estimate of around 25 percent delay in delivering their services.

Infrastructure concerns gained renewed attention last month when BlackBuck's CEO Rajesh Yabaji announced plans to relocate operations out of the city, citing road issues as a primary factor. While not every startup is planning exits, many are re-evaluating how infrastructure affects their daily operations.

Food delivery startup Dietbro, which serves more than 25 meals a day, often within strict time slots through a subscription based model, estimates a 15 percent customer churn rate due to traffic related delays. "Even one traffic jam in one area, and I lose a customer. I can't tell them it was because of the road. They just stop ordering," said Ashwin, founder of Dietbro while speaking to *The Beacon*. For logistics based businesses the impact extends beyond customer satisfaction, Ashwin mentions spending around 5000 to 6000 rupees on maintaining his vehicles which have been damaged due to the potholes.

Despite advancements in technology and talent access, the city's infrastructure development fails to address the concerns of startup ventures. This disconnect is becoming the rising cause of creating operational problems that companies are now refusing to tolerate.

## Citizens bridge gap amidst Punjab floods

V Nayonika

**A**mid official claims of compensation and land surveys that continue on paper, residents of Punjab claim that it is neighbors and volunteer groups who are helping the people stay sheltered, fed, and supported.

The flood that hit Punjab in late August devastated thousands of villages, homes, and farmlands, leaving most of the area uninhabitable ever since. While the central government announced a relief fund of 1,600 crore rupees, the state government announced compensation for the families of the deceased victims of 4 lakh rupees and 20,000 rupees per acre of damaged land. Nevertheless, despite the urgency of the situation,



Rescue efforts amid floods

outlook.business

survivors report a delay in official support.

Artists are also bridging the gap and contributing to the relief funds. Befikra Tejas, a singer and songwriter, used his social media platforms, where he sang songs for locals that went viral, in return for their contribution to assist the affected. Speaking to *The Beacon*, he said, "We raised about 25,000 rupees in just one hour

and didn't wait for government support; we partnered with NGOs like Sachkhand Foundation, so money went straight to relief work." Recalling his vision to start this initiative, he said, "In Punjab, people rarely ask for help. Even families who've lost everything try to serve tea or food to volunteers. That spirit of seva inspired me." Residents who were not directly affected

also voiced concerns about the government's compensation. Amrutha, a resident of Jalandhar, said, "The compensation being offered is nowhere close to what people have lost. The government has offered to help, but in reality, they're not of much help." She added that people came together in this time of need, forgetting their differences and supporting each other in

terms of food and shelter.

Bhupinder Singh, a social worker in Pathankot, said, "In our area alone, four deaths have been reported, and the destruction remains severe. Local schools have become makeshift shelters, community kitchens ensure that displaced families are fed, and all this was done by NGOs, volunteers, and friends." He added that people cannot return to their homes for at least 15 days because of unsafe living conditions.

While some of the damage is reversible, most parts of the state are not safe for carrying out daily tasks. The question remains about how the government is not active in providing relief, and people are forced to take matters into their own hands, even in such times of distress.

## Over commercialisation poses threat for ecotourism

Disha Banthia

**W**ith Kenya launching Uber Safaris targeting tourism revenue in a \$4.3 billion market, wildlife experts warn against adopting a similar framework in India, stating it could shift safaris away from being a conscious practice into a commercialised one.

Uber officially launched its safari service on 17 Sept 2025 in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), allowing users to pre-book a safari ride with licensed safari operators and professional guides at the tap of a screen in Nairobi National Park. Wildlife experts in India,



Tourists overcrowd tiger terrain

Disha Banthia

however, express serious concern about introducing a similar system. Dr Selavajaran, chairman at Greencircle, highlighted growing issues with tourist behaviour. "Ecotourism is one of the most dangerous weapons. If not properly utilized and regulated, it's going to do

more harm than good" he said while speaking to *The Beacon*, citing incidents where multiple jeeps surround a single animal, often overwhelming them.

Priya Anna James project manager at A Rocha Wildlife NGO, underlined the importance of tourism explaining how

wildlife experiences help tourists build stewardship with the animals and responsibility toward protecting them. She added that over commercialisation has converted wildlife into entertainment rather than an ecological experience for visitors. She further noted that tourism has benefits, unregulated commercial models could undermine animal welfare.

Suyash Keshari, founder of Ameliya Safaris, expressed concern over Uber's commercial approach to the safari experience, expressing concerns about prioritising convenience over responsible conservation principles.

## Health dept screens safety measures

Allen George Easo

**T**he Department of Kerala Health Services is screening 45 second health advisories in theaters, raising public awareness, and instructing the public to chlorinate their pools by the Health Minister Veena George.

The sudden increase in deaths and recorded cases this month of Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), a brain infection caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly referred to as 'brain-eating amoeba,' has prompted the Kerala health department to advise people to take preventive measures like avoiding swimming or bathing in untreated or stagnant freshwater sources.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Sri Domi John, State Mass Education and Media Officer, said, "Our awareness campaign is now focusing on WhatsApp and Facebook forwards after our video on how to scientifically chlorinate wells reached 5,03,000 views on Facebook, and we're also planning to release a print advertisement in newspapers." Schools, pool owners, and people who depend on wells, especially in rural areas, have been advised to chlorinate daily and deep clean weekly once, and the reaction is very positive, he added.

## 'Sacred Spaces' unite India and Poland

Aryan Arun

**BENGALURU:**Following a successful run in Bengaluru, the "Sacred Spaces" exhibition is set to be showcased in Poland.

The project is the continuation of the longstanding partnership between Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, which began in 2018. The exhibition on view through Sept 23, features works by 80 artists from both countries, creating a vibrant dialogue on sacredness through painting, sculpture, design and new media.



Artistic installation at Chitrakala Parishath

Aryan Arun

"It is not just something related to religion. It is inside us. We build our space as we build a house. This is sacred to us. Emotional space, too, exists between people," said Dr. Anna Krzemińska, exhibition curator and professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. "It's strongly my dream to

organize this exhibition in Poland. I am hoping for us to do more together," she added. Prof. Tejendra Singh Baoni, the organizer, speaking to *The Beacon* said, "We have taken the challenge. There are a lot of issues logistically; we will do it even with our own capacity."

## Indian graduates face career uncertainty in UK

Niranjana Jayan

**S**tricter immigration rules are shutting doors for Indian graduates, and with the British government's raised salary cap, students are finding it tough to secure jobs and visas at the same time. The current situation is forcing many of them to take up low-skilled jobs or return home after spending heavily in higher education.

This move is creating a new barrier for international graduates. The recent Anti-immigration protests add to the sense of uncertainty, which is leaving students to lead an unstable job

market while struggling with financial and emotional strain. Jerin Sunny, an MSc Graduate, expressed that the new salary requirements have made companies reluctant to hire fresh graduates. "Most firms now prefer to hire British citizens since it's easier for them and doesn't need extra paperwork," he said, adding that even qualified students struggle to find roles that match their education. Jithin B. Joy, another graduate, said he decided to return to India, saying India now offers a better outlook and a stable future.

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