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Reviving the traditional art

Priyanka Gond

BENGALURU: The art enthusiasts of Bengaluru were overwhelmed by the craft exhibitions from over 100 traditional artists who conducted workshops, demonstrations, and seminars to inform visitors about the range of traditional and fading art and craft forms. The demonstrations also included an exceptional culinary experience showcasing the wisdom and diversity of traditional Indian cooking.

A registered trust in South Bangalore, Shankaraa Foundation hosted the annual cultural event, SOMA which honours traditional handicrafts and art. The festival lasted from February 10 to 12 at the Shankaraa Foundation on Kanakpura Road.

"SOMA is a delightful fusion of visual and performing arts, rich craft traditions, social consciousness, and a plethora of creativity," remarked Rashme Hegde Gopi, managing trustee of Shankaraa Foundation. It is an endeavour to put traditional artists and crafts back in the spotlight and provide them with a place to present their stories.

Kavitha Prasanth, founder of Tots and Moms stated, "We offer a blend of traditional and nutritious recipes. Our products are available in Bigbasket and FirstCry, too. On all of our products, we are providing a 10% discount."

The festival also featured Vasu Dixit's Folk-Rock music concert, Rukmini Vijayakumar's dance choreographies, Wings of Melody by Dr Suma Sudhindra and Manasi Prasad, Satyanarayana Raju's dance theatre performance Rama Katha.

University students detained for casteist slurs

Megha Mukundan

BENGALURU: An alleged casteist skit put together by the students of Jain University's Centre of Management Studies (CMS) has occupied the national headlines. The Bengaluru police arrested the students who enacted the skit, the principal and the program organiser, yesterday after an FIR was filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The controversy erupted at the college youth festival last week, where a group of students performed a skit with derogatory comments about Dalits and insulted Dr B R Ambedkar. The skit altered his name to 'Beer Ambedkar' and contained hurtful phrases like "Hey you Dalit, don't touch that water, you won't get a drop, forget about making a quarter!" and "Why be Dal-



Representational Image

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it when you can be D-Lit!"

"It seems like the faculty was aware of it as the students would need the approval of the faculty before getting to perform their stage. The students would go through multiple rounds of approval before getting to perform an act," said a student of the university to The Beacon, who didn't want

to be named. The source also added that a lot of them only came to know about this, after the controversy broke out, and are very disappointed about the same. "Many students didn't attend the festival where this act was performed. But everyone was outraged when they learned about the incident," said the student.

The skit was played by 'The Delroys Boys', CMS' theatre group. It portrays a guy from a lower community trying to date a girl from a higher caste. When the skit went viral on social media, the group came in their defence saying that it was meant to be a 'satire'. Also, a university official reportedly told Hindustan Times

that the skit was meant to be highlighting the anti-caste system, but the students "went a little overboard" with their presentation.

When The News Minute reached out to the group via their Instagram handle, they reportedly replied with an apology saying that they intended to bring a social message. They also posted an apology letter in the feed, but the Instagram handle is found to be deactivated now.

Meanwhile, many organisations protested against the skit, including All Ambedkarite Students, Nanded, All India Students Association (AISA) Karnataka, and the Bengaluru University Post-graduate and Research Students' Union. The Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe demanded a detailed report from the institution as well.

Radio, an industry still thriving at 77

Sowmya A

When BBC failed to broadcast the 1993 World Cup in India due to a strike, the radio came to the rescue for Indians to know the scores of the world cup, RJ Amuthan told The Beacon, pointing out the importance of radio in society.

World Radio Day is officially celebrated on February 13 as the United Nations Radio was established on the same day 77 years back. The Beacon spoke to the renowned RJ Amuthan of Suryan FM, and former radio jockey and assistant professor at SJU, Shabin PK about

the role of radio in society.

Technological advancements paved way for every medium of information, however, radio as a medium is adopting to cost rationalisation leading to a cut in job opportunities and wages.

RJ Amuthan expressed gratitude towards the radio as a medium. Unlike television, radio doesn't need much technical equipment and hence it is called single point connect, he said. "We should educate the younger generation about the power of radio to take it to the next level," he opined. As RJs don't get to show their faces, they have

lesser visibility compared to VJs and are paid less.

He also points out that no form of media becomes obsolete, it only evolves. Traditional media like print, television and radio will never get extinct.

Speaking about the immense developments in the radio industry, Shabin said that although conventional radio platforms aren't able to retain the audience or gain more, there are plenty of platforms in radio for the younger generation. Technology awareness is one of the reasons for the survival of radio, he expressed.

Speaking about opportunities in radio, he said that the income of RJs depend upon certain factors like reach, audience and business. "Like every other high-paying job, we can equally earn in radio depending upon the location of the radio station," he said.

Having a prolonged radio career by hosting shows, giving voice for advertisements, singing songs for advertisements and producing shows for almost 2.5 years, he said, he uses his knowledge and experience in everything he does. "One should never miss out on any opportunities in his or her life."

'Adani flouting market norms'

Ashish & Srijit

Adani, while taking control over the media houses and opposition parties, also had major influence over judicial bodies of the government, said Surjadipta De Sarkar, a member of All India Student Association (AISA), Karnataka.

A discussion on 'Is the Hindenburg report an attack on India?', was conducted by the AISA on February 11, at the Manthem Law firm in Infantry Road. The main speaker, Srujadipta De Sarkar, a PG student of IISC, and a prominent AISA member, presided over the meeting.

Narrating the report he recalled, Jugeshinder Singh, CFO of Adani Enterprises, tried to justify their wrongdoings by saying that the Hindenburg report was equivalent to the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre, where the Indians themselves killed their kids on the order of a foreigner.

Sarkar also mentions that Adani's enterprise is marred by corruption, fraud and stock manipulation. "Most of the prominent Indian conglomerates, like the Adani Group, are largely dependent on foreign loans. The net profits these corporates generate are paid back to the foreign investors as interest for the loans."

Knocking patriarchy out of the park

Anuja Jose

Women's Premier League has the potential to change the patriarchal notions that people have when they think of cricket as a man's game, says Neha Shetty, founder and host of the cricket podcast 'Never on the Backfoot'.

In the light of the recent win India had over Pakistan in the group stage of ICC Women's T20 World Cup, The Beacon caught up with Neha Shetty to talk about women's cricket in India and its latest developments.



Bleeding Blue

The Quint

'Never on the Backfoot' is a podcast revolving around cricket for anyone who follows the sport.

"Women's cricket in India is often criticised for having 'no depth'. But now, the scenario has changed drastically with the introduction of the Women's Premier League,"

said Shetty. She felt that this gives women more opportunity to prove themselves on a global level. A career in sports is often frowned upon due to the risk of financial instability that comes along with it. "The financial security that a league of this nature will provide to players is massive," she added.

Shetty calls India's win over Pakistan 'a complete team performance'. "I think we fought back quite well and the match went on to the end like a typical India-Pakistan match," she added.

Josephites pledge for road safety

Jesbin Sam Mathew

BENGALURU: Traffic violations are not uncommon in Bengaluru, but students from St. Joseph's University (SJU) are doing their bit and creating traffic awareness through outreach programmes.

First-year students of SJU, participated in an event at the Richmond road Traffic Signal, one of Bengaluru's bottlenecks, intending to educate the citizens of Bengaluru about the significance of following traffic laws. They held a rally by holding placards to emphasise the importance of traffic rules.

Speaking to The Beacon, Shane Gill Lewis, first-year BBA student, said, "This program is a kind of social welfare activity run by all St. Joseph's institutions." Each year students are allocated to different social welfare events; the first year is about traffic awareness events; the second year is about educating poor children, and the third year is about going to rural areas and helping them, she said.

Saiju M, a resident of Shantinagar, opined that because accident rates in Bengaluru are on the rise it is inspirational that students are engaging in such events to share a positive message with the public.