

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Tuesday, 28 March 2023 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 15 Issue: 82 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

U&I imparts knowledge

Yachi Jebisow

Bengaluru: The U&I, a non-profit organisation in Bengaluru, empowers poor children in and around the city by providing them with quality education and mentorship, thus offering prospects for a brighter future.

On March 25, the group held its annual End of Year (EOY) celebration at the Srirampura Center in Bengaluru. The event drew volunteers from across the city to celebrate the accomplishments of U&I's children and volunteers over the last year.

Speaking to The Beacon, Ruthika Haller, one of the leaders of the U&I said, "The program's unique model involves pairing each child with a volunteer tutor, who will provide personalised attention and support. U&I Care focuses on mentorship and life skills with a particular focus on helping children prepare for their futures."

The U&I program seeks to improve the lives of poor kids by giving them the education and skills required to excel. The long-term goal is to break the cycle of poverty and empower these children to build a better future for themselves and their families, she said.

The response to the program from volunteers and NGOs has been overwhelmingly positive. "Many volunteers have stepped up to lend their expertise to the program, while other NGOs have welcomed the initiative as a game-changer for the children they support," added Haller.

Plight of female prisoners

Jeba Janet

Strong gender disparities are common in India's criminal justice system, particularly in jails. Women inmates go through a variety of traumatising situations while imprisoned, in addition to difficulties with the legal system, said Cecilia Davies, an executive director of Justice Initiative.

The Alternative Law Forum in Bengaluru hosted the Friday Forum event on February 24 to discuss how women are treated in prison systems and how they build a

Visages' extravaganza lights up SJU campus

Angeline & Kannika

Campus: Following the success of Prathibha on Feb 28, the student council of St Joseph's University (SJU) hosted its most anticipated inter-collegiate fest 'Visages'. The spectacular two-day extravaganza of talent, creativity and fun with the theme 'street culture' was the first edition under the university.

The two-day festival held on March 24 and 25 was inaugurated by Aryn Santhosh, a renowned actor and ex-Kannada Big Boss contestant along with Dr Regina Mathias, Dr Ronald Mascarenhas, Rev Dr Swebert D'Silva, and Prof Taral Shah. The participants from various colleges and universities showcased their talent by participating in a wide range of competitions, including solo and group performances.

The theme 'street culture' was chosen to celebrate the different forms



Aryn Santhosh along with the dignitaries

Special Arrangement

of art. "Any art form that has come up over the years, has started from the streets. Streets are one place where you can find the maximum inclusivity; the pain and struggle on the streets are what bring the people closer. And together they form and express their art. So, our idea was to acknowledge the entire process of how the different art forms

come out," said Prof Taral Shah, the governor of the student council. With more than 15 participants from various cities in India, including Chennai, Hyderabad, and other states, Visages included a variety of events like short films, Indian solo singing, animae quiz, air crash, dumb charades, chiral, face painting,

and antakshari among others. Apart from this, the festival also featured a special performance by the renowned DJ duo, Le Twins and DJ Quinixo. Speaking to The Beacon, Tom Alben, the cultural secretary, said, "Being a cultural secretary visages kind of became my fest. This is a place where talent matters a lot and this year's

Visages is something which Joseph's had never seen before, budget-wise or the artists lined up, it was a whole surprise. And with the help of various forums created, this helped us in supplying manpower to other associations and making it a grand show."

"I've never expected such a big crowd. We have had more than 3000-4000 crowds, which has never happened in SJU for the last so many years. We've been planning this since last Nov-dec. And considering the mid-semester exams and Prathibha, I would say that we have executed our planning 90-95% very well. And most of the colleges have come and participated with competitive nature. I give this credit to the student council and the volunteers for thinking and coming up with a solution for every problem and managing the crowd very well," added Shah.

Celebrating visionary stories through cinema

Dhamini & Shariq

Bengaluru: The director of a feature film 'Photo,' Utsav Gonwar, spoke about how politics and arts are closely linked following the premiere of his movie at the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes.) With films that highlight political consciousness and significance, BIFFes serves as a platform for screening productions that has a lot to convey with fewer restrictions, he said.

The 14th edition of the annual film festival began on March 23 and will continue till March 30. The event is organised by the Karnataka Chalanachitra

Academy on behalf of the state government and is overseen by the Karnataka Information & Public Relations Department. The screening is being held at multiple locations, which include Dr Rajkumar Bhavana, Suchitra Cinema and Culture Academy, and PVR Cinemas at the Orion Mall.

Gonwar spoke to The Beacon about the significance of politics and the political elements in his movie. "Life and politics cannot be separated, right from the food we eat to how we live. Similarly, politics runs in every aspect of art as well," he said.

Highlighting the inspiration behind his movie, he said

he wanted to document the situation portraying the turmoil of the underclasses during the pandemic. Gonwar believes that cinema is the most effective medium, and the kind of cinema that is hard-hitting, raw, and soulful needs practice and vision to cater to all kinds of audiences. "This is the first step, and the audience will surely understand movies beyond commercial cinema," he added.

Speaking about the exposure and encouragement the BIFFes has been providing to movies, Vikas Vasistha, the protagonist of 'Cinema Bandi,' screened under the

category of Panorama Of Contemporary Indian Cinema, said, "BIFFes is very special. The movie was born here and is extremely close to the roots of Bengaluru. Today, even after two years of its release, the audience cheers and smiles along with the movie. We had missed the audience's live reactions, which is what we experienced right now."

Through seminars, workshops, and master classes, the film festival provides opportunities for intellectual discourse and conversation about various facets of filmmaking and film appreciation.

Salt, a silent killer on your plate

Nikita Priya

Salt, the silent killer in our diets, could soon become the leading cause of death worldwide. If current trends in salt consumption continue, millions of people are at risk of premature death from salt-related illnesses by 2030, warn experts.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a report recommending a daily limit of five grams of salt intake, equivalent to one teaspoon. The report calls for urgent action to reduce salt consumption and promote public awareness of the importance of limiting salt intake for good health.

"Salt is a major contributor to high blood pressure, which is the leading cause of stroke and heart disease. If we don't act now to reduce salt consumption, we could be facing a public health crisis of unprecedented proportions," said cardiologist Dr Prakash Chand Shahi.

Governments and food manufacturers must take responsibility for reducing salt levels in food, and individuals must also take action to reduce their salt consumption. This could include cooking with herbs and spices instead of salt, reading food labels to identify high-salt products, and avoiding adding salt to meals at the table, he added.

Intellectuals write to CM

Ishika Bhattacharjee

Bengaluru: An open letter was written to the chief minister of Karnataka by eminent personalities of the state in solidarity with the protesting solid waste management drivers, sweepers, and loaders. They demanded abolishing the contract system and bringing them under the direct payment system, as previously promised by the chief minister.

Around 1,000 drivers and helpers of the solid waste management departments of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and other organisations started an indefinite protest

on March 20 at Freedom Park. They are requesting that their services be regularised, similar to the regularisation of pourakarmikas.

Speaking to The Beacon, Aratrika Dey, a member of the All India Students' Association (AISA), said, "We hope before the election, some proper actions will be taken by the government, if not maybe the union will be gearing up for another round of protest."

The government asked the protesters to wait but no decision has been taken yet. Though the workers have gone back to work they are not satisfied, added Dey.