

THE BEACON

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

Wednesday, 15 September, 2021 / St Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol : 14 ; Issue : 10 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Is the Indian democracy dead or alive?

Nandita Narayanan

On the occasion of the 14th International Day of Democracy, The Beacon got in touch with politically active youngsters about the need to have conversations on the present scenario of the world's largest democratic system.

In the light of the present government's administration in our country, Adarsha, a student states, "I don't think it would be fair to call India's current regime authoritarian, but I do believe people these days feel restricted to voice their views." He explains how there is no press freedom and journalists cannot make decisions without fearing the consequences.



Representational image

iStock

Sourit Sanyal, a student, feels that India's democracy is a piece of fabric that is wearing off at an

unprecedented pace due to the government's questionable policies. "Starting from the farm laws

to The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA), these acts are steering away from the rights

and values mentioned in the Constitution. None of these laws are favouring the minorities in any manner," he said.

Sandeep, a student, on the other hand, feels that there isn't much of a downward shift in India's democratic system and the scenario has been the same for many years. "I personally feel India has a weak opposition party." He believes that if political parties are not formed on the basis of caste or religion, this problem would be avoided.

The International Day of Democracy is celebrated every year since the UN General Assembly passed a resolution in its favour in 2007. In 2020, India fell down to the 53rd position in the Global Democracy Index.

Brendan Taylor retires from Intl' cricket

Shahul Hameed

Former Zimbabwean captain and wicket-keeper batsman Brendan Taylor played his last innings and announced his retirement on Monday. "It's with a heavy heart that I'm announcing that tomorrow is my last game for my beloved country" he tweeted.

"You're a legend, my friend! Well done on a great career on and off the field!" tweeted AB de Villiers, who recently retired from all formats for South Africa. Taylor, also known as BT by his teammates, completed his 17-year career by playing the last one-day international against Ireland at Belfast, Ireland.

England's all-rounder Sam Curran reacted to his announcement by congratulating BT on his next chapter. Taylor had scored 6684 runs in 205 one-day internationals with an average of 35.55 and had played 34, 35 matches in Test and T20 International respectively.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) shared a compilation of uppercut strokes played by Taylor which is his signature batting stroke in their Instagram as a respect to his career. He captained his country for the 2015 cricket world cup.

Tamil Nadu passes bill to scrap NEET exams

Riya Joseph

The Government of Tamil Nadu passed the bill to prohibit all-India pre-medical entrance exams, ending the NEET (National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test). Students will now be provided admission on the basis of their class 12 marks.

The bill comes after the suicide of NEET aspirant who took his life on the eve of the test. The number went up hours before the bill was passed when another NEET aspirant took her life over worries of scoring less.

Netizens took to Twitter to express their outrage, with people calling the tests unfair and discriminatory. "The death tallies of students who are giving up their hopes, dreams and sometimes their very lives because of an unfair examination system is rising. This exam must be scrapped," said poet Meena Kandasamy. Yet another user remarked, "All states should follow Tamil Nadu Model and save the students. It's against state board students, as it is based on CBSE syllabus. It's discriminatory. #BanNeet [sic]."

WCC sides by Leena Manimekela

Jesly Pulikotil
Vandana Nampoothiri

BENGALURU: The Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) on Monday evening, came out in solidarity with director Leena Manimekela who faced harassment for publicly calling out her sexual perpetrator. The WCC's support for Manimekela was posted on their official Instagram.

"Today, our sister Director Leena Manimekela is facing an onslaught of harassment for having bravely spoken up

about her abuse...WCC urges members of the film industry to support Leena in these highly trying times," WCC said in their post.

WCC stated that Manimekela's allegations of sexual abuse are against filmmaker Susi Ganeshan. This led to Ganeshan filing multiple petitions against her, including a criminal defamation suit. They added that Manimekela's passport has also been seized by the Regional Passport Office (RPO). She is, therefore, unable to attend the

screening of her latest film "Maadathy" in North America.

Actress Richa Chadda condemned RPO's confiscation of Manimekela's passport on Instagram. "Attacking a woman's livelihood, stopping her travel is nothing short of organised intimidation. This must stop and we have to make it stop," she said.

Vrinda Nampoothiri, a clinical pharmacist, expressed her disappointment about the fact that a woman has to face backlash for

courageously opening up against abuse even today. "It is extremely unfair that women are always at fault. We as a society must stand together to support one another," she added.

"Leena's case is a magnified version of what women go through every day. It is assumed that no matter how strongly a woman fights, her brave voice is one that can be curbed, manipulated, reversed, and more often than not made to disappear," Athulya S, a Masters student said.

Novice CAs rejoice after 5 years of preparation

Arakkal Shada Amina

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) announced the results of the Chartered Accountant (CA) final and foundation examinations held in July 2021 on Monday, September 13, leaving many newly-turned chartered accountants excited to start their careers.

23-year-old Ruquiya K began preparing for her exam right after her 12th Grade final examinations ended. The Malappuram resident said: "I cleared my Common

Proficiency Test (CPT) and Integrated Professional Competence Course (IPCC) in the very first attempt. I cleared my first group CA final examination in the first attempt, and the second group examination in the second."

Anna Maria Joy, a Kozhikode resident, cleared her final examination this year after two previous attempts. "There aren't any regular classes for CA finals, most papers had to be covered in a 10-day crash course of almost 10 hours each day," she said

Who stole the show at MET GALA 21'?

Abhimanyu Sharma

This year's Met Gala, which has been delayed for more than two years, was finally held on 13th September at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. This year's "fashion's biggest night out" saw celebs and fashion icons amp up their outfits, and these are the stars who stole the show:

Lil Nas: A gold bodysuit on top of a Versace cape, gold beads, and a custom gold cape adorned the ever-flashy star. It appeared that his outfit was in serious



Lil nas wearing Versace body suit at Met Gala **Twitter**

contention for the outfit of the night.

Billie Eilish: Billie turned up the heat by wearing a nude tulle dress by Oscar de

la Renta, a departure from her goth-ish style and baggy clothes.

Yara Shahidi: In honor of Josephine Baker, the activist-actor, wore a strapless Dior gown embroidered with beads and finished it off with a thin gold belt and diamond choker.

Kim K: A fully black bodysuit worn by Kim, made quite an impression at the event. It had an uncanny resemblance to West's look from his latest album Donda. There was a great deal of online reaction and comparisons to Dementors (Harry Potter).