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Lawyer hails SC's decision on abortion

Kaustub

Bengaluru: The judgement throws open access to abortion like never before, opined Aarti Mundkur, referring to the recent Supreme Court decision on abortion.

Aarti Mundkur is a practising lawyer who has fought cases for women's access to abortion. She was speaking at an event organised by the Alternative Law Forum.

It was significant that the verdict recognised the stigmatization of women's sexual activity outside of marriage to be a major barrier for women accessing a termination of pregnancy, she said. The judgment puts on record that unmarried women should have the same access to abortion as married women.

Mundkur explained that the judgement also made it easier to get an abortion done and save the woman from grave mental agony caused by an unwanted pregnancy. "According to the medical termination of pregnancy act, of 1971, women can get abortions for up to 24 weeks under certain circumstances if it is a case of rape or if the pregnancy affects the health of the mother which includes mental injury. This judgement will make it easier to show these circumstances," she said

A notable thing the judgement does is not compel a rape victim to file an FIR to abort, and also recognises the right of victims of marital rape to abortion.

It's high time we celebrate women behind lens

Joyce

Bengaluru: After ages of revolution in Cinema, women are still striving to hog the limelight, opined film director, writer and documentary filmmaker, Aruna Raje Patil. She expressed dismay over how women are portrayed objectified in movies for profit.

She was speaking at a function after inaugurating the book *Films Through Women's Eyes* organised by the Suchitra Film Society on Oct 23 at Surana College Auditorium, Bangalore.

"Cinema has been there for decades, but what is the participation of women in the cinema? The industry is dominated by the male gaze. Women in the cinema are barely seen or heard.

I myself have been in the industry for almost 56 years, but I feel like I'm invisible in the industry. Women are exposed marginally less to



Release of *Films Through Women's Eyes*

Parnika Sirurmth

the technical side of film production. Women also love cinema as men do, but when the film is produced with most of the women crew, due to lack of financial support and less recognition of the women's effort, the film doesn't stand out and this crushes the confidence of the women in

the industry," Raje said.

Raje is also the first female-trained technician in the industry. She has directed films such as *Fireband*, *Gehrayee*, *Liberation* and many others.

Through her films, she intended to showcase the feminist culture. The launched book depicted brilliance

in the work of the women filmmakers, she said.

The government instead of mere collecting taxes should also impart the art of film appreciation and understanding of the cinema among the audience.

"Though India stands as the largest film-producing nation

in the world, we have fallen short of looking at cinema as an art, communication or even self-recognition. Cinema has become a huge revenue-earning business, brings in a lot of benefits, name fame, money," she said.

The Suchitra Film Society president, B Suresha mentioned that the book is based on 17 women directors. The book will educate the audience on the importance of women's direction in films and the quality of professionalism they invested in making the films.

"Female participation is recorded quite less in the direction department, as most choose, the acting path." He encouraged women to become directors. "Women-oriented films which were released back then were not always progressive. I encourage directors to make more social-oriented films."

Imperialism has changed in form, not in content

Jesblin and Parnika

Bengaluru: Pedestrian pictures on Friday observed a pioneering anti-imperialist martyr and poet, Ashfaqulla Khan's anniversary. The event explored Khan's beliefs and hopes of a cobbler and a peasant sitting across and talking to a Nawab on the same level someday.

On the occasion of the 122nd birth anniversary of Khan, a photo exhibition was held at the Pedestrian Pictures and Collective in Ashok Nagar on Friday.

Speaking on the growing imperialism, Akshay from Collective referred to "The



A glimpse of the photo exhibition

Parnika Sirurmth

Sagar Mala Project' purported to build ports along the coastlines and the Niyamgiri battle between the Dongria Khond Tribe and Vedanta Ltd.

Tracing the roots of these projects he said that the capitalist countries sought cheap labour and

abundant raw materials.

"In the past 50 years, what we have come to understand about imperialism (is that it) has changed from (exercising) direct political role which we had witnessed during the British era into a more financialized focused approach."

Adding on to what Akshay said, Mariam, a law student, stated that there will always be inequality and there will always be a disparity. "When people revolt, they will be criminalised," she added.

The exhibition walked through the audience through Ashfaqulla Khan's life dating back to the Jallian Wala Bagh massacre.

Khan was later arrested for his involvement in the Kakori train robbery and hanged to death along with Ram Prasad Bismil, Rohan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri who were his fellow revolutionists.

Judiciary is not immune from the poison around

Chandrasoodeshwar

Bengaluru: The poison has spread so deep into society and has affected not only the state but also a large part of the judiciary, said Aakar Patel on Friday at the memorial lecture *The Individual in a Majoritarian State* at Bangalore International Centre.

Columnist and author of *Hindu Rashtra*, Patel, opined that India has democratised violence against minorities and is difficult to imagine a Muslim prime minister in India. Despite the conflicts in India, he hoped that things will get better. "It only happens when a large or small number of people put their hand up and push back in any way they can after having understood where their nation stands."

Referring to the difference in the growth of the Indian economy with other South Asian countries he said we have failed. "Most of the world is a failed economy; very few nations succeed."

The event was organised by The Vijay Nambisan Trust and hosted at Bangalore International centre on Friday.

The Flavours of Gandhada Gudi

Aasline and Meghana

Bengaluru: The fans of power star Puneeth Rajkumar who fondly called him Appu, are celebrating his love for food with a food festival in Bengaluru city. The festival is a unique promotional event by the team ahead of his final film release, 'Gandhada Gudi' which will be out in theatres on Oct 28.

The food festival 'The Flavours of Gandhada Gudi' celebrated across the city, invites foodies to a get-together to enjoy the late

actors' favourite cuisines and the movie. Hotel Navayuga inaugurated festival, a 42-year-old restaurant frequently visited by the late Dr Rajkumar and his family

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Maruthi, manager of Hotel Navayuga, mentioned that the festival began on Oct 12 in the presence of the late actor's family members, the team, and anchor Anushree. "It was Puneeth's favourite restaurant, so the family wanted to start the event from here," he said.

"The hotel's sales have

increased up to 20% since the start of this festival. Now, the customers don't ask for the menu, instead, they all come and ask for Appu's favourite dishes. This makes us happy," he added. The food festival is celebrated in many restaurants and eat-out corners such as the VV Puram food street. Initially, it was planned for two days, Oct 22-23, but now the event will be held for the whole month due to the huge response from the fans and public, said a vendor at VV Puram.

Love and light in the dark

Chandana and Anjela

Bengaluru: Karunashraya, a joint project of the Indian Cancer Society and Rotary Bangalore of Indiranagar, held a Diwali event for its patients with volunteers and people from all across Bangalore.

With firecrackers prohibited, the hospital was adorned with diyas, rangoli, and candles. The doctors and volunteers performed dance and music. Explaining how the event affects the patients, Amrita, a volunteer expressed, "Firstly, they are away from their family. They

don't get to see them, so they see people in the celebration of Diwali. Though they are in the last stage, we still want to make them happy for the last few days.

They don't even know we are coming and celebrating Diwali here, so that means a lot for them and us."

The planning of the event started a month ago. Prarthana Kaur, who along with her team has been organising the hospital's Diwali event for the past 10 years, also planned this year's event.