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Stories behind the camera

Sreeja Deb

Cinematographers invariably get sidelined, it's easier for a music director or a costume director to get into the limelight. They are the ones who are left out and it is unfortunate that none of them gets interviewed, said Hemant Chaturvedi an Indian cinematographer in the Hindi film industry.

On Wednesday, The Bangalore International Center (BIC) screened a documentary "Chhayaankan" (The Management of Shadows), which is a homage to some of Hindi cinema's most experienced and well-regarded technicians. The Single Screen Cinema project is the largest photo-documentation ever attempted on a subject like this anywhere in the world.

The film documents 14 cinematographers who shot Hindi films between the 1950s and 2000s, nearly all of whom have retired from filmmaking. "Except for Govind Nihalani, who has previously been interviewed, all 14 of the cinematographers in the documentary were speaking to the camera for the first time. This film is as much about the people who are not in the film as it is about the people in the film. It showcases three generations of cinematographers," added Hemant.

Hemant aimed to understand the universal ethics, aesthetics, and morality that are quickly vanishing from his profession. Most interviewees expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of focus on aesthetic elements of filmmaking, which is often caused by blatant ignorance of the function that cinematography plays in establishing the tone of a movie.

Kalyanis, K'taka's crumbling heritage

Kannika S

Karnataka, a state blessed with a plethora of natural water sources, has been using temple tanks known as Kalyanis, for irrigation and to acquire drinking water for centuries. Many of these Kalyanis have deteriorated and become unusable over time. To restore over 1,000 Kalyanis, the state government has initiated a rehabilitation program.

The project is funded by the state government and carried out by the Karnataka Minor Irrigation Department and is a part of the government's larger initiative to

Veterinary students rise for equal stipend

Angeline & Ishika

Bengaluru: Over 2000 undergraduate students from government veterinary colleges throughout the state have participated in a massive protest calling for an increase in the stipend they receive for their internships, which has remained untouched for the past eight years.

The students at government veterinary colleges affiliated with Karnataka Veterinary, Animal, and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, have been appealing for an increase in stipend for the past two years, for which they have been protesting since Monday, Feb 27. The current stipend, Rs 14,000, is demanded to be increased to Rs 30,000, to be on par with the MBBS students.

Despite several letters to Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chauhan, there has



Students protesting at veterinary college, Hebbal

Deccan Herald

been no positive response from the department on the issue.

Following the completion of the five-year Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry programme, students are expected to finish a one-year internship course. The stipend did not alter regardless of the internship program's duration,

which was increased from six months to a year.

"In a year of internship, the students have to spend six months outside the district and one month outside the state, for which the stipend of Rs 14,000 is not enough. Students must pressurise the college to make their legitimate demands heard. The stipend barely covers the travel,

food, accommodation, and the other miscellaneous expenses," said Raghu (name changed), a student of a government veterinary college.

Speaking to The Beacon, Aratrika Dey, a member of the All India Students' Association (AISA), said that many families depend on the earnings of intern/doctoral stipends, but the government

never modifies them to keep up with inflation rates.

"It is not up to the college to agree to this state-level demand. There has to be a proper influx of money into these government vet colleges through state budgetary allocations, only then can such demands be fulfilled," said Dey, stressing the disparity of budget allocation towards the government colleges.

The students have been warned to continue their protest if there is no assurance given to them by the government. "More students from various streams, student organisations, and other progressive groups must come forward and support them," she opined.

She went on to say that AISA Karnataka stands in solidarity with the student protesters and urged the government to take action instead of empty promises.

MAP: An emerging cultural hub in the city

Shariq & Dhamini

Bengaluru: The Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) has opened its doors as a first-of-its-kind gallery, embracing technological innovations in art, according to the museum's management team. The core idea behind the MAP is to promote and celebrate the integration of technology in art, rather than rejecting it.

Founded by businessman and philanthropist Abhishek Poddar, MAP offers a tour of over sixty thousand items that aims to preserve and reframe artefacts from all over the country. Opened to the public in February, the private museum's five-floor structure includes state-of-the-



Visitors at MAP

Special Arrangement

art digital advancements that integrate AI and AR to showcase classic and modern art. Other features, like braille and the Bloomberg Connects app, emphasise making the museum accessible to everyone without prejudice.

"There is appreciation

towards digital advancement that's happening in the world. We are not trying to run away from the fact that digital art is taking over traditional art. You can imbibe both and see how it best helps preserve heritage," said Vikram (name changed), one of the curators and a

content writer at MAP.

"We are trying to make this inclusive, and it can be as approachable to anybody who wants to visit and explore art," he added.

The museum includes artefacts from Poddar's personal collection and patrons such as HDFC, Axis Bank, and Tata, who contributed to the venture. Its collections of textiles, crafts, and Bollywood memorabilia highlight the often-overlooked themes of women's representation in society. The MAP's unique approach is set to change the traditional perception of art, and attract art enthusiasts and tech-savvy visitors alike.

Breaking societal norms creatively

Bibhash Kalita

Bengaluru: Chennai art theatre breaks stereotypes with their new series of monologues that critiques societal norms while refuting the common perceptions of masculinity.

The Bengaluru International Centre (BIC) conducted an event for 'men's monologues' prepared by the Chennai art theatre, on Tuesday, Feb 26. The event focussed on breaking the masculine stereotype usually identified with the gender by depicting the expression of conventional human feelings.

Craig Lobo, theatre artist and producer of the program, said, "There are certain expectations that society will have on a man and that is what I want to deconstruct about men." He further added that in today's society, whether one is a man or a boy, everyone has a conventional idea of what a youngster should be like or what a guy should be like. "Whatever function that person is playing in society, whether it be as a son, a parent, or a husband, it is up to them," he added.

Blindness from negligence

Nikita Priya

A rare infection caused by a flesh-eating parasite has left a man blind after he failed to follow proper contact lens hygiene. The incident has prompted eye care specialists to warn the public about the potential risks associated with contact lens.

A 21-year-old man lost vision in one eye due to a rare flesh-eating parasite named Acanthamoeba, after taking a 40 minutes nap without removing his contact lenses.

"Contact lenses are a great convenience for those

who need them, but it is crucial to follow proper hygiene guidelines while wearing them. Poor hygiene can lead to severe eye infections, including the one that caused this man to lose his vision," said Dr. Shweta Taparia, an eye specialist.

She emphasised on the importance of removing contact lenses before sleeping, cleaning them regularly with proper solutions, and washing hands before handling them to minimise the chance of infection.