

# THE BEACON

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## WEF fosters foreign education

Unnati Mishra

**BENGALURU:** The World Education Fair (WEF) attracted nearly 500 Indian students, offering insights into foreign courses and literary advancements. The event, organized by Edwise International Group, featured nine foreign countries, including the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Ireland, Dubai, New Zealand, and Germany. Countries showcased their renowned universities offering specialized courses at their booths. Students and parents enrolled in international undergraduate and postgraduate programs. A UK delegate from Nottingham Trent University (NTU) mentioned employability and international exposure as their key unique selling proposition and also explained why students prefer the UK over Australia, noting that while both countries have similar colleges, the UK is more pocket-friendly for students. When the UAE delegate, Shekhar M from De Montfort University, spoke about the country's economy and its direct benefits for Indian students, he stated, "UAE's employability opportunities have peaked post-pandemic, and with a growing job market, students have a broader scope to work in the AI field. The courses are equipped with the latest technology, and guided by experts from 18+ countries imparting their knowledge."

New countries and universities have participated, offering wider opportunities for students, with more footfall than last year, according to a PU student.

## Activists dismiss Bharat vs. India debate as trivial

Fiona Vaz

**BENGALURU:** Activists and academics have voiced their concerns regarding the deteriorating state of Indian democracy amidst the ongoing India vs. Bharat debate in political circles. They emphasize the need to go beyond the reading of the Preamble and instead focus on implementing constitutional values.

On International Democracy Day, numerous organisations organised events across the city, urging citizens to embrace their social responsibility and practice democratic values. Simultaneously, the Social Welfare Department highlighted the significance of civic participation, as well as the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

September 15 serves as a reminder to reflect upon and reaffirm the principles devised to unite a diverse nation



Preamble reading at Town Hall

Reclaim Constitution

like India. Citizens from various walks of life actively participated in this event.

In the ongoing debate, Professor Parthani Roy emphasised the intricate relationship between politics and identity. While Bharat holds cultural significance in local and regional languages, India is firmly established as

the official name of the country in the Constitution.

Professor Roy pointed that framing the discourse as India vs. Bharat by certain groups is a strategic move aimed at critiquing government policies. He noted, "The government's narrative-driven approach often fuels protests and garners significant

attention."

Shekar Naik, former captain of the first blind cricket team, led a reading at the steps of Town Hall, joined by twenty blind students from the Karnataka Welfare Association of the Blind. They used English and Kannada Braille scripts to read, with Naik emphasising,

"Our country is not showing equality in many situations. At the end of the day, we are all Indians, one country, and one nation."

Anuradha, the coordinator of Bahutva Karnataka, stressed the importance of the government ensuring equal opportunities for all caste, religion, or gender.

Despite the unresolved social issues such as Manipur case and the displacement of the poor for the G20 summit, the values of fraternity and equality remain unfulfilled. Rohini, a street play performer, remarked, "Fraternity is the only thing that can save us people. Fraternity is something that we as common people can exercise. But there are political forces acting against people coming together. Fraternity is missing because there is intense fear."

The reading of the Preamble and pledge took place at nine prominent places.

## India's diesel engine phase-out plan explained

Navya S

**BENGALURU:** In the late 1990s, diesel engines were celebrated for their efficiency and reduced fuel consumption, aligning with the Kyoto Protocol. However, India's current status as a major global greenhouse gas emitter necessitates a transition toward cleaner energy sources. To achieve its ambitious 2070 net-zero emissions goal and promote renewable energy adoption, the government is poised to shift from diesel-powered four-wheelers to gas-fuelled vehicles.

The core issue with diesel engines revolves around their substantial air requirements, resulting in heightened chemical



Representational Image

Fotolia

reactions and the emission of harmful pollutants that exacerbate climate change. New Delhi stands as a prime example, where diesel vehicles primarily drive the city's pollution woes.

Diesel emissions, particulate matter, pose severe health risks,

including asthma, lung diseases, and premature mortality. Additionally, the combustion of diesel fuels releases hazardous flames, compromising air quality.

Rakshit, a senior automobile engineer at Toyota, emphasises the government's commitment

to cleaner technology, aligning with global agreements like the Paris Agreement. Diesel's notoriety as a major pollutant translates to increased consumer costs, curbing demand and promoting cleaner alternatives.

He highlights that the surge in automobile sales, particularly diesel-powered vehicles, remains a primary contributor to air pollution. Diesel's classification as a fossil fuel results in significant CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases, intensifying the climate change challenge.

The government's decision to phase out diesel vehicles represents a holistic approach to combat pollution.

## Global concerns on democratic challenges rise

Srishti R Jois

**CAMPUS:** The global democracy landscape faces twin challenges known as "erosion" and "democratic backsliding." These issues signal a troubling trend where democratic states gradually lose their democratic characteristics and slide backwards, according to Dr D Jeevan Kumar, Honorary Professor of Political Science (retd.) at Bengaluru University.

Speaking to The Beacon on International Democracy Day, organised by St. Joseph's University's Department of International Relations, Peace, and Public Policies, he noted a significant decline in democracies since 2001. This has resulted in more autocracies than democracies worldwide, affecting a larger population because of the same, he said.

Dr Kumar expressed deep concern, saying, "Democracy in India is under more threat now than at any time in our post-independence history. I cannot support it (the Emergency) by any means. It was a significant violation of democratic norms.

## Pet Gala: One paw forward!

Diya Daniel

**BENGALURU:** Celebrating the bonds of love and companionship, the Jayamahal Palace Hotel was abuzz with furry and feathered friends as the second edition of the Pet Gala, organised by the Feline Club of India, unfolded on Sunday, September 17. Pet enthusiasts from across the city gathered to celebrate their beloved companions on a day filled with unique attractions.

One of the crowning moments of the event was a remarkable demonstration by the elite K9 Dog Squad,

showcasing utility dog sports - a first of its kind in Bangalore. Spectators were left in awe as highly trained canines displayed their agility and discipline. The parade of exotic pets added a touch of the extraordinary, with iguanas, hyacinth macaws, and a plethora of other intriguing creatures.

The Pet Adoption Bangalore Trust (PABT) played a pivotal role in raising awareness about pet adoption. A representative from PABT emphasised, "We have seen a massive surge in adoptions at

present as compared to earlier years. With indie breeds being cruelly mistreated on the streets, adoption gives them a safe haven."

Adding a touch of glamour, the International Utility Dog Sports organised a Pet Fashion Show featuring rare breeds. Anirudh, a dog parent, shared his experience, saying, "This is my second time at the event. It is a bit difficult to manage your pets with everything happening around, but my dog enjoys every moment, and that's all that matters."

## Zista links students globally

Stephy Ann Vinod

India's biggest art and design educational exhibition was held in Bengaluru to add value to the lives of students by helping them build their careers, and making them pursue creative occupational opportunities in the field of arts.

On September 16, Zista Education organised the Global Art & Design Expo event at the Welcome Hotel by ITC in Bengaluru. Over 350 students participated. Zista linked them with the top universities like SCAD, RMIT, Bournemouth University, Paris College of Art

and experts from various fields.

In the wake of a successful event, assistant director of Zista, Mitali Rawool said, "Our intention is to gather all these universities that specialise in this field so that students can ask questions, gather information, and explore creative career possibilities." Following the growing curve of interest in creative arts education, the Art Expo occurs twice a year, across cities like Pune, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad. This shows India's growing interest in creative arts and design is increasingly apparent.