

THE BEACON

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

Wednesday, 2 October 2024 / St Joseph's University / Vol:17 Issue: 41 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Enlightenment on financial literacy

P.C Vanlalhlani

CAMPUS: Financial prudence must dictate investing decisions to avoid losses in the share market, as happened during the Great Recession of 2008, when investors, in anticipation of the continuing bullish run, kept on pumping capital just before the September crash, opined Swati Saxena, CEO of 4Thoughts Finance, at a guest lecture at St Joseph's University on September 18. She said the average CAGR was comparable to bank return rates a few years after the 2008 share market crash.

The interactive session on "Financial Literacy" with the second-year students of MA Journalism and Mass Communication at the School of Communication and Media Studies aimed to prepare students to manage finances as they enter the professional world. It focused on areas such as investments, savings, and loans. The session discussed the difference between investing in equities versus fixed deposits, managing loans, and the importance of systematic investment plans (SIPs). Saxena pointed out the importance of investing early in one's career and advised participants to approach cryptocurrencies cautiously, noting the risks associated with digital currencies compared to stocks.

Students sought clarifications related to credit card management and the blockchain trend. Saxena said one must maintain financial discipline to have a credit card.

Disinformation stalls Western Ghats conservation

Olivia Debroy

Misinformation and disinformation by politicians have clouded public understanding of a crucial environmental notification that aims to protect eco-sensitive areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats. Despite five attempts to draft the notification, the Karnataka Cabinet's recent rejection of the Kasturirangan Report highlights the challenges of the existing conservation efforts.

The notification stems from the Kasturirangan Report (2013), which proposed declaring 37% of the Western Ghats ESA. Before this, the Madhav Gadgil committee (2011) had also proposed considering 64% of the Western Ghats ESA, which was then rejected on the grounds of being controversial, i.e. "anti-



A view of Western Ghats

Namma KPSC

people and anti-farmer".

Since 2014, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has drafted six versions of this notification, which have all lapsed. The states through which the Western Ghats span, like Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra, and parts of Gujarat, have consistently opposed the ESA, which was backed by misinformation and disinformation

campaigns. "The political leaders misrepresent the information to villagers, claiming that it restricts basic construction, but that is completely wrong. The draft notification clearly says that there is no prohibition on any construction up to 20,000 square meters," said Khushbu K Bairawat, a researcher at Paani.Earth.

Another point of contention revolves around the discrepancies

in the map shared by the MoEF. Madhuri Mandava, co-founder at Paani. Earth pointed out that the maps make no sense because they lack details of the villages, districts, or taluks that maps usually have. The villages are spelt differently from what is generally found on Google Maps.

The notification is further complicated with vague information on hydroelectric projects in the

ESA. Current regulations allow projects under 25 megawatts without the need for 'environmental clearance', which paves the way for numerous smaller projects being set up back-to-back in the ESA areas, explained Madhuri. "Existing hydropower projects are a quantum of 3.7 megawatts. What is the impact of existing hydropower projects on the eco-sensitive area? That needs to be assessed. There is no good government data for us to even assess all of those things."

Khushbu suggested that the government should make geospatial data publicly available using existing platforms like IRIS to educate the public, ensure transparency, and reduce confusion. Without proper outreach and reliable mapping, the conservation of Western Ghats remains uncertain.

Feature writing workshop elevates skills

Debarpita

CAMPUS: The news article must be structured to maintain the readers' interest until the end, emphasised Chethan Kumar, Senior Assistant Editor of The Times of India, on Saturday in a workshop on long-form feature writing.

Speaking to the first-year MA Journalism and Mass Communication students, Kumar shared his expertise in writing in-depth articles that resonate with readers, focusing on the importance of thorough research, planning, and attention to detail. One of the biggest challenges in reporting is extracting informa-



Feature writing workshop with Chethan Kumar

Olivia

tion. Citing his news articles, he explained that well-structured articles can strongly impact readers. "Sometimes, you see a movie and think it could be cut short by 20 minutes. That is how writing is," Kumar said, highlighting

the importance of editing.

He provided feedback and guidance to students, helping them improve their skills in gathering facts and crafting detailed stories. By sharing his experiences, he illustrated journalists' real-life chal-

lenges in delivering impactful content. He encouraged aspiring journalists to participate, ask questions, and share their experiences while writing feature articles.

Students expressed that they gained a deeper understanding of how to craft compelling long-form feature articles and were equipped with the skills and confidence to tackle complex and engaging stories. As the workshop ended, Kumar assured the participants of a detailed training session with the students to enhance their feature story writing skills.

Official blames people for spike in Dengue

Anusree Balan Menon

Thrissur residents are concerned over delayed preventive measures taken by the city corporation, which have led to a spike in dengue cases. Rishi (name changed), a Puranattukara resident undergoing dengue treatment, said, "It's not only the work of the Corporation, but every panchayat should work." He also mentioned a doctor's death from dengue, prompting the corporation to fog only the surroundings of the doctor's residence.

Jayaprakash, Senior Public Health Inspector, defended the rationale behind the corporation's delayed fogging, saying that fogging is the last option as it is highly toxic. Preventive measures should start at home, he asserted.

"As people go to private hospitals for treatment, we are unable to know how many cases have been raised so that we can take action," he said. He added that public negligence and the corporation's delayed action caused this dengue outbreak.

Intersectionality for equality

Ourouge R F

Bengaluru: Concerns raised by Marxism and feminism are relevant beyond those who identify with these ideologies, noted Mary E John, well-known feminist scholar and former Director at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, at an International seminar at Christ University on September 30.

Speaking on the subject, "Women's Empowerment: Concepts, Policies, and Practices," she elaborated on the complicated relationship between Marxism and

feminism, pointing out how these movements have shaped the women's movement today, especially concerning sex work and caste. "The idea that we experience life, sometimes discrimination, sometimes benefits, is based on a number of identities that each one of us holds," she said.

Anjali Anand Seth, the recipient of the "Women Achiever Award 2024" in Education by the President of India, spoke about intersectional feminism in India, emphasising the importance of addressing gender equality alongside

factors like race, sexuality, and social status. "We often address gender equality as separate from race, sexuality, or social status. What is missing is how some individuals are affected by all these factors, and their experience is more than just the sum of its parts." To promote intersectionality in feminism, she suggested three steps: recognising our privileges, adopting a more inclusive approach, and embracing continuous learning. Seth highlighted that understanding these intersections is essential for linking all struggles for justice.

Laddus on demand at Tirupati

Rupasree

Despite the allegations of the use of animal fat in the Tirupati laddus, sales are on the rise, indicating that the people's faith remains unaffected, noted Samanchi Srinivas, a board member of Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) and BJP leader. Temples should remain centres of spirituality and not be dragged into political controversies," he opined.

To address such issues related to temples across the country, Deputy CM Pavan Kalyan demanded the formation of a "Sanatana Dharma Rakshana

Board." This came after the report released by NDDDB CALF laboratories in Gujarat, proving the use of animal fat in the Tirupati laddus, an important prasadam offered to Lord Venkateshwara at the temple in Andhra Pradesh, sparking a controversy. "Based on our traditions and practices, many have suggested that care and caution be taken regarding religious matters and Hindu culture" he added.

However, Srinivas clarified that the Sanatana Dharma board is still in its initial stages and will take time to become operational.