

# THE BEACON

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

Saturday, 28 September, 2024 / St. Joseph's University / Vol: 17 Issue: 36 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

## Statistical figures speak at Vectra

Diya Daniel

**BENGALURU:** Emphasizing on the critical role statistics plays across various sectors, Dr Melwin Colaco, Registrar of St Joseph's University, opined that statistics is an integral part of any institution, that it is present everywhere but yet often goes unrecognized, during the launch of Vectra - Coachella Edition at Xavier's Hall on Wednesday, September 25. Hosted by Frequentia, the statistics association of St Joseph's University, Vectra, the annual intra-collegiate fest featured six events attracting participants from various departments. During the inaugural session, Dr Colaco also highlighted the importance of organizing such fests to understand the real-world applications of the discipline in various fields. "Vectra is a platform where we foster creativity and encourage fun within the realm of statistics," mentioned Dr Gulbadin Farooq Dar, the faculty coordinator for Vectra. He pointed out that the event demonstrates how statistics could be applied beyond theoretical study. The fest included a variety of competitions, such as data analysis, statistical quizzes, and team-based activities across multiple venues within the university. "The competitions pushed us to think differently and work as a team. It was interesting to see how statistics can be incorporated into games and challenges," said Sankara Vignesh, a first-year MSc Statistics student, expressing that the competitions allowed for both learning and collaboration.

## Santhe connects farmers to consumers

Tejaswini S

**BENGALURU:** The Organic Santhe at The Green Path restaurant of Malleshwaram, Bengaluru that aims to bring the farmers closer to consumers, enabling them to directly sell their produce to the consumers, hosted farm-fresh organic dishes, with cultural celebrations on 22 September. The Santhe is a part of the restaurant's mission of taking a small but bold step in the organic revolution, by offering unlimited buffet breakfast and lunch at a reasonable price along with an exhibition and sale

## Meghalaya stands firm against RSS rally

Evaibiang Mary

**BENGALURU:** In direct opposition to a planned rally by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Meghalaya against cow slaughter and beef consumption, the Khasi Jaintia Butcher's Welfare Association (KJBWA) along with the Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People (FKJGP) has vowed to stage a beef-eating festival on Wednesday, October 2, sparking backlash across the state.

The FKJGP's announcement comes amid growing unrest in Meghalaya over the RSS's Gau Dhvaj Shapana Bharat Yatra rally plans, which many fear could disrupt the state's tradition of peaceful coexistence. Meghalaya, where beef is a significant part of the diet particularly among the Christian communities and indig-



Protest against cow slaughter

Meghalaya News 24

enous tribes, has historically resisted efforts to impose a cow slaughter ban, a practice promoted in other parts of India. Speaking to *The Beacon*, FKJGP President, Dondee Khongsit said, "If the government allows the rally, we will organize a beef-eating festival as a mark

of protest. We cannot allow religious activists to interfere with our traditions and beliefs." He added, "These protests should be held in their own places, not in other states. We will meet with the deputy commissioner to make our stance clear." Adelbert Nongrum, a Mem-

ber of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing the Voice of the People Party (VPP), also spoke to *The Beacon*, expressing his firm opposition. He said, "Meghalaya is a peaceful state where people value unity and respect one another's faiths. We don't want any commu-

nal clashes here." Nongrum warned that the RSS presence could threaten peace, adding, "The rally isn't just about cow slaughter but part of a larger agenda against our faith, practices, and culture. 'One nation, one faith' is against the diversity we uphold."

Khongsit also emphasized on the risk of religious disharmony if the rally proceeds. "We oppose this rally because it will create divisions. They should not bring their agenda here. If necessary, we will mobilize to defend our rights and traditions," he said.

Meanwhile, the district deputy commissioner has yet to make a final decision regarding the rally's permission, but discussions between the local authorities and protest groups are expected to continue in the coming days.

## Financial strains for international students

Romil TNV

**D**espite many promises for better lifestyles and financial prospects in first world countries, students often find the starkly different from their expectations. Many students often juggle multiple part-time jobs alongside their classes, and with a significant portion of what they earn is sent back home to support their families to repay loans and expenses. Aksha Shaikh, an international student in Canada, while speaking to *The Beacon* stated, "Many international students like me are struggling, even those with advanced degrees. The opportunities we were

expecting are nowhere to be seen, and wages for even highly skilled jobs are low. Recent government decisions to curtail work permits issued for diploma degree holders and halt PNP applications have intensified this uncertainty."

Living in Canada while pursuing higher education can be burdensome for middle-class students. The disparity in tuition fees is significant with international students vary dramatically; paying up to five-fold more than their Canadian counterparts (Statistics Canada, 2020). British Columbia and Ontario which charge the highest tuition fees, also

attract a large number of international students. By 2017- 2018 academic year, the international tuition fee comprised around 40% of university revenues (Trilokekar et al., 2021).

Despite these challenges that loom around, there has been a massive surge of student migration to other countries. "Studying abroad gives students the chance to select courses according to their interests," said Neel Faganiya, a student council member at the University of Toronto. The flexibility in course offerings is one of the significant advantage of international education, providing students a variety of programs to choose

from. According to the World Migration Report, India has surpassed China as the top leading country for international students in Canada, with the population of Indian students which increased four times between 2015-2019.

From 1996 to 2023, student migration to other countries increased by 163% with 50% of these students choosing Canada or the USA, as per the UNESCO analysis. Many Indian institution offers traditional courses in engineering and science tend to relate to traditional subjects, whereas other students who possess interests in other streams are alienated.

## Legal loopholes endanger animals

Sharon D

**BENGALURU:** In India, although laws like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act exist to protect animals, animals other than cattle often do not receive adequate enforcement or support under these laws. With a bailable amount of just ₹50 and weak penalties, animal cruelty cases are not taken seriously.

Mr. Keerthan Vignesh RP, an animal activist and chief manager at Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre, stated, "When it comes to saving cattle, the law is very strict. But when it comes to other animals, there is nothing much to back it up." He added that a country with communal values for cows should extend the same values to dogs and cats. This brings up significant issues regarding the amount of protection that various species receive. The differences in protection can lead to serious consequences for vulnerable animals.

He also highlighted the difficulties people face when trying to report animal cruelty. "Our local police are not aware of these laws. When somebody goes to file a complaint, they get harassed, which discourages people from stepping forward and going to the police station to file a complaint," he added.



The Green Path, Bengaluru

Venue Bookings

of organic products, said Jayaram H R, the founder of the restaurant, in his conversation with *The Beacon*. Every dish prepared in the restaurant is sourced from the organic farm -Sukrishi, Marasarahalli, Karnataka, owned by the founder of Green Path. "There is a misconception

that organic food is not tasty and without much processing, restaurants can't run the show. It is a myth. We are serving organic and "original" food from the past 25 years receiving the support of our consumers and volunteers in taking the movement forward," added Jayram.

## Christ University stars Chess Muse

Swaminnathan S

**BENGALURU:** Autumn Muse, an event organized by St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, is hosting Chess Muse a chess competition that has attracted students from various colleges across Bangalore. The event is being held over three days, on September 27, 28, and 29, and includes the formats Rapid Team, Rapid Individual, and Blitz Individual matches. Teams from St. Joseph's, Christ and KMC performed well, taking the top six positions in the Rapid Team event. Christ University Bannerghatta had an undefeated run

throughout the event, where they bagged 4.5 points out of 5 matches to earn the first position. One of the organizers, Joel Mathew, speaking to *The Beacon*, pointed out the necessity of conducting a chess competition at a time where chess is not getting proper support or recognition, compared to other sports in educational institutions and among the public, despite there being numerous achievements by the National chess team. Christ players are looking forward to top the upcoming formats of the competition in the coming days.