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Datagram 4.0 dials up the mood at SJC : Star singer opens up about the other side of fame

Sharon Anna James

Students from both technical and non-technical backgrounds were given a chance to showcase their skills in the fun-filled Datagram 4.0, an inter-collegiate fest conducted by the Department of Advanced Computing of the Institute of Information Technology on 5th and 6th May. The fest was organised by the committee members of the Sigma Squared association, which was founded in 2016. The organization hosts fests and events every year, with this being the sixth edition of Datagram. The fest included a wide range of events such as data storytelling and treasure hunt. "Working with each other to make something happen, and to know how much our teachers really care about bringing out our hidden talents, Datagram 4.0 certainly brought the entire class together. It also offers a platform to improve our personality and teaches us a whole lot about the dynamics of team work", says Merin, a student of Big Data Analytics. The fest was inaugurated by Mr. Sydney Lewis, the Head of Data Science at WayCool Foods, Fr. Denzil Lobo, Director of the Institute of Information Technology, and Dr. Srinivas Bhogle, an honorary scientist at CSIR Fourth Paradigm Institute.

Saishyam Srikanth

Ace singer and composer, Raghu Dixit opened up about his struggles and the mental health challenges he faced, while speaking at Open Heart 2022. He said, "I don't think one should fight mental health. You should accept it and embrace it." He elucidated his point, saying that only when someone accepts that they have a problem, they can approach a professional to confide in. Touching upon his success in music, Dixit also spoke about the various failures in his life. "I could not keep my marriage, I was a bad husband. Eventually I had to separate and become single. There was an accusation against me during the



Raghu Dixit addressing students at Open Heart

Siddhant Garud

#MeToo movement. It completely collapsed my world.", he said. In 2018, two women stated that they were sexually harassed by the singer. Dixit issued an apology, terming the incident as a "silly mis-

judgement." Speaking about this incident, Dixit stated that he did not try to avoid and was open to any inquiry regarding the allegations. The Bengaluru music composer added that he still needs

to deal with some of these dark moments and had been consulting counsellors and therapists over the past few years. Today, Dixit is striving to help others who have been suffering mental health is-

sues through Manadani.com, an initiative which helps bereaved individuals receive grief counselling in their own language, free of cost. He recollected how the initiative began, during the pandemic when a woman called him following the loss of four family members to Covid. It was then when Dixit decided to partner with Let's Talk India to create the service. Dixit's upcoming multilingual album, Shakar (Hindi) & Sakkare (Kannada) will be released in August. Speaking about the album and the struggles that shaped it, Dixit said, "All these songs are about staying alive when I didn't want to. When things went really wrong I wondered why I wanted to survive."

Uncertainty prevails as restrictions ease

Pavana J

The Chinese Embassy's announcement to allow some students to return to the country has ignited hope among Indian students studying in China who had to unwillingly return home due to the pandemic in 2020. The Indian government has also issued a Google Form for students interested which would eventually be shared with the Chinese Embassy. Krishnendu KS, a medical student of Wuhan University, hailing from Bengaluru was amongst thou-

sands of students who were forced to leave China due to the pandemic. Speaking to The Beacon she said, "For the last two years, I have been attending online classes and it has been really inconvenient for us. We haven't been able to do our internships properly. People who have finished their course are left with not many options to practice as the Indian government hasn't been very accommodating with students from China." "Given a chance, I would definitely return to China to complete my studies and practice

there but the chances are very slim, given how things are being handled by the authorities so far," she laments. Despite the 4th wave escalating in China, many students prefer going back to their universities because they feel their future is more secure in China whereas the Indian government has been hostile towards them. The main issue that worries the students is that they would have to write the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination just to be able to continue their practice here in India, following

which the uncertainty of their future still prevails. However, as most students prepare for the semester exams scheduled in the following months, they say they would be more than happy to go back and wouldn't mind if they would have to appear for offline exams despite attending online classes for the last few years. Students who have already begun their internships in India would not consider going back. However, many believe it is for the best that the two countries have finally taken a call regarding this situation.

Karim Benzema: On the cusp of history

Joel P Anto

Three knockout ties, ten goals, and two hat-tricks. Karim Benzema's magic on the field has been out of the world. His team, Real Madrid FC, were not considered favourites in the Champions league. However, the three opponents they vanquished, Paris St. Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City were all among the top five European clubs. This is where Benzema's elite mental strength comes into play.

When Benzema isn't playing, the team's intensity drops significantly. Individual performances usually only win some games, but Benzema's performances have moved Real Madrid one step closer to a record 14th Champions League title. Benzema became only the second player in UEFA Champions League (UCL) history to score 10 goals in the knockout phase of a single season. If he scores in the final, he will take the record for most goals scored in the elimination stage of a Champions League season. Karim Benzema has hit the back of the net 15 times in the Champions League this season, which is tied for the third most in a single UCL season. Having won the La Liga title this season, scoring 43 goals in 43 matches, Benzema will emerge a leading contender for the Ballon d'Or this year if he manages to win the UCL title.

Love for tea as strong as the tea itself

Pushparaj C

Chai Times has been successfully running a tea stall on Kammanahalli Main Road, gaining healthy profits from the many patrons that visit their stall.

The variety of tea offered by Chai Times is staggering, including items such as tulsi and Kashmiri tea. Sikandar Khan, the owner of Chai Times said, "There are 35 varieties of tea and seven varieties of coffee, like cocoa, pista, hazelnut, filter coffee, amongst others." Adding to the range of hot beverages, Chai Times also sells other eatables and drinks such as bun maska, biscuits, falooda and sweet lassi. Having become a popular joint in the locality, Chai Times has forged a special relationship with its inhabitants.



An evening in Chai Times

Pushparaj C

Mr. Srivatsa, a regular patron at Chai Times said, "When I think of tea, I am transported back to this quaint little tea stall on one of the bustling roads of Kammanahalli." Catering to the needs of each of its patrons, Chai Times is quite an elaborate establishment. The stall sells approximately four

hundred to five hundred cups per month. Their price offering varies on the basis of the three cup sizes, resulting in a consumption of almost 20 litres of milk per day, alongside the expenses of ingredients such as tea powder, coffee and sugar.

Darkness looms as press freedom ranking dips to 150

Subadra Sarath

India's recent 150th ranking on the Press Freedom Index globally is reflective of the current turmoil faced by the Indian democracy, say experts. "This time India has ranked 150, this reflects badly on the political cultural climate. As an observer of media and politics of India, I can say that the climate has been of intolerance which reflects the quality of media we have. But the question is why, as it talks about the political landscape of the country. From the last 7 years, there is an increase in the rate of journalists being jailed and killed for reporting. This speaks about the contempt of

truth and fact-finding. If the press or media can't speak then who else can?" said Dr. Fr. Richard Rego Director of Institute of communication and media studies. Prasanth Reghuvamsom, Resident Editor, Delhi, Asianet news said, "This is a democratic country; people look up to India but ironically the press freedom index here has reduced drastically. One reason for this is the restriction of press freedom in different media houses, slapping cases on reporters, prosecuting them under sedition, etc. New laws and regulations imposed on media also adds to the downfall of the press freedom".