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'Education fosters hope', says JWL dignitary from Geneva; stresses further collaboration

Siddhant

BENGALURU: With a view to strengthen and extend the collaboration between the St. Joseph's College and the Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), a higher education network, a two-day meeting was held on Nov 23 and 24 at the college campus. At present the college has collaboration with JWL and the BA programmes in graphic designing has been offered to JWL. Fr Dr Stefan Hengst from Geneva, one of the representatives of JWL, and Executive Vice President who was part of the meeting spoke to Beacon about the philosophy of the organisation Vis-à-vis education. "We believe that tertiary learning and the formation of a global community of

learners addresses the root cause of systemic problems like poverty, isolation, despair, conflict and displacement."

He explained the ways in which the organisation is inching towards achieving its professed goals. "JWL knows education fosters hope... We offer quite a substantial scholarship and as all of our courses are free. We only expect the student to take care of their transport and have at least a mobile with them." They offer a variety of courses in the area of Ecotourism, Global English Learning, and developmental studies. Currently JWL offers these courses in countries like Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Zambia, Togo and many more. Explaining the modus ope-



Fr Dr stefan Hengst, Executive Vice President, JWL

randi of partnering process with other institutions, he said, "The courses (offered) belong both to JWL and the colleges. If a college wants to offer any of our courses, we sign a Memorandum of Understanding with them." Speaking on the validity of the courses offered, he said, "The vital thing is that

at the end of it you get a degree by a university. This is not just like a training course we are offering." Dr Stefan added that with the rise of internet usage, it is easier for JWL to bring their courses to the marginalised community through online learning platforms. "In 2020, there was a drop in offline courses."

Is a booster dose necessary in India?

Mythiri C

Even as the total number of Coronavirus cases in India declined to an all-time high the clamor for the booster dose is growing with every passing day. This comes at a time when a large section of the population is yet to be fully inoculated. Medical professionals, however, opine that the booster shots be given only after vaccinating at least 90% of the population. Over 36 countries including USA, Germany, and Canada are providing booster shots due to the surge in Coronavirus cases. But India has not yet released any guidelines regarding the administration of the booster shots since only around 40% of the

population is fully vaccinated. Dr Prabhakara Reddy, MD FACP at Kauvery hospitals, said that there is no scientific evidence so far that the booster dose will help. The third wave of COVID-19 is unlikely to be as big as the first and the second wave and therefore the booster shots are not the need of the hour, he said. "The booster shots will be effective only after the population is fully vaccinated. If at all the booster shots are needed, then priority should be given to the healthcare workers. The booster shots are most likely to be given after 6-months of getting both the doses," said Dr. Muralidhar, HOD of ICU at Kauvery Hospitals.

'Allahabad HC's order sets a dangerous precedent'

Sutapa

Allahabad High Court's recent verdict that pronounced that oral sex against minors would be considered as a less severe offence, drew flak from social activists across the country. Sonu Kushwaha was found guilty of forcing a 10-year-old girl into oral sex in exchange for rupees 20. The Allahabad High Court has reduced his sentence from 10 years to 7 years,

which was imposed by the Special Sessions at the Court. According to the verdict passed by Allahabad High Court judge Anil Kumar Ojha, oral intercourse does not come under Section 56 of the POCSO Act or Section 99 (M) of the POCSO Act. Debasmita Sarkar, a social activist speaking to The Beacon said, "This sets a horrible precedent. A sexual assault is a sexual assault, punishment should be severe."

NSS and NCC units of SJC organises blood donation drive

Bincy Joseph

On the eve of NSS week, NSS and NCC units of St Joseph's College (Autonomous) organized a blood donation camp in the auditorium on Wednesday. Around 192 people donated blood as a part of NSS week. Every year NSS in collaboration with NCC conducts blood donation camps inside the campus and in the event of an emergency, students are sent to the hospitals to donate blood. Ankit Lawaniya, a



Blood Donation Drive, SJC

student of Christ University, who volunteered for the camp said "I felt the need to donate blood and the urge came because

Arjun S

I heard about a medical case in critical condition. It was also COVID time and the girl was suffering from 'Thalassemia' which

required an urgent blood transfusion. It is when I realized how donating blood can be a lifesaver. It's a great deed which can save precious lives." Arman Eddy, a student from National Sciences said, "I started donating blood the day I became a college student; whenever anyone donates blood it also inspires others for the same. If it could save someone's life, light a family's lamp, and could give happiness to a family it's a matter of pride," he added.

Investors and economists sound a word of caution on Crypto Bill, 2021

Madhu Mitha B S

The central Government's move to ban private cryptocurrencies in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament has created a wave of disappointment among investors and economists alike. The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021 set to be tabled in parliament on November 29 proposes a framework for the creation of the official digital

currency to be issued by the Reserve bank of India. The bill also seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India. Unni maya, an economics teacher from Kerala says that "the cryptocurrency sphere is already in a bad position. So the regulations are necessary. But the government has to do it carefully. An immediate ban is only going to worsen the situation and it will affect the future investors also." "Cryptocurrency

is part of the internet; it cannot be really banned. Technology is very important when it comes to online investment and I hope they do not pass this bill," said Harish (name changed) an investor. Despite the assurance from the finance ministry earlier on Wednesday the crypto prices continued to plummet. It is estimated that Indian investors hold more than 50,000 crores in cryptos and a sense of panic has gripped them.

Indian PR criticised for loss at Emmy

Fiza Ziyad

Indian filmmakers and film enthusiasts attribute India's loss at the 49th International Emmy Awards conducted on Tuesday to selective PR and compromises on content quality. India failed to garner any awards this year despite having three nominations. Shabin PK, a film enthusiast said, "Indian shows, while focusing on monetary aspects, often compromise on aesthet-

ics which is an important criterion for bagging awards." Gauthami Ashok, a film director from Bengaluru sees the loss as a failure on the part of the Indian PR as deserving web shows and actors are not promoted well. "The stories told by Indian shows are mainstream and mostly limited to the Indian audience and fail to reach the global audience," she says. About India receiving its first Emmy Award

for the series, Delhi Crime last year, Gauthami says, "Delhi Crime had a very strong and original plot as it was based on a true incident and therefore it was able to reach a lot more people." Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, actor-comedian Vir Das and the Disney+Hotstar web show Arya starring Sushmita Sen were the nominations from India this year.