

# THE BEACON

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

Friday, 05 February, 2021 / St Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol : 14 ; Issue :57 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

## Media Watch Committee lists targeted journalists

Akshara DM

**BENGALURU:** The Media Watch Committee set up by Editors Guild of India (EGI) released on Thursday, February 4, a list of at least seven incidents in January alone when journalists were targeted for doing their job.

The committee, which keeps monthly track of cases when mediapersons or media organisations are targeted for performing their job, listed incidents that ranged from FIRs against journalists to even their arrest.

The guild said in its tweet, "2021 has begun on an ominous note for India's free press."

It then revealed seven such prominent cases, including the arrest of independent journalists Mandeep Punia and Dharmendhar Singh for allegedly obstructing the police from doing their duty while covering farmers protests in Delhi. Punia posted bail later on Thursday.

The list also contained the incident of registration of FIRs against six journalists — including India Today's Rajdeep Sardesai — on charges of sedition because of their reporting that accused the Delhi Police of killing a farmer.

It also cited the FIR against The Wire's Editor Siddharth Varadraj in UP for reports on similar incidents.

## Activists flay Twitter flak on Rihanna

Alwin Benjamin Soji

**BENGALURU:** Various women's rights organisations and activists condemned the verbal assaults that were hurled at American pop singer Rihanna and Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg after they showed their support to the ongoing farmers' protests on Twitter.

Aleyamma Vijayan, secretary of the non-governmental organisation SakhiKerala, said, "Women have been facing verbal abuses from a long time now. It was unsurprising when Rihanna and Greta got abused for taking a stand. This happens mainly due to the existing patriarchal society that we still live in."

She added, "Every social



Representational Image

Creative Commons

institution supports patriarchy whether it be religion or educational institution. There

are changes that are happening where we are shifting from a patriarchal

society but a lot needs to be worked upon still. Rihanna and Greta getting abused just

shows that we still have a lot of work to do."

Indian Climate and Environmental activist Licypriya Kangujam took to twitter and said, "Abusing young women and children for supporting #FarmersProtest #IndianFarmersHumanRights is now becoming the symbol of this country. Shame!"

Meena Harris, lawyer and niece of US Vice-President Kamala Harris also took to Twitter in support of the farmers' protest. "Unity begins with truth. Healing is not possible without accountability. Stay loud. Accept nothing less."

## Centre to fill reserved posts

Pavithra Prabhu

**BENGALURU:** Those seeking government jobs may have reason to cheer, because all Central government ministries and departments are said to be gearing up to fill vacancies in posts reserved for people from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Union Minister of State, Jitendra Singh said in Parliament on Thursday, February 4, that the



Representational Image

Wikimedia Commons

Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has instructed all Central government ministries and departments to set up in-house committees to fill all reserved vacancies for government jobs through a

Special Recruitment Drive. As per information available from 53 ministries and departments, representation in them of OBCs was 17 percent on January 1, 2012, and rose to 21 percent by January 1, 2019.

## Covid-19: Masks helped prevent allergies too!

Athul Krishna

**THRISSUR:** Mask-wearing protocols mandated by the Central government to prevent the spread of Covid-19 greatly prevents the risk of seasonal allergies as well, say

medical professionals. Dr Priya Vijaykumar, a physician from Kochi, explained: "The months of January and February are problematic for asthma patients as the seasonal changes lead to breathing difficulties. So, we usually suggest masks or towels to those patients to cover their nose and mouth to prevent allergies. But, now that masks have become a part of daily routine, they have led to positive changes in the allergic patients."

She added, "The decrease in the number of allergic patients during this seasonal allergic time shows the importance of masks in preventing allergies and respiratory diseases."

Dr Viniya Ashish, a physician from Kannur, said: "Even before the pandemic, I preferred that my patients — especially those with fungal and dust allergies — wear masks while traveling in public places. When compared to pre-pandemic days, the number of allergic patients is extremely low because masks became a part of our day-to-day routine."

She added, "Even after the pandemic, it is better to carry on with mask-wearing habits to control respiratory and allergic diseases."

## Rajnath warns against maritime threats

Sudarshani

**D**efence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday, February 4, asked Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries to unite against maritime threats such as piracy, smuggling of drugs/people and arms.

He was addressing the Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave Conclave in Bengaluru.

Emphasising on unity among the IOR countries to deal effectively with various maritime threats he said, "We, therefore, have to join hands in looking at these



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivers the keynote address at the Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave on the sidelines of Aero India 2021, in Bengaluru on February 4, 2021. Press Information Bureau

threats in unison, because one's threat today may be another's tomorrow. Maritime resources will be key to sustained growth and

development of nations across the Indian Ocean Region in the ongoing century." Talking about the Indian

Ocean Policy SAGAR — Security and Growth for All Regions — he said, "This outlook towards the Indian Ocean Region emanates from the ingrained element of our civilisation's basic ethos 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which means that the entire world is a family."

He also spoke about the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORA-RC), established in 1997, and its aim to build a platform for cultural and socio-economic cooperation, trade and commerce in the Indian Ocean rim region.



Representational Image

Creative Commons