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Educating through food

Ishika Bhattacharjee

Campus: People often confuse food science with cooking and disregard the subject. It has got a lot to do with science and technology rather than cooking or baking, said Chandana, one of the EDESIA'22 organisers. St. Joseph's University's Department of Food Science and Technology hosted an inter-collegiate food fest, EDESIA'22, on the college campus on Oct 29 to celebrate World Food Day. Food Science and Technology is a more technical program. It is about how a product is made, its shelf life, experiments, and preservatives - in other words, the science of food.

According to Anns and Rahul, the event's other organisers, there are several misconceptions regarding the course. Mainly organised to recognise the value of the newly formed department and increase its popularity, the fest also had stalls to educate visitors about the subject. "The Department was formed in 2019, it is new and still many of them do not know about this department in SJU. It is as good as the other departments and deserves similar recognition," said Chandana. Over six different colleges participated in the competitions. Delicious food and a variety of enjoyable exercises were a great addition.

Breast Cancer awareness helps save life

Sreeja Deb

Bengaluru: Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed every October, aims to increase public understanding of the effects of breast cancer. The increase in breast cancer is an alarming factor and the most common and fatal cancer among women, followed by cervical cancer. The Breast Imaging Society of India (BISI) hosted a "Walk the Talk" a virtual Walkathon initiated by Dr Bagyam Raghavan, president of BISI along with Dr Varsha Hardas, the general secretary of BISI. An awareness campaign with regular check-ups and imaging through mammograms can help in the early detection of breast cancer and have

Ed-tech giant Byju's in a fix over lay offs

Shariq Ahmed

Bengaluru: The Ed-tech giant BYJU's layoff strategy, compelling employees to resign, has raised many eyebrows and questions. The organisation, often discussed in the media for its hostile workplace environment, is alleged of employee mistreatment after a few employees from the Kerala branch were asked to leave.

Around 150 employees of BYJU's Trivandrum office were informed last month that the branch was closing and urged to resign from the company by Oct 25 to be eligible for this month's and the following month's salaries. The company threatened the workers with termination if they did not leave volun-

tarily, which would delay payment of their outstanding salary and affect their ability to find employment in the future. A very limited number of employees were offered a chance to transfer to the Bangalore office. "All employees who have been given the option of a transfer do not think this is true. Only after bringing the issue before the labour minister did a transfer offer emerge. What BYJU's has done is very unethical, and the employees deserve fair compensation," says Vineeth Chandran, secretary of Pradhidhwani, the welfare organisation of IT employees in Kerala. All of this leads the employees who received the transfer offer to suspect that it is a plan to fire



Source: Asianatimes

them later when the pressure is off, Chandran believes.

Pradhidhwani said that the labour commission had stated the employees cannot be forced to resign and even if the company is being closed, the employees deserve compensation. "If an employee has one year of

service and is asked to leave because an office is being closed legitimately, they are entitled to six months of pay. The labour law mandates that this compensation be provided. However, the demands of the staff are extremely reasonable at just three months' income," added Chandran

highlighting the injustice the employees are facing. The affected employees continue to report to work and have informed Pradhidhwani that the centre head of the Trivandrum branch, Human Resource head, and senior officers who assign tasks have been absent from the office ever since. The management representatives and Pradhidhwani have received notice from the labour commission about a meeting scheduled for Nov 2, where the requests of the employees will be presented. "If there was no progress to things in the next meeting, the labour commission said the issue will be referred to the labour court," Chandran informed The Beacon.

Brewing initiatives to aid women's exigencies

Dhamini D

Bengaluru: An arena of coffee lovers engrossed in tasting varieties of coffee, spectacular music, and people indulging in stimulating conversations were the sights one could encounter in Coffee Santhe 2022. The event, initiated by the Women's Coffee Alliance - India Chapter (WCAI), also has a personal touch as the members themselves are from coffee estates and yearn to support the community. Coffee Santhe is an annual fundraising event by the WCAI. It has been taking place since 2014 and supports women's health and children's education in conventional and



Winners of the brewing championship

unconventional coffee-growing areas of India. These initiatives seek to empower female coffee plantation workers, their children, and the elderly by providing for their physical and psychological needs. Speaking to The Beacon, Deepali Gupta, secretary of WCAI, said, "We have different projects that we fund

like Navanthara which is for educating girl children." She added how they began with one initiative at a time to have nine initiatives now. On the conditions of women working in coffee plantations, Amulya Jayadav, a close associate to WCAI added, "Usually they are provided with the

necessities of a house and a bathroom, which is there in all estates. But what happens is, they are paid minimum wages." She also narrated an experience when they came across a woman who had cancer and provided her with care to go through her chemo sessions. "A lot of them haven't even got their eyes tested. Our main focus is to initiate regular health check-ups," she added. The proceeds of 75 stalls consisting of coffee giants like Third Wave Coffee, Blue Tokai and Starbucks and start-ups like Dope Coffee, Ground-up, Subko and various others will be utilised to support the drive.

World through a viewfinder

Nikita

Bengaluru: The Institute of Communication and Media Studies (ICMS) organised a workshop with a retired chief photographer of The Hindu. The workshop talks about what a photojournalist goes through to capture a storytelling picture. Photography is not a white-collar job, only the photographers know the real struggle behind every picture, said the famed photojournalist K Gopinathan on Saturday at St. Joseph's University. Narrating his experience Gopinathan described how he stood for one whole day without food and escaped bullets to capture a photograph. He also burst the myth that photography is a white-collar job, "The photographers will be chased like a dog sometimes."

While explaining his top-notch pictures he said, "all five senses of photojournalism must be open anywhere we go." He shared how the photo he took in the Bangalore city railway station made the government construct separate bathrooms for men and women.

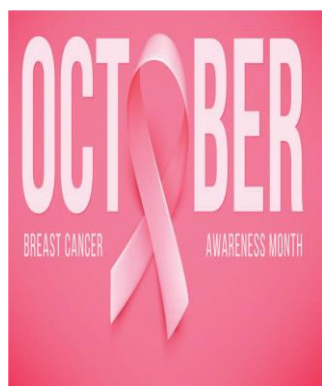
Gopinath also added that a photographer must be well aware of the camera and capture the picture within a fraction of a second, one cannot take a chance of missing the scene. There are no excuse.

Culture with some chutney

Angeline Claudia

Bengaluru: A two-day Flea festival from Oct 29 - 30 was organised in Social, Indira Nagar consisting of unique thrift shops, hand-poke tattoo artists, fine pottery, insightful tarot readings, and skin-friendly clean cosmetics. An urban hangout place in Bangalore known for its perfect blend of office and café has launched a new initiative Social on Sustainability. As a part of the SOS project, the Indiranagar Social's hosted Culture Chutney, an Eco Flea market, which is actively involved in working with artists and the creative community to create capacity in the fields of Arts and Environment. Our brands are built on

the fact that we curate eco-friendly items that I don't see at other flea markets; Raashi Sondh, the outreach head for culture chutney Bangalore, while talking to The Beacon stated, "It's a mix of everything, not just clothing brands or any particular type of brand; you can shop for anything from head to toe." We are here at Culture Chutney for the third time, and our goal is to be kind to people and the planet; we are a sustainable gender fluid artisanal clothing brand that creates contemporary products for a younger audience," Nehla, an artist for the company Kiru, said in a statement to The Beacon.



less morbidity and mortality. Scheduled from Oct 28-31, the main aim of BISI is "to create awareness and screening mammograms at an early stage to avoid further risk", says Raghavan, president of BISI. All the participants were to sign up and send