

THE BEACON

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Preamble: The Beacon of equality

Joyce Rodrigues

The essence of our constitution, the Preamble declares our nation to be a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic and to emphasise these ideals "Bahutva Karnataka" organised programmes reading aloud to the public the Preamble of the constitution at four different locations; It was read at Jayanagar 4th block bus stop, CBI FTT RT Nagar bus stop, CMH Metro Station Indiranagar and Church Street near the Empire Restaurant.

Vishesh, a member of Bahutva, said the idea behind this is to create awareness about the Constitution and its basic values. The values of the Constitution are under attack and to defend it we need to stake claim to those values in a public space.

Bahutva Karnataka came up with a series of a postcard in which the sayings of representatives who participated in the constitutional debate is mentioned on the postcard. According to Bahutva, the idea behind creating the postcards is that people could send the postcards to their close friends or relatives which will spread awareness of the constitution. They have also made a booklet of the series of postcards. The civic rights group recited the preamble both in Kanada and English and also came up with their pledge to save the Constitution. The pledge was reiterating the responsibility towards maintaining unity in the state, the members said.

Hate speech is not free speech : Setalvad

Abhirami Nair

Campus: Expressing her concern about the misuse of free speech, Teesta Setalvad explained how Article 19 should be counterbalanced with Article 14 and Article 21. She explained that collective movements gain greater momentum than individual ones in a democracy like India.

Teesta Setalvad, journalist-civil rights activist and founder of the Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) spoke at St Joseph's University on Saturday about her fight for truth and justice. She explained how the CJP functions to fight against the challenges people face at the grass root level.

"Hate speech is not free speech", said Setalvad. The campaign 'Hate Hatao Desh Bachao' took birth from the very idea of exploitation of free speech. CJP has created a huge impact on identifying hate speech and making



Teesta Setalvad at St. Joseph's University

Abhirami Nair

social media a safer space, she said. She explained how the CJP has reported and caused the suspension of various accounts on Twitter that spread hate speech. "They (the ones who spread hate speech) will be back after three or four months,

but we will keep doing what we can," she added.

"The CJP is not about 2002 (Gujarat riots) anymore or Teesta," she said. The CJP stands for the human rights of the commoners. She believes in the power of the masses. Her initiative to start

'Mohalla (Neighbourhood) Committees' made her realise the power a collective possesses.

Setalvad recalled the painful moments of being jailed. She had to wage a long battle against the prejudices of the system and expressed

that the hand-written letters had given her huge relief in the tough times. Sabarmati had made her realise the issues one faces in the prison. She talks about the poor hygienic conditions and other issues she witnessed inside the prison. This has made her initiate a program under the CJP which focuses on visiting and interacting with prisoners, especially political prisoners. It is scheduled to begin in March.

The idea of how we must progress with the idea of how we are moving forward is something that has helped Setalvad in her journey for justice. She expresses her concern about how we as a nation underestimate the power of youth and their capabilities. Mass movements and struggles are something which with the involvement of youth have always accelerated.

Students need to follow Bose's ideals: Bettadur

Kaustub

Bengaluru: Students should incorporate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's principles in their life, said Allama Prabhu Bettadur while speaking at the Scouts and guides hall in Bengaluru.

Bettadur, an educationist and president of the All India Save Education Committee, was speaking at an event held on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Subhash Bose organised by the All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO).

Bettadur pointed out that Bose had the ideological



Remembering the legend

Special Arrangement

foresight to start a women's regiment and wanted them to have an equal say in the freedom movement. He said that his birth anniversary was a day to remember what Bose's true ideals were.

Prof Murigeppa, former vice chancellor of Hampi university, said "Subhash Chandra Bose's main aim was to get independence. Where he stood discrete was that his nationalism

was beyond the boundaries of all castes and religion."

AIDSO state president Ashwini K S explained how thousands of students participated in the activities surrounding Bose's birth anniversary. She said that this was because Bose's ideas are relevant to the problems students are facing today. VN Rajasekhar of AISEC and AIDSO state secretary Ajay Kamath also spoke at the event. The organisation held events in all the districts of Karnataka. The student representatives from all 31 districts came to Bengaluru for the event.

SJU hosts a chemical fest

Jesblin & Chandrasoodeshwar

Campus: Following in the footsteps of the PG Chemical Society (PGCS), the Department of Chemistry and the School of Chemical Sciences hosted an inter-college chemistry fest 'ALCHEMY' at St Joseph's University on January 29.

The dignitaries present at the inauguration discussed the future and advancements in chemistry. They recalled their college days and the endeavours of the department, their position and obligation as educators and citizens of this country. Following the inauguration, events such as chem sudoku, reverse charades, quiz, poster making, and practical chemical analysis were conducted.

Speaking to The Beacon, Vinay, one of the volunteers highlighted the event of quiz finals which was hosted by Pramod Harle of the Department of English, which he said, surprised many as his expertise was in linguistics. "Glad that the entire department came together, especially the students who put their heart and soul into this event," Vinay added.

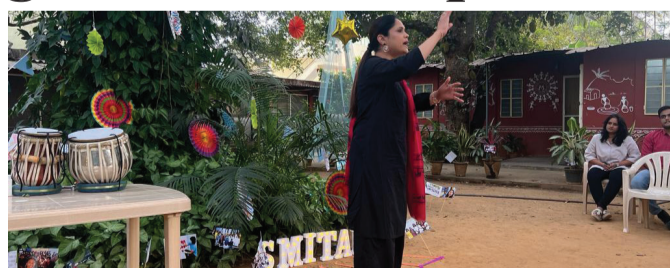
The fest was inaugurated by Dr Melwin Colaco, Registrar of St. Joseph's University.

Remembering hardwork and passion

Parnika S

Bengaluru: Reminiscing the organisation's growth and achievements, Smitam, an NGO celebrated its sixth anniversary on Sunday. The evening was filled with sharing of experiences of the volunteers and a talk by Anitha Ranaganath, founder of Sakriya.

Smitam is an NGO founded by Meghana Murthy in 2016. They work for the welfare of underprivileged children and uplift women. They connect with highly-motivated, compassionate driven volunteers. They currently



Anitha Ranaganath on volunteering experience

Parnika S

have more than 3000 volunteers, conducted more than 300 workshops and have helped over a lakh children.

The key speaker of this event, Anitha talks about the skills that one picks up when one volunteers for the NGO. She emphasised the need to

have soft skills in any industry. They can learn all of this for free in the organisation. "The affirmation you get increases your self-worth. This leads to an increase in our confidence and self-image... leading to personality development," she added.

Banned BBC film screened

Meghana S

Bengaluru: Despite a ban, the documentary 'India: The Modi Question' was aired on Saturday by the All India Students Association in Bangalore. The government of India has issued an order on streaming platforms like YouTube and Twitter demanding they block any content related to the film from being published on their platforms under the emergency powers granted by the country's Information and Technology Law.

The visuals portrayed the

fire caught in a Muslim area in Ahmedabad and the silence of the authorities. A former BBC reporter overheard the police speaking about the information they possess, however, they had to stay quiet and let what was happening to happen.

Hareesh Bhat a local BJP politician expresses, "He (Modi) has given us three days; do what you like. After three days, I'll stop it all. He said this openly, after three days he said to stop and it all stopped." Later, Bhat retracted his statement saying it was an imaginary story.