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Journalists face ethical dilemma

Nidhi B

BENGALURU: In reaction to the recent attack on a journalist in Tamil Nadu, working journalist Balraju said that it is tough to be objective in the modern world and journalists are susceptible to criticism and external risks constantly.

When reporting on a delicate or controversial topic, journalists encounter numerous difficulties, especially while dealing with sensitive subjects like politics and crime. Being objective in their reporting and presenting the facts as they are is an extremely challenging task for a journalist, says Balaraju. Speaking to The Beacon Balaraju says that the news that is presented to the audience should be unbiased and the article should be supported by facts and figures to help readers believe what they are reading. While reporting on sensitive topics or issues, if the journalist is unsure about the issue they should refrain from writing on such issues and fact check beforehand. Being a journalist, one should be courageous while covering such issues as sometimes you may feel pressured not to report exactly.

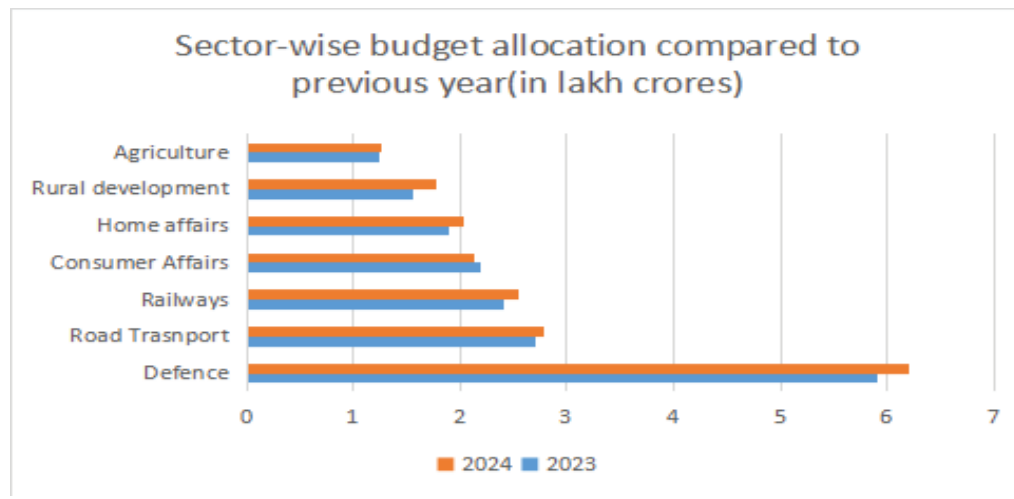
“Covering sensitive issues can sometimes be emotionally challenging to the journalists. It may have an impact on their well-being so it is very important for a journalist to not get personally involved with the issue and maintain professionalism,” he added.

'No-great shakes' approach for Interim Budget 2024

Pratham Basu

The Interim Budget presented on February 1, by Nirmala Sitharaman, finance minister of India shows a 'rose-tinted glasses' approach on the part of the government. With no major reforms, substantial schemes or tax cuts, the budget lacks populist reforms and stands as a bland statement of electoral confidence according to Shekhar Gupta, editor-in-chief of The Print.

The lack of populist measures indicates the government's deliberate restraint from leveraging the interim budget to influence voters, says Shekhar. 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 remains the key goal as the interim budget aims to position India as a 7 trillion dollar economy by 2030. According to Nirmala Sitharaman, this budget aims to be "All-around, all-pervasive and all-inclusive" with repeated emphasis on secularism and socialism to align with the Union's agenda of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas".



Graphical representation of difference in sector-wise budget allocation FY23-24 to FY24-25

Pratham Basu

The Interim Budget maintains continuity in direct and indirect taxation, sets a fiscal deficit target of 5.1% of the GDP for FY 24-25, and allocates an 11.1% surge in capital expenditure, reaching 11.1 trillion rupees. Strategic priorities include boosting island and spiritual tourism, a substantial 1 trillion rupees for research and development, and an ambitious plan for 72 new airports. Notably, 2.5 trillion

rupees are designated for railway infrastructure augmentation.

Social welfare commitments are evident with the extension of the 'Lakshmi Didi' scheme benefiting 3 crore women. Reforms extend to improving cervical cancer vaccination, expanding 'Ayushman Bharat' to cover ASHA and Anganwadi workers, and providing 300 units of free electricity under "PM Surodaya Yojana." The finance minister also pointed out that the

budget initiates financial aid for middle-class housing, aiming for the construction of 2 crore new houses under PM Awas Yojana. The government's plan to revamp welfare schemes for the four castes, namely "Nari Shakti, Yuva Shakti, Gareeb parivar aur Kisaan," aligns with this budget's broader vision.

Despite the romantic approach, this budget overlooks rampant unemployment and lacks allocation for education.

Claims of uplifting 25 crore people from multidimensional poverty are speculative, as per the NITI Aayog report. The failure to meet disinvestment targets by Public Sector Undertakings shows the government's lacking commitment to privatisation. There are no new reforms under the PM Kisan Yojana to benefit the farmers. At the same time, the energy infrastructure remains flawed due to a lack of substantial energy reforms to ensure a consistent supply of cheap energy.

The Interim Budget faces severe criticism as opposition leaders label it inadequate, dismissing it as pro-rich. Sachin Pilot, Congress MP, criticised its overconfidence and the absence of relief for farmers, the middle class, youth, and students. Congress MP, Shashi Tharoor criticised the finance minister's rhetorical language and redefined the union's new GDP (Governance, Development and Performance) coinage as 'Government Disruption and Rising Poverty'.

Consecutive victories for Josephites at RDC 2024

Shoaib Shakeel

BENGALURU: National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cadets from St Joseph's University for the second consecutive year won laurels at 'The Best Cadet Competition Republic Day 2024'. It is a great privilege to carry forward the legacy of the university at the Republic Day camp, said Manya Kenchain D J, one of the cadets.

The cadets Prajwal Tenginkai and Manya Kenchain from the 1 KAR AIR SQN of St Joseph's University, Bengaluru secured the gold medal and silver medal respectively, in the aforementioned competition. The cadets were awarded the medals by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The PM awarding Prajwal

Special Arrangement

"St. Joseph's University has set a benchmark at the national level and has become the hallmark of success. Not only the cadets but we met several officers with Colonel ranks and above who were alumni of the University," said Prajwal.

The competition takes place during the NCC All India Republic Day Camp annually. It aims to recognise individual excellence, and each year, nine cadets are awarded the title of "All India Best Cadet". Three cadets are selected

from each of the three NCC wings: Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Manya had to go through four selection camps before leaving for the final camp in Delhi. She was also a medalist in the All India Vayu Sainik Camp (AIVSC), another national camp. Her experience at AIVSC gave her an edge over others in the RDC, she said. Reflecting on her win, Manya added that the journey of 8-10 months was worth it. "I believe being the best cadet is not a destination but a beautiful journey which evolves you into a better person and ultimately helps you portray your best self," said Manya

Pedestrians fraught over sidewalk riding

Hemalatha Y.N.

BENGALURU: Pedestrians are fraught with safety concerns as instances of two-wheeler riders using footpaths continue to create a nuisance. Traffic police officials advise that such violations be reported. Pedestrians are being encouraged to notify the traffic police by noting down the number plates of two-wheelers using footpaths.

The authorities will then take appropriate actions by the regulations, said Santosh, a traffic police officer. Addressing the issue he stated that active measures are being taken to impose fines using Red Light Violation Detection cameras and field traffic violation report. A pedestrian shared her concern about two-wheeler riders on footpaths, stating that it has made walking a constant challenge and raised safety concerns.

She expressed the need for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations. "Two-wheeler riders should use the road instead of riding two-wheelers on footpaths as it poses harmful consequences for both riders and pedestrians," she added.

A sigh of relief for aspirants

Anu Priya

To address the rising number of student suicides and sudden fee hikes, the government has introduced new guidelines concerning coaching institutes in the country. These efforts fall under the government's attempt to ensure a healthy learning environment for students and prevent any misuse by coaching centres.

One of the significant changes introduced is that no private coaching institute in any state of the country will be allowed to admit students below the age of 16. The new coaching

center rules also cover other aspects as infrastructure and fees. According to Angeline, a practising Clinical psychologist, "These rules and regulations tell us how many young people got affected through misleading coaching classes. Coaching classes are made to improve student's knowledge not to be their stressor." Recent guidelines will ensure that coaching centres shall carry out their activities at the place indicated within the registration certificate and shall not be shifted to any other region without the written approval of

the competent authority on that behalf.

"Peer pressure and fear of failure made me join a coaching institute. Joining a coaching institute was a challenge for me because I come from a small village, and coaching centres are predominantly based in cities, therefore, I had to leave my parents and come to Chennai for my coaching classes. High fees were a major burden, therefore I dropped out from the coaching institute and started self-preparation" said a UPSC aspirant.

Flavours from the Northeast

Kessiah Joseph

BENGALURU: Highlighting the uniqueness and cultural significance of northeast food, St Joseph's University put out a palette of Northeast and Tibetan delicacies on Thursday. To embrace and celebrate diversity and tradition, the North East and Tibetan Student's forum of the university, hosted a food festival on February 1, catering to a diverse range of culinary and cuisine.

"I'm really grateful that we are getting an opportunity to showcase

the traditional cuisines we eat. It is really good to see people from different paths of our country studying in St Joseph's, coming to see this event and enjoying our cuisines," said Aphuteng Debbbarma, Tripura state coordinator of the forum.

The food festival featured a wide range of food from various cultures including states such as Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Ladakh, as well as Tibet.