

# THE BEACON

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## Guest lecture: SJC journalism students learn from the best

**Blessy Jeremy**  
**BENGALURU:** "Raise your voice with a balanced opinion. You have the freedom of expression and the freedom to criticize, but that expression should be fair," said journalist Shashiprasad S M while delivering a guest lecture to the students of MA Journalism at St Joseph's College (SJC) on December 15.

Shashiprasad is a journalist with 14 years of experience covering crime, courts, and entertainment. He has worked with multiple news organisations including Deccan Chronicle and Bangalore Mirror. The veteran media professional spoke about the importance of court reporting and described how the law and courts are an essential part of society as they represent and protect the public. He described the types of courts, a few legal terms, and the offences like contempt of court and defamation.

During the question & answer session, he gave an insight into the fairness aspect in legal reporting. "My first time (in court), I felt like I was drowning but I soon learned how to report court proceedings by being careful, attentive, and talking to the judges when I had questions," he added. The lecture titled 'Nuances of Legal Reporting' was organized by the SJC Institute of Communication & Media Studies for trainee reporters.

## War on terror might have been fake, but war on investigative journalism is turning out to be real

The United States won an appeal in London's High Court on December 10 to have WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange extradited to US on Espionage charges, setting the stage for him to be sent to the U.S. to face trial and criminal charges, which include spying and conspiring to impede national security. Australian-born Assange co-founded WikiLeaks, a group that publishes classified materials 'involving war, spying, and corruption'. The organization released confidential correspondences of US diplomatic missions across the world, exposing the unholy wars waged by the United States government. Wikileaks that started

in 2006 catered to the whistleblowers who had access to sensitive informations. They transferred those classified documents to Assange via encrypted mode of transfer. The Afghan War Diary and Iraq war logs were procured by Wikileaks and was published by NY Times which created a sensation in rest of the world. It exposed the real agenda of the US in waging the war. It revealed that a large number of those who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan during the war against terror were civilians. His legal team will now appeal the decision in the higher court and the legal process could go on for years. But these cases have already

placed him in one or the other form of confinement for years. He took refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London in 2012 whilst dealing with a probe on accusations of sexual assault in Sweden, which were later dropped. In 2019, after his arrest from the Embassy, he was jailed for fifty weeks in the U.K. for breaching his bail conditions. He is now in London's Belmarsh prison. Assange's fate will now be decided in the United States, to be tried in their courts, and it seems unlikely that both he or freedom of the press will emerge unscathed from the ordeal. If the US has its way then it poses a grave risk to press

freedom both in the United States and elsewhere. If upheld, it might undermine the key role of journalists and publishers in scrutinizing governments and exposing their misdeeds and would leave journalists across the world looking over their shoulders. The ruling is a major setback for press freedom. It represents a notable escalation in the use of the Espionage Act in the 'War on Whistleblowers' that has expanded through the past several US presidential administrations. If this could happen to Assange for simply exposing the truth, as history shows, it could snowball into something much more, possibly

highly impacting investigative journalism globally. If he is extradited and convicted, it would set a bad precedent for press freedom and investigative journalism, raising questions about the protection of the U.S. constitution's First Amendment and its provisions to the press. If the U.S. and the U.K. are serious about their proclaimed dedication to press freedom, they ought to take steps to set Assange free. The ordeal the "free world" has heaped on him for exposing abuses of power has taken away years from his existence and affected his health. This cannot go on forever.

[Pavana J](#)

## State directed by HC not to make Kannada language compulsory till further orders

**Siddhant Garud**

**BENGALURU:** Karnataka High court on December 13, directed the State Government not to go ahead with the decision of making Kannada compulsory for degree syllabus under NEP. However, few teachers feel a clear directive by the court would be much better so the stakeholders would have a clarity in understanding of how the National Education Policy would be implemented in the State. The direction was given by a division bench comprising of



High Court of Karnataka

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Chief Justice Raju Awasthi and Justice Shankar Magadam. Assistant Solicitor Gen-

eral NB Nargund, appearing for the Union Government had sought time to clarify the

stance of the Centre. The court then had ordered the universities and the colleges to wait until the further order that is expected to be out by Dec 16. A teacher from the Department of Kannada in Christ University, Mr. Shivaprasad spoke to the Beacon, "I want the students to learn spoken Kannada, so they can understand the city they are living in, and converse with the people properly." Some Kannada teachers feel that there is no existential threat to the language.

## Parents struggle to juggle during hybrid classes for kids

**Arushi Srivastava, Fiza Ziyad**

**BENGALURU:** As uncertainty looms over continuing with the physical classes in schools, parents are experiencing a hard time as schools keep switching between online and offline modes of delivery. Offline classes have resumed in November for most schools in Karnataka. However, the rise in COVID-19 cases and the emergence of a new variant has prompted many private schools to switch back to the online mode or adopt the hybrid model of learning. Things were returning to normalcy with children attending the schools and kids were jubilant, opined a parent. "It's very difficult to switch to online classes because students don't take them seriously. Now that they have their electronic devices, they don't pay attention, although the fear of COVID-19 has kept us worried about the situation," said Preeti Jain, a mother of a 6th-grade student. Parents also find it difficult to adjust to the hybrid mode. Zijna Sudeep, a parent said, "It is very stressful when you have to send your kids to school one day and then make them sit for online classes the next day. Both are totally different and I am just shuffling between different routines every day."

## A cinematographer's reflections: In conversation with Jome Joseph

**Saishyam Srikanth, Pushparaj C**

"The director is taking words and getting the emotions out of it. (While) Cinematography is about taking words and making a picture out of it..." said Jome Joseph. The doctor turned cinematographer is based in London, specializes in VFX, and has worked on projects in Spain, Mexico, and the USA. He was also part of the team that worked with Cinematographer Santosh Siyan for Mahesh Babu's Spyder. Speaking about his initial career, Joseph said that he started as an assistant in the UK and would bring coffee for those on set. He then slowly worked his way up the hierar-



The doctor turned cinematographer

Special Arrangement

chy. The cinematographer recalled that just by being on set, one would learn so much about the technical aspects of filmmaking such as the types of lenses and shots.

While comparing his experiences of working in India and elsewhere, Joseph stated that for a ten-day project in India, the shooting takes place for

the first eight days and then the makers hold discussions for two days. Whereas abroad, the planning and discussion phase takes the maximum time than shooting.

As he was signing off the doctor turned cinematographer told The Beacon that he was working on a biopic for which his friend was writing a script.

## Jalahalli football team wins the Appu Memorial Trophy 2021

**Mythri C**

**BENGALURU:** Jalahalli won 1-0 against Anekal in the Appu Memorial Trophy 2021, a football tournament organised by Anekal Football Club on Saturday, held in remembrance of late Dr Puneeth Rajkumar. The tournament was held in Anekal and it was sponsored by the VSR groups. The guest of honour was Shraavan, a national-level football player and the chief guests were Nanjunda, an International marathon runner, Meenakshi N, an International athletics champion, and Dr. C. B. Mohan. Around 22 teams partici-

pated in the tournament including teams from Jalahalli, Hosur, Kodagu, Anekal, and from many other parts of Karnataka. Along with the trophy, the Jalahalli team also won a cash prize of ₹15000. With the Anekal team securing the runners up, they were given ₹7000 as a cash prize. One of the players from the Anekal football team, Rahul said that they were denied permission to hold the tournament for two days because of ensuing legislative council elections, and hence they finished it in a day. The tournament received support from the audience and the teams as well.