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Ignitors held on campus post Covid

Sowmya A

CAMPUS: Experts from various fields like teaching, marketing, and social work were invited to train the students of St. Joseph's University as part of the Ignitors programme 2023.

Ignitors is an integral formation programme offered by the Karnataka Jesuit Educational Society which aims at developing the ethics and social skills of the students. The programme was introduced in the year 2009 and is conducted in Jesuit institutions across the state for pre-university, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

It was conducted in three sessions for four days and the topics ranged from personality development to interpersonal skills, life-skill coaching, leadership training, psychological development, social analysis and value education. Faculty members of the university had interactive sessions with the students to develop their social and life skills.

Narayanan Vincent, chief executive officer of Strategenie, addressed a session on critical thinking for the PG students. Manohar, an activist and a member of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUC), Karnataka, conducted a workshop on the Right to Information (RTI) for the students of mass communication and journalism.

Ignitors commenced on January 20 and will end on January 24.

Remembering the forgotten revolutionary

Jenett Jose

BENGALURU: The government claims to stand by the educational views of the likes of Vivekananda and Netaji but it has never been implemented at the grassroots level. In contrast, the education policies are outright anti-education, said the All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO) state secretary Ajay Kamat, regarding the National Education Policy (NEP).

The 125th birth anniversary function of the revolutionary Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, organised by the Bangalore district committee of AIDSO, concluded on January 21, 2023. More than 350 students from different district schools and institutions took part in it. The year-long celebration culminated with huge success at the Alumni Association Hall of the city's U.V.C.E.

Kamat stated that in or-



Students commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Special Arrangement

der to execute NEP-20, the government claims that educational institutions must be financially independent. This privatisation takes away the lessons of great men, poets and writers. He felt that it destroys the competitive spirit among students and abdicates its primary obligation to provide for education.

"Government institutions are now money collection centres," exclaimed Kamat.

Kamat advised the students to protest against the problems they are facing in public. "The issue of Netaji who opposed the forces that seek to divide the people by saying that the problems of Hindus and Mus-

lims are different is still relevant today," he stated.

Last year, five months prior to the birth anniversary of Bhagath Singh, a campaign was conducted. More than 35 lakh signatures had been collected from all 31 districts of the state, as a protest against the implementation of NEP, he said. "We are still fight-

ing against those policies," said Vinay Chandra, AIDSO state secretariat member and Bengaluru district treasurer.

Dr Sudha Kamath, a senior plastic surgeon and social activist from Karnataka, spoke to the students and described Netaji's life struggles while garlanding the portrait of the leader. "Netaji brought the practice of mass cooking in the Indian National Army (INA) to promote secularism in the society. He preached the struggle to eradicate caste and religious discrimination. He empowered women to join INA," she said.

Numerous lectures, student camps, film screenings, sukta exhibitions, book sales and cultural and sporting competitions were held throughout Bangalore during the past year to promote Netaji's vision of India and to inspire the youth of the country to inculcate his ideals, she added.

The Cuban revolutionary who manifested 'love'

Ashish Bhandarkar

BENGALURU: The once-impoverished nation of Cuba has emerged as the medical tourism destination of the world and has been a torchbearer of revolution in the region. The credit for this goes to Che Guevara, said Dr G Ramakrishna, an intellectual, writer and thinker.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and other affiliated organisations held an event on 'Public Reception and Solidarity with Cuba' to pay homage to the Argentinian revolutionary Ernesto 'Che' Guevara. The event



Bringing nations together

Ashish Bhandarkar

was attended by the presence of Che's daughter Dr Aleida Guevara and granddaughter Estefania Guevara on Thursday at Kondajji Basappa Hall, Bangalore.

Reminiscing the contribution of Che in the overthrow of the fascist Batista

regime in Cuba, Ramakrishna said, "His methods of upheavals might be criticised by the same people (referring to the USA) who sent 'puppet dogs' to assassinate him in Bolivia, but his endeavours for social justice will always be admired."

"Once, a Spanish admirer of Che named Lynch telegraphed him saying, 'as you have Spanish ancestry there is a high possibility that we are close relatives'. Replying to the telegraph Che said, anybody who fights against injustice in this world is my close relative," he narrated.

"Cuban people named him 'Che' because it means 'Love' in Spanish. They did it to appreciate his contributions to the revolution that got them freedom but the entire world should appreciate him for the ideas he left behind," Ramakrishna added.

The man who redefined Bhakti

Jesbin Sam Mathew

BENGALURU: The rebellious life of the Bhakti movement saint, Kabir Das, was narrated to Bangaloreans through various art forms, paying an apt homage to his contributions in imparting rational thinking in the orthodox medieval era marred by superstitions.

The Bangalore International Center conducted an event 'Drunk on Love' on January 22 in collaboration with Ekta Gatherings, an organisation dedicated to promoting art and music culture.

'Drunk on Love' depicted the world of Sufi saint Kabir Das through multiple performances. The event included narration, commentary, poetry and music performed by Vipul Rikhi, a meditator, immersed in the oral traditions of Kabir and other Bhakti-Sufi poets for over a decade.

At the beginning of the programme, Vipul questioned the audience, "Who was Kabir?" He explained to the audience where he had lived and how the ideas of Kabir were still applicable in today's culture. He stated that one of the main appeals of Kabir's poems is that even a common man can understand them.

Preserving vintage melodies

Priyanka Gond

BENGALURU: One can indulge themselves in theatres showcasing movies, music videos, and documentaries about various genres. Can you picture the famous "Arre O Samba! Kitne aadmi they re" sequence from Gabbar Singh as a comedy or melodrama or thriller? Prepare to take as many photos and reels as you can!

The first interactive museum in India, the Indian Music Experience (IME) Museum, has set foot in JP Nagar, Bengaluru. "It is a nonprofit project backed by the Brigade Group," ex-



A musical journey Priyanka Gond

plained Sarvar Kahlon, events and public program coordinator.

The museum has numerous performance rooms, a sound garden, a learning centre for music education, and high-tech multimedia exhibit galleries. "It aspires to conserve India's rich

musical legacy and introduce young people to various Indian music," Kahlon added.

Apart from this, IME's Project Svaritha engages children from socially disadvantaged and neurodivergent families, and #YuvaInCulture involves youth in leadership, creative work, and internships at the museum.

Workshops, seminars, and meetings can be held in performance spaces provided by IME. It welcomes school and college groups for field trips. Hosting an event requires an appointment through their website.

Misogyny in field of eSports

Srijit Ray

Despite being recognised as a sport, most men fail to accept women gamers and eSports athletes. They are constantly trolled online which is very discouraging.

On December 23, 2022, eSports was officially recognised as a sport by the government of India but the hate and demotivation faced by female players online continue. Shubiangmon Tariang, an aspiring girl gamer, pointed out that guys constantly troll her for being a gamer. She

says, "It is really discouraging as there are a lot of trolls saying that gaming is not for girls. We have also heard a lot of sexist comments but all we can do is ignore them and focus on the game."

Soumita Dey, another aspiring eSports athlete says that even though few guys support her as a gamer, most don't. She explains that to gain their trust you need to showcase your skills in the game. She has been able to do so and has played in several tournaments and now even her parents support her in this venture, she says.