

# THE BEACON

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## Renaissance comes alive!

Sharon Anna James

**CAMPUS:** Reminiscing the creative heights of the Renaissance Era, the first-year students of MA English came together to explore European art and literature through informative exhibits on Monday at Xavier Hall. The exhibition titled "Guides to Renaissance" introduced viewers to the Renaissance culture of the British Isles while also explaining how it ushered in a change. Pamphlets, graphic novels, comic books, a working model of a printing press, and a coronation model were some of the artworks that the students worked on and exhibited.

"Through my work, I was able to learn a lot more than from the books, about how mythology, stories, and the process behind them are intertwined, and it's quite interesting," says Ajana Sultana, an exhibitor. Jesselyn, another exhibitor, said that she learned in-depth about many concepts through the exhibition, such as theatre, architecture, etc. She mentioned how she was able to look at every detail and understand its relevance, which the others might not have been able to notice.

"The idea is that we learn by doing things together, and students also learn to use their research well. The main aim is that the students need to produce something based on the research they conduct on the chosen topic. This is more like they do things together, and they also learn to engage with the public which helps boost their confidence. What they gain from this exhibition is how to address a new and bigger audience," said Dr Arul Mani, Head of the English Department.

## As world recognises ASHA, India ignores

Saishyam Srikanth

**BENGALURU:** For the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers across the country, the honour of receiving the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Health Leader Award has brought immense joy. But many of them ask, 'Will these awards and honours fill our stomach?'

On 22 May, the WHO announced that they were honouring the backbone of India's healthcare system for their contribution in providing service especially to those in rural areas and for playing a pivotal role in community health services during the Covid pandemic in India.

Just a few days prior to the announcement, thousands of ASHA workers from across Karnataka held a protest in Bengaluru's Freedom Park seeking a resolution to problems that they are facing with



File Photo: Women in pink huddle together for their rights

Rama TC

the RCH (Reproductive Child & Health) web portal. When ASHA workers perform their duties of caring for children and pregnant women, entries are made to the portal to ensure that they receive incentives for their work.

But due to technological issues and carelessness of higher authorities tasked with data entry, they are not receiving their incentives, said Chitra, an ASHA worker.

Rama T C, Vice President, Karnataka Rajya Samyuktha ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha, AIUTUC said, "From 2017, till today, we have been facing losses due to this issue. They must compensate us for the losses that we have incurred all these years."

The ASHA workers have also been demanding that the government recognise them as Group D employees and provide them with all the ben-

efits that government employees receive. Chitra, an ASHA worker told The Beacon, "We are paid a salary of 5000 rupees in an age where a kilogram of tomatoes costs 100 rupees. How can we survive with this salary? I believe that for the work we are doing, we must be paid a minimum of 25,000 rupees."

Rama T C expressed happiness while noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had

congratulated them for their achievement.

However, she emphasised that despite not receiving their salaries for many months at a go in the past, ASHA workers have worked just for the sake of happiness derived out of their service. "But we should not be exploited. If the government wants to truly empower women, they must fulfil our demands."

Chitra emphasises that the Global Health Leader Award is one that they deserve for their work especially considering the additional responsibilities and the risks that they have had to take to fulfil their duties since the pandemic began.

**If awards and praise could satiate our hunger, we would have been very wealthy by now.**

- Chitra, ASHA worker

## 'Why should we collaborate' mentality poses a threat for Indian research: Dr Thankam

Saishyam Srikanth

**CAMPUS:** "For Indian students to compete at the world level, they must understand what those in their age group in other parts of the world are studying and this must happen right from the school level," Dr Finosh Thankam from the Western University of Health Sciences stated in an exclusive interview with The Beacon.

Dr Thankam delivered a talk at St. Joseph's College Autonomous on Monday about his work as a specialist in the field of Tissue

Engineering and about the opportunities for Indian students to make a mark internationally in the field of research. He noted how there has been a shift towards interdisciplinary research in the USA and other countries.

He recollected how he had come across a research study conducted by the School of Medicine, John Hopkins University in which the medical researchers had collaborated with the literature, physics, computer science, and the library &

museum departments to undertake the study.

The situation in India, according to him, is very different. "We think, why (should we collaborate with) a literature student or faculty. What can he do in medical research? So, that barrier (between subjects) is very less in the USA and other foreign countries."

Another difference that Dr Thankam spoke about was that the Indian system even at research and other levels of higher education depends

a lot on textbooks or on standards laid down by the departments. This was in contrast to his experiences in the USA where he had to develop his own projects and experiments from scratch after consulting experts.

He suggested that the Indian students should use standard textbooks and a proper methodology to learn while adopting a global outlook, which would enable them to excel anywhere irrespective of the university they study in.

## BMRCL plays a balancing act, moots new idea to ease traffic

Pushparaj C

**BENGALURU:** Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has mooted a solution to reduce the inconvenience caused to the commuters travelling to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) due to the ongoing Metro construction that began six months ago. Nikhil, an Assistant Engineer in charge of Phase-2 Metro, Kalyan Nagar Division, speaking to The Beacon said that the concerned parties would try to strike a balance between the construction work and managing the traffic. "We would work during the night where less traffic is experienced," he said. Travelling to the KIA became a tedious task as the BMRCL partially closed a section of the Outer-Ring Road (ORR) for Metro construction.

Moreover, construction work has also started on the Blue Line that passes through ORR connecting KR Puram and Hebbal. The Blue Line at the end of Phase-2B would house 32 stations in total, from Central Silk Board to KIA covering 55.8 km.

## New age Hamlet inspired by 'girmit'

Gautam Nagar

**CAMPUS:** Offering a fresh take on William Shakespeare's literary classic "Hamlet", students of first-year M.A. English staged a play titled "Kuch Toh Girmit Hai" in Xavier's Hall on Monday.

Directed by Ashish Joseph Hoovaraj and Aaradhana Pannikar, the play is a spoof of the murder-mystery and police procedural genres with Shakespeare's source material used as a framing narrative.

Speaking of the notion



A quirky twist

Jesselyn F

behind the title, Ashish said, "The entirety of the play is scrambled and comes to a particular point in the end. We took inspiration from the

North Karnataka dish called girmit, a mixture of multiple things."

Staying true to its title, the cast and crew of the play employed a multitude of creative flourishes in service of the story.

From emulating a news bulletin to the usage of pre-shot footage to aid in a court scene, the play grips the full potential of its comic absurdity and keeps the audience engaged, whilst also shedding a light on the fallacies of the legislative system in the country.

## BCCI strives for the right combination

Joel P Anto

Over the years, Indian Cricket has witnessed a problem of plenty with many cricketers competing for the few spots available to represent the national team. This has led many fans to believe that certain undeserving players have kept away other deserving cricketers from the national side.

After Sunday's announcement of the Indian squad for the T-20 International Series against South Africa there were mixed reactions about the selections made.

When asked if the players currently selected deserve their spots, S Manoj, a former Ranji player from Kerala, said, "Everyone deserves to be in the squad, and they are all match winners. Those who are not chosen are all talented but they do not fit into the current system, which provides the right balance."

"Extremely gifted players will never be overlooked. Players who can provide different dimensions, perform consistently, and provide balance will always have an edge in the selection," he