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Governor Gehlot honours Kalaiselvi

Neenu M

CAMPUS: Referring to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report, Governor of Karnataka Thaaarchand Gehlot said there are 30% of women in the field of Science and Education in the world and with their influence, new ideas and innovations will be born.

St Joseph's University in association with the Royal Society of Chemistry hosted the felicitation ceremony of N Kalaiselvi, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science this Tuesday.

The event was presided over by the governor who facilitated Kalaiselvi and talked about the contribution of women in the field of Science and Education. "We should understand that women's education and science is not only for the development of the judicial system and their personal development but for the development of the entire society and the nation," said Gehlot.

"I started realising that women with their multitasking ability can handle science in a better manner and in a way it should be handled which is why women in science are getting celebrated today in front of you, but in 80 years the stage is going to be filled by more women leaders," said Kalaiselvi.

BBMP set to tackle escalating water crisis

Divya Batavia & Amrutha GP

BENGALURU: The scarcity of water is a major issue for the quickly expanding city, which is a go-to destination for new opportunities. Local authorities say that the situation has gotten worse due to several issues, such as irregular rainfall patterns, inadequate management of water resources, and declining groundwater levels leading to further depletion of its availability.

"In May 2024, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board will operationalise the Cauvery Phase 5 project of 775 MLD capacity to provide 110 litres of drinking water daily to 12 lakh people, at an estimated cost of Rs 5,550 crores," said Siddaramaiah. Bengaluru, due to its population surge, is facing rapid



Illustration of drying lakes and thirsty city

Sigma Earth

urbanisation causing the fresh water to deplete as per the Water Lab research paper. Cauvery River has been the source of water channel for the city and is receiving 2,632 MLD (Mega litres per day). According to a study by the Energy and Wetland Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences

Indian Institute of Science the 262 wetlands that existed in Bengaluru in 1962 declined by 58% in 2007. There has been severe damage which has been caused to the environment, which has resulted in the extinction of lakes around Bengaluru as well. This has been caused due to rapid

urbanisation, according to the Institute of Social and Economic Change. An investigation of the Cauvery River basin's rainfall patterns and fluctuations has had a significant impact on drought frequency and water availability due to climate change, not just in Bangalore but also in

the surrounding areas. Examination of the sources of water supply, such as tankers, groundwater, and surface water and patterns in the availability and use of water across time reveals a scary picture of the future of the city. One of the main causes of the drought or lack of water in Bangalore is the growing population pressure on the city. The reservoirs and dams that were constructed decades ago have begun to sediment and dry up, which has decreased their storage capacity. Water supply can be further restricted and sedimentation problems worsen by using substandard dam management techniques, such as insufficient cleaning or sediment flushing. It prompts the government to release water followed by heavy rainfall.

Choose passion over paychecks in journalism: Vignesh

Rhea Sundara Raju

CAMPUS: The field of journalism is extremely enticing yet financially volatile and a journalist should have a clear goal and a degree of passion and storytelling skills to sustain in the industry, said Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Principal Correspondent (Data) The Hindu, Chennai Bureau.

On Wednesday, Josephite Media Forum (JMF), under the School of Communication, at St Joseph's University conducted an insightful session. Radhakrishnan spoke about the skills

and strategies required to start a career in the field of Journalism in an AI and data-driven world.

One who is extremely passionate about storytelling can pursue a career in print or digital journalism ignoring that it pays less. The belief that print media is going obsolete and no one prefers reading it anymore is not true either, he said. The newspapers are a major assistance to civil services aspirants and the readership of print journalism will not go down anytime soon.

"In my opinion, text allows you to pause, think, and come back and read again, meanwhile video is very difficult to understand." He said that the viewership of television has decreased due to the reduction in the audience's attention span and also that video content does not explain issues in proper detail when compared to print media.

The newest form of news dissemination from the past five to ten years has been on digital-only platforms.

He advised students to read and conduct thorough research about a digital platform's funding source. This is important because you shouldn't be left high and dry after working for the company, he said. He also cautioned the students that the lack of funding for digital news platforms can lead to the closing of such channels. "If you are choosing to join a digital-only newsroom that does not have a sound revenue model then you must choose carefully", he said.

Shipping rates hike burdens online entrepreneurs

Amrutha GP

Online entrepreneurs are bearing the brunt of recent price hikes on shipping. Owing to this hike in shipment charges, E-Commerce companies have cut down on free deliveries. For a few days, even Mynta and Amazon withdrew free shipping for shopping below Rs 2500.

Talking to The Beacon, Shashi, executive officer at an E-Commerce company, said, "We have also increased the number of packages and hired a lot of people due to this Amazon 1-day delivery." He further added that an increase in freight charges and shipping agencies hiking the salaries of delivery personnel has added to this situation.

"Entrepreneurs who are eager to launch their businesses are concerned about the costs and shipment. Individuals who are shipping items over to other countries are also facing financial challenges."

AI's humanised impact on journalism

Rhea Sundara Raju

CAMPUS: AI is far more advanced than one thinks. It is believed that AI cannot generate articles in a humanised form, however, what people fail to realise is that the more they use AI the smarter it gets and soon there will be no difference between an article written by a human and an AI, said Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Principal Correspondent (Data) The Hindu, Chennai Bureau while speaking to students of St Joseph's University.

On Wednesday, Josephite Media Forum (JMF), an

association under the School of Communication, at St Joseph's University conducted a session on, "Skills and strategies to kickstart a journalistic career in the AI and data-driven world."

It is proving to be a challenge to tell the difference between how a human being writes and how AI writes, Radhakrishnan said. He stated that one must be careful while using AI to write or generate content as one mistake can raise a question on a reporter's years of credibility. "If you push AI beyond its limit, it will

start making up things. And one day if you get caught you may lose your job and get a black mark in the industry. It's a very credible threat," he said.

He suggested that one must only use AI for ethical purposes, like researching topics to study and to teach. If one is looking to learn a new tool then the use of AI can be considered ethical. Moreover, it is also helpful because you can learn new things at your own pace, he added.

BBMP's 20 cr stray solution

Prajwal S K

BENGALURU: With 2.8 lakh stray dogs identified in a recent census, BBMP's proposal to tackle the stray dog problem is a big step towards resolving a long-standing issue. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has initiated a comprehensive three-phase programme to combat the stray dog problem in Bangalore. With a budget allocation of 20 crore rupees for the fiscal year 2024-25, the initiative focuses on vaccination, sterilisation, and

microchipping of stray dogs. Speaking to The Beacon, K P Ravikumar, Joint Director, Animal Husbandry department, said "We are also planning to implant microchips in dogs. A total of 1.4 lakh dogs have been decided to be microchipped. Through this, we can monitor the movement of dogs. A total of Rs 3.8 crore has been spent on the implementation of this project. BBMP has decided to purchase a total of 1.8 lakh microchips and 80 microchip readers."