

# THE BEACON

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## Flagship events launched in SJU by WACC

Ishika S

**CAMPUS:** Saving wildlife is extremely important, and to spread awareness, the Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club (WACC) is initiating treks, said Mayur G, President of WACC.

The WACC hosted a calendar launch on July 13 at St Joseph's University and introduced their two flagship events, Wild and Neerathon. The WACC was started in 2011 and has now become one of the most significant student associations of St. Joseph's University. Through inter-college fest, they aim to draw attention to environmental issues like water conservation and animal cruelty. Each year, the association chooses one endangered species and spreads awareness.

This year, the association has added a few more events under Wild, such as wildlife conferences and steps towards habitat restoration of the chosen animals. At the same time, Neerathon is run for water conservation, and this year, the association plans to work on lake rejuvenation.

"We want to grab the fresher's attention and let them know that there is an association that is concerned about wildlife and that they can be a part of it too by being a member of WACC," said Mayur.

## Government urged to address begging racket

Ishika S

An alarming issue of kids begging at traffic signals is on the rise, and mostly, it is uncertain if the mothers of the babies are the actual biological mothers. A large racket is suspected of operating and needs immediate government intervention, said Stalin Abhimanyu, an Advocate at Madras High Court.

After seeing a woman begging with a baby on Mount Road, Chennai, and later seeing the same baby with a different mother at a different location, Advocate Stalin Abhimanyu suspected something was wrong and decided to investigate. He found out that babies were being used for begging at traffic signals. On July 10, he and residents rescued three babies from Mylapore, Chennai.

Abhimanyu said he had noticed the same baby with



Representational Image

Leagle Samikshal

different mothers at different signals. He highlighted that the babies were fed a transparent liquid which did not look like water, which made him investigate it further. He tried calling the child helpline numbers, who said they would investigate it but did not take further steps. They became alarmed when he attempted to photograph the women and ran away. He followed them

and discovered that other people were involved in this scheme, which seemed like a racket.

Five people were caught in this operation. The residents tried calling police stations, but the police didn't act, stating that it didn't fall under their jurisdiction. Later, although the Mylapore police arrived, no FIR was filed, nor was the transparent liquid

investigated. The babies were handed over to an NGO, and five people were detained for investigation.

Investigation revealed that the babies were only around 3-13 months old. The women failed to provide any documents on the spot to support their claims of being mothers of the babies. A few days later, they produced the records, and the police released the mothers.

The child welfare service stated that the babies were malnourished and needed their mothers to survive, and hence, the babies were returned with the condition that mothers appear in front of the child welfare service every Friday.

Abhimanyu spoke to one of the mothers, who revealed that she had two babies and had rented them out for 2000 rupees for begging at traffic signals. "This situation must be intervened. We are very rich in legislation but very poor in implementation, and the law should be strict. The child welfare committee should immediately alert all government organs about this issue, and they must act collectively to stop this. It's not the issue of these three babies alone. It's an alarming issue. They do not have proper birth certificates; it's a larger issue of kidnapping babies."

## Convention against NEET exam irregularities

Anu Priya M

**Bengaluru:** "The portrayal of the medical field as unrealistically glamorous should be abandoned," stated Dr. Asha Benakappa, a medical columnist, at a state level convention against Mega Fraud in NEET Examination organised by the state committee of All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) Karnataka.

The NTA, responsible for administering NEET and other tests, operates without constitutional recognition. Nevertheless, it has been imposed on the national



Discussion on NEET scam

medical education system with the backing of authorities. Former Advocate General Prof. Ravivarma Kumar emphasised that corruption, nepotism and fraud become prevalent under regimes characterised by absolute dictatorial authority.

Around 200 students from various colleges across Bengaluru participated in the convention. Students raised their concerns if they should continue preparing for competitive exams such as NEET and JEE or give up

altogether. Many expressed their disappointment feeling that their efforts were wasted. Students also voiced fears about their career prospects, questioning the security of their future in the country.

"Corruption and cheating in the NEET examination is not only a fraud but also a crime," stated Prof. L. Jawahar Nesan, former Vice-Chancellor of the J.S.S Technical University and member of the High Level Committee on NEET Examination. He expressed disapproval of the situation faced by the students who are compelled to take the NEET examination.

## Spain clinches 2-1 win at Euro Cup

Pratham Basu

With seven seconds left on the clock, Spain triumphed in the UEFA Euro Cup finals against England with Oyarzabal's decisive goal at 86th minute. A 2-1 victory at Olympiastadion in Berlin came with an uneventful first half that was only marked by Spain's first goal by Williams at the 47th minute. England's Palmer equalised it at 72nd minute but Spain regained advantage with the final goal by Oyarzabal.

Spain dominated with 66 percent possession and six shots on target, while England struggled to keep up. Oyarzabal, elated, said, "I did what I had to do at every moment to try to help. I was lucky enough to win."

Rodri was named player of the tournament, and Yamal was awarded player of the match.

England's captain, Harry Kane while reflecting upon the loss, stated that losing in a final is as tough as it gets and while England really did well to get back into the game, they couldn't keep the ball and got punished for the same.

## Kakuda: Fails to keep audience intrigued

Navya Y

Kakuda, a horror-comedy film starring Ritesh Deshmukh, Sonakshi Sinha and Saqib Salem released on July 12, revolves around a spirit named 'Kakuda' who torments the cursed village, Rathodi. The plot revolves around the villager's compulsion to keep the small door of their house open every Tuesday at 7:15 pm.

The myth is that if a man fails to keep the small door open, he becomes a hunchback and eventually dies thirteen days later, while the Kakuda spares



Movie poster

women. One night when Sunny (Saqib Salem) fails to keep the door open, he ends up getting a hump for thirteen days till his death. His wife, Indira (Sonakshi Sinha), attempts to discover the facts behind the myth. Meanwhile, she approaches a

ghost hunter named Victor Jacob (Ritesh Deshmukh) to help her in the mission. As the events unfold over the period, the plot becomes absurd and uncanny, detached from its genre.

Director Aditya Sarpotdar attempts to introduce a unique aspect by having Sonakshi play a dual role. This strange folklore tests viewers' patience until the end without connecting each character's subplot and the central theme. Despite the plot's shortcomings, performers like Ritesh Deshmukh and Sonakshi Sinha try their best to intrigue the audience.

## Authors discuss secularism

Unnati M

A conversation between two authors sharing a teacher-student relationship elucidated the concept of Secularism in the Global South on Saturday.

The Bangalore International Centre (BIC) hosted an event titled 'Secularism, Religion and Women- Perspectives from the Global South' and author Nivedita Menon, along with Debangana Chatterjee, aimed to probe the two concepts of religion and secularism using gender as the focal point.

"Most societies of the global south always thought of

secularism as not separation of state and religion but as a tool for recognising and protecting diversity. It is a community orientation," said Chatterjee.

Illuminating the politics of representation and the process of excluding women's bodies in knowledge production, Chatterjee highlighted the complexities of these representations.

Secularism "hyper-visibility" religion. The opposite of secularism is a democratic declaration of diversity. The one strategy of Hindutva is to marginalise and destroy minorities completely, added Menon.