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Spotlight on data privacy

Gautam Nagar

Tackling a topical issue facing the world, the students of second-year Mass Communication and Journalism staged a street play around the subject of "data privacy" on Monday. The street play shed light on important instances about data privacy, such as cyberbullying, cyber security, and numerous fraudulent and scamming practices that take place in the online sphere, including phishing and vishing. Speaking to The Beacon, Godwin Emmanuel, a participant in the play said, "Over the past few months, I have come across numerous issues regarding data privacy in the newspaper. It was a good opportunity to have students of the college as our audience to make them aware of the dangers and issues in data privacy." While the play employed aspects such as musical supplements, exaggerated characters and fourth wall break to drive home its message, it was rooted in real-world experiences where users' data was at risk. "My cousins have faced similar instances, which we kept in mind while coming up with the street play," said Anna Mariam Ittyerah, another participant, while highlighting the creative aspects to make the play engaging to the audience. Speaking about the relevance of the subject, Megha Bhattacharjee said, "Cybercrimes and data privacy is one aspect that we constantly come across, and it's important to be aware of how multinational corporations such as Google employ our personal information."

Moment of glory for SJC: College ranks 2nd, ICMS 10th in India

Sharon Anna James

The Institute of Communication and Media Studies (ICMS) of St. Joseph's College Autonomous, Bengaluru has been ranked the 10th best destination for journalism and communication studies in a nationwide survey conducted by Education World India for the academic year 2022-2023.

"The importance of this ranking was that they neither asked us for advertisements or financial returns nor did

Unravelling a 'New Horizon' of hatred

Afreen Hussain

"'Love conquers all' was once taught in this school and now I sit wondering what it meant," said an alumna of New Horizon Public School. The private school situated in Indiranagar, Bengaluru is in a soup purportedly after an email was sent to the students and alumni asking them to edit the name of the 'Gyanvapi mosque' to 'Gyanvapi temple' on Google Maps. The mail also asked the alumni to request other "Hindu brothers and sisters" to come together to do the needful. Several of the alumni expressed their disappointment and anguish on social media, tagging the school and sharing screenshots of the emails received. Rachna Malini Lakshman, an alumna of the school and an assistant professor at a private college



Bonhomie gone wrong

www.nphs.in

in Bengaluru said that the school has been affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), having always aligned with the ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). She believes that the situation was much better when she passed out in 2009 but has only deteriorated since. "The school management sacks students and staff who do not ally with the RSS ideology. They also supported the

Hijab ban, and are extremely Islamophobic as seen in the school's official website which consists of numerous pro-Hindutva posts."

Farhan Ahmed, another alumna of the school said, "Before the judiciary could rule out any statement regarding this matter, it is really unfair for an educational institution to send such emails to their students and the alumni. Also, when the film 'The Kashmir Files'

released, the school made it mandatory for the students to watch it. They really want to spread the message of hate and communalism is what I feel. The Chairman, Dr. Mohan Manghnani is associated with the BJP and a lot of donation is given to the political party which is mentioned in the school's official website as well. The school has donated a huge amount towards the Rama Janmabhoomi Teertha Kendra, Ram Mandir Trust and PM Cares Fund to name a few."

Another former student, currently a research scientist in Germany stated that the school has enabled similar discriminatory practices in the past. Quoting a personal experience on the condition of anonymity, he said, "The school imposes a difference in skin tone, one of the Hindi teachers who had joined when I was a student back

then commented on my skin tone in a derogatory manner. That particular incident traumatised me and severely harmed my self-esteem. The emails sent from the school were received by the alumni who belonged to the Hindu community whereas the alumni belonging to the Muslim community were not sent the emails. This just shows the indulgence of the school in acts of segregation."

The Beacon contacted the Kothanur Police Station where the school had allegedly lodged a complaint seeking an investigation into the matter. Benjamin, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) at the station said, "I am not aware of any such complaint being lodged by the school." The school management did not respond when contacted for a comment.

'Life is more than rice bath when you travel outside'

Saishyam Srikanth

In the middle of last year, Ashwin Prabhakara, a food blogger from Bengaluru decided to quit his IT job to become a full-time content creator. This was when he decided to take up an ambitious 100-day Karnataka tour with the goal of visiting each district.

Ashwin, popularly known as 'SoBengaluru' said, "I thought if I am doing this full time I need to pick something larger than life." Along with his travel and food blogging, he also wanted to run 5-kilometres in every district

of the state.

The goal was two-fold – to check his breathing and ensure that he didn't have Covid-19 and to set a record of being the only person to run 5-kilometres in every district of the state. "No athlete, even if he has been running since his school days, would have run in all 31 districts," he noted.

Through his travel, Ashwin wanted to ensure that he displayed the state's diversity through his work. "Life is more than 'rice bath' when you travel outside," Ashwin said in this regard.

One of his favourite memories came in Bagalkot, just outside the Banashankari Temple where an old lady sold 'jollad roti' for just 30 rupees. For Ashwin, this was one of his most satisfying meals on the trip.

Ashwin says that the response to his trip was unexpected, and it was reflected in his Instagram followers' count, which has grown from 89k before the trip to 184k.

While a lot of his memories came from the food he ate, one lasting memory came when he got the chance to

visit the thermal power plant in Raichur which is a highly guarded establishment.

Throughout his trip, only one food stall received the honour of two visits. This was the Khader Bhai Girmmit stall in Hospet.

"Usually only a few ingredients are used to make Girmmit but here, he puts 25 ingredients including various varieties of mixtures.

It is very spicy but doesn't burn your stomach and you enjoy it," Ashwin said. Over two days, he bought four plates of Girmmit from this stall.

'Master the subject by getting the basics right'

Joel P Anto

BENGALURU: Students must have in depth knowledge of the basics of their subject to succeed in their field, Dr. Finosh G Thankam said while addressing students of St. Joseph's College Autonomous on Monday. The Global Initiatives Centre at SJC organised this exclusive interaction with the Professor from Western University of Health Sciences. He addressed students on topics like connecting with foreign universities, the research process and elaborated on his field of specialisation, Tissue Engineering.

Dr Thankam spoke about the importance of his field which aims to produce materials that can perform the function of native tissues in body parts such as the heart. The field has especially grown in importance since organs are scarce for transplantation. The professor urged students to build a base in research by publishing review papers in scientific journals. "This is your high time, read well, push yourself beyond your comfort zones, and learn," he said.

SJC pays homage to Pawan P

Sanjana Anand

A condolence meeting was held by St. Joseph's College Autonomous to mourn the passing of Pawan P, a second-year BCom student on May 23.

As his loved ones gathered at the Admin Block to pray for the deceased member of the Josephite family, the Registrar of the college, Dr Melwin Colaco addressed the gathering. "Life is not ours for us to give or take, it belongs to Him, who gave it to us freely. Although we

don't know why Pawan was taken away from us, we submit to the sovereignty of the Almighty trusting that he knows best. In moments of utter despair, may we always remember to choose life over death."

"As a student, he was a very fun-loving guy. He used to answer questions and interact well in class. He was so normal that his closest friend had no idea of what was happening in his life," said Sushmitha Vincent, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce.