

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Friday, January 30, 2026 / St Joseph's University / Vol:18 Issue: 70 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Gate Z lounge sparks debate

Karan Siddharth G

Bengaluru's new Gate Z lounge at Kempegowda International Airport has sparked debate on social media since its launch on January 21, with users comparing its visual appeal to practical concerns about comfort and utility. The first of its kind Gen Z-inspired social lounge, located in Terminal 2 (T2) of the airport, has received a surge of attention, with reactions ranging from enthusiasm to scepticism about how its aesthetics translate into the passenger experience.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, real estate consultant Ganesh Gopalan praised the initiative, stating, "Bengaluru Airport raises the bar. Gate Z at T2, a Gen Z-inspired social lounge, shows how travel is now a lifestyle, not just a journey. A smart move that adds global appeal to the Airport City ecosystem."

However, young travellers have voiced doubts regarding this initiative. Sanjay Kanna, a college student from Christ University, said, "It looks pretty but lacks a lot of functionality. The old international lounges in T1 were much, much better. It prioritises vibe and aesthetics over the traditional quiet comfort found in T1 lounges." The overall reaction reveals a tension between Gen Z values, community, creativity, visual culture, travel-wear priorities, genuine comfort, and functional design. As the lounge gains traction, its success would heavily depend more on its operational longevity than on being a social media model.

Marty Supreme: Restless ambition

Riya Vivek

Since *Marty Supreme* hit theatres, it is clear it isn't a typical biopic; it feels moody and ambitious in its focus. The lead actor, Timothée Chalamet, created buzz ahead of the release through an extensive press tour.

The film is produced by A24 Films and directed by Josh Safdie. It stars Gwyneth Paltrow alongside Fran Drescher and Tyler, the Creator in prominent roles. Loosely based on the life of real-life table tennis player Marty Reisman, the film is set in the 1950s, unfolding within a dog-eat-dog world. Chalamet's performance immerses the audience in the

Artificial Intelligence finds place in creative world

V Priyanka

Highlighting that Artificial Intelligence will find its place in the creative landscape without destroying human artistic creation, Christopher Hogg, professor of creative digital and social media at Royal Holloway, University of London, pointed out that photography was also once threatened by traditional art forms before becoming an art form itself, in his lecture at St Joseph's University. During the collaboration between The British Council and the School of Communication and Media Studies conducted at St Joseph's University, he explored the tension between trust, creativity, and automation, inviting students to reflect on what it means to be a maker, a thinker, and a human in a time of accelerating



Christopher Hogg addressing the students of SCMS

Timeus Christian Sundar

machine intelligence.

The talk began with a fun, interactive quiz, allowing the speaker to get the crowd invested in the conversation. During his lecture, he mentioned that 60 per cent of teachers in the UK use artificial intelligence to make student-centric lesson plans and record scores. "Students also use it when they run out of time, and to teach themselves

when the teaching is unclear. ... AI is never going to be in the same reality as us. It's always going to be outside of our reality," he added. While talking about the differences between AI and human creativity, he explained how humans are very good at framing questions creatively. He explained that the fundamental difference is that AI is a slave, lacking the drive or desire to create.

While discussing artificially created art, Christopher said, "AI art is the great unfinished of anything that's ever been finished. You can bring things back from the dead. And you can remix anything."

Christopher mentioned his conversation with Ali Eslami, a distinguished research scientist at Google DeepMind, who said that AI is just like photography and

didn't stop art. Instead, artists just made space for this new form of art, and the same will happen with AI in the field of creation and beyond. What Christopher emphasised is that AI lacks human presence, which is irreplaceable. The lecture also included a video featuring Dr Takeo Higuchi, who addressed the students with an insightful message. "You have to brighten your creativity, then AI won't scare you." He advised us to set aside two hours of our time each day to sit down with a book and pen and write innovative ideas, using himself as an example. Dr Takeo spent two hours every day for 41 years and has to date filled 580 books with over half a million innovative ideas. The session concluded with a question-and-answer session, leaving students with deeper insights into AI and its future in the creative field.

Doctors stress awareness amid rising Nipah cases

Aakanksha Singh

Health authorities in West Bengal are on high alert after a number of Nipah Virus cases were reported from the Parganas districts. Despite cases being limited at the moment, the doctors emphasise the need for public awareness to prevent it.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Dr Ritesh Singh Ghai, a senior doctor at Pune Government Hospital, stated, "The virus can be severe if not detected on time, and even a small number of cases need attention. Health authorities act early, not to scare people, but to prevent

the situation from becoming bigger like Covid." Nipah virus is a communicable disease that could cause serious respiratory issues and fatal swelling in the brain.

After continuous monitoring, Dr Ghai is concerned that the situation could deteriorate. Certain groups are more vulnerable to the virus, including elderly people, those with weak immunity, people with existing illnesses, and healthcare workers. "Their bodies may find it harder to fight infections, and healthcare workers are exposed more often," he added. Fever, headache,

body aches, tiredness, and sometimes breathing difficulty can be early symptoms. "If symptoms do not improve in a day or two, or if there is high fever, confusion, or breathing trouble, help should be sought immediately. Early treatment makes a big difference."

This virus primarily spreads from animals to humans and, among humans, mainly through close contact, especially during exposure to bodily fluids. In the current situation, officials identified a small cluster of Nipah virus cases due to a group of people coming into close contact with the existing patients.

However, they are being closely monitored under medical supervision. Hence, doctors stress the importance of early medication to identify symptoms and control their spread.

According to Dr Ghai, basic precautions such as regular handwashing, avoiding close contact with sick people, and wearing masks in disease-prone environments like hospitals could help combat the virus. "Stay informed... calm and responsible behaviour helps control any health situation better than fear ever can," Dr Ghai advised.

Karnataka schools defend fee hikes

Rochelle Mary Marshall

BENGALURU: Private educational institutions in Karnataka have defended their fee policy amid fresh protests by parents demanding implementation of Tamil Nadu's fee regulation model in the state. Schools argue that annual fee hikes are unavoidable due to rising operational costs.

"Fee increases should ideally reflect genuine cost escalation, rather than arbitrary hikes. However, in the absence of a formal fee-regulation mechanism in Karnataka, schools are often perceived as raising fees unchecked," said Tony Alex, School coordinator at Clarence High School, defending the need for independence while acknowledging parental concerns.

Parents have accused the Karnataka Education Department of failing to control fee increases. A call to adopt Tamil Nadu's Schools (Regulation of Collection of fee) Amendment Act, 2026, which proposes a fixed fee structure has been made. Private institutions, however, warn that such a guideline could weaken financial sustainability and restrict investments in educational quality. Schools have instead called for a mechanism that balances affordability for parents with institutional practicality.

Keeladi rewrites Indian history

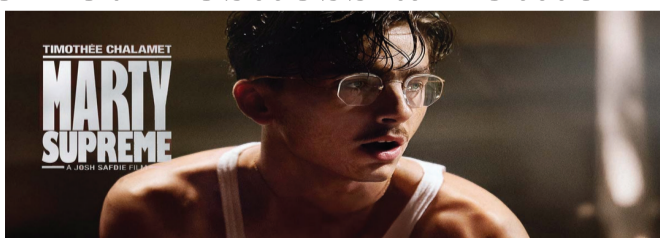
Jencilin Elisabeth J

BENGALURU: Debates over India's ancient history moved beyond textbooks and excavation sites, as discoveries like Keeladi near Madurai have sparked wider public and political conversations about identity and power at a recent discussion held at Bangalore International Centre. The site, first discovered in 2014, has challenged long-held north-centric narratives of Indian civilisations and raised larger questions about who gets to interpret the past.

The discussion titled "Who Owns India's Past?" featured journalist and author Sowmiya Ashok and archaeometallurgist Dr Sharada Srinivasan in discussion

with Pooja Prasanna of *The News Minute*. In her book *The Dig*, Ashok described how Keeladi shifted from an archaeological site to a topic of widespread discussion, evoking feelings of pride and identity in South India.

Dr Srinivasan explained how scientific methods, including age testing and metal analysis, show that people in ancient Tamil Nadu lived in organised and advanced communities that are often missing from mainstream history. Speakers stressed that archaeology is not just about the past but about power, memory and whose stories are allowed to endure.



Marty Supreme movie poster

linfotoutcourt.com

competitive table tennis scene of the time, capturing the restlessness of being on the verge of a breakthrough while facing uncertainty. Scenes featuring Tyler, the Creator provide moments of laughter and relief, while Safdie succeeds in building and defusing tension throughout the film. Themes of identity, hustle culture and spectacle run through the film.

The film lingers long after viewers leave the theatre. Its morally grey plot leaves audiences questioning whom to root for. Despite his flaws, Marty draws sympathy, revealing the effect he has on those around him. The film captures ambition clouded with uncertainty and remains an engaging theatrical watch.

Reporters: V Priyanka, Aakanksha Singh, Karan Siddharth G, Rochelle Mary Marshall, Riya Vivek, Jencilin Elisabeth J | Editors: Ann Rose George, Ashutosh Ranjan | Sub - Editor: V Priyanka
If anyone has any feedback / complaints, reports / photographs or are conducting events, please email us at: beacon@sju.edu.in