

THE BEACON

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

Tuesday, 10 March 2026 / St Joseph's University / Vol:18 Issue: 87 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Footprints honours Northeast culture

Jencilin Elisabeth J

BENGALURU: The fifth edition of Footprints at St. Joseph's University highlighted Northeast Indian culture and identity, continuing an initiative rooted in the university's support for Northeastern students and in its commitment to inclusivity on campus. Organised by the Northeast and Tibetan Students Forum (NETSF), the event featured traditional music, dance, food, and performances representing communities from the region, allowing students to experience the diverse cultures of Northeast India on campus.

According to NETSF General Secretary Gilbert PV, the initiative traces its roots back to 2018 when the university supported several Northeast students who had faced racial discrimination. Today, nearly 700-800 students from the region study at the university, representing the seven northeastern states, as well as Tibet, Ladakh, Sikkim, and Darjeeling.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Gilbert said the event is an important platform to showcase Northeast culture and create greater awareness among students. "It's important that we celebrate the culture of Northeast India on our campus because many people in mainland India are not fully aware of how rich it is," he said, adding that events like Footprints help students understand the traditions and heritage of the region.

Chief guest Iada Martin Marbaniang, an IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre, also addressed the gathering and encouraged students to stay committed to their goals. He reminded them that success comes through dedication and work, urging them to remain focused on their studies as they pursue their ambitions.

EV industry seeks fair access to PLI incentives

Riya Vivek

EV Industry experts call for Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) reforms, arguing legacy firms dominate incentives despite startups' edge in software and cost efficiency. As India refines its PLI scheme to target an \$100 billion EV export hub, companies must rethink their designs for global markets. Giridher Katta, Chief designer at TVS, shared that exports have different requirements than vehicles made for India, while sturdiness and range may be priorities for exports, urban agility and durability matter most in India.

In the early stages, designers balance export demands with local realities. Lightweight frames must accommodate batteries without spiking



Urban commuters on electric scooters

Indiablooms

costs, while modular packs guard against supply risks, such as the ongoing India-China World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute. "The biggest trade-off is cost versus lightweight batteries, urban agility wins for India, but highway range is non-negotiable for exports," he noted.

Infrastructure such as Tata EV and Shell's new 21

megacharging hubs across Bengaluru, Chennai, and highways also influences concepts. Two-wheelers prioritise fast swap compatibility over fixed fast charging. "Mega hubs inspire fast-swap designs for two-wheelers, but home and workplace charging remains key for daily Indian users," Katta explained. He added that

consumer behaviour and attitudes towards vehicles are important factors to consider when designing an EV. Indians look for durability over use-and-throw products. African countries like Congo and Tanzania require sturdier suspension and more power due to the condition of their roads and the number of rentals.

When asked about the fears and misconceptions Indian consumers might have about EVs, Katta shared that many are concerned about battery resale value dropping after 2-3 years, and that while most of many people may consider buying an electric scooter, they are still closed off to the idea of electric motorcycles.

"We make EVs familiar with traditional silhouettes to reduce switcher anxiety, which is also a design priority," he shared. As exports grow, design talent combined with the policy could propel India's EVs worldwide. Katta's insights bridge expectations and reality: steady subsidies along with smart design targeting exports domestic affordability will decide if India will follow China.

Panel discusses challenges faced by domestic workers'

Ann Rose George

BENGALURU: Female domestic workers highlighted the everyday discrimination, legal gaps, and emerging challenges they face in Karnataka during a panel discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8. They demanded stronger labour protections and dignity for the largely invisible workforce.

The discussion, titled "Her Labour, Her Law: On the Lives of Domestic Workers in Karnataka," was held at the Bangalore International Centre and brought together union leaders, activists, and



Speakers engaged in a panel discussion

Ann Rose George

workers who shared first-hand experiences of their situation, low pay, and lack of legal recognition.

Speaker Geetha Menon, co-founder of Stree Jagruti Samiti, said domestic work has long been dismissed as a private "service" rather than labour, leaving workers

without rights or recognition. Domestic workers' rights Union president Pushpa explained everyday humiliations workers still face after decades in the profession, including being denied access to toilets, served tea made from reused leaves, and having wages cut for illness or family events.

"We treat their homes as our own, but they see us only as servants," she said. New gig platforms are emerging in the city, such as Urban Company and Book My Bai, which promise high salaries, but often pay workers very little, ₹50 an hour, while giving preference to younger workers, said union leader Gayatri.

The panel also raised concerns about the language of the law. They pointed out that the government's draft bill is currently available only in English. They released in Kannada, so domestic workers can read and understand it.

IMD predicts heatwave in parts of Karnataka

Ashutosh Ranjan

BENGALURU: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts a warmer climate in parts of Karnataka, with North and Coastal Karnataka remaining under a possibility of a heatwave.

Speaking to *The Beacon*, Latha Sridhar, Scientist 'D' at IMD, stated, "The highest recorded temperature is Belagum and Ballari's of 38.9 degrees each". According to her, even if the temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius, the second day would be declared a heatwave only if the departure from the region's average temperature exceeds 4.5 degrees for two consecutive days. The coastal and the north interior regions of Karnataka are expected to remain warmer than normal for the coming two months, she added.

According to the IMD's records over the past five years, Bengaluru has recorded only one heatwave on May 6 and 7, 2024. Despite there being no risk of heat stroke in Karnataka, staying hydrated and avoiding direct exposure to the sun in the afternoon could help combat the harsh temperatures, she said.

Assi explores trauma and resilience

Aakanksha Singh

Assi (2026), directed by Anubhav Sinha, looks straight at India's rape problem. The film follows Parima (Kani Kusruti), a Delhi teacher gang-raped by five men and dumped on train tracks like trash. Her loyal husband Vinay (Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub) joins forces with bold lawyer Raavi (Taapsee Pannu). They take on a corrupt court system, pushy media, and a society that looks away. Court scenes build real tension as truth fights lies.

Kusruti shows deep pain



Assi movie poster

filminformation.com

in a quiet, real way—no fake drama. Taapsee Pannu brings fire as the lawyer who won't quit. Naseeruddin Shah and Kumud Mishra add strong support, making every role count.

The movie blames all of us for rape culture and how we ignore it. At times, it talks too much like a lecture

and packs in too many ideas. Still, its power hits hard. It forces you to face consent, blame, and why justice fails women in India today.

Though tough to watch, *Assi* is a must-see film that starts the real conversations we need right now on justice and accountability.

Blindwalk inspires eye donation

Karan Siddharth G

Encouraging students to let their eyesight live on after death, Fr George Kannathanam, head of Project Vision, invited students to take a pledge to donate their eyes during the event Blindwalk at St Joseph's University.

Organised by Bembala Outreach in collaboration with Project Vision, the Blindwalk initiative aims to help sighted people experience, for a brief time, the challenges faced by blind people while promoting eye donation.

Fr Kannathanam said, "This walk only shows a glimpse of the daily struggles faced by blind

people and a huge appreciation for St Joseph's for admitting visually impaired students when many institutions still do not".

Fr Mervin, head of the outreach program, told students that the walk proved that people need one another's support, while visually impaired representative Kiran said practical help, especially in examinations, can make this inclusion feel real.

Organisers said participation rose from around 300 last year to about 450 this year, suggesting that Blindwalk is not just an event, but a reminder that empathy must continue even after the walk ends.

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