



Campus Courier

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Khushali Verma



A residential street in Bengaluru shows signs of an unfinished and damaged patchwork after a failed repair attempt

A Bengaluru resident's attempt to fix a pothole outside his home with his own money went viral after a tanker truck drove over the freshly laid patch just an hour later, undoing his work and reigniting anger over the city's poor roads. Posting on Reddit as "u/chimichangas.69," the man shared how he personally funded the repair, only for a tanker driver to crush the wet cement. When confronted, the driver reportedly said the road's condition forced him to drive over it and suggested such work be done at night. The resident ended his post with a line that struck a chord online: "This city will never get better." The post sparked widespread outrage, with citizens criticising the BBMP for failing to fix recurring potholes despite repeated promises. Officials have not yet commented. Experts say the incident highlights Bengaluru's chronic road issues and the growing frustration among residents who take on civic tasks themselves. However, without proper materials, traffic control and coordination, such efforts rarely last. Beyond infrastructure, the event also underscores a lack of civic responsibility, where both official negligence and public indifference contribute to the city's deteriorating

roads. The episode now stands as a symbol of Bengaluru's broader infrastructure woes and the shared responsibility needed to fix them. Several citizens have since expressed interest in community-led repair drives but have urged the need for collaboration with local authorities to ensure safety and lasting impact. The incident, they say, should serve as a wake-up call for both the BBMP and the public to work together toward more sustainable, accountable urban maintenance. Meanwhile, urban planners argue that short-term patchwork solutions do little to address the underlying causes of potholes, such as poor drainage and substandard road materials. They emphasise the need for a scientific approach to road construction and maintenance that can withstand heavy monsoon rains and traffic loads. As debates continue online, the story of the Reddit user has become more than just a tale of one man's failed effort, it reflects the growing disconnect between citizens' expectations and the government's delivery. For many Bengalureans, it's a reminder that lasting change will require not only better infrastructure but also stronger civic systems and mutual accountability.

Sahana M

The Department of Media Studies hosted the first edition of the Interactive Media Leadership Series – Madhyam Samvedhan on October 6, 2025 featuring Shri T.J. Gnanavel, a well-known director and screenwriter. The session gave students an opportunity to interact with him.

Shri Gnanavel began his career as a journalist before transitioning into the world of cinema. Coming from a humble background as the first graduate in his family, he carried with him a strong desire to make a meaningful mark. He shared how spending time in libraries changed the way he saw the world. His early love for newspapers and stories drew him toward journalism. Speaking to the students, he reflected on his belief that "Questions are more powerful than answers." He emphasized



Shri T.J. Gnanavel addressing the gathering

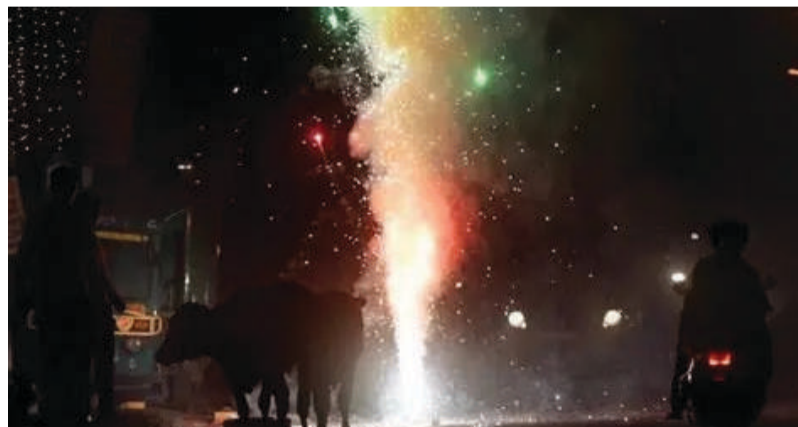
that knowledge holds true power, and that the questions we ask often shape the answers we receive.

This perspective, he said, continues to influence his approach to writing and directing films that challenge audiences to think critically about society. He also spoke about criticism, calling it a positive force that helps him grow and refine his work,

encouraging students to accept feedback as part of their creative evolution rather than a deterrent. The session ended on an inspiring note, encouraging students to find their own voice and express their ideas through media and storytelling. Shri T.J. Gnanavel's journey showed how passion, hard work and the courage to ask questions can bring change to both a person and society.

Surge in Eye Injuries During Diwali in Bengaluru: 186 Cases Reported

Saakshi Saravade



Diwali crackers causing serious eye injuries

Bengaluru, October 24, 2025 - This year's Diwali celebrations in Bengaluru have seen a worrying spike in eye injuries caused by firecrackers. According to hospital records, 186 people were treated for firecracker-related eye trauma between Sunday and Wednesday, with 103 of those victims being children. The types of injuries reported range from superficial to life-altering: corneal abrasions and tears, conjunctival congestion, eyelid lacerations, signed

eyelashes and embedded soot many of the cases were deemed mild, several required surgical intervention. At Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, 44 cases were handled (21 children, 23 adults) during the four-day period. Sixteen of those were classified as severe, and five patients required surgery.

Interestingly, this number was lower compared to last year's 71 cases. On the other hand, at Narayana Nethralaya the count rose to 93 (56 children and 37

adults), up from about 70 last year, with seven needing surgical treatment. Additional hospitals such as Sankara Eye Hospital (28 patients, 13 children) and Nethradhama Super Speciality Eye Hospital (21 cases, 13 children) also reported multiple incidents. Medical experts highlight that the culprit firecrackers include "atom bombs", "bijlis" and "flower pots", which exploded either near the face or caused fragments to hit bystanders. Many of the injured were children or unintended victims rather than those simply bursting the crackers themselves. The rise in injuries underscores the critical need for safety awareness during festive celebrations. Simple precautions such as maintaining safe distance, supervising children, using protective eyewear, not relighting dud crackers and limiting participation to safe firecrackers can markedly reduce risk.

Bangalore Bits

The Rising Tide of Public Debt: A Global Challenge

Khushali Verma

Across the world, governments are facing a growing and pressing concern: the rapid increase in public debt. This surge, observed in both advanced and developing economies, has emerged as one of today's most significant global economic challenges. Public debt rises when governments spend more than they generate in revenue, borrowing to make up the difference. While borrowing can fund essential development, such as infrastructure, healthcare and education, its sustainability depends on a country's ability to manage and repay it. Recently, this balance has shifted. Many nations are now directing larger portions of their budgets to servicing debt, leaving fewer resources for public welfare and long-term growth. The spike in global debt levels is closely linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which governments increased spending to support health systems, businesses and households. While these interventions were necessary, they left



When borrowing becomes a burden: the world's debt dilemma.

many countries with weakened fiscal positions. The challenge has been worsened by rising global interest rates, which have made borrowing more expensive. The burden, however, is not evenly distributed. Lower-income nations are facing the greatest strain. In several countries, debt repayments now exceed spending on education or healthcare. Approximately half of low-income countries are considered at high risk of, or already in debt distress. Their limited financial room reduces their ability to invest in development and respond to new crises, whether environmental,

economic or social. For policymakers, the task ahead is to strike a careful balance. Strengthening revenue systems, prioritizing essential public expenditure and improving transparency in borrowing practices are vital steps. For many developing nations, support from international institutions through debt relief or restructuring may be necessary to restore stability. The question is not simply how to reduce debt, but how to do so without compromising growth and public welfare. The decisions made now will shape global economic resilience for years to come.

Dr. Rajkumar Park: A Heartbeat of Kammanhalli

Sahana M

A city's heartbeat is often felt most strongly in its parks spaces where nature, community and connection come together. Dr. Rajkumar Park in Kammanhalli is one such space, serving as a green oasis amidst the bustling city life. Over the years, it has been a place where families relax, children play and residents gather for exercise and community events.

However, the park's journey has not been without challenges. Many years ago, a child tragically lost their life due to an electric shock, highlighting the urgent need for safety measures and proper maintenance. This incident became a turning point, prompting authorities and the community to pay closer attention to the park's infrastructure and safety standards. Currently, the park is undergoing a renovation and recreation phase to improve its facilities and make it safer and more enjoyable for visitors. The renovation includes walking paths, landscaped gardens, seating areas, proper lighting,



Breezy unwind

secure play areas for children and notably, a permanent stage for cultural events. Previously, such events were conducted in front of the park with temporary stages set up on the road. The new stage within the park will provide a safer and more convenient space for community gatherings, performances and celebrations.

Beyond its physical improvements, the park holds social and environmental importance. It provides a green lung for the area, reduces pollution and creates a space for social interactions and outdoor activities. With these renovations, Dr. Rajkumar Park continues to grow as a space that nurtures both the environment and the community.

Built to last: Industrial Metal Coating at Ambika

Ram Rathan Reddy R



Metal coating proces

In the bustling industrial hub of Bommasandra, Bengaluru, Ambika Coaters stands as a trusted partner to some of India's top automotive and electric vehicle manufacturers. With a strong focus on advanced metal coating technologies, the company plays a vital role in ensuring that critical vehicle components remain durable, corrosion-resistant and visually appealing. Leading brands such as Kawasaki, Royal Enfield, Kia, Hyundai, Ather and TVS rely on Ambika Coaters for superior surface engineering solutions that enhance both performance and longevity. Ambika Coaters offers a range of coating techniques tailored to diverse client needs combining innovation, precision and quality control.

Their ED coating also known as E-coating or CED coating is a fully automated process that uses electrical current and immersion to apply an even, thin paint layer. This technique provides exceptional corrosion protection and reaches even hard-to-coat interior surfaces, often serving as a strong primer for further finishing. Their powder coating process delivers a robust, decorative and chip-resistant finish. It involves electrostatically applying a dry powder of resin and pigment to metal parts, followed by oven curing to create a tough, attractive surface. Meanwhile, spray coating allows versatility in applying both base and topcoats, ideal for aesthetic and protective finishes across various materials.

The company's meticulous multi-stage coating process ensures long-lasting results. Components undergo cleaning and degreasing to remove contaminants, followed by derusting or pickling to eliminate scales and rust. Activation and phosphate treatment create a micro-crystalline layer that enhances corrosion resistance and coating adhesion. The parts then move through ED coating and curing, where high-temperature ovens solidify the finish into a durable protective layer. Every stage is carefully monitored using strict quality control measures, ensuring uniform coating thickness, strong adhesion and flawless surface finish. The team's expertise and use of modern automated systems guarantee consistency across large production volumes. Ambika Coaters continues to set high standards in surface finishing supporting India's automotive and EV sectors with coatings that deliver performance, durability and excellence. The company's focus on sustainable technologies, process efficiency and client satisfaction has made it a preferred partner for leading OEMs, reinforcing its reputation as a trusted name in advanced metal coating solutions.

BBMP: Street dogs vaccination

Ram Rathan Reddy R



One of the thousands who's officially vaccinated

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, or BBMP, just started this big public health push. They are rolling out vaccinations for multiple dogs all over Bengaluru. The whole idea behind it is to stop infectious diseases from spreading around. In the end, that should make public health safer across the entire city. BBMP's Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath talked about it with real pride. He said this marks the very first multi-disease vaccination program like this from any municipal corporation in India. The civic body put aside ₹4.98 crore to cover the full effort. They have set a pretty bold target for the program. It involves vaccinating 1.84 lakh dogs in total. That number covers more than half of the city's estimated 2.79 lakh stray dogs. This new initiative builds on the

usual Anti-Rabies Vaccination drive that they already do. Now they are giving out a 5-in-1 Canine Core Combined Vaccine to the dogs. That vaccine guards against five major illnesses that can hit them hard. Those include canine distemper, parvovirus, canine hepatitis, and rabies too. Officials keep pointing out how important it is to control these infections. It helps the dogs stay healthier overall. Plus, it plays a key role in stopping zoonotic diseases from jumping over to people. The team wants to make sure the approach covers everything properly. So they are tying this vaccination work right into the ongoing Animal Birth Control program. On top of that, BBMP is looking into microchips for the dogs. Those could help track vaccinations and sterilization records accurately. The point is to boost accountability and make the whole operation run smoother.

Opinions

Book Review

I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki by Baek Sehee

Sahana M



Baek Sehee's *I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki* is an intimate and honest account of her own struggle with depression and anxiety. Baek is a young woman trying to make sense of her emotions while navigating the pressures of modern life in Seoul. As a social media professional, Baek's world revolves around appearances, a space where perfection and positivity are constantly performed. Her candid title perfectly encapsulates that duality: the urge to give up, but also the quiet craving for something comforting, something that keeps her connected to life like a bowl of tteokbokki. The book unfolds as a series of therapy sessions between Baek and her psychiatrist, making it as much a conversation with herself as it is with a professional. Through these exchanges, readers witness her vulnerability, self-doubt and slow journey toward self awareness. Baek documents the small, painstaking process of understanding her pain and learning to coexist with it. What makes Baek's writing so impactful is her ability to articulate feelings many people experience but rarely express. She speaks for an entire generation caught between emotional exhaustion and the pressure to "stay strong." Her reflections on loneliness, comparison and self-worth mirror the reality of countless young adults today. By weaving in her psychiatrist's calm and measured responses, Baek brings a sense of structure and hope to her narrative reminding readers that healing may be gradual, but it is attainable through honesty and persistence. Her story stands as a testament that it's possible to feel broken and still long for the simple warmth of everyday life. Through her openness, Baek doesn't merely share her experiences; she gently urges us to look inward and confront our own.

Darjeeling: "Queen of the Hills"

Anchita Sarkar



Where hills meet the clouds and every sunrise feels like poetry

Nestled at 6,700 feet, Darjeeling the "Queen of the Hills" is a perfect blend of Himalayan beauty, colonial charm, and vibrant culture. Planning your trip is easy: travelers can fly into Bagdogra Airport, about 50 km from Darjeeling, or arrive by train at New Jalpaiguri. From either point, taxis and buses can take you to town in roughly two hours, offering scenic drives through tea gardens and winding mountain roads. Once in Darjeeling, start with Tiger Hill, where sunrise over the snow-capped Kanchenjunga is simply breathtaking. Then visit the Batasia Loop, a marvel of

engineering on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, surrounded by landscaped gardens and the Gorkha War Memorial. A stroll through Mall Road and Chowrasta lets you experience the town's bustling markets, local crafts and serene mountain views. Tea lovers should not miss a visit to iconic plantations like Glenburn, Happy Valley and Makaibari, where you can watch tea being plucked and brewed a must for sampling the world-famous Darjeeling tea. Darjeeling's culinary offerings are equally tempting: enjoy breakfast at Keventers, lunch at Glenary's and evening tea at Golden Tips.

Don't forget to try local specialties like momos and thukpa in cozy cafés around the town. For adventure seekers, nature walks, paragliding and short treks reveal the hills' charm, while those seeking calm can simply soak in the serene landscapes. With its misty mornings, toy trains chugging along the hillsides, and the gentle rhythm of life, Darjeeling feels like a timeless postcard come to life. Compact, scenic and flavorful, Darjeeling is a destination that promises both adventure and relaxation, leaving visitors enchanted long after they leave.

Movie Review

The Conjuring: Last Rites

Khushali Verma

"The Conjuring: Last Rites" attempts to cap off the long-running franchise with a mix of emotional farewell and familiar supernatural scares. The returning duo of Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga bring warmth and gravitas to their roles, but the film falters in its pacing and originality. The haunted-mirror setup feels derivative, while the climax strains credibility even within the demonic universe it inhabits. Still, for longtime fans, the final chapter offers a fitting nod to the characters' journey, even if the chills aren't quite what they once were.



Poor Food in PGs Sparks Student Complaints

Riya Roy



Unhygienic Conditions in PG Kitchens

Complaints raise about unhygienic and poor quality food in paying guest (PG) accommodations and hostels across Bengaluru have raised serious concerns among students coming from different parts of the country. Sources said that in several PGs, students are served stale rice, watery curries and half cooked vegetables. Many alleged that despite paying high rents, the meals lack hygiene and nutritional value. "We have no option but to eat what is given since cooking is not allowed," a student shared. Repeated complaints to PG management have reportedly gone unanswered. Sources added that most owners try to cut costs by using cheap ingredients and preparing food in unclean

conditions. Some students said they have fallen sick after eating poorly stored or leftover food. With no proper redressal system, students continue to rely on outside food or tiffin services, which adds to their expenses. Sources suggested that clear food quality guidelines and periodic checks should be made mandatory in hostels and PGs to ensure safe meals for residents. This growing dependence on external food sources also affects students' health and routine, leading to irregular eating habits. As Bengaluru continues to attract students from across India, the issue of poor food quality in PGs remains a serious concern, calling for greater accountability from accommodation providers.

Open Door Coffee, Kothanur – A Warm Retreat for Students and Coffee Lovers

Saakshi Saravade

Nestled in the quieter side of Kothanur, Open Door Coffee is a cozy escape for anyone seeking a blend of calm, caffeine, and conversation. The café's earthy tones, wooden interiors and soft lighting create an inviting atmosphere that feels both homely and inspiring the kind of place where time seems to slow down just enough for you to catch your breath. Popular among students from nearby colleges, Open Door Coffee is more than just a hangout spot; it's a space to study, brainstorm, or simply take a break from hectic schedules. The gentle buzz of chatter, paired with mellow background music, sets the perfect mood for both productivity and relaxation. The menu is compact but thoughtful, Their cold coffee is smooth and refreshing a crowd favorite while the pasta and sandwiches strike the right balance between comfort and flavor. Don't miss out on their brownies, which are rich, gooey and the ideal sweet finish to any meal. Prices are affordable are friendly and patient, adding to the café's relaxed, welcoming vibe.



Good vibes, great brews, and even better company at Open Door Coffee.

Service can take a bit of time during busy hours, but it's hard to mind when the ambience feels this comforting. Open Door Coffee truly lives up to its name open, warm and full of good energy. It's the kind of café you find yourself returning to without planning to. Because some doors, once opened, just feel like home. The scent of freshly ground beans lingers in the air, wrapping you in a gentle calm. Conversations flow easily here, blending with the soft hum of espresso machines and quiet laughter. It's more than just a place for coffee it's a little pause in the day where everything feels just right.

Culture

Threads of Tradition- The Art of Handloom

Ram Rathan Reddy R



Not manufactured, but manifested- a textile that carries the soul of its making

The silk saree has a timeless charm. In weaving clusters across India, artisans turn this fabric into a stunning masterpiece. The true beauty of silk lies in its natural shine, strength and soft texture. It offers an elegant drape that suits any event. Handloom silk sarees, often made of pure silk with rich zari borders and pallus, are especially popular for weddings and grand occasions. They reflect a tradition of fine weaving creating a handloom silk saree is a careful, artistic process. It starts with preparing the silk yarn. This includes steps like degumming and sometimes bleaching to get the right color or to get it ready for bright dyeing. The yarn is then carefully

wound onto bobbins and beams. The heart of its creation is the handloom. Weavers skillfully interlace the warp (vertical) and weft (horizontal) threads. This technique often uses local methods, such as double-weave sarees. These require setting up the loom with twice the number of warp threads and using two shuttles, giving the fabric its unique quality and texture. Designs, especially small buttas (motifs), are often woven by hand, adding detail and a special, exclusive touch to each saree. This manual work can take from one day to several days, depending on the complexity of the design, ensuring that each piece is a true work of handloom art.

Photo of the Month

Credits - Sahana M



Standing tall in the fields of green, the lone tree embraces the sky after a summer rain.

Kolkata Glows in Divine Radiance: Where Faith Meets Festivity

Anchita Sarkar

As autumn evenings settle over Kolkata, the city transforms into a spectacle of light and devotion. The twin celebrations of Kali Puja and Diwali illuminate every corner, blending spirituality, tradition and collective joy into one resplendent experience. The festivities begin on the eve of Kali Puja with Bhoot Chaturdashi, a uniquely Bengali observance often referred to as the “Bengali Halloween.” Families light 14 diyas to honor and guide the souls of their ancestors believing their blessings protect the household. The soft flicker of these lamps adds a mystical glow to homes across the city, setting the tone for the sacred night that follows. Kali Puja, the centerpiece of Bengal's autumn festivities, is marked by midnight rituals dedicated to Goddess Kali the embodiment of power and protection. Among the most

celebrated is the Fatakeshto Kali Puja, initiated in 1957 by Krishna Chandra Dutta, fondly known as ‘Fata Keshto.’ For over six decades, this Puja has stood as a symbol of devotion and community strength, inspired by the spirit of protection and courage that once safeguarded citizens from oppressive Zamindars it is a legacy of divine valor that continues to inspire generations. As the night of worship gives way to dawn, the city's festive rhythm continues with Diwali, the festival of lights. Homes sparkle with diyas, rangolis and laughter as families exchange sweets and joy. The following day, Lakshmi Puja brings serenity a quieter yet equally revered celebration dedicated to the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity, inviting abundance and peace into every home. As prayers fill the air and the gentle glow of lamps illumin-



Kolkata decks up in lights and faith as devotees worship Goddess kali

ates every corner, hearts brim with happiness. In this radiant season, Kolkata becomes more than a city it turns into a glowing testament to faith, artistry, he festive coexist under the golden autumn sky.

Bengaluru's Air Quality Stays 'Satisfactory' After Diwali

Khushali Verma



Bengaluru residents celebrated Diwali with controlled cracker use, helping the city maintain better air quality levels.

Bengaluru's air quality remained in the “satisfactory” category following Diwali celebrations, even as a few local areas recorded short-term pollution spikes, according to data released by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). A KSPCB officer said the city's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 94 a day after Diwali, showing a 98 per cent improvement compared to the same period last year. “Because fewer people were on the roads and rules on firecrackers were enforced, we saw fewer extreme spikes than in previous years,” the officer said. However, certain pockets such as Peenya and Kasturinagar experienced temporary rises in particulate matter levels due to

concentrated cracker use and stagnant air at night. “Even when the overall numbers look good, local micro-environments can exceed safe thresholds and pose health risks,” the official cautioned. The officer also noted that favourable weather conditions and limited traffic during the festive period contributed to dispersing pollutants faster than usual. “Wind speed and light post-monsoon showers helped prevent accumulation of smog,” he added. Experts have credited growing public awareness and strict enforcement of noise and emission norms for the city's improved air quality this year. They say such trends could be sustained if citizens continue to adopt eco-friendly celebrations and

reduce vehicular emissions. The KSPCB plans to release a detailed post-festival report in the coming days, but officials said early data indicates that Bengaluru continues to perform better than several major cities in India. “We still urge residents to remain cautious and avoid unnecessary burning or dust-raising activities to maintain the gains,” the officer said. Environmental activists have called the development encouraging but warned that consistent policy action is needed beyond festive periods. “One clean week doesn't equal clean air,” said an activist. “Bengaluru must sustain this momentum through better waste management, traffic regulation, and greenery restoration year-round.”



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