



Campus Courier

Volume 11 | Issue 4 | October 2025

A PUBLICATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA STUDIES | KRISTU JAYANTI (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



**Mitti Cafe at
Bengaluru Airport**
Page 2



**Night Taxi For
Ladies**
Page 3



**Fashion Vogue
Shadowverse**
Page 4

Spike in Viral Fevers Hits PG Students Near Kothanur and Hennur After Heavy Rains

Kathleen Francis

Frequent rains and stagnant water in Kothanur and Hennur have led to a sharp rise in fever and mosquito-borne illnesses this monsoon. Bengaluru has recorded over 1,600 dengue cases this year, with 442 case reported in July alone, according to the BBMP. Local clinics say that they are seeing a steady stream of residents, students and office-goers coming in regularly with high fever, cold, headaches and recurring body pain.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito responsible for spreading dengue, breeds rapidly in clear, stagnant water from flowerpots, terrace drains, buckets and construction sites. Poor drainage, blocked gutters and constant waterlogging around residential complexes have made several pockets of the city vulnerable.

To curb the spread, the BBMP has deployed 240 health inspectors and 700 trained volunteers to inspect areas.



Stagnant rainwater accumulating between two PG buildings in Kothanur.

“I went to the clinic twice in one week and the fever never really went away.”

Said a student living near Hennur Main Road, adding that many in her neighbourhood face similar symptoms.

BBMP launched the “Check, Clean, Cover” campaign to inspect households, eliminate breeding grounds, fog mosquito-prone areas and raise awareness on prevention. Avoid self-medication if symptoms persist and consult a doctor as this is the most effective defence the city has against dengue and other seasonal viral infections, says BBMP.

Diwali Celebrations in Bengaluru and Delhi A Shift in Perspectives

Vibhiksha. R

This year's Diwali celebrations reflected a clear contrast between Delhi's and Bengaluru's environmentally conscious approach as students across both the cities adapted their festivities in response to changing social priorities. In Delhi, Diwali continued to be celebrated with grandeur despite the National Green Tribunal's restrictions on firecrackers. Markets in Chandni Chowk, Lajpat Nagar and Connaught Place were crowded with shoppers while illuminated streets and fireworks lit up the night sky. The celebrations, however, came at an environmental cost - the Air Quality Index (AQI) in parts of the capital rose to “severe” levels, prompting health warnings and increased vigilance by civic authorities. The contrast between the two metropolitan cities

highlights India's approach to festival celebrations, where younger generations are increasingly advocating for sustainable practices without compromising culture. “Most of us prefer community celebrations over bursting crackers,” said a postgraduate student.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the city police encouraged the use of green crackers and organized awareness campaigns in educational institutions. Many students celebrated with eco-friendly lighting, traditional diyas and cultural gatherings.



Sparklers replace loud fireworks in Bengaluru's cleaner celebrations.

Unity in Diversity shines at KJU's Ethnic Day Celebrations

Bibha Choudhury

Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, celebrated its Annual Ethnic Day on October 18, with students and faculty showcasing diverse cultures through colorful attire and performances. This event served as a powerful testament to the university's theme of “Unity in Diversity” affirming that “our differences make us stronger together”. The campus buzzed with festive energy, featuring hundreds of students showcasing the rich diversity of India through traditional attires. The sight of delicate sarees alongside regional folk costumes highlighted a shared sense of pride and

community. An organizing committee spokesperson affirmed the success of the event, stating “This annual celebration truly embodies the spirit of KJU - a vibrant community where every tradition is valued.” The successful conclusion of the Ethnic Day celebration and the bustling Sanskriti Bazaar reinforced KJU's standing as a hub of inclusive cultural expression and campus unity.



Diverse traditions shine at KJU Ethnic Day.

Water Shortages Hit New Layouts Near Hennur and Kothanur

Almas Ilyas Taj



Dry borewell amid growing water scarcity.

Residents of Hennur and Kothanur are grappling with a worsening water crisis as shortages affect nearly 100,000 people across these rapidly developing neighbourhoods. Families, students and daily wage workers are facing intermittent supply, while local businesses, particularly in the hospitality and healthcare sectors report operational difficulties due to limited water availability. The shortage has led to irregular distribution, with many households

receiving water only once or twice a week. The crisis has been further aggravated by recent maintenance work by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) including a 60-hour shutdown of the Cauvery water supply in mid-September, disrupting distribution across multiple affected wards. In response, the Karnataka government has implemented measures such as deploying water tankers, promoting rainwater harvesting and accelerating infrastructure development.

Experts caution that without immediate and sustained intervention, the crisis could escalate to a “Day Zero” scenario, where taps in Hennur and Kothanur run dry. Officials emphasise that community participation, combined with effective policy action will be essential to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for these rapidly growing neighbourhoods.

Bangalore Bits

Mitti Cafe Inaugurates New Branch at Bengaluru Airport

Isha Ojha

Mitti Cafe, a social enterprise employing specially-abled individuals has inaugurated a new outlet near Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru on October 10, 2025. The café is fully managed and operated by specially-abled staff, reflecting the organization's mission to promote inclusion and meaningful employment.

Founded in 2017 by social entrepreneur Alina Alam, Mitti Cafe began on the campus of BVB College of Engineering and Technology in Hubballi, Karnataka. The initiative was launched to provide work opportunities for adults with physical, intellectual and psychiatric disabilities - individuals who are often excluded from mainstream

employment. The new airport outlet was established in collaboration with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) and corporate partners. The café serves food and beverages to travelers while showcasing the skills and professionalism of its specially-abled staff. Mitti Cafe now operates over 40 outlets across India, including locations in airports, universities, corporate offices and public institutions.

The organization has trained hundreds of staff members and reached millions of customers, promoting awareness about disability inclusion in everyday spaces. With its latest outlet, Mitti Cafe continues to combine hospitality with social impact, offering a practical model of empowerment.

Every cup of coffee and meal served here represents opportunity, dignity and inspiration for a more inclusive society.



Mitti Cafe's: Inclusive team welcomes travelers at Bengaluru Airport.

God's Own Cafe: T-Hut Kothanur Brings Kerala's Soul to Bangalore

Bibha Choudhury



Kerala thattukada warmth brewed in Bengaluru's T-Hut cafe.

Stepping into T-Hut Kothanur isn't just a meal; it evokes the rustic thattukada—the Kerala street-side tea stall. In North Bengaluru, this wood-warmed nook is a local favorite, carrying the sepia glow and spirit of God's Own Country.

There's no mythic origin story; T-Hut simply commits to Malabar flavors and unhurried, homely service. The room slows the city's tempo; the menu does the rest. Highlights include flaky Kizhi Parotta—parottas packed with meat curry and

steamed in banana leaf and the sweet, creamy tender coconut pudding, its signature draw.

Sip ginger chai or the quirky coconut tea. Classic snacks such as pazhampori (banana fritters) and parippu vada (lentil fritters) sit beside puttu (steamed rice with coconut) and chatti choru (clay pot curry rice), suiting both grazers and hearty eaters.

It isn't another cafe; it's a compact slice of Kerala in Bengaluru, where every sip and bite land like home.

226-Foot Ravana Towers Over Bengaluru for Dussehra

Vibhiksha. R



Ravana effigy blazes as Bengaluru crowds roar tonight

Bengaluru, October 2, 2025: This year's Dussehra celebrations in Bengaluru featured a monumental 226-foot Ravana effigy, marking a significant cultural event in the city's history.

The towering structure, one of the tallest in India was erected

on a 10-15 acre ground attracting thousands of spectators eager to witness the grand spectacle.

Crafted by Shrih International, the effigy served as the centerpiece of the city's Dussehra festivities. The event featured synchronised fireworks, a drone light show

and cultural performances creating a vibrant atmosphere that resonated with the community's festive spirit. The burning of the effigy symbolized the triumph of good over evil, a core theme of Dussehra.

This year's celebration was part of a broader initiative by Shrih International to bring the 226-foot Ravana effigy to various cities across India. The Bengaluru event stood out as one of the key highlights showcasing the city's rich cultural heritage and its commitment to grand, community-centered celebrations.

The Dussehra festivities were further enhanced by traditional folk performances, food stalls and community gatherings reflecting Bengaluru's diverse cultural tapestry. The 226-foot Ravana effigy stood as a testament to the city's evolving Dussehra celebrations blending tradition and modernity.

Vegetable Price Hike Puts Pressure on Student Finances

Almas Ilyas Taj



Soaring veggie prices squeeze students' plates and pockets.

Seasonal price hikes are a recurring occasion that India endures each year, triggered by weather swings and festival demand. Costs of essentials—from vegetables and groceries to air travel and hotels—climb as celebrations near. This season, complaints are loud. Tomatoes that sold for ₹30 a kilo last month touch ₹80. Pre-Diwali airfares on Chennai-Delhi and Mumbai-Bengaluru nearly doubled. The squeeze lands hardest on middle-class homes and daily-wage earners. Economists attribute this recurring cycle to unseasonal rains, the demand for the products during festivals also contributes to the price surge.

further push prices to their peak. Retailers say margins are thin.

Wholesale rates are up and moving goods costs more; we can't sell at a loss.

Says Murugan, a Chennai vendor. For consumers, each increase is another weight, especially as wages stagnate and living costs rise. Experts urge tactical fixes to smooth the peaks: cold-storage for perishables, smoother logistics and targeted, time-bound price oversight. Until then, festivals mean joy and bigger bills at home.

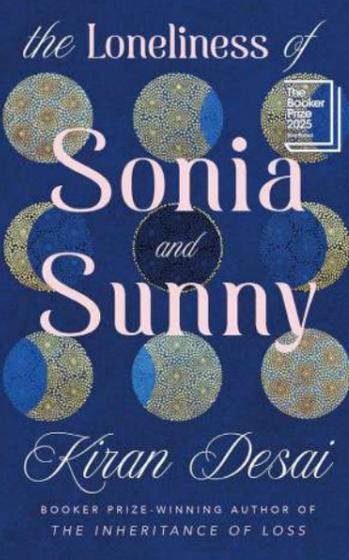


KJU Hosted 39th CII Karnataka State-Level Quality Circle Competition 2025

The event spotlighted student-industry interface and problem-solving methods like Kaizen and 5S, with winners advancing to the regional round.

Opinions

Book Recommendation



The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny – A Mirror to Modern Isolation

Shreya Kumari

The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny is not merely a story but a quiet echo of the disconnection that defines contemporary life. The author crafts a delicate yet piercing narrative around two individuals, Sonia and Sunny, whose parallel journeys of solitude intertwine in a city brimming with noise but starved of genuine connection.

Through sparse dialogue and vivid imagery, the novel captures the aching emptiness that social media masks and companionship fails to cure. Sonia's inward struggles and Sunny's desperate attempts to belong reflect the larger malaise of a generation caught between emotional vulnerability and digital distraction.

What lends the novel its quiet power is the subtle way it mirrors our own routines, the endless scrolling, the performative smiles and the unspoken fatigue of pretending to be fine.

The author never isolates loneliness as a singular emotion but weaves it into everyday existence, revealing how it grows in the spaces between conversations, in rooms lit by screens and in hearts too afraid to reach out.

In a world where connection is instant but empathy is rare, The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny stands as a poignant commentary on human isolation. It is both unsettling and necessary, it leaves you introspective.

Bengaluru Needs Safety by Design, Not Just Women-Only Workarounds

Almas Ilyas Taj

Maahi Cabs an all-women taxi service founded by Mahalaxmi, proves a simple truth: when women drive, many women feel safer. Through WhatsApp booking, round-the-clock coverage, from Richmond Town to KR Puram - this is a practical answer to late-night travel anxiety.



Safer nights, women driving change.

As Bengaluru's nightlife thrives, safety remains a paramount concern for women commuting late at night. In response to this need, Maahi Cabs, founded in 2015, their service has earned attention for its commitment to providing safe rides driven entirely by women.

It is particularly popular among women who prefer not to rely on traditional ride-hailing platforms during odd hours. The fleet comprises over 30 female drivers, all trained to ensure passenger safety and comfort.

during odd hours. Regulators should publish monthly safety dashboards and penalise platforms that fail response standards.

Incentives to recruit and retain women drivers secure rest areas, sanitation and finance access will expand choice for riders and jobs for women. Celebrate Maahi Cabs, yes. But the goal is larger: a city where any woman, at any hour, can book any ride—and feel safe.

Riding Beyond Limits: Seyiekhrietuo Sachii Takes Inclusion Across India

Kevilanuo Sachu

Seyiekhrietuo Sachii's "Ride for Disability" is a campaign, featuring a 25-year-old from Kohima crossing India solo to say what policy should already guarantee: disability is not inability. His motto is a tonic.

Do not let negativity infect the passion that you have.



Riding India for disability rights.

But let's be honest: it is also an indictment. Why must a young man risk highways to secure attention for rights that are constitutional, not charitable?

Celebrate the courage, yes. Then do the grown-up work. Cities he passes through should respond with specifics: step-free public buildings and bus stops; tactile paving that doesn't dead-end; audible crossings that actually work; sign-language and captioning in public services; disability desks at police stations and hospitals; and procurement rules that penalise inaccessibility.

Universities and employers should publish inclusion audits—admissions, retention, workplace accommodations.

Representation matters, too. Invite Sachii as Guest of Honour; also seat persons with disabilities on planning and budget committees. Move funding from one-day events to long-term personal assistance, adaptive sport and accessible transit. Enforce the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act like it isn't optional.

Sachii's ride is a lighthouse; policy must be the power grid.

Noise Pollution Complaints Rise from Late-Night Cafes in Residential Areas

Isha Ojha



Apartments rise beside café, future noise complaints loom.

Bengaluru's celebrated nightlife now collides with growing concern over noise from late-night cafés embedded in residential streets. These venues energise youth culture and local business, but many run past permitted hours, exporting loud music, chatter and vehicle movement into homes. Residents report sleepless nights, restless children and a decline in quality of life. Complaints have surged in HSR Layout, Indiranagar and Koramangala, during festivals when parties breach the 45-decibel night limit. Enforcement is patchy,

leaving citizens feeling ignored. The fix isn't moral panic; it's management. Authorities must audit hotspots, enforce closing times and levy penalties for repeated violations. Operators should install soundproofing, cap outdoor seating after 10 p.m., schedule events earlier and train staff to manage dispersal quietly. Resident groups can log evidence, use helplines and partner with ward committees to mediate solutions. Bengaluru can host vibrant nights without damaging sleep. Balance is possible when the city treats quiet as a public good, and nightlife as a privilege earned through compliance.

Bengaluru's Lakes Need Sewage Reform, Not Cosmetic Revamps

Kathleen Francis

Bengaluru cannot PR its way out of a hydrology crisis. A city that once linked 250 lakes now limps along with fewer than 80, ricocheting between floods and scarcity because encroachment, sewage inflow and unplanned growth severed the old water commons. Clean-ups at Doddajala show civic spirit, but plastic drives and fresh jogging tracks won't matter if storm drains keep carrying sewage and silt back in. The National Green Tribunal's warning on weak sewer networks and tens of thousands of soak pits is the policy neon sign we keep ignoring.

model, scaled. Audit every inlet and outlet, publish real-time water-quality data and enforce "polluter pays" on repeat violators. Spend capex on desilting only after upstream sewage is intercepted, or we'll dredge forever.

Citizen groups are already doing the hard, muddy work. Government must match it with engineering and enforcement. Restore wetlands, not optics. Treat sewage before sermons. If we reconnect lakes as a living system, the fish—and the city—return.

Here's the grown-up fix: protect lake chains as functional infrastructure, not parks with water. Fence and demarcate buffers; stop new encroachments cold. Replace soak pits with networked sewers, build decentralised, well-run STPs on the lake edge and polish treated water through constructed wetlands—Jakkur's



Serene lakeside greenery reflects in calm wa-

Fashion

AI Meets Fabric: Blending Tech and Tradition in Bengaluru

Shreya Kumari

In Bengaluru, where code and craftsmanship collide, fashion is rewriting itself with AI. Start-ups such as Stylumia forecast demand and cut waste, while Tukatech's TUKAcenter enables 3D sampling and digital tailoring for SMEs. The shift isn't only software.

Handloom weavers are joining the tech conversation: at Fashion Tech Week 2025, fabrics embedded with sensors and wearables hinted at sarees doubling as smart devices.

The city's edge is its dual identity—engineers and centuries-old textile skills sharing urban cafés and labs.

Trade fairs like GTE 2024 spotlight machinery that connects design to production. Challenges persist. Smart textiles are costly and many weavers lack digital access.

Even so, AI that trims sampling, it optimises inventory and links artisans to buyers so they can remake the loom.



Bolts of colorful Indian fabrics on display.

Thrift Pop-Ups and Street Markets in Bengaluru Locked in Licensing Limbo

Kevilanuo Sachu



Clothes rack brightens shuttered market

Informal thrift pop-ups and street markets across Bengaluru face new regulatory headwinds as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) steps up enforcement of the Street Vendors Act, 2014. The law requires a proper survey and vending certificates before eviction, yet many traders say they have been pushed out.

In July 2024 the BBMP began a citywide survey via apps to register vendors, geotag locations and issue IDs. But vending zones remain undefined and many thrift stalls are unlicensed, leaving pop-up entrepreneurs and second-hand sellers exposed—caught between informal practice and formal regulation. Tensions rose with evictions in Jayanagar and Church Street,

where vendors report being left off lists and getting notice. Officials argue that clearing busy corridors protects pedestrians and emergency access and that trading must shift to designated spots. Vendor unions reply that without alternative sites, toilets, storage and timely licences, relocation becomes displacement. More than weekend browsing is at stake. Thrift markets recycle goods, cut waste and provide livelihoods for migrants, students and women. A workable framework would complete the survey, publish vending caps and issue provisional IDs while zones are finalised. It should prioritise low-impact streets near public transport, allow flexible “event vending” for pop-ups and create a single-window portal for fees and grievances.

Fashion Vogue Season 2 Brings Bengaluru's Style Scene to Life at SBR Palace

Kevilanuo Sachu

Bengaluru's fashion fraternity converged at SBR Palace, Marathahalli, for Fashion Vogue Season 2, a showcase that drew hundreds of aspiring models, designers and professionals. The one-day event, themed “Showverse,” featured 200+ models, 40 celebrity directors and 30 designers in a schedule of runway collections, brand shoots and on-the-spot auditions.



Runway stars pose under Vogue Bangalore lights.

Organised as a launchpad for fresh talent, the program opened with a briefing on casting etiquette, digital portfolios and workplace safety, then split into tracks for film, advertising and agency signings. From morning to late evening, the venue hummed: participants cycled through portfolio shoots, styling sessions, choreography blocks and ramp rehearsals. Makeup artists, photographers

and stylists collaborated on editorials for issues, while mentors drilled posture, pacing and show discipline. A design corner spotlighted capsule lines, sustainable textiles and streetwear, giving independent labels a chance to test market response. Judges evaluated confidence, walk quality, camera presence and professionalism, shortlisting candidates for callbacks. Organisers framed Fashion Vogue as a bridge between spectacle and

opportunity. “Our aim is to help young talent take a first professional step in fashion and entertainment,” an organiser said, noting alumni placed in campaigns and regional films.

With its mix of creativity, access and celebrity presence, Season 2 reaffirmed Bengaluru's rise as a hub for fashion, media and youth culture—an ecosystem where ideas move from mood board to spotlight in a single day.

Sustainable is the New Stylish: Inside Bengaluru's Thrift and Up-Cycle Trend

Shreya Kumari

In Bengaluru's busy lanes, the fashion script is shifting. Young shoppers are drifting from fast fashion toward second-hand and up-cycled finds. What once felt like hand-me-downs now reads as an intentional lifestyle.



Thrifted colours sway on hangers.

At thrift boutiques and weekend pop-ups, discarded garments find new lives and new admirers. Clothes that would have gathered dust or gone to landfill reappear as fashion with purpose. Designers refit old sarees into co-ord sets, jackets and corsets, marrying heritage fabrics with modern silhouettes. Each piece carries a story of material, revival and choice. The movement extends beyond studios. Community collectives and

solo entrepreneurs turn textile waste into wearable art while creating livelihoods for tailors, embroiderers and waste sorters. The result is less landfill and more dignity for the people behind the seams.

For a new generation of conscious consumers, the motive is personal as well as planetary. Buying pre-loved means spending less, dressing uniquely and shrinking one's footprint. It signals a stand against waste and uniformity and a vote for authenticity. In a city famed for innovation, Bengaluru's circular fashion proves sustainability isn't a passing trend. It is a transformation stitched slowly, repaired and worn proudly.

Photo of the Month



Hands speak the language of the Market

Credits - Kathleen Francis



Please Scan This QR Code To Share Your Feedback

We would love to hear your suggestions.