



Patriotic Pride at SFC
Turn to Page 4

World Photography Day
Turn to Page 2 & 3

Teacher's Day
Turn to Page 10

Model United Nations
Turn to Page 7

Excitement Soars at “**FRESHERS**” Welcome Event

- Sana Fatima, Sree Goddanti, Faria Jamal, Yagna Shika

On August 17, 2024, St. Francis College hosted a vibrant Freshers event to welcome students for the 2024-2027 academic session. The event kicked off at 12:00 noon with the college choir, the “Nightingales,” performing a prayer song, followed by a Bible reading from Jeremiah 29:11-14. An energetic welcome dance by second and third-year students set the stage for a memorable day. Dr. Uma Joseph, the principal, addressed the new students, emphasizing the college’s core values and discipline. She said, “Welcome to our college. We want you to enjoy this day and the next three years, but always remember to maintain the decorum of the institution. St. Francis stands for certain values, and we expect you to uphold them.” The event featured a mix of performances, including a melodious set from the college choir with popular hits like “Pehla Nasha,” “Living On a Prayer,” and “Live While We’re Young.” Video presentations provided a behind-the-scenes look at the event preparations. A highlight of the day was the preliminaries for the Miss Freshers contest, where freshers showcased their talents in singing, dancing, and poetry recitation.



Grace meets energy as seniors take the stage in the celebration of fresher’s party. A warm welcome through rhythm and joy for an unforgettable year ahead.

The sophomore and junior students also contributed to the festivities with a dance performance. During the interview round, contestants were tested on their creativity and intelligence. For example, when asked, “What does it mean to be modern?” Namm Yadav responded, “I will choose to be natural and powerful, and I want to be financially independent.” Aditi Mishra answered another question by stating, “Smartness over beauty – I believe my inner self is beautiful.” As the event reached its conclusion, Vania

Karan, President of the Spectrum Club, expressed her gratitude to everyone involved in making the day a success. “Today has been an amazing mix of excitement and talent. We are immensely grateful to the management team, faculty, student council, and volunteers who made this event possible,” she said. The much-anticipated performance by Squad 4, a popular band at St. Francis, kept the energy high. “The energy was wholesome, and the crowd’s feedback was amazing. We’d love to come back again,” said the band members. The event concluded with the announcement of the Miss Freshers contest winners. Namm Yadav was crowned Miss Freshers 2024, with Aditi Mishra and Tanushree as the first and second runners-up. Additional awards included Best Dressed, won by Chinmayi Lanka, and Miss Talented, awarded to Nidhi Nathan. In an interview with Campus Herald, Aditi Mishra, the first runner-up, shared her excitement: “It feels amazing to be a part of this event. The entire process was fantastic and entertaining.” Miss Freshers 2024, Namm Yadav, also expressed her joy: “I was nervous at first, but as the event went on, I felt confident. Winning was a dream come true, and I’m excited to make new memories at St. Francis.”

Breaking the Ice: First Impressions with the Freshers

- Vaishnavi Sharma, Jhalak Agarwal



Crowd participating in fun filmy games

An energetic Ice Breaker session, organized by the Communis Club (Mass Communication Department), was held for the B.A. 1st year students on August 12 at Gerosa Hall from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. This event transformed the typical academic atmosphere into a lively celebration of new connections. The session kicked off with a prayer and an

oath-taking ceremony for the new core committee members of the Communis Club, underscoring the college’s focus on student leadership. Communis Club President Paviki Yadav encouraged freshers to actively engage in college life. The emcees, Sana and Roshini, led interactive games such as “Translate the Lyrics/Guess the Song Through Emojis” and the “Hook Step Challenge,” revealing students’ shared interests and talents. Second-year students added to the festivities with dance performances, highlighting the college’s vibrant cultural spirit.

The event concluded with a jam session and refreshments, leaving students in high spirits. What began with polite nods evolved into animated conversations, marking a significant step in the college’s orientation activities aimed at helping freshers adjust to college life. St. Francis College continues to blend academics with events that foster personal growth and social connections.



Bringing ideas and voices, the communis club stands as the pulse of our campus.

“*The event was lively and enjoyable, enhanced by the creativity of the games.*”

Snapshots of Creativity: Photography Day brings SFC to Life

- Samar Ziaee, Smriti Suruluri

Photography Day Celebrated titled “Chitrnanjan” at St. Francis College for Women On August 23rd, 2024, St. Francis College for Women, Mass Communication Department celebrated ‘World Photography Day’ titled; Chitrnanjan, an event that highlighted the art of photography. Organized by the student-run club; Communis. The event was a testament to the student’s creativity and planning. The event took place in Capitanio Hall, where photography equipment displays set an educational tone.



Members of the Communis Club

Offline Competition

An offline photography competition, judged by a photography expert, Mr. Samson Sagar, showcased the work of students from the Generic Elective Digital Photography course. Each photograph presented, told a distinct story, reflecting the growing talent at the college. In a celebratory addition, students performed a classical dance, which captivated the audience. Head of the Department, Mr. Ravi Kumar, welcomed attendees, stressing the role of the competition in honing student skills. He stated, “The purpose of this photography competition is to enhance the photography skills of the students.”



Release of Campus Herald volume 12, issue 1

Launch of Campus Herald

One of the most anticipated moments of the event was the launch of the first edition of the department newspaper, Campus Herald. The editor-in-chief, Ms. Ananya Dinesh of BA II, took to the stage to introduce the publication. She expressed her gratitude to her team and spoke about their journey, stating, “While we still have much to learn, I am confident that my classmates and I will be able to navigate and uphold the values of journalistic ethics to the best of our abilities.” Her words were met with enthusiastic applause, and shortly after, the newspaper was made available for purchase by the students.

The Chief Guest

A Masterclass in Photography by Mr. Samson Sagar The day continued with the inauguration of the GENERIC ELECTIVE (GE) exhibition by Mr. Samson Sagar, who delivered an inspiring address to the audience. He urged the students to choose one art form and dedicate themselves to mastering it over 1,000 days, emphasizing the discipline and commitment required to excel in any craft. He also answered questions from the students, revealing that his production house was open to offering internships, providing a golden opportunity for young photographers to gain real-world experience. “I do,” he said, “I run a production house and already have a couple of interns, so I would love to have more students learning the art and getting their certificates.”



Inaugural Ceremony

Photography 101

Following his speech, Mr. Samson Sagar conducted a workshop, sharing practical tips and tricks on camera handling and videography. His insights were invaluable, offering the budding photographers a rare opportunity to learn from a seasoned professional. Photography Contest Showcases Creativity and Talent at Chitrnanjan Event.

The Chitrnanjan event kicked off with an exciting online photography contest featuring the theme, Beyond the Surface. In the first week of August, participants from various colleges were challenged to explore layers of meaning, capturing depth in everyday scenes through textures, reflections, and hidden stories. The goal was to evoke emotions and uncover perspectives that aren’t immediately visible. In the second week of August, the theme ;Tri-Colour took the spotlight, where photographers crafted captivating narratives using only three colours. This pushed the participants to experiment with contrast, harmony, and symbolism. Cash prizes for the top two winners added an extra incentive, making the contest not only creatively stimulating but also rewarding.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony that recognized the creative efforts of participants in both the offline and online competitions followed by the vote of thanks by Mr. Clement Babu, P.G. Coordinator. Mr. Samson Sagar, the guest for the event, engaged in a candid discussion with postgraduate students, offering personalized career advice and insights.



Students tour through the exhibition

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Patriotic Pride at SFC

- Angelina Ravula, Devansi Turakhia, Sneha Shajimone

St. Francis College for Women celebrated Independence Day with a grand event on August 15th in the campus quadrangle. The celebration honoured India's rich history, with students expressing their patriotic feelings through various performances. The event featured Brigadier Inder Sethi as the Chief Guest, who delivered an insightful and motivational speech. The event commenced with the melodious rendition of "Vande Mataram," followed by the flag hoisting and the national anthem. Students also paid tribute to the nation and its soldiers through a solemn march past. A beautiful dance performance welcomed the Chief Guest, showcasing respect and pride for the country.

Brigadier Sethi inspired the audience with his speech, highlighting the key factors that define success. He emphasized four essential qualities: the ability to observe the world, the influence of role models, effective communication, and proper execution of ideas. On the meaning of independence, he said, "Independence is about freeing your-

self from negative thoughts, breaking self-doubt, and using technology as a tool to empower yourself, your family, and your nation."



Honouring the spirit of freedom Principal Dr. Uma Joseph's speech inspired pride and unity among the students

Principal Dr. Uma Joseph also addressed the students, drawing attention to the recent tragic incident in Kolkata involving the rape of a 31-year-old doctor. She reminded the audience of Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of a free India, founded on the principles of justice, equality, and freedom. Dr. Joseph expressed her gratitude to the Chief Guest for his inspiring presence. As part of the celebration, an Inter-Club

Flashmob Competition was organized to highlight the unity and diversity of the country. The COFEE Club won the competition with a powerful artistic message celebrating the strength and pride of Indian women. The event concluded with Brigadier Sethi presenting awards to the competition winners. Dr. S. Sunitha, HOD and Dean of the Commerce Department, closed the ceremony by delivering a vote of thanks.



With unwavering dedication, the NCC cadets stand tall, embodying the values of discipline, courage and service to the nation

St. Francis Rallies Against Violence

Renewed Outrage, same unanswered questions

- Jhalak Agarwal

Outrage Flares Over Kolkata Rape Case - St. Francis College Stages Silent Protest The brutal rape of a young woman in Kolkata has once again sparked widespread outrage, highlighting the persistent crisis of sexual violence in India. The incident that took place on August 9, 2024 bears stark resemblance to the 2012 Nirbhaya case, has raised urgent questions about the effectiveness of laws designed to protect women. Reports indicate that the young woman was allegedly assaulted and left in critical condition, intensifying public anger and calls for justice. The case remains under investigation, but citizens nationwide are demanding accountability from law enforcement and the government.



Students of SFC march for justice

Government's Response: Promises vs. Reality In response to public outcry, the government has pledged swift action, promising a speedy investigation and the formation of special committees. Measures such as increasing CCTV surveillance and police presence in vulnerable areas have also been proposed. However, critics argue these steps are reactionary and may not lead to long-term solutions, echoing frustrations seen after the Nirbhaya case. St. Francis College Joins Nationwide Protests- Amid nationwide protests, St. Francis College for

Women in Hyderabad organized a silent demonstration with over 1,000 students and faculty members. The protest, held from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, saw participants dressed in black kurtis as a symbol of solidarity against gender-based violence while adhering to the college dress code. The event began with a powerful nukkad natak performance by the student theatre group, Team Bedari, depicting the harsh realities of gender violence. Faculty members joined students in the march, holding placards that demanded justice and systemic change. The protest was not just a response to the Kolkata case but part of a larger effort to challenge gender-based violence and reclaim public spaces for women. As the rally concluded, the St. Francis College community made it clear: their fight for justice and gender equality is far from over.



A Journey with the ‘Campus Herald’ Team

As the faculty in charge of the Campus Herald, it has been a privilege to witness the tireless efforts of our students as they work together to produce a campus newspaper that truly reflects the vibrant life of our college. Watching them evolve through the process of researching, reporting, writing, editing, and designing has not only reaffirmed my belief in the importance of such initiatives but also highlighted how deeply these activities contribute to their academic and professional development.

The Learning Process: From Research to Writing

For many of our students, this experience marks their first foray into the world of journalism. They start by diving into the fundamentals of research and reporting, learning to gather accurate information from credible sources. This is often followed by hours of interviews, observations, and fact-checking, which shape the backbone of their articles. Gayatri, Editor-in-Chief, shares, “Starting was a bit tough... because it was new, but later on, I feel it’s ok, fine. I think it will help me later on. If I go into the field of journalism, I now understand how I have to work as a reporter, as an editor, and even with the marketing team.” It’s fascinating to see how students, many of whom had never imagined themselves as journalists, begin to hone their investigative skills, mastering the art of asking the right questions and crafting compelling narratives. Writing, of course, is the next step. This is where creativity meets discipline, as students work on framing stories that will engage their peers while adhering to journalistic standards. It’s a rewarding challenge for them, balancing brevity with depth, and ensuring that their reports not only inform but also captivate readers.

Overcoming Challenges Along the Way

The path to creating each edition of the Campus Herald is not without its challenges. Vaishnavi, Chief Layout and Design Editor, acknowledges the obstacles she’s faced: “The biggest challenge is getting the girls interested and invested in the newspaper. Some aren’t as willing to comply, but I take it as a challenge. I talk to those who aren’t contributing, and try to understand what’s holding them back.” Despite these challenges, it is inspiring to see how the team comes

together, balancing their academic coursework with the demands of the newspaper. Students manage their time efficiently and support one another to ensure the paper is ready for publication. Sumedha, Layout and Design Editor, reflects on the value of patience during this process: “Being a reporter requires a lot of patience... even though a report may just be 4 or 5 lines, we realised how much work goes behind it.” Editing and proofreading are perhaps the most daunting tasks for many, as they grapple with ensuring the clarity, accuracy, and flow of each piece. Yet, what stands out is how these obstacles transform into learning opportunities. Through rigorous editing sessions, students sharpen their critical thinking and attention to detail. With every error corrected and every sentence refined, their confidence grows, and they emerge stronger and more resilient in their writing skills.



Layout and Design Team with Faculty

Personal and Professional Growth Through Involvement

The experience of working on the Campus Herald is much more than just producing a newspaper. It is about collaboration, communication, and creative problem-solving. Keerthi, Layout Editor, reflects on her personal growth: “Before, I wasn’t talking to a lot of my classmates, but Campus Herald helped me connect and get to know different people. I didn’t really see it as a challenge; it felt like I was working with friends.” This team spirit is evident in the way students take ownership of their roles, whether as reporters, editors, or designers. The responsibility fosters a sense of maturity and professionalism. This realization adds gravity to their efforts and pushes them to strive for excellence. Vaishnavi highlights the personal responsibility she feels: “Initially, it was like, ‘Okay, I have to do this.’ But now

it’s, ‘I want to do this.’ I want to stay back, put in the work, and make sure everything is done right. It’s really fun to be responsible for the entire layout and design team.” Involvement in such activities prepares students for the real world, helping them develop transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership, time management, and adaptability—qualities that will serve them well in any future career.

My Role as a Faculty In-charge and as a Mentor: Observations and Impact

As a faculty member guiding them through this process, I have the unique opportunity to observe their growth firsthand. Gayatri notes, “We are learning new software that we will later use in the field. If we get a job, most companies won’t offer training, so having this experience is valuable.” I am consistently impressed by their creativity, persistence, and willingness to learn. This edition of the newspaper is a testament to their progress, not only as budding journalists but as thoughtful, engaged members of the college community. The students’ journey with the Campus Herald also allows them to apply academic concepts in practical settings, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world application. Watching them evolve into confident communicators and critical thinkers has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my role as a mentor.

The Role of the Campus Herald in the College Community

The Campus Herald is more than a newspaper; it’s a platform for student voices and a reflection of our college’s spirit. As Sumedha aptly says, “We connect not just as students but as people,” highlighting the personal growth students experience through reporting. The paper captures key events and issues, fostering a sense of belonging within the community. In short, the Campus Herald offers students a chance to engage in meaningful work that promotes both personal and professional growth. As their mentor, I’m proud of their dedication and eager to see how this experience shapes them.

- Ms. Serah Vinodini Vilvaraj, Faculty In-Charge

Prioritizing Mental Health: An Initiative by AASRA

Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act, playing a key role in managing stress, relationships, and decision-making. For college students, maintaining good mental health is essential, as it leads to better academic performance, stronger relationships, and long-term success. However, many students face pressures from exams, deadlines, and social challenges, contributing to stress and anxiety. To support students, St. Francis College launched the Aasra Psychological Counselling Cell, which provides individual and group counselling. The centre offers Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), family therapy, and person-centered therapy, helping students manage personal and academic stress. First-year students are required to attend counselling sessions to build rapport with counsellors. On World Suicide Prevention Day, the Department of Psychology organized a week-long

event to raise awareness about suicide prevention. Guest speakers, Dr. Anupama A. and Dr. Swathi, shared stress management techniques, encouraging students to discuss their mental health experiences.

One student shared how academic pressure led to anxiety and depression, but with the help of the counseling centre, they were able to recover and now prioritize mental health. Another student emphasized the importance of peer support, explaining how weekly check-ins with friends helped manage stress. These stories highlight the importance of seeking help and building support systems. The Aasra Counseling Centre remains dedicated to promoting student well-being and ensuring no student feels alone in their journey.

- Gayatri Mane, Editor - in - Chief

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The C@nnect 7.6: Syntax to Success

- Keerthi Reddy, Saniya Anjum

On August 22nd and 23rd, the Department of Computer Science at St. Francis College for Women held its first annual grand fest, C@nnect 7.6 National Fest 2k24, themed “Syntax to Success.” Hosted in the postgraduate block, the fest featured competitions focused on computer science, attracting both internal and external participants, offering a platform for collaboration and skill-building. Distinguished guests such as Professor P.V. Sudha from Osmania University, Dr. Sr. Christine Fernandez, former Principal of St. Francis, and Ms. Mangala Mani, a former ISRO scientist, attended the event. The presence of the College Principal, Dr. Uma Joseph, Vice Principal Dr. Sr. Sherly, and other dignitaries underscored the event’s significance. The highlight of the two-day fest was the Hack Wars hackathon, which saw extensive participation from colleges in Hyderabad and Bangalore. The competition allowed participants to showcase their technical expertise in coding and problem-solving, with a grand prize of 15,000 awarded to the winning team. The hackathon stood out for its intense two-round format, where teams presented problem statements, proposed solutions, and were judged on execution, optimization, and front-end design.



SFC Students at the Hackathon

On August 22nd, eight tech-focused events took place, including Hack Wars, Battle Royal (an online gaming competition), KBC (Kaun Banega Cyberchamp), Byte Hunt, Cyber Heist, Word Crackle, Symbolic Smart, Cipher Quest, and Runway Roast. These competitions challenged participants in various technical, analytical, and creative skills. For example, Cyber Heist featured tasks like decoding passwords and solving memory puzzles, while Runway Roast offered a fun twist, allowing participants to present and humorously critique apps.

The second day of the fest, August 23rd, continued with events like Cyber Heist, the second round of the Hack Wars hackathon, and introduced new challenges, including Impacto Code, C@nnectify, Emoji Decode, Debate, Tech Mania, CTRL+ALT+DEFEAT, Tech Brain Teasers, and Tech and Twist Turns. Each event was carefully designed to evaluate participants’ technical skills, teamwork, and creativity. The debate on “AI: Savior or Savager” stood out, with participants engag-

ing in a lively three-round discussion on the ethical implications and potential risks of AI development. The fest also featured exciting entertainment, including a live performance by the band With Love, with musicians Cyrilla, Chris, Calvin, Mikhail, and Sherwin. Their energetic set thrilled the crowd, adding to the event’s success.



“With Love” performing live in the Auditorium

Additionally, 19 stalls, set up by small businesses and sponsors, offered students trendy accessories, clothes, jewellery, and a variety of delicious food, creating a lively and vibrant atmosphere. Sponsors were crucial to the success of C@nnect 7.6. Companies such as Heritage, Shree, Agromech, Evara Events, i20fever, Winnou.com, Bakelore, and Pizza Hut provided valuable support. Their contributions ensured the fest ran smoothly and allowed for exciting cash prizes and rewards for participants’ achievements. The event wrapped up with a valedictory ceremony on August 23rd, where winners from each competition were presented with cash prizes and certificates. Team 4 from Mahatma



Kaun Banega Cyber Champ

The Events Head Assamshetty Pragathi said: “It’s my absolute delight that I have been elected as event head. And I think the two day national fest is going amazing for now, because I have not faced a lot of problems till now. Also all the events are running smoothly with the collaboration with the game coordinators and all the club members and now, if it comes to our campus, there are many skilled people who are quite sharp and clever in managing disasters, because every event has its small loopholes here and there. I think, I as an Event Head, has to manage everything, and it is only possible with the cooperation of others”



Hack Wars Hackathon winners: Team Asma

Gandhi Institute of Technology clinched the top prize in the Hack Wars hackathon, while CMR College of Engineering & Technology and St. Francis College for Women took second and third place, respectively. The C@nnect 7.6 National Fest 2k24 was celebrated as a major success, with students, faculty, and participants eagerly looking forward to future events. The fest not only highlighted students technical skills but also promoted collaboration and friendly competition. Thanks to the hard work of the faculty coordinators, game coordinators, and club members, the event ran seamlessly and provided an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

WINNERS

The winners of the grand event “Hack Wars” hackathon were - Team 4: Asma (the sky), Roshan Zameer and Sadik from Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology who won the first prize. Team 6: AdaCode, Sravanthi, Pavana from CMR College of Engineering & Technology and Team 5: Tech Mavericks, Faria Samreen, A Lakshmi, Sophia Pilli, Sahasrini from SFC stood 2nd and 3rd respectively. A few winners from the fest were Amreen and Keerthana from Kristu Jayanti College (Byte Hunt), Suzzane and team from software engineering honors (Cipher Quest), Pragathi, BSc MScs 3D, Joice Kurian from Kristu Jayanti College (Runway Roast), Mugdha From Zphs Ahamshiguda and K. Likita Rao from BSc MScs 1D (Symbolic Smarts), Sudeepa Santhanam, Anandhu Krishna, Joice Kurian Monsy and Rishab from Kristu Jayanti College (Cyber Heist), Nihal Kumar, Mansi, Saathivika from Anurag university (Debate).



Students participating in ‘Word Crackle’

Global Issues, Local Voices: SFC MUN 2024

- Faria Jamal, Gayathri Nandagiri, Khushi Gupta

St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, successfully conducted a three-day Model United Nations (MUN) event from August 29th – August 31st, 2024, engaging students from various colleges in debates and discussions on global issues. The event featured nine sessions across four key committees and the International Press (IP), which covered the proceedings. The committees included the All-India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM), World Health Organization (WHO), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and International Court of Justice (ICJ). Each committee focused on topics such as gender equality, non-discrimination, and uplifting underprivileged populations.



Youth Voices on Global Issues: Highlights from the MUN Conference

In AIPPM, delegates debated issues like gender equality and LGBTQ+ acceptance. Chairperson N. Venkata Abhiram stressed the significance of active participation: "Everything is in the hands of the delegates. A proactive response will ensure a high note for the committee." The WHO committee, chaired by General Secretary Gayathry, discussed global health challenges, including vaccine availability and government subsidies. Gayathry emphasized youth engagement: "Model UNs serve as a space

for people to understand and cultivate consensus on important issues." ECOSOC tackled economic and social challenges faced by marginalized communities. Chairperson A. Yashas Rathnam described it as "beginner-friendly," highlighting the strong opinions of participants. The ICJ focused on international legal matters. Ishan Jasuja, the head speaker, remarked, "The agenda is quite relevant. Everyone has something to say, and it's good that they're opinionated." The IP unit, led by Editor-in-Chief Aamirah Ahmed, played a crucial role in documenting the event. "They're not part of the committees, but they must always be on their feet," Aamirah noted, emphasizing the demanding work of covering the event. The diverse discussions, ranging from political and judicial issues to social and health debates, were interconnected by a shared focus on global challenges. Fiery passion filled each session, with delegates quickly learning the value of limited speaking time during GSLs and caucuses. The event concluded with a closing ceremony, wrapping up three days of intense debates, discussions, and ideas that extended beyond committee agendas.



Empowering Youth: Participants Tackle Real-World Challenges

Telugu Day: A Fusion of Tradition and Talent

- Yamini Diddigam, Gaini Nithyasree, k. Anika Precina

St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, hosted a vibrant Telugu Bhaasha Dinotsavam on September 9th to honourable Telugu literary figures Gidugu Ramamurthy and Kaloji Narayana Rao. The event featured various cultural activities and prominent guests, including Prof. J. Laxman Nayak, Principal of Science College, Osmania University; Dr. Suddhala Ashok Teja, a national award-ee; and Mr. JV Sudhanshu, singer and runner-up of Saregamapa 2022.

Dean of Arts, Ms. Manjari Prashanth, and Head of the Telugu Department, Dr. L. Mangamma, welcomed and felicitated the distinguished guests. Dr. Mangamma's inspirational address and Prof. Nayak's motivational speech left a lasting impression on the students. Mr. Sudhanshu highlighted the significance of the Telugu language in the music industry and performed for the audience.

The celebration began with a prayer and multi-faith readings, followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony. Cultural performances, including a welcome dance and traditional music, set a lively tone. The audience took the Indian Pledge in Telugu and enjoyed a choir performance celebrating national heroes and the Telugu language. The event continued with cultural dances, a retro singing performance, and a

presentation by the Harivillu Club with the theme "Harivillu - Mana Pratibhala Puttilu" (Harivillu – The Birthplace of Our Talents). Literary and art competition winners were awarded by the guests.



Prof. J. Laxman Nayak, at Telugu language day celebrations

The highlight of the event, the "Padahaarlaala Telugu Ammayi" (The Telugu Girl in Classic Attire) Cultural Walk 2.0, showcased traditional attire, with winners receiving awards from Mr. Sudhanshu. The faculty expressed their gratitude to the Harivillu Core Committee for their efforts, and the event concluded with a Vote of Thanks.



Students showcasing their talent

St. Francis College for Women at California Baptist University, USA

- Gayatri Mane

Eight students from St. Francis College for Women took part in a three-week international immersion program at California Baptist University (CBU), Los Angeles, from May 20 to June 8, 2024. The program was part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two institutions, aimed at fostering academic and cultural exchanges. The students engaged in sessions conducted by CBU professors, which focused on leadership, ethical decision-making, team development, emotional intelligence, and strategic thinking. Mornings were dedicated to these training sessions, while afternoons featured intensive English classes with interactive activities. In addition to academics, the students visited notable sites in and around Los Angeles, including Universal Studios, Disneyland, the San



Students of St. Francis at California Baptist University

Diego Zoo, The Grove & Farmers Market, and Santa Monica. This combination of education and sightseeing provided a well-rounded and enriching experience.

The immersion program concluded with a formal farewell ceremony at CBU, where students were awarded certificates of completion. During the event, CBU representatives also discussed various opportunities available to international students, including scholarships, postgraduate courses, job prospects, and campus life. The MoU between St. Francis College and CBU facilitates an annual student exchange program, allowing students to experience American university life. The International Studies Department at St. Francis College continues to work closely with CBU to ensure smooth communication and collaboration, with Mr. Brian serving as the main liaison at CBU.

St. Francis College for Women participated in a three-week immersion program at California Baptist University in Los Angeles, fostering academic and cultural exchanges through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Empowering Rural Villages: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Outreach

- K. Anika Precina



Village of Kandi Mandal

St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, organized an outreach initiative on August 1, 2024, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0. The program aimed to improve rural livelihoods and promote sustainable development in five villages of Kandi Mandal, with 70 students, 21 faculty members, and two non-teaching staff participating. The college has adopted Ippalagadda Thanda, Vadd-

anaguda Thanda, Erdanoor Thanda, Kandi Thanda, and Laxmi Nagar Colony (for the physically handicapped) in Sangareddy district. Led by UBA Coordinator Ms. D. Rupali, participants gathered at 5:15 a.m. and were divided into two groups. One group focused on environmental sustainability and government schemes in Kandi and Laxmi Nagar Colony, while the second group addressed health and hygiene in Vaddanaguda and Ippalagadda Thanda. Panchayat Secretary Mr. Kiran Kumar and Sarpanch Mr. Motilal Naik welcomed the teams upon arrival. The day began with a skit demonstrating the importance of a balanced diet using a nutrition

pyramid. Students adapted to local dialects for better communication, engaging villagers with skits, discussions, and demonstrations on health, hygiene, and government schemes. When asked about affordable nutritious food, students emphasized prevention over cure: "It is better to spend Rs. 1,500 on nutrition now than Rs. 1,50,000 on medical treatment later." A health and hygiene rally in Ippalagadda Thanda, though facing a low turnout, involved door-to-door visits with support from local teachers and students. Led by Mr. Ravi Kumar, students carried placards promoting clean water, balanced diets, and sanitation. Local school students

joined in chanting slogans such as "Arogyame Maha Bhagyam" (Health is wealth). A key highlight was a skit by the Telugu Department explaining the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana scheme, resulting in 20 new registrations. The day ended with a sapling plantation ceremony in Vaddanaguda Thanda, followed by a lunch hosted by Kandi villagers. Ms. G. Dhanalakshmi, Head of Environmental Sciences, remarked, "Our initiative focused on waste management, composting, and promoting sustainable period products. We've also set up the Kandi Thanda Waste Management Center, led by a local villager." Dr. Lingala Mangamma,

Head of the Telugu Department, praised the villagers' enthusiastic participation, particularly in the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana scheme, calling the outreach a significant milestone. Assistant Professor Mr. Vamshi Allen from the Commerce Department reflected, "It was an amazing experience. We learned a lot and felt responsible for the younger generation, spreading social awareness and helping with new opportunities."



Fly High Abroad 2024-25: A Day of Networking and Opportunities

- K. Anika Precina, Angelina Ravula



The Principal and Dean visit the consultancies

The Francis Alumni Association (FAA) successfully hosted its annual flagship event, "Fly High Abroad 2024-25," on campus from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event, aimed at helping students explore study abroad opportunities, began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the morning assembly at 10:30 a.m.

The event featured 13 vibrant stalls and 11 international education consultancies, with the stalls located near the indoor stadium and the consultancies in the quadrangle. Principal Dr. Uma Joseph toured the consultancies, engaging in meaningful discussions about the significance of studying abroad. Throughout the day, students interacted with the consultancies, asking questions and exploring options for their future education abroad. The consultancies offered valuable insights

into study programs and pathways. The stalls, which provided food, drinks, accessories, clothes, and desserts, added to the lively atmosphere and drew attention from students well into the afternoon.

The FAA team took charge of serving food from the stalls. Both the stalls and consultancies expressed satisfaction with the event—stalls saw successful sales, while consultancies appreciated the opportunity to connect with students and help them explore study abroad opportunities. The success of "Fly High Abroad 2024-25" highlights FAA's ongoing commitment to promoting international education and supporting students in achieving their academic goals abroad.



Pamphlets for study abroad, guiding the students through the process

RECROI 2024 Brings Business and Innovation to Life

- Sumedha Ramesh, Divya Naredi, Justine Metilda

St. Francis College for Women, Hyderabad, recently hosted its International Management Fest, RECROI 2023-2024, which featured the much-awaited event, Tvaran. Organized by the Department of B.Voc (Retail Management & IT), the fest brought together aspiring business leaders, who showcased their skills in marketing, talent acquisition, visual merchandising, and retail-related quizzes. The opening ceremony began at 9:30 AM, with Principal Dr. Uma Joseph, Correspondent, Sr. Carmali Thaniath, and Chief Guest Mr. Tarun Mor attending the event. Students Zehra Hakeem and Rumaysa Khatoon hosted the session, setting the tone for the day. The General Secretary of the Voctalent Club, Varsha Amuda, and Best Manager Head, G. Kavya, led the gathering in prayer. The marketing portfolio, Agora, kicked off the fest with rounds like Brand Buster and Retail Aavishkar, pushing participants to devise creative marketing strategies. The talent acquisition portfolio, Rebellion Surge, followed with Talent Tango and The

Job Quest, where participants showcased their HR skills through role-played interviews.

The visual merchandising portfolio, Visual Vikar, added excitement with a Merchandise Trivia quiz, Visual Merchandising Pictionary, and a Merchandise Scavenger Hunt, challenging participants to create innovative product displays. The Retail Rave portfolio featured quizzes and brand-building activities that tested participants' business acumen. The fest culminated with Kaalchakra, a high-stakes Best Manager competition, where participants pitched futuristic ideas and reimagined existing business models. Winners from each portfolio were recognized for their creativity, strategic thinking, and presentation skills. The closing ceremony took place at 4:00 PM, followed by the award ceremony. The event successfully combined academic rigor with creativity and leadership, offering participants invaluable experience for their future careers.

KRIDA Club's Intra-Mural Tournament Shines with Sportsmanship

- Mahika Yadav, Saranya Singh, Smriti Suruluri

On August 29, 2024, St. Francis College for Women's KRIDA club hosted a successful intra-mural tournament beginning from August 27th to 29th, showcasing students' sporting talents across various streams. The event, organized by Mr. Farooq and Mrs. Amitha, highlighted student enthusiasm and competitive spirit. The tournament began on August 27th at 10:30 AM in the college assembly hall with an inauguration led by the principal and the college's correspondent, who lit the torch and presented the Flag of Glory to the KRIDA club. A lively flash mob and the principal's motivational speech underscored the importance of sports in fostering teamwork and resilience. The action started with a basketball match in the college's indoor stadium, followed by volleyball, throwball, and handball games on the subsequent day. Students from BA, B. Com, B.Sc., B.Voc, and BMS participated, adding a vibrant mix of talent to the event.



The faculty light the lamp to inaugurate the event.

Due to enthusiastic participation, the tournament, originally planned for two days, was extended to a third day, August 29th. This extension allowed for additional games and extended enjoyment for everyone involved. While the tournament was mostly injury-free, there was a minor incident during a basketball game where a player sustained a small injury. The inju-

ry was promptly treated, and the tournament proceeded without major disruption. Throughout the event, participants enjoyed refreshments provided by the KRIDA club, which helped maintain their energy and focus. Players expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and the organizers' efforts. The tournament concluded with a strong display of sportsmanship and camaraderie. The KRIDA club, under Mr. Farooq and Mrs. Amitha's leadership, received commendations for their excellent organization and dedication. The event was a celebration of talent and teamwork, leaving students excited for future tournaments.

On the Field and in the Game: Students compete with passion and dedication



Competitive Spirit Shines in Faculty Intra-Mural Tournament

Active minds, Agile Bodies: Faculty Leading the Way in Sports Excellence

- Sana Fatima, Justine Metalda

St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, held a two-day intra-mural tournament for male and female faculty members on the 9th and 10th of September 2024. The event was organized to promote healthy competition among the staff.

On the first day, a badminton competition for female faculty began at 12 PM. The matches were highly competitive, with Ms. P.N. Prashanti from the Commerce Department defeating Dr. Y. Gayatri from the Microbiology Department in the first round. In the second round, Ms. B. Geetha from the Library won against Ms. Preethi Geetla from the Computer Science Department. Ms. Prashanti continued her winning streak by defeating Ms. Carol Ann A.R. from the Commerce Department in the third round, while Ms. Geetha claimed victory over Dr. Gayatri in the fourth. In the final match, Ms. Prashanti emerged as the overall winner, with Ms. Geetha securing second place and Ms. Carol Ann A.R. finishing third. On the second day, the male faculty participated in a volleyball tournament. The male staff was divided into three teams: Team A (teaching staff), Team B (non-teaching staff), and Team C. Team A, consisting of Mr. G. Dhananjaya Naidu, Mr. K. Ravi Kumar, Mr. Nitindravid P. R., Mr. P. Clement Babu, Dr.

Azad, Mr. Thota Venkata Uma Mahesh, and Dr. Ch. Yugandhar, emerged victorious after three rounds. They won the first round against Team B with scores of 15-9 and 15-11 and defeated Team C in the final round with scores of 15-10 and 15-4. Team B, made up of non-teaching staff, including K. Shravan, Murali Krishna, Chamber, K. Shekar, K. Bhanu Chandan, Jagannadha, and Vijay Kumar, took second place, while Team C, including Mr. Rozario Martin Alexander, Selva, Srinivas, Ramu, Neelesh, and Gokul, finished third.

Later that day, a men's badminton competition took place, with Mr. Nitindravid from the Language Department securing first place, followed by Mr. Dhananjaya in second and Mr. Ravi Kumar from the Mass Communication and Journalism Department in the third place. The tournament concluded successfully, promoting teamwork and physical activity among the college's faculty members.

St. Francis College for Women held a two-day intra-mural tournament for faculty on 9th-10th September 2024. Ms. P.N. Prashanti won the women's badminton, and Team A (teaching staff) triumphed in men's volleyball. Mr. Nitindravid P. R. secured first place in men's badminton.



Principal Dr. Uma Joseph joins the event, promoting sportsmanship and team spirit

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Campus Honors the Teachers

- Rupika heerekar, Sana Sameeksha



Honouring the Guiding Lights with a fun Celebration

On 5th September 2024, St. Francis College celebrated Teacher's Day with a gathering in Capitanio Hall. Faculty, teaching, and non-teaching staff attended the event, organized by the college management. Dr. Uma Joseph, the college principal, addressed the audience, commending the faculty for their dedication. "The world sees you as teachers, but at St. Francis, you are the world" she remarked. A special performance by the non-teaching staff in honour of Ms. Rajeshwari, featuring her favourite songs, and an energetic dance by students, centered around appreciation for the

faculty, were event highlights. Along with Teachers' Day, the college celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Ms. Anjali David and Ms. Rajeshwari, extending heartfelt congratulations. The program began with a prayer based on the theme, "The Pearl of Great Value" from 'The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price,' symbolizing the teachers' invaluable contributions. Sister Carmely Taniath, the College Correspondent, emphasized the themes relevance to educators profound impact. Faculty members also participated in a gift exchange, drawing names in advance, which fostered unity among staff. The event concluded with a short snack break, allowing faculty to relax and connect. Additional activities included a welcome dance by the cultural secretary and her team, as well as awards recognizing exceptional educators, such as the Innovative Achiever Award, Service Excellence Award, and Founded Prizes. Dr. Usha Parveena, the dean of sciences, delivered the vote of thanks before the National Anthem concluded the event. The celebrations wrapped up with a lunch party for the faculty.



Making memories beyond the classroom on a well-deserved faculty day out! A day filled with laughter, a sense of belonging, relaxation, and where teamwork meets adventure. Celebrating the dedication and hard work of our educators, who inspire every day—both in and out of the classroom!

A Day of Relaxation

- Jayanti Sharma, Tania Roy

The faculty of St. Francis College for Women took a break from their hectic schedules for a refreshing Faculty Day Out on August 9th at Sree Nidhi Resort, Ghatkesar. The faculty assembled at the college by 8:00 a.m. and soon departed for a day of relaxation, team bonding, and fun activities.

The event was organized to allow faculty members to unwind and connect outside the academic setting. "It was a breath of fresh air from the routine of classes and college timings. We had time for fun and actual conversations, breaking free from the everyday monotony," said Divya C. Kappen, a faculty member. Activities included games like badminton and volleyball, as well as team-building exercises that encouraged interaction and sense of togetherness. "Laughter, sunshine, and great company – our faculty picnic

had it all," remarked Ms. Manjiri Prashant, Dean of Arts. She highlighted the enjoyable mix of outdoor games, delicious food, and spontaneous entertainment like Antakshari during the bus ride, which further strengthened the bonds between colleagues.

The day was a welcome respite from the usual routine and served as a reminder that teachers, while focused on nurturing students, also deserve time to recharge. The picnic was designed as a token of appreciation, offering faculty the opportunity to unwind and return to their roles with renewed energy. As the day drew to a close, the sense of rejuvenation was palpable, with teachers expressing their anticipation for future outings. Faculty Day Out was not just a pause from the academic grind, but a celebration of the dedication and hard work of St. Francis' educators.

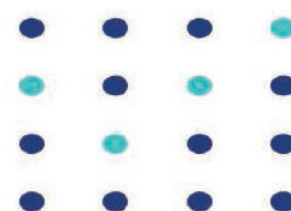
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THE TRIALS OF GABRIEL FERNANDEZ

“The ultimate evil is saying what’s wrong and looking away when you have the power to make the difference.”

- Sumedha Ramesh

I am Sumedha Ramesh, an 18-year-old college student who has always been loved, cared for, and respected by my parents and family. I started watching the documentary *The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez* as part of my Mass Communication studies, but I finished watching it as a deeply shaken 19-year-old (Gabriel would have turned 19 this year, on February 20, 2005, if he were alive). After today, I will never walk the streets of my neighbourhood the same way. I will never sleep in my bed, eat the food my mother packs for me, or even clean my messy room as I did before.

Gabriel Fernandez, an 8-year-old boy, smiled wholeheartedly despite his broken teeth, a black eye, parts of his hair gruesomely cut off, and scabs from previous injuries. Holding the letters ‘M’ and ‘O’ for “MOM”, he tried to express his love for her, just yearning to be loved in return. A child who once wrote, “My mom is special because she’s a loving mom, and I love her because she is beautiful,” deserved nothing but the world. Certainly not the unimaginable horrors he faced—being fed cat litter, hit with a baseball bat, called derogatory names, locked up in handcuffs, having a bandana stuffed into his mouth, kicked, choked by his mother’s boyfriend, and shot with a BB gun by the very woman he adored. Gabriel’s story reveals many layers of blame. The abuse, the homophobia, the systemic failures—all paint a grim picture of how society allowed this innocent child to suffer and die.

Gabriel’s only “crime” was being born into a family that was damaged beyond repair. Psychology and sociology are crucial sciences that help us understand these tragic cases. For instance, Isauro Aguirre was once a beloved caregiver at the Woodland Park Retirement Hotel. Patients adored him, but he eventually became infamous as a homophobic child murderer. His transformation leaves us wondering what led to this monstrous change. Psychology is the only science that can help us understand why Aguirre, during his trial, showed no emotion or remorse. It also helps explain Pearl Fernandez’s low intellectual capacity, psychological instability, developmental disabilities due to substance abuse from age 9, depressive disorder, possible PTSD, and her past as a victim of gang rape and domestic violence—all of which may have contributed to her cruel behavior towards Gabriel. Yet, no science can fully explain how a mother could subject her child to such inhumane treatment. There were people in Gabriel’s life who saw his worth: his great aunt and uncle, Elizabeth and George Carranza; his great uncles, Michael Carranza and David Martinez; Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Hatami, who fought for justice; Jennifer Garcia, his teacher; and many others who tried to intervene. But their efforts were thwarted by the very systems that were supposed to protect him. DCFS workers like Stephanie Rodriguez and Patricia Clement, along with certain members of the LA Sher-

iff’s Department, failed Gabriel. Whether it was for money, convenience, or laziness, these officials turned a blind eye, and the consequences were fatal.



Gabriel Fernandez

As Emily Putnam Hornstein, an associate professor at USC and director of the Children’s Data Network, says, “I struggle with the Gabriel case. It’s heartbreaking, as are, you know, other child deaths. It’s hard to understand some of the decisions that were made.” Gabriel Fernandez, along with Anthony Avalos and Noah Cuatro, are tragic reminders that the U.S. government has failed at every level—most notably at the level of basic humanity. Even though Aguirre and Pearl have been sentenced to life without parole and the death penalty, these punishments don’t come close to what Gabriel deserved. But would Gabriel have wanted that? Despite enduring unimaginable pain, all he ever wanted was love.

All he wanted was “a time for me and you.”

All he wanted was “to be good.”

From Campus to Fame: Trisha Boorugu and Rupika Heerekar’s Journey

- Shaik Meharaj

Trisha Boorugu, a second-year BMS student and Rupika Heerekar, a second-year BA MLS student, are two rising stars in the modelling and film industries. They demonstrate that with ambition and hard work, success is achievable, even while managing the demands of education. Both began their careers at a young age, driven by their passion and a desire to showcase their creative talents. Today, they are skilfully balancing the challenges of fame while continuing their studies, providing valuable insights into how they have managed to grow both professionally and personally. For Trisha Boorugu, the spark for modelling ignited early. Her love for pageantry naturally transformed into a passion for modelling, starting with an impromptu shoot in the heart of New York City at the MET Museum. Wearing one of her sister’s designs, Trisha discovered her love for the camera and the excitement it brought. Since then, she has participated in numerous projects, including reaching the top 14 in the Telangana Femina Miss India 2024 auditions. What sets modelling apart for Trisha is the endless creativity it offers, with each project bringing new possibilities. From mood boards to styling, she thrives on the diversity of the modelling world. Her favourite experience remains her first professional portfolio shoot, where she embraced the glamour and bold style of the day. Balancing her busy career

with her studies requires careful planning, but Trisha, a natural multitasker, enjoys the challenge. Her advice for aspiring models? “Experiment, discover what suits you, and don’t hesitate to explore new opportunities. Find your unique style and grow from there.” Rupika Heerekar’s journey into acting began when a director recognized her talent, leading her to television roles in popular serials like *Paupu Kumkuma*. She quickly advanced in the industry, transitioning from serials to films, including her upcoming role in *Pushpa 2*, a major project in Indian cinema. Rupika’s career has faced challenges, from long hours on set to physically demanding scenes. One memorable experience was during a film where she had to lie on rocky ground, covered in fake blood, for an entire day under the sun. Yet, for Rupika, these moments have been crucial in building her resilience. A highlight of her career was receiving praise from Dhanush during her role in the film *SIR*, a moment she will always treasure. Rupika believes that aspiring actors should focus on developing their skills through traditional methods like live drama and workshops, rather than relying solely on social media to build their careers. Her advice to newcomers is straightforward: “Patience, persistence, and practice are key to succeeding in this industry. Both Trisha and Rupika exemplify that success comes from balancing passion with

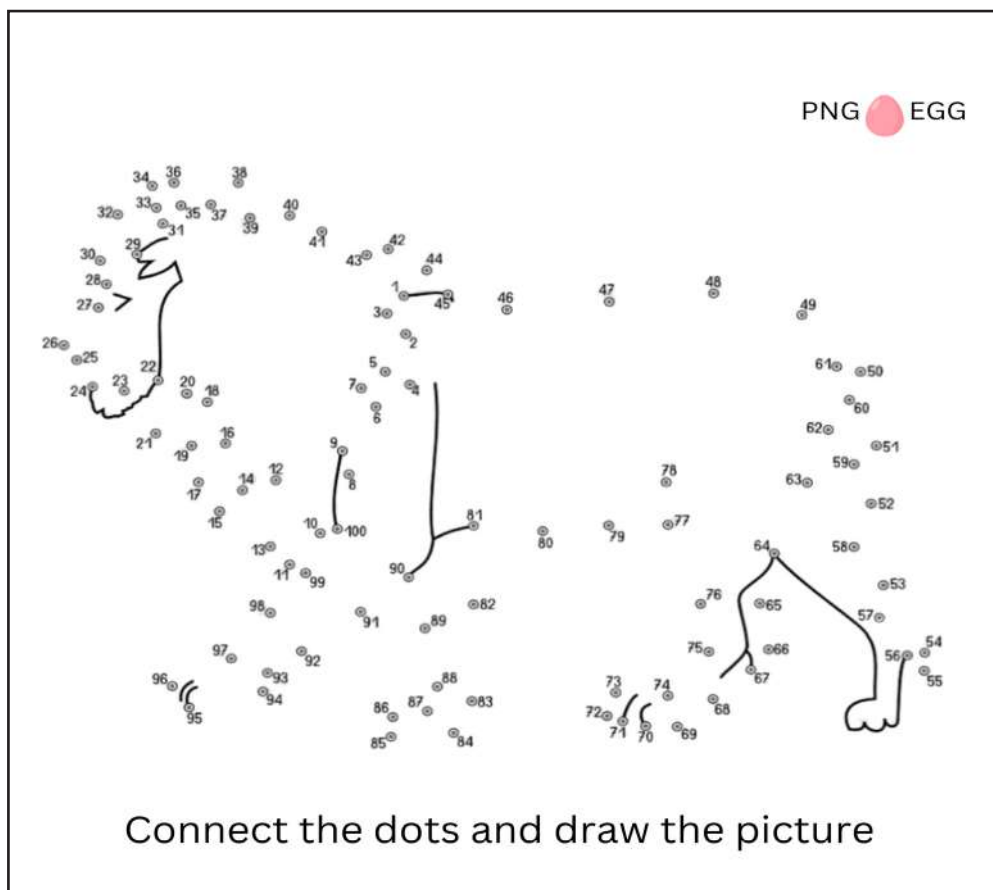
practicality. As their careers in modeling and acting continue to thrive, they also demonstrate immense discipline in managing their academic responsibilities. Their stories remind us that with dedication and a strong work ethic, it’s possible to pursue dreams without sacrificing other important aspects of life. As they look toward future opportunities, Trisha and Rupika remain grounded, embracing every challenge with confidence and grace. Through their journeys, they have not only excelled professionally but have also grown as individuals, proving that success is as much about personal growth as it is about external achievements. With their continued drive, both are set to make lasting impacts in their fields, showing the world that true stars don’t just shine—they evolve.



Rupika with Actor Dhanush



- Sneha Shajimone



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Unsung Heroes of Public Dialogue

Letters to the editor (LTEs) are a longstanding journalistic tradition, allowing individuals to voice opinions, raise awareness, and contribute to public conversations. Though brief, LTEs serve important functions like influencing public opinion, correcting narratives, and advocating for change. Readers use this platform to respond to published content, highlight inaccuracies, and present alternative viewpoints. Most newspapers and online platforms provide space for these contributions, giving citizens a direct way to engage with important societal issues. Critical thinking - Civic engagement - Public Persuasion.

Writing letters to the editor (LTEs) provides students with valuable opportunities to develop critical thinking, civic engagement, and public persuasion skills. By analysing issues, building strong arguments, and supporting their views with facts, students learn to evaluate media sources and consider diverse perspectives.

Through LTEs, they can address real-world issues, influence public opinion, and understand the media's impact on social, political, and environmental matters. Seeing their voices published boosts confidence and encourages further activism, leadership, and community involvement, empowering them to become informed, responsible citizens.

New Education Policy (NEP) and the vision & Mission of SFC
Letters to the editor (LTEs) written by students reflect civic engagement, aligning with the New Education Policy (NEP) and the vision & mission of St. Francis College (SFC). Both emphasize holistic development, encouraging students to become socially responsible citizens who actively contribute to their communities. By writing LTEs, students exercise their voices in public discourse, demonstrating their understanding of their role within the larger society. This participation promotes civic responsibility and national development.

LTE: PG students of the Department of Mass Communications & Journalism

As part of their practical assignments, postgraduate (PG) students in the Department of Mass Communications & Journalism are tasked with writing Letters to the Editor (LTEs) for subjects like News Writing, Reporting Analysis (MA I), and Feature and Freelance Writing (MA II). This initiative aims to enhance communication skills, critical thinking, and civic engagement. Several students shared their experiences:

Nabiha Uddin (MA II): "Writing letters has deepened my understanding of society. It's empowering to see my voice impact the community."

Noor (MA II): "Seeing my letter published was exciting and fulfilling. It taught me the power of words and media's influence."

Aditi Nair (MA I): "Writing LTEs has shown me how one opinion can contribute to society and make a difference."

Sania Tabassum (MA I): "LTEs ignited my desire to advocate for justice and change, proving that every word matters."

Manasvi (MA I): "Writing LTEs connected us to the broader community, sharing and discussing opinions that enlighten society."

Rachel Ankita (MA I): "Publishing LTEs has boosted my confidence and inspired me to make a meaningful societal impact."

Fiza (MA I): "This platform strengthened my voice, proving my words matter and making my parents proud."

Sravani (MA I): "Writing LTEs has broadened my perspective, and seeing my work published feels like a personal achievement."

In conclusion, Letters to the Editor go beyond opinion pieces, enabling students to contribute meaningfully to public discourse, challenge ideas, and inspire change within the community.

- Mr. K. Ravi Kumar, Head of Department

FOOD SAFETY FIRST

It is concerning that renowned clubs violated food safety (Nizam Club serving food without licence: Officials, Sept. 26). Public health comes first. Authorities should act to restore public confidence.

Rachel Ankitha
Hyderabad

How many other restaurants are jeopardising the health of civilians? The raids must not be a one-time event. It's vital that the government focuses on food safety.

Elsy Priyanka
Hyderabad

It was fascinating to learn bird anatomy has remained largely unchanged for millions of years. The TE line, 'A birdwing today is actually a living fossil' left such a lasting impression. Captivating information, TE!

- R. Sreestuti, Hyderabad

SCHOOL FEES

The steep hike in school fees is an additional financial strain for families which are struggling with stagnant salaries and rising cost of living (Steep hike in school fees worries parents, Aug. 31). The government should ensure that fees remain constant.

Sindhu Sowmya
Hyderabad

NEW ZOO

Building a new zoo is not a good idea (Revanth plans for another zoo park on Hyd outskirts, Aug. 31). Animals are not for entertainment. According to PETA, India has 64 large and 194 medium-sized zoos and about 15 per cent of the animals die every year. These animals often are not provided with adequate care and nutrition. The exposure to people hooting, throwing junk food affect the animals psychologically and physically.

Elsy Priyanka
Hyderabad