



Kristu Jayanti College Enhances Learning with Inauguration of Media Laboratories

Catherine J P

Kristu Jayanti College marked a milestone in its journey of academic excellence with the inauguration of its new Media Studies laboratories on January 9, 2025. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal, along with Fr. Dr. Lijo P. Thomas, Vice Principal, Fr. Som Zacharia, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development, Fr. Joshy Mathew, Director, Library and Information Centre, Fr. Jais V. Thomas, Financial Administrator, and Dr. Gopakumar A.V., Dean, Faculty of the Humanities Department. The ceremony was also attended by students and faculty of the Department of Media Studies.

The ceremony began with a prayer and the blessing of the laboratories with holy water. Mr. Aby Augustine, Coordinator, Department of Media Studies introduced the features of the facility. Following this, the gathering

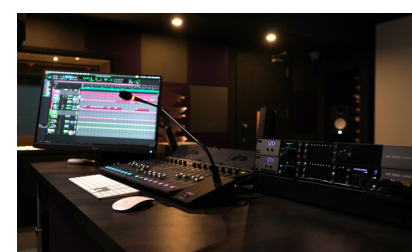
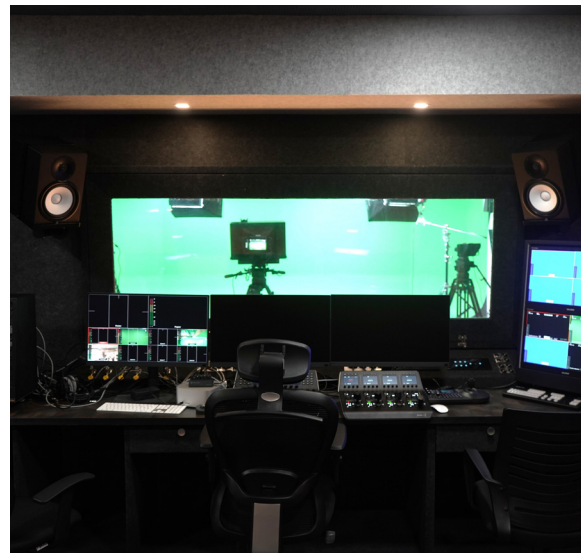


From left to right: Rev. Fr. Dr. Augustine George inaugurating the media lab; TV Production Studio; Radio Control Room (top); Recording Studio (bottom)

was addressed by the Principal and Vice Principal who acknowledged the efforts of all those who contributed to the development of the labs.

Located on the fifth floor of the Humanities Block, the labs are designed to provide students with hands-on experience using the latest technology. The facilities include a Video Production Studio with an attached makeup room, a green screen stage supported by cutting

edge professional equipment including Blackmagic Studio Cameras, an advanced lighting setup, and a spacious editing and control room equipped with DaVinci Resolve System Software. The Radio Production Studio features a soundproof audio recording chamber, a control room, with a projector with a Harkness PWT 3D projector screen. Additionally, the Multimedia Room is equipped with over twelve Apple M4 computers running



professional-grade software including Adobe Creative Suite.

The creative lounge at the entrance and a storeroom for equipment management add to the lab's functionality. A separate Photography Room with a professional cameras and a detailed backdrop setup is located just outside the main lab. To ensure smooth operation, each room is managed by designated in-charges.

Mr. Bijoy, the concept designer of the lab, highlighted

that the facilities aim to enrich students' professional learning experience and provide industry-standard exposure. Anfiya A., first-year postgraduate student shared her excitement, saying that the new labs will inspire her to explore new skills, collaborate on projects, and build an impressive professional portfolio. This new lab promises to be a vibrant hub of creativity, offering students an opportunity to learn, and excel in the field of media.

Kridotsava 2025: Igniting Spirit Through Sports

B. H. Sriprada

Kridotsava, the much-awaited annual sports league was inaugurated on January 7, 2025, by Fr. Jais V. Thomas by lighting the cauldron at the Quadrangle, Main Block. This event is one of the most popular events of the academic year, where students enthusiastically participate in various sporting competitions. The students were divided into 12 teams this year, each representing their departments. The annual sports meet is an excellent opportunity for students to exhibit their talent in sports and create a friendly, yet competitive atmosphere.

A flash mob was held before the event, which kickstarted the hype. The inauguration of Kridotsava also witnessed team introductions through banner reveals, which were prepared



Kristu Jayanti College kicks off Kridotsava, its annual sports meet, with vibrant banners and enthusiastic student participation.

by the participating students of the various departments.

Kridotsava spans across three weeks, from January 7-25, 2025, with the last day reserved for its main events. The Kristu Jayanti Sports Arena hosted football, volleyball, and throwball matches, while intense basketball and badminton games unfolded on the vibrant main campus. The cricket matches, which were held at the Wisdom

Montfort School ground, saw enthusiastic supporters cheering passionately for their favorite teams.

Kridotsava is an annual sports meet held for the undergraduate students that promotes physical fitness, teamwork, and a healthy competitive spirit among participants. It also provides a break from routine, and encourages inclusivity and has been the stepping stone for aspiring athletes.

Empowering Entrepreneurship and Creativity Through 'Srujana' Initiative

Prashansa Sharma

The Women Empowerment Cell organized 'Srujana' on January 7, 2025, which aims at helping the students to become self-sufficient and entrepreneurial. The exhibition highlighted the creativity and business acumen of the students.

The busy day-long workshop proved to be a platform for students to show off their artistic talents as well as business skills, as stalls sold items ranging from paintings to handcrafted ornaments, various crocheted items, tote bags, and delicious food. The event which had 18 stalls in total, attracted a steady stream of visitors throughout the day.

The participants gained a lot of experience presenting their products, managing sales, and



Women-led Srujana stalls on campus.

interacting with visitors throughout the day.

By providing a platform to host such exhibitions, the Women Empowerment Cell looks toward nurturing students by giving them the confidence to venture into entrepreneurial pursuits. Impactful initiatives such as 'Srujana' highlight the importance of cultivating innovative practices and real-world business skills required for the future.

Threading Dreams: An Interview with Student Entrepreneur Rinza Parveen

Ann Rachael Giju
Prashansa Sharma

Rinza Parveen, a postgraduate student of Journalism and Mass Communication in Kristu Jayanti College, is the creative mind behind an online crochet business that she runs alongside her academic pursuits. In a conversation with Rinza Parveen (RP), she shares insights into her journey, challenges, and aspirations.

Q. Can you tell us a bit about yourself, your academic background, and how you started your journey with crocheting?

RP: Hi, I'm Rinza Parveen, and I'm pursuing an MA in Journalism and Mass Communication. My journey began during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2021, when I started experimenting with different crafts like clay and paper before discovering crochet through YouTube tutorials.

Q. What drew you to crocheting, and how has



Rinza Parveen

your passion for this craft evolved over time?

RP: Crocheting wasn't very common in Kerala, but my mother inspired me. And I found a few channels which were explaining the craft so I decided to explore it. I loved how versatile it was, and with my mother's encouragement, I began to not only practice crocheting but also enjoying the craft.

Q. How do you manage to balance the demands of your masters program alongside running an online crochet business?

RP: Balancing both is challenging because of my academic workload. With

classes and assignments taking up most of my time, I often struggle to focus fully on my business. It's a constant juggling act.

Q. What inspired you to start your business, and how did you go about setting it up?

RP: Seeing crochet businesses abroad and my mother's encouragement inspired me. I started at a small scale, making charms and researching yarn sources online, as specialized materials weren't easily available locally. I manage everything myself—from production to marketing.

Q. What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced in combining your academic studies with managing your business?

RP: Time management is my biggest challenge. I rarely get enough time to focus on creating new products or ideas. Logistical issues also make it harder.

Q. How do you engage with your customers and ensure

they have a positive experience?

RP: I share behind-the-scenes content and respond to messages in a friendly tone. I also incorporate customer preferences, like personalized packaging, to make the experience more relatable and enjoyable.

Q. What are your long-term goals for both your academic career and your online business?

RP: I aspire to become a journalist while keeping my crochet business alive. I want to explore innovative crochet techniques and keep my business evolving.

Q. How have the skills and knowledge you've gained



from your masters program contributed to your business?

RP: My coursework in advertising and marketing has been helpful in improving my promotional strategies, even though I had no formal background in marketing.

Q. What advice would you give to other students who are aspiring entrepreneurs?

RP: Just start! Practical experience is the key. You learn new things by doing, and everything else will follow.

Rinza's story inspires us to balance

both passion and academics. If anyone wanting to support her work, can do so by following her Instagram account: @arteluna__

IFFK 2024: Celebrating Women's Contribution to Cinema

Siddhanth Ajay

The 29th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) took place in Trivandrum from December 13-20, 2024. The festival showcased 177 films from 68 countries. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, highlighting the festival's focus on women's contribution to cinema and its role in uniting diverse perspectives. This edition emphasized female filmmakers with 52 women-directed films and featured a dedicated section titled 'The Female Gaze'.

The festival opened with a Portuguese political biographical drama titled *I'm Still Here*, directed by Walter Salles. It also honoured female filmmakers like Ann Hui, who received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award,' and Payal Kapadia, who received 'The Spirit of Cinema Award.'

Pedro Freire's Brazilian drama *Malu* won the *Suvarna Chakoram* for 'Best Film' in the International Competition. Iranian film-



Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan gracing Payal Kapadia with the 'Spirit of Cinema Award' for her movie 'All We Imagine As Light'

maker Farshad Hashemi received the *Rajata Chakoram* Award for Best Director for the film *Me, Maryam, the Children and 26 Others*. Cristobal Leon and Joaquin Cocina received the *Rajata Chakoram* Award for Best Debut Director for their Chilean film *The Hyperboreans*.

Feminist Fathima by Fasil Muhavmmmed, garnered multiple accolades, including the 'Audience Poll Award', 'NETPAC Award' for Best Malayalam Film, and 'FIPRESCI Award' for the Best International Film. Anagha Ravi and Chinmaya Siddi received 'Special Jury Mentions' Awards for their stellar performances.

The festival also paid tribute to cinematic legends

including filmmaker Agnès Varda. Additionally, a section was dedicated to restored classics like Ritwik Ghatak's *Meghe Dhaka Tara* and Chantal Akerman's *Jeanne Dielman*. Panel discussions and masterclasses were also held which further enriched the event.

The 29th IFFK celebrated cinema as a unifying art form that bridges cultures and perspectives. By highlighting women's contributions and embracing diverse narratives, the festival reaffirmed its role as a platform for storytelling that transcends borders. The event concluded with a vibrant closing ceremony that celebrated the spirit of global cinema.



The International Film Festival of Kerala

Human Metapneumovirus: The Silent Respiratory Threat You Need to Know

Kelvin Yumlembam

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a respiratory virus, has gained attention for its impact on vulnerable groups like young children, older adults, and immunocompromised individuals. Though not as widely recognized as influenza or RSV, HMPV can cause serious illnesses, including pneumonia and bronchitis. First detected in 2001, HMPV belongs to the Paramyxoviridae family and often goes unnoticed due to symptoms resembling the common cold, such as cough, sore throat, and fever. While most healthy individuals recover without treatment, severe cases can lead to hospitalization.

HMPV spreads through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or via contact with contaminated surfaces, making crowded spaces like schools and hospitals high-risk zones. Active during winter and spring, it coincides

with other respiratory infections, complicating diagnosis and surveillance. Two cases have been detected in the country so far, prompting monitoring without significant alarm. Early detection and accurate diagnosis are crucial to managing its spread effectively.

The lack of vaccines or antiviral treatments for HMPV presents a challenge, particularly for high-risk groups. Preventive measures like hand hygiene, disinfecting surfaces, and using personal protective equipment in healthcare settings are critical in controlling its spread. While hospitalizations due to HMPV are less frequent than other viruses, they strain healthcare resources, especially among vulnerable populations. Public health campaigns highlighting preventive measures could help curb infections and protect those most at risk.

Ongoing research into vaccines and treatments offers hope, but awareness and preventive practices remain essential.

Editorial

The Unspoken Divide: Groups and Inclusion on Campus

Ann Rachael Giju

College is often romanticized as a melting pot of diversity and a haven for self-discovery. It's where we meet all kinds of people, forge lifelong friendships and relationships, and embrace new perspectives. But beneath this ideal lies a complex web of social dynamics that can sometimes feel more like high school than the utopia we'd envisioned.

Walk into any canteen, library, or classroom, and you'll likely notice distinct groups. The athletes, the theatre kids, the gamers, the nerds — each group offering a sense of belonging but also creating invisible walls. While these groups aren't inherently bad, they can sometimes lead to a culture where social circles feel rigid and intimidating to outsiders.

As students, we naturally gravitate toward people who share our

interests, humour, or cultural backgrounds because it's comforting. But when these bonds evolve into exclusive cliques, the very thing that brings comfort can create barriers for others, especially newcomers. It's not uncommon to hear phrases like "I don't fit in" or "Everyone already has their group."

This divide isn't necessarily intentional. In fact, it often stems from unawareness rather than malice. But the effects are real: isolation, feelings of inadequacy, and missed opportunities for genuine connections. The irony? Most of us, at one point or another, have felt left out or unsure of where we belong. So why does this cycle persist?

Part of the issue lies in how we've been conditioned to seek comfort zones. Reaching out to someone outside your group requires vulnerability,

which, let's face it — isn't easy. But growth happens outside our comfort zones. A conversation with someone who has a completely different perspective could challenge your worldview or inspire you to see things differently. Those moments of connection are what make college life memorable. So, what can we do to foster a more inclusive campus culture? It starts with small, intentional actions. Sit with someone new during lunch hour. Join a club that's outside your usual interests. Be mindful of how you're presenting your social group to others — is it welcoming, or not?

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: to feel seen, valued, and connected. The unspoken divide may not disappear overnight, but each effort to bridge it brings us one step closer to the community we all deserve.

What a Second Lockdown Can Mean for Students and Learning

Akhilesh Bora

In a world full of challenges like wars, wildfires, and viruses, students are left wondering if we're reliving the chaos of 2020. The thought of a second lockdown stirs anxiety, as scars from the COVID-19 lockdowns remain fresh. Education, already disrupted, could face further setbacks, particularly for hands-on subjects like sciences and arts. Although digital tools have improved, gaps in accessing technology persist, creating barriers for many students.

The emotional toll of another lockdown also looms large. The isolation of the COVID-19 era intensified loneliness for students who relied on school for social

connections. While virtual tools and online communities have become more effective, the absence of face-to-face interactions still poses challenges, especially for adolescents who view school as a social lifeline.

The possibility of economic repercussions adding further strain as seen during the COVID-19 lockdowns could lead to job losses forcing many students to juggle work and studies or even drop out. International students, too, could face hardships, unable to access on-campus resources or return home.

While vigilance is necessary, the likelihood of a complete lockdown remains low, offering hope.

Minimalism vs. Materialism and Our Generation's Lifestyle Choices

B. H. Sriprada

In today's world, our cultural values are rapidly evolving, shaped by the digital age and global interconnectedness. Among these, minimalism and materialism stand in stark contrast. Minimalism promotes simplicity, sustainability, and prioritizing experiences over possessions, encouraging personal growth and reflection. Materialism, on the other hand, ties self-worth to consumerism and the pursuit of status symbols, often leading to a focus on accumulating more.

This debate becomes particularly relevant for

students transitioning from smaller towns to bustling cities like Bengaluru. The fast-paced, competitive environment can create a culture shock, where individuals must navigate the balance between staying grounded and adapting to a lifestyle driven by material success.

Understanding one's priorities and values can help ease this transition, enabling individuals to make conscious decisions about their lifestyle. Ultimately, finding a balance between minimalism and materialism allows for a more authenticity, helping people align with their true values and goals.

Photo of the Week



Credits: Vigneshwar B

"Any moment might just be our last. Everything is more beautiful because we're doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again."

- Homer, *The Illiad*

Confessions of a Procrastinator

Ann Rachael Giju

It always starts with the best intentions. "This time, I'll plan everything out," I tell myself, armed with a fresh planner and an optimistic heart. And yet, here I am, again, staring at a blank screen at 11:59 PM, praying for divine intervention—or at least an ounce of creative genius.

Procrastination is a sneaky companion. One moment, you're researching for that essay due in three days, and the next, you're

knee-deep in a YouTube rabbit hole about how jellybeans are made. It's a skill, really—the ability to turn the simplest task into a day-long event. And the adrenaline rush? Unmatched. Nothing fuels productivity like the sound of a ticking clock and the looming threat of a deadline.

But let's not romanticize it. There's no denying that procrastination comes with its fair share of panic and regret. That group project? I'm pretty sure my team still hasn't forgiven me

for submitting my part at 3 AM. That essay? It may have been "unique," but I'd trade all the last-minute genius for a stress-free evening.

Yet, somehow, every semester I find myself in the same cycle: grand plans, avoidance, panic, and eventual triumph—or at least survival. It's a chaotic charm that defines the student experience. To my fellow procrastinators: we may not always be on time, but we always get there. Just... maybe next time, let's start a little earlier. (Or not. No promises.)

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Solution on Page 4 >

The Quiet Ones in Class: What are they really thinking?

Prashansha Sharma

A discussion is buzzing all over the class. Hands rise high and low with eager-to-be-heard murmurs, except in one quiet corner, someone hesitates as their hand moves half-raised before it too slowly withdraws again. Not from a lack of ideas, there are certainly quite a few very well-formed ideas, but perhaps in this setting they may not weigh much. This is the silent reality of classroom prejudice, where the voices of some are louder and more audible than others. It has been silently determined in classrooms at will, even if unintentional, through gender, culture, socio-economic status, or personality biases.

For instance, gender bias; the male students can dominate the floor more freely, especially if the subject in question is male-dominated, like math and science. Female students, even with equal or higher preparation, can be interrupted or ignored. Riya,

an undergraduate engineering student recalls how a brilliant suggestion on a team project was dismissed, however it was appreciated when a fellow male classmate repeated it.

Cultural bias adds one more layer. Students from marginalized backgrounds often find themselves to be on the sideline when discussions come into play because of ideas based on different worldviews. Students regularly share that they have to translate their thoughts to fit what others expect, even though they really might have an interesting alternating perspective. Teachers may unwittingly maintain such practices. A loud, vocal student is frequently called upon and rewarded in class; the more reserved students are ignored. Even unconscious biases involving gender, race, or physical appearance can enter into questions of who will be called upon or praised.

This also brings in extreme biases which affect the situation leading to students becoming unable

to contribute once they feel their voices are undervalued. This eventually degrades their feelings of belonging to a class or themselves and even makes the learning environment exclusionary instead of being empowering.

Belongingness can be achieved by the teachers in developing an environment where every student has a say. They should make sure there is structured turn-taking and encourage quieter students actively and eliminate any biases that may be portrayed. This can be further enhanced by having diverse perspectives represented in curricula and by making sure that peers treat each other with respect.

Another important factor is peer support in the classroom. The quiet students will feel more comfortable sharing their ideas if there are collaborative activities such as group discussions or projects. Classmates will respect and appreciate each other's contributions, which creates

a culture of mutual respect and inclusivity. If a teacher practices active listening by appearing receptive and showing curiosity for ideas suggested by every learner, it will build confidence in quieter students to tackle intricate discussions on a larger scale.

Above all, remind students that their voices matter. The breaking of silence of one student can be a spark for change in the whole classroom dynamic.

Educators must also engage in regular self-reflection to identify and address their own unconscious biases, ensuring fairness in their teaching practices. Creating an anonymous feedback system can help students voice their concerns without fear of judgment, although an open forum for discussion would be even more constructive further fostering an inclusive atmosphere. Ultimately, a classroom thrives when diversity is celebrated, and every student is empowered to share their unique perspectives.

Upcoming Events

January 21st
Invictus-
Intercollegiate
Fest-Department
of Professional
Management
Studies
Economics
Exhibition

January 22nd
Science
Exhibition

January 23rd
International
Conference-
Department of
English

January 25th
Kridotsava-
Annaul UG
Sports Meet

January 28th
Forensics Science
Exhibition
National
Conference-
Department of
Management

Sarla Aviation Nets 10 Million Dollars to Build Flying Taxis

Akhilesh Bora

Sarla Aviation has raised \$10 million (INR 86.5 CR) in its Series A1 funding round which was led by equity firm, Accel. Other investors included Flipkart co-founder, Binny Bansal and Zerodha co-founder, Nikhil Kamath. Swiggy co-founder, Sriharsha Majety, joined by industry leaders from Urban Company and Polygon.

The company will use the funds to grow its team and set up a research center. It will also launch its flying taxi prototype. The prototype was



A sketch on flying taxis proposed by Sarla Aviation

revealed at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 held in January 17, 2025, at Delhi NCR.

Sarla Aviation was founded by Rakesh Gaonkar, Shivam Chauhan, and Adrian Schmidt in 2023. The company

is working towards make flying taxis affordable and eco-friendly. It plans to begin commercial flights by 2028.

The company aims to focus on sustainability with global efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector. The startup also plans to launch a free air ambulance service which will help save lives by avoiding traffic delays. "Our mission is to make air travel simple for everyone," said Adrian Schmidt, CEO of Sarla Aviation. Sustainable air mobility is gaining attention and Sarla

Aviation is among the startups leading this transformation.

The Series A1 funding marks a significant milestone for Sarla Aviation as it positions itself as a frontrunner in the emerging field of sustainable air mobility. With an emphasis on innovation and eco-friendly solutions, the company aims to leverage cutting-edge technology and strategic partnerships to revolutionize urban transportation. This fresh infusion of capital underscores growing investor confidence in the company's vision to redefine the future.

> Solution for puzzle on Page3

3	1	8	6	5	9	2	7	4
4	2	6	1	7	3	9	8	5
7	5	9	8	4	2	6	3	1
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6	9	7	5	8	1	4	2	3
5	8	3	4	2	6	1	9	7
8	6	1	7	9	5	3	4	2
2	7	5	3	6	4	8	1	9
9	3	4	2	1	8	7	5	6

Movie Review: "Emergency"

Kelvin Yumlembam

Kangana Ranaut's "Emergency" delivers a gripping portrayal of Indira Gandhi, capturing the political turmoil of the 1975 Emergency with intensity and drama. Ranaut shines as the lead, balancing power and vulnerability, but the narrative occasionally falters with its uneven pacing and overt melodrama. The cinematography is compelling, though the screenplay lacks nuance in

portraying opposing perspectives, making the film feel one-sided. Audience feedback highlights Ranaut's strong performance but critiques the lack of depth in supporting characters. The film's powerful soundtrack and evocative dialogues add to its dramatic appeal, resonating strongly with the audience. While "Emergency" succeeds in evoking powerful emotions, it misses the mark as a balanced exploration of one of India's most debated historical periods.



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