



A Satyam Roychowdhury initiative
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COP 26: climate critical and red

Another year, another climate conference, another list of exaggerated pledges. And the cycle continues. Did we get something positive out of it? Only time will tell. For now, our world is going through a grave climate emergency. We have lost 40% of our Arctic ice since 1975. The carbon dioxide concentration in our atmosphere is the highest in 2 million years. Between 2011 and 2020, the global temperature was 1.09 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial average. Wildfires, cyclones, floods and all other extreme weather events are already on rise and will become more common going forward. To sum it up, as mentioned in the 2021 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report, it is “code red” for humanity. During the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, a pledge was taken by 193 countries, to control and mitigate climate change and limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees, which seems so unlikely now. Many of their targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions are prefaced by a slippery phrase: “net-zero.” The United States, New Zealand, Japan and Argentina all aim to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Private companies are getting into the game, too. At least 20 percent of the 2,000 largest companies have set net-zero emissions targets, including giants like Apple, Ford, and Microsoft. But “net-zero” is different from zero emissions, and this nebulous term can obscure a lot of important differences in how countries and companies actually plan to limit their contributions to climate change. Net-zero, is just another way of cheating emissions and simply a blatant “green-washing” to hide the bitter realities of failure by the governments. For a long time, India did not hop onto the “net-zero” wagon. But now unfortunately, to the surprise of many, it too decided to join the pretentious cluster and announce it’s “net-zero” target of 2070 in Glasgow.



Envoirment activists protesting COP26 --Pic Internet

“I was surprised because there has been quite a heated debate on net-zero in India,” said Ulka Kelkar, director of the climate program at World Resources Institute, India. Hypocrisy is just a routine in climate summits nowadays. A group of 20 countries, including the G7, pledged to end public financing for fossil-fuel projects, including those powered by coal, by the end of 2022. But the prohibition applies only to international projects, not domestic ones. COP26 did not even do much for climate justice. An upwardly increasing climate finance goal was not agreed upon. Major developed countries, which are historically big polluters, did not commit to any major climate funding for their poorer counterparts. After reaping the benefits of development themselves, the rich world continues to lecture the rest of the countries about doing more. How can they do more when they don’t have that much money? “The rhetoric around loss and damage is very prominent,” said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa. “But what they would rather not discuss is finance.” In a nutshell, COP26 was not as significant as it was hyped. Nothing much was achieved. The countries did agree to strengthen their emissions-cutting targets for 2030 by the end of next year. This seems like a positive but unlikely to be followed by most countries. What is more worrying is that India has still not charted a clear course towards environmental safety. ---Sayan Guin

Secularism is our bedrock: Shahriar Alam



Chancellor SNU Satyam Roychowdhury felicitating Bangladesh Minister Md. Shahriar Alam Pic-Soumya Naik

Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Shahriar Alam during his recent visit to Sister Nivedita University (SNU) asserted that the Sheikh Hasina government will continue to uphold secular values, which was the bedrock of the country’s constitution. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme commemorating the golden jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence, Alam said, “Secularism is one of the main principles for which we had fought the war of liberation against Pakistan in 1971. It is our constitutional obligation. We will continue to uphold its spirit.” The minister said that the governments of India and Bangladesh were working in close co-operation to simplify people-to-people exchanges.

Earlier, Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner Toufique Hasan, Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University Satyam Roychowdhury and Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay paid floral tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s portrait and lit the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the programme. On the occasion of Bangladesh’s Golden Jubilee of Independence, the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the Friendship Day, Mr Shahriar delivered an enthralling lecture at the campus that left the audience charmed. During his lecture, Mr Shahriar said: “A car ride from Kolkata to Dhaka could be completed in just about six hours once the Padma Bridge was completed within the next two years. This is one of our government’s 10 mega projects that would transform Bangladesh in the coming years. One of the pivotal projects is this Padma Bridge which once completed and joined with Jessore Road would enable the people to travel to and from Bangladesh easily. It would also create a direct link between the NE India and Bangladesh.” He said the other top priority projects as envisioned by the country’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina included the 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar Rail Link and Paira Deep Sea Port. Remembering the friendship between the two countries, he said: “India is the biggest ally of Bangladesh and the bi-lateral relations will only increase in years to come. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the all those who gave shelter to the numerous Bangladesh refugees during the war of 1971. Bangladesh was formed with help from India and that will always be remembered.” Talking about the progress of Bangladesh, he said: “By 2031, Bangladesh would be a middle-income country and by 2041 in the top 30. Even after being

hit badly by Covid pandemic the country was expecting a positive growth of about 6 per cent during the current fiscal. The Centre of Economic Gravity was shifting towards South Asia and I am confident of Bangladesh playing a major hand in giving it the direction.” He also said that he was in total disagreement with the then US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger’s comments, smarting from the 1971 defeat of ally Pakistan, calling Bangladesh a ‘basket case’. “I am completely appalled even today that he had called Bangladesh a bottomless basket. Given a chance I would ask him to come out in public and have the guts to explain it. Bangladesh’s progress is not a paradox. It’s a miracle.” He expressed his thanks to the Founder and Chancellor of SNU, Mr. Satyam Roychowdhury for hosting the team from Bangladesh and being one of the closest friends of Bangladesh and a partner in its progress. Mr. Roychowdhury, while, welcoming the delegation said: “Bangladesh and India were two countries divided by geography but united by language, culture and history. The bond between West Bengal and Bangladesh could never be over emphasized. Vijay Diwas is a victory for Bengalis all over the world.” He reminded the gathering that SNU became the only institution in the East to host ‘Swarnim Vijay Mashal’ on its campus, marking 50-years of the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 and show the commitment to Indo-Bangladesh solidarity. In his welcome address Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay said: “I hope the cultural ties between India and Bangladesh grew with time and more and more students came to the university here to chart out their destiny. Now it’s 14, soon it should be 140 and then 1400”. Alam later did an interview for SNU Chronicle at the Journalism and Mass Communication Department. --Devangshi Priya

The familiar hum is back

After about 20 months the classrooms are breathing easy again. The schools and colleges reopened on November 16 amid cheers from the students and teachers and trepidations from a section of the parents. While schools reopened from classes 9 to 12, colleges and universities also opened their doors to the students. Education Minister Bratya Basu said that the school education department had left the decision in the hands of the parents/guardians to take the call of whether to send their children to school or not. The last time students physically attended class was in March 2020. After months of online classes, the students were once again attending the blended

mode of classes. The new normal was the call of the day. The class rooms sported students sitting maintaining social distancing, mask on their faces. The teachers also sported a mask. Each class had a pedestal sanitizer. But studies had returned to classes where teachers and students faced each other. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) had been drafted for the offline classes and strictly enforced. This included isolation rooms for students in case they fell ill while on the premises. In another notification, the Higher Education Department asked teaching and non-teaching staff to go to their colleges and universities from November 1, so that necessary preparations could be made for reopening on November 16. The vice-chancellors and college principals had also been asked to make the buildings ready by November 1 to pave the way for the resumption of offline classes in undergraduate and postgraduate courses from November 16.

Polyamory: Love as free will

Marriage could soon be an outdated concept for many awakened millennials who think they are too cool to be monogamous. The same saw reflection on a Facebook Red Table talk show featuring Willow Smith. Will Smith’s 20-year-old daughter Willow Smith, her mother Jada Pinkett-Smith, and her grandmother Adrienne Banfield-Norris opened up about her polyamorous lifestyle. Willow talked about her emotional and romantic relationships with multiple people and confessed that the history of marriage bothers her, particularly as it applies to women. However, in reality, the practice of polyamory is not a new concept and has been around since 10,000 BC. Since then there have been various literature on the subject. But even today the subject of consensual non-monogamy is tread on with much apprehension and its ethics are questioned by the society at large. Niharica Shah, a mental health practitioner since 2016 and the founder of Interior Gardening, said, “The term ‘Ethical Polyamory’ was coined only to bring it up at par with monogamous relationships for it to succeed. We do not use that term to support monoamorous relationships. Monogamous relationships are not always perfect and oftentimes fail. Therefore, it is futile to pedestalise them over consensual non-monogamy.” When questioned on society’s decision to move away from the practice of consensual non-monogamy she said: “The switch occurred when we became an agrarian society. We started paying

attention to ownership and inheritance which influenced the way we look at relationships. As a mono-normative society man is scared of anything that moves outside of it and therefore finds it easier to frown upon it.” Niharica added: “Society views polyamory as a frivolous practice that threatens the seriousness of a relationship. Whereas, in reality, polyamory is just monoamory amplified as it explores the challenges of pursuing a relationship with multiple people. Being in a relationship with multiple people is more challenging than being in a relationship with one person.” Designer Aman Bajaj, 43, in a recent interview to Deccan Herald identified himself as heterosexual and polyamorous, and explained: “Polyamory is an evolutionary process for me, and each day I learn something new by accepting my true feelings for people. Whether it’s sexual or platonic, love is love and it makes no sense to hide it. I feel polyamory is absolutely natural and everyone is polyamorous to some extent. It would be a lie to say otherwise. It is also about acknowledging your true feelings and being mindful and respectful about the way other people feel. It is different from polygamy in every sense because polyamory gives an equal right to all genders to be fluid in choosing partners.” Niharica communicates that consensual non-monogamy respects a person’s boundaries and encourages honest communication between partners. At the same time, it takes away a lot of emotional labour and pressure. A person may choose to be with someone who already has a



Pic - Internet

primary partner because currently, they may not have the emotional capacity of being someone’s primary partner. This makes it less emotionally demanding on the person and allows them to deflect the almost unattainable monogamous standards. She said: “People enjoy polysexual activities such as ‘swinging’ or watching their partners while they engage in sexual activities with another partner is not that uncommon. However, the third party involved is rarely someone known and is a stranger in most cases. Involving a known person might complicate things in terms of emotions. This practice seems almost polyphobic in terms of developing emotional bonds but is still deftly navigated to give the pleasures of polysexual activities.” Consensual non-monogamy leaves room for relationships to bloom however they want to without any restraints or labels of ownership. Additionally, it makes a person more self-aware and paves way for self-discovery. --Shivangi Mukherjee

Gaming as career option

If you ever hear a group of youngsters in oversized t-shirts and hoods hanging around and speaking gibberish like AAA, AFK, AOE or Bullet Sponge and Hitscan in between their tense engrossing discussion, be rest assured they are no conspiracy mongers.

They are just a group of gamers speaking their lingo. Like any hobby, gaming has its own terms, phrases, and various jargon that will sound foreign to outsiders. But it has not stopped the hobby-turned-career spread wings slowly.



Pic- Internet

In gaming there are two careers-- Streaming and Professional scene. Around 2017 with games like Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS: GO), which is a First-Person Shooter game, becoming popular, the young generation took to it. They played this game while streaming on YouTube and Twitch along with the other popular story mode games like Grand Theft Auto (GTA).

The world of gaming was opening up for India. Different eSports organizations started organising CS: GO tournaments across India in which different teams competed against each other. Some of the CS: GO professionals started seeing the game as a career like Anuj ‘Amaterasu’ Sharma, Bhavin ‘HellrangeR’ Kotwani and many more. The CS: GO scenario in India started growing and also got recognized globally. But an incident put paid on all such possibilities. During the eXTREMESLAND 2018 Finals, Nikhil ‘forsaken’ Kumawat was caught using cheating software which resulted in the immediate disbandment of the team. ESL India later found that forsaken used the same cheats during the ESL India Premiership 2018 Fall Finals. This resulted ostracising from the world gaming community. Then arrived Pubg. Since smartphones were affordable easily Pubg Mobile managed to grab huge audience and also grew its competitive scenario at a very short period of time. Last June a new game called Valorant was introduced in

India and all across the globe which changed the PC gaming scenario in India especially. If you are aspiring to become a professional Valorant player in India and you are worried about your earnings, Global eSports IGL Bhavin ‘HellrangeR’ Kotwani has the answer. According to the sportskeeda interview HellrangeR said: “I mean I’ll say this. When I started my gaming journey, only travel and stay was taken care of and the salary was 15,000 (INR). The salary has improved. But in general, Indian Valorant players earn anywhere from 15,000 to a lakh, and that’s about it.”

The ban of Pubg Mobile in India in the month of September the previous year also acted as a catalyst for the popularity of Valorant. Pubg Mobile streamers like Naman ‘Mortal’ Mathur, Tanmay ‘Scout’ Singh came across this game and took to it. Other mobile gaming audience came across this game and it made them realise that PC gaming can also be seen as a career. Indian eSports Organisations like ‘Skypesports’ and ‘The Esports Club’ started organising online events of Valorant every week. The pandemic also played a role since the students were trapped in their houses and were armed with a laptop or desktop, which they utilised to play games like Valorant. RIOT Games and Valorant after realising that the game had acquired huge audience in India also introduced the official Valorant tournament for

South Asia in which Indian teams dominated. Let us take the example of Lokesh Karakoti. He was introduced to Garena Free Fire, a mobile battle-royale game, four years ago by a friend. He had just completed Class XII. Instead of figuring out which college he wanted to join, like his parents wanted him to, he spent most of his day spraying bullets and throwing bombs at his opponents in the game. He soon dropped out concerned more with the matters of life and death within Free Fire. Four years later, Lokesh, earns about ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 a month. About ₹40,000 of this comes through his YouTube channel, Pahadi Gaming (with over 9,27,000 subscribers), and the rest through sponsors and prize money earnings.

If you do not want to be professional player or a streamer you can be an eSports Entrepreneur like Dr Rushindra Sinha (Founder of Global Esports), Manoj ‘VLT Sentinel’ Kasyap (founder of Velocity Gaming). The world is just opening up. And sky is the limit.

--Alex Arghya Adhikary

Towards a safer Cyber world

Will we ever get absolute virtual security?

The Facebook data leak in the beginning of this year had everyone in a dilemma. The personal data of millions of users among us, posted on an online hacking forum could be used to commit fraud against us. These data could be our phone numbers, locations, email addresses and even our biographical information. 106 countries faced the wrath of this cyber-crime with 6 million users affected in India alone.

As CTO of a Cybercrime Intelligence firm Hudson Rock stated “Individuals signing up to a reputable company like Facebook are trusting them with their data and Facebook is supposed to treat the data with utmost respect.”

So, if Facebook couldn’t guarantee us a secure space whom are we supposed to believe? Should we stop sharing information then? How much is too much information? Out of the 533 million users whose data was leaked, how many are actually aware of the perils of the cyber world? Are you aware?

A world of questions swarmed about in the cyber space—unanswered.

To address this growing need for cyber awareness, Kolkata witnessed a first-of-its kind cyber awareness rally organized by ISOEH (Indian School of Ethical Hacking) on November 30 coinciding with the National Computer Security Day.

According to data furnished by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), in the past year itself, India witnessed an increase in cyber-crimes by 11.8% amounting to a total of 50,035 cases. The figure stood at 27,248 cases and 44,735 cases in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Kolkata had itself witnessed a five-fold increase in cyber-crimes in the past two years.

Since the virtual world came with its own perils, it’s important to make people aware of their responsibility to protect themselves. “Cyber Security Awareness means taking a proactive approach to protect one’s identity and assets online,” emphasized Sandeep Sengupta, MD, ISOEH, adding: We are extremely happy to organize this kind of unique rally.”

“The Digital India Campaign was launched in 2015 but it came into reality only after the pandemic in 2020. While people were forced to stay indoors, digital medium became the only way to order food, book a cab, buy medicines, speak to friends and get entertained. With the majority of Indians being not ready for this situation, it resulted in bank fraud, data breaches, defaced websites and disruptions in online classes. Here comes the need for cyber security awareness and skilled ethical hackers – cyber security professionals who can keep the digital world safe,” said Sengupta.

Are we aware now? Perhaps No! A rally once in a while can’t make us aware but it can definitely give us a choice.



--Nipomita Moitra

Depression needs a voice

A recent study undertaken showed that 43 per cent of the Indian populace suffered from some type of depression and it was on a rise as people equated mental issues with going mad.

GOQii, a smart-tech enabled preventive healthcare platform, had undertaken a survey of over 10,000 Indians and it showed a whopping 43 per cent suffering from depression as given in a report in the mainstream media.

Psychologist Dr. Sayantani Bhattacharya said: “There are many types of mood disorders like Bipolar disorder, Cyclothymic disorder and Dysthymic disorder. Depression has now become a common man’s term to refer to any kind of mood disturbance. But the term holds much more than what people understands or shall we say how they misunderstand it.”

Dr. Sayantani Bhattacharya also added that if we have fever, we go to a doctor but if someone says I am facing a mental problem then the other person thinks he/she may have gone crazy.

“Mental Health is a global issue. Nobody takes mental issues seriously. Councilors are always there to guide a patient in a proper way to get over their issues. In this world of uncertainty everyone has the right to be happy. If someone is facing any problem, they should speak out and look for any help possible. Another way to keep mental health good is that everyone should meditate once in a day and they should listen to music to calm their mind,” she added.

“Nowadays everybody strives to have a good life and this standard of good life is generally set by a

criterion set by other people that they set on social media. People generally work hard all their life to attain that perfect life which they do not have an idea of what they are exactly looking for. They try to shape their lives by niche carved by someone else but they forget that everybody has a different life story different struggle and a different scenario to experience. We often forget that what we see on social media is only what is shown and might not be the whole truth,” she said.

She continued giving a real-life example: “Everyone has a target in their own life and they themselves set their target to achieve that good life. But to fulfill this target everyone faces many hurdles in their life. But with the growth of social media networks, we only get to see the happy moments of their life. Everyone pretends to show the perfect lives they have. But we don’t set realistic life goals. For example, we have not seen unicorns in real life but we know that unicorns are beautiful, similar to that we haven’t seen how a perfect life is but we can imagine how a perfect life can be. And when we fail to achieve that, it might develop serious mental trauma or disorders, depression being one of them.”

It’s okay to feel low, experience the blues, just don’t let the state suck you into a vortex of pain and delusion. The problems begin there as we struggle with our consciousness that tells us we are going mad. Actually the issue is not being able to tackle the reverses and moving on. So everytime something from deep tells you its the end. Look for a new story to write.

--Nandini Datta and Debopriya Chakraborty

Present tense for horse-buggies



Pic- Internet

Very soon one may have to go through an old family album or revert to scenes like those from the movie Howrah Bridge to catch a glimpse of the famed horse pulled carriages along the Victoria Memorial.

All this because apparently the very horses used to pull carriages in Kolkata were in dire need of help. A division bench of the Calcutta High Court headed by Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava heard a public interest litigation filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India seeking an end to their use for rides near Victoria Memorial. The state government was directed to file a report before the next hearing on January 18 next year.

A study report filed by PETA stated : “Most of the severe injuries and lameness observed in horses in Kolkata were reported to have been caused by cars and other vehicles hitting the animals in the. While most of the horses are left to find their

own food on the Maidan, some are completely abandoned once they are considered unfit.”

“Out of an estimated 80 horses, including foals, who were found on the Maidan and under the flyover, 65 were assessed for their body condition score. Out of the 65, 38 horses (58%) were recorded as “very thin” (a score of 1) and 27 horses (42%) were recorded as “thin” (a score of 2). This indicates that the majority of Kolkata’s horses have been starving,” the report added.

The advocate appearing on behalf of the state submitted that the issue raised in the petition was serious and the authorities were trying to find a solution. The petition relied on a recent study report revealing that more than 100 horses used for rides in the city were anaemic, malnourished, and chronically starved; some suffered from severe injuries, including bone fractures; and that many were forced to live amid their own waste on filthy, decrepit, and illegally occupied premises in the city, including an encroachment area under a flyover.

“Forcing often malnourished and wounded horses to haul people in carriages through city traffic is cruel and dangerous. Horse-drawn carriages are already prohibited in Mumbai while similarly horse-drawn tongas are banned in Delhi,” said PETA India Principal Legal Counsel Swati Sumbly adding: “Most tourists were shocked and appalled by the outright cruelty to the horses and their terrible conditions. A prohibition on horse-drawn carriages is necessary.”

--Barsha Gupta

Era of storytellers

You all must have heard how Veda Vyasa narrated the story of Mahabharata and Lord Ganesha penned it. Yes, India has been a land of master storytellers and in the digital era it has morphed into formats like those for podcast and YouTube audio stories.

Now if you have a story worth telling. There are channels ready to read and dramatise it and millions are waiting to hear.

And it all began with the change in content for Radio as it slowly left the radio sets in our homes and travelled to the handier mobile phones and car audios. “Content in radio in India is primarily based on ‘infotainment’. Previously people would listen to the radio in a music system with a room full of people, so it was more of a community affair.



Creative Director of EmVeeBee Media(P) Ltd. and the person behind the iconic Sunday Suspense programme in Radio Mirchi, while talking of how things paced up with digitization.

Almost every radio station still produces storytelling sessions. But with the random and continuous upgradation of the technological

advancements, FM radios are fast becoming a thing of the past. As people get busier they want to listen to their favourite programmes at their own time. Same with Audio stories. Keeping that in mind Radio Mirchi decided to put all their Sunday Suspense stories on YouTube in their own channel. That meant more traffic and also killing any audio piracy.

Though major radio stations have had been posting their audio stories on YouTube for the last few years now, the pandemic caused a mass of enthusiastic writers to take up the mic and work on their storytelling talent with social media as their platform. Contents mushroomed across the YouTube be it Midnight Horror Stories, Vale of Tales, Thrill Studio, The story Lines, Midnight Fantasy, Biva Café, Joyful Entertainment and their likes. At present there are like 30 credible online audio channels that are churning out stories every

week. This of course does not include some 10 odd very popular channels from Bangladesh that also produces stories in Bengali.

The style and format of storytelling had taken a formative change. Indrani said: “I think the format of storytelling has changed a little bit, like people are more into sharing their personal experiences. A whole lot of people started writing during this pandemic. Coming to audio medium, I don’t see much pandemic related content, but people have been doing their audio production from their rooms, sitting inside a wardrobe or even a cupboard just to cut down the noise and get the recording done. Overall, I think the pattern of storytelling has changed and that is because our lives have undergone a sea change in the last two years.”

So what is your story---we are waiting to hear!

--Sounak Sarkar

Editorial

Education Blended

Blended learning is a combination of offline (face-to-face, traditional learning) and online learning in a way that the one compliments the other.

There are two key principles commonly associated with blended learning (which are the “secrets” to its success): students who can share information and work with other students directly in a collaborative setting have a more enriched learning experience, and collaboration between students can be improved upon if group activities rely on information gathered from online resources or lessons. It’s also been suggested that students who complete online coursework followed by interactive, face-to-face class activities have richer educational experiences.

While the classroom offers an opportunity for role-playing with immediate face-to-face feedback, online learning offers personalized, self-paced learning with eLearning/mLearning components that lend themselves to interactive media such as skill-building, games, videos, tutorials, quizzes and social media components, all accessible from the learner’s home page in the Learning Management System (LMS)—and accessible from the learner’s smartphone or tablet.

Also, personalized eLearning enables students to customize a variety of the elements involved in the online education process. This means that they are asked to set their own goals, go at their own pace, and communicate with instructors and students to personalize the learning process. Ideally, the student is placed in charge of managing his/her own learning and is able to customize the experience by having a direct say in the processes and content that is being provided.

--Minal Pareek

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Quote of the issue

“ I became a journalist to come as close as possible to the heart of the world”-- Anonymous

Casual is the new chic trending

The new gen loves keeping it simple. 21st century fashion is minimalist and crazy over comfortable fabric for their skin. A basic white tank top and mom jeans is a street look everyone is seen wearing.

The newest trend? Styling as you like it. Casual, in terms of fashion is a ‘no-dress code’ dress code and putting on comfortable clothing. In the colder weathers, teens love styling themselves with classy buns and turtle necks that sync perfectly with little stone pendants and bracelets.

The term ‘street style’ has fallen into our ears several times but now what does it really mean? Our grandparents are simply at a loss of words when trying to make sense out of our outfits. As we’ve seen through the years, ladies wear their elegance and men their virility with their dresses and bowties respectively. But today girls and boys practically wear the same clothes, like sneakers, T-shirts or even baggy pants as per the newest fashion trend.

Street Style basically means not following any on-going trend and portraying individualism. Solely focusing on what your mood fancies.

“I just throw a denim jacket on myself and call it an outfit; I don’t try too hard. My friends like my fashion sense and denim is a trend

Pic-Internet

that’ll never die,” said Durgashree Murmu, who studies Mass Communication Honours.

“I don’t mind wearing something that catches an eye, pastel colors are adorable but something in bright doesn’t hurt no one. I like wearing high boots and darker shades of lipstick for they leave a better finish to my outfits,” she added.

There was a time when high fashion trendy outfits represented a rich people culture. Up street brands wouldn’t even serve the working class. And following up the movement was expensive. Recent years have perceived a wholly new era. Best thing? Street Style is cheap! Brands like Forever 21, H&M, sell clothing apparels at reasonable prices which is quite affordable.

“Wearing black is what I opt for mostly. Black will never go out of fashion. My wardrobe is currently filled with black hoodies and t-shirts for every occasion. I usually wear body fit Kurtis and black pants as they suit my sense of style. I don’t go by trends since fashion for me is simply defining myself,” said Niharika Tiu, a first year college-goer.

“Not going to lie I wear whatever I find in my closet and it’s a not hard decision. I wear what I see. My idea of clothing is wearing something comfortable and some Vans for everyday ventures,” stated a friend of hers.

As is apparent, Indian street fashion is enormously diverse. People love mixing and matching. Here, you’ll find couples twinning and co-ordinate set suits as their everyday thought up apparatus. People aren’t shy to represent their mind through their apparels.

This generation will take you from short Kurtis to tiny skirts as their minimal outfits and it’s a treat to watch them pull it off gracefully.

- Hanika Kashyap

Going Natural

Of late the internet has gone buzzing over the natural with celebrities and wannabe alike posing with their no filter looks.

Yes, #NoMakeup has taken the social media by storm. In comparison to glam makeup you need much lesser products to achieve this look. Bb cream, concealer, lip and cheek tint, some mascara and definitely a strobe cream is all you need to rock your entire day. Runway models like Gigi Hadid, Kendal Jenner are going for no makeup look.

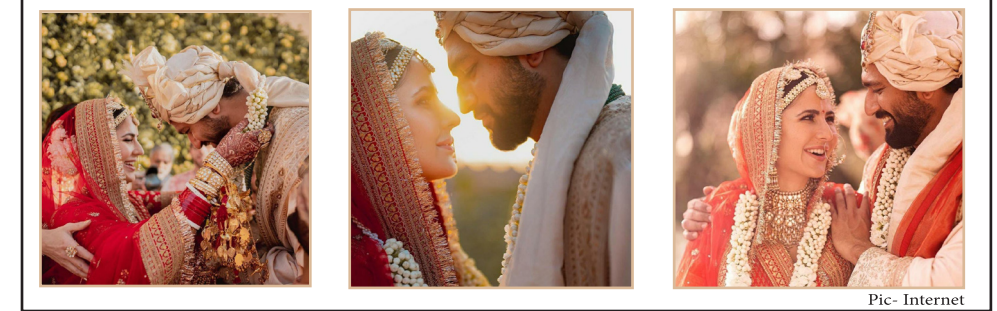
Selena Gomez introduced here brand ‘Rare Beauty’. This brand is all about “Being rare is about being comfortable with yourself,” celebs like Halle Berry had said in interviews, “I learned less is more. The makeup used to wear me and now I wear makeup.”

When it comes to Fashion Industry, less can definitely be more. It promotes minimalism. Instead of wearing over the top accessories and outfit, it’s better to put on one sober outfit and minimal accessories. Fashion is something which has no boundaries. Comfortable clothes and confidence are all one can need to face the world.

For men it’s a ‘No-shave November’ season. No-Shave November campaign is observed every year to raise awareness about cancer patients and the hair loss they have. The motto behind this campaign is to let the hair grow and to donate the money we spend on haircare for treatment of cancer patients

- Shristi Hazra

The B-Town love story called K2



Pic- Internet

Let’s train the spotlight on the B-Town heartthrob Vicky Kaushal, who once again put out a stellar performance and this time in real life, winning the heart of the charismatic Katrina Kaif.

As this dusky skin, curly haired hunk with a killer smile set the sands of Jodhpur on fire, the afghan jalebi or Madhubala, call her by what name you want, she raised the bar even higher with storm in her eyes and calmness in her smiles as pictures of their marriage emerged before the media.

One award night not so long ago, Vicky had asked to Katrina jokingly-”Mujhse shaadi karogi? “ (Will you marry me?). And like fairytale movies a pandemic later his wish was granted.

On the 9th of December netizens stayed up to catch a glimpse of one of the most exciting and secretive B-Town weddings. The coming together of ‘Vikat’.

But they were a couple with a difference. They were hardly spotted together and seldom so in B-Town parties. Even when they made public appearances it bordered on the lines of being formal. So its unclear exactly when these two started dating. But the report of their relationship

first went out when Kaushal addressed Kat as his “crush” and Kat soon after wished to be his co-actor.

This culminated in the four hands united at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. The bride and groom arrived along with their family members to venue two days before the ceremony and kept the guest list to 120 in keeping with Covid times.

While the likes of Karan Johar, Anurag Kashyap, Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan were included in the invitation list, some reports suggested that the couple had signed Rs 80 crore-deal with an OTT platform for selling the wedding rights.

The Sangeet theme was “bling” where Kat hit the floor with her evergreen item numbers. During Mehendi, the theme was “Gold, Beige, Ivory and White”. And finally, the wedding, the theme was “Pastel Sorbet”.

A glass Mandap had been built and adorned in Rajwada style to mark the wedding and reception of the couple. While the net was going abuzz with pictures of their wedding, we just hope no one’s asking the couple—How’s the Josh!

--Anwesha Das

Two vehicles taking India by storm

Economy segment: The XUV700 is the first model in the company’s product line-up to feature the new brand logo. The vehicle gets a black grille frame which is complemented by large headlamps and canine-shaped LED DRLs.

The vehicle gets futuristic flush door handles on the sides, while ORVMs are power-adjustable and also offer built-in turn indicators. Moreover, the MX Series and the AX3 variant get 17-inch steel wheels, while the AX5 and the AX7 variants offer 17-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels and 18-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, respectively. The rear profile is adorned with arrow-like LED taillights. Power output-197.13 bhp@ 5000rpm (most powerful Indian made engine) Price-12.49 lakhs to 14.99 lakhs (ex-showroom base model+)



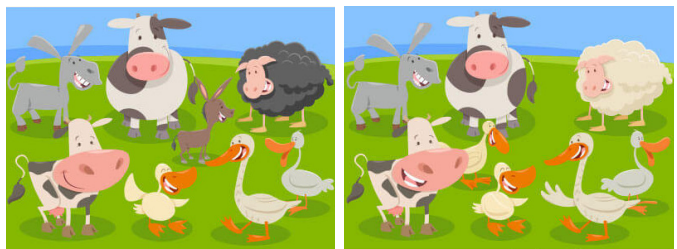
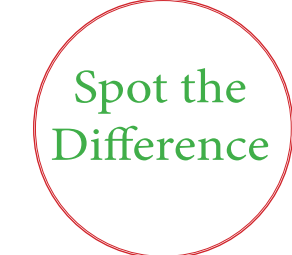
Premium segment: The Porsche Taycan is the first ever electric vehicle from Porsche which is based on the Mission E concept. This is one of the many electric cars which will mark its debut in India under the Skoda Auto Volkswagen India

Pvt. Ltd. The vehicle will be produced at the new factory in Zuffenhausen and it will be introduced in India via the CBU route when it arrives later this year.

Mechanically, the Taycan is powered by a high-voltage lithium-ion battery pack with a capacity of 93.4kWh. Porsche claims a range of 280 miles (412km) in Turbo and around 256 miles (approx. 340km) in Turbo S under WLTP cycle. The 800-volt architecture allows quick charging from 5 to 80 per cent in around 22 minutes. In true Porsche fashion, the Taycan is fitted with active air suspension, chassis control, rear-axle steering, torque vectoring and many other hardware and software to make it precise yet accessible. There’s also an affordable trim with 523bhp and a range of 250km from 79.2kWh battery pack.



Price- Rs 2.00 crore- Rs 4.00 crore (ex-showroom)
Expected launch in India- December 2022
-Rajroop Bakshi



Cafes that care

Good food is what comes in our mind when we hear the word Café, but imagine having that same good food for a good cause. Located in the Southern part of the City of Joy are two such cafes that simply win over people's heart with their good deeds and social cause. Café ICanFly and Café Positive are the two cafes in Kolkata that contribute towards the special needs children and HIV+ people respectively. Café ICanFly is run by special needs individuals and managed by the institute ICanFly. ICanFly is the brainchild of Minu Budhia and Preeyam Budhia. Prachi, Minu's younger daughter is the inspiration behind this institute. "Our institute currently has more than 30 special-needs children who receive vocational training and build their skills and later on they manage this café all by themselves," said Ms. Fatema, coordinator of Café ICanFly. The vision of this café is to 'enable the able' and they are proudly doing so. Run by students diagnosed with Down Syndrome, Autism, Learning Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Challenges, ADHD, etc, this café provides employment to these especially abled individuals. With a menu written like a children's poem to the colourful interior filled with positive quotes, this café takes a special place in the heart of its visitors. Café Positive, a café in Kolkata filled with positivity but what makes it special is the fact that it's run by a bunch of HIV-positive youngsters. This café is the first café in Asia to be run by HIV-positive people. Kallol Ghosh the man behind this initiative has been working for the welfare of HIV-positive children and his institution provides them with education, shelter, and employment, and is the owner of Café Positive. This café is known for its aromatic coffee and is usually filled with professionals and college students, served by HIV-positive individuals who were disowned by their families on learning that they were HIV-positive.

The aim of this café is to lessen the shame of HIV and set an example for all the HIV-positive individuals to be socially and financially independent. Founder Kallol Ghosh in a recent interview to a mainstream media had said: "The HIV-positive people will only maintain accounts, serve customers and clean tables. The kitchen will have hired cooks. It will also have glass walls so that customers can have a clear view of how food and beverages are being prepared. Moreover, only disposable utensils will be used in Café-Positive." The café has been a success ever since its foundation and has been garnering attention from all over the country including Bengal's favourite cricketer Sourav Ganguly and ex-captain of the Indian cricket team Virat Kohli. These cafes are setting an example in today's world and contributing in their own ways to a good cause. From empowering the especially abled to stand on their feet and leading a normal life to giving wings to the ones who are looked down upon, these cafes are spreading happiness in ways untold. Next time when you want to have good food and coffee give a visit to these two cafés which will definitely make you feel good and will forever make a place in your heart

--Vaishnavi Shukla



Black-White stripes ride high

The wait is finally over for Mohammedan Sporting who won the Calcutta Football League after a gap of 40 years, defeating Railway FC 1-0 in the Premier Division A final at the Salt Lake Stadium. Marcus Joseph, who scored the all-important goal in the third minute of the match with a powerful right-footer said:"It's huge achievement for us.

in the nation as well as around the globe. But their form in the past decade had dipped drastically. The 'Black Panthers' came into prominence after they won the Cooch Behar Trophy in 1902, 1906 and in 1909. It was in the 1930s that the Mohammedan Sporting Club became a household name. C.A.



Chancellor SNU Satyam Roychowdhury with the students of MCAJ after the final at Salt Lake Stadium, Pic-Kishore Dey

Yes, I have scored the only goal but that wouldn't have mattered if we had lost the match. So more than the goal, what gives me satisfaction is that the team has won."

Mohammedan Sporting won their first Calcutta Football League title in 1934 and continued their domination till 1938, becoming the first team to take home the league for five consecutive years. Between 1982 and 2019, Mohammedan Sporting finished runners-up four times. This edition Mohammedan Sporting looked like a team focused on winning the league. They never gave-up, never gave in and the energy and synergy within the team was palpable throughout the tournament. "Mission accomplished. Mohammedan Sporting fans were waiting for this for the last 40 years. Now our focus shifts to the I-League. It will not be easy but this win will definitely boost our confidence," said Football secretary and former India player Dipendu Biswas. There are a few clubs in the country which has their rich heritage and history. Since inception it has witnessed enormous success as a football team

Aziz started to architect a unit which would go on to become an unstoppable force in Indian football. He assorted players from all corners of the nation to convert it into a winning pack. Sister Nivedita University played a crucial role by sponsoring the CFL this season and the way they managed it throughout the league was commendable. Students from Journalism and Mass Communication department were confident about their roles and travelled to all the venues including Naihati, Kalyani and Howrah stadium for covering the matches. Mr Satyam Roychowdhury, Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University, was also present during the trophy distribution ceremony. He later said: "Students of our University definitely deserves appreciation for the way they all performed throughout this league, even in this pandemic situation. We will try to continue this performance and maintain our standard in future also." Meanwhile, Md Sporting could now get ready to take part in I-League and snatch a top spot there.

--Snehal Chowdhury

Lo spirito di festa

The green patch of land and the open theatre at the heart of Sister Nivedita University echoed with cheers, laughter and giggles of students, albeit after a deathly quiet for over 16 months. The reason. Celebrating the coming of Christmas with a host of events culminating with the cake mixing ceremony. There was a rake full of events set by the departments of Fine Arts, Hospitality and Journalism and Mass Communication. Italian Consulate General, Kolkata, Dr. Gianluca Rubagotti and Italian Chef Adriano Baldassarre were the chief guests for the occasion. The day began with the Fine Arts and Design Department in collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy remembering Dante on his 700th Death Anniversary. The students made an excellent display of artefacts in memory of the iconic creator. It was followed by an event "Mastering the Art of Pasta making" with Chef Adriano Baldassarre. The students took this opportunity to soak in some words of wisdom from the celebrity chef. It was followed by an interactive session with the Guests. As the conversations unfolded we got to know how excited the guests were about visiting the campus that gave them a chance to interact with the young minds of the city. They were not only impressed by



SNU Registrar Suman Chatterjee, VC Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay & the Guests of honour from Italian Consulate at the cake mixing ceremony at the campus. Pic-Soubhagya Upadhyay

the presence and efficiency of the students on the campus, what touched them was the warm reception they received. The day culminated with the cake mixing ceremony with Vice-Chancellor Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Registrar Prof. Suman Chatterjee, the guests from Italy, and other dignitaries as attendees. Following the cake mixing, the contents were stored away for fermentation to be baked into a cake for Christmas. The event became even more memorable as Prof Kaushani Ghosh and the SNU Music Band charted out peppy numbers and Christmas carols. The final chapter of the day was a fun game session hosted by Hridita Chatterjee (Sociology Department) and Sounak Srakar (MCAJ Department). The day finished with a holler to Rudolph and his mates to bring on the festive season and spread the Christmas spirit.

--Meenakshi Bhat

Fairs strike back

The return of numerous winter festivals and fairs after a long gap due to the pandemic brought about an air of normalcy to the City of Joy and that thrives largely on public celebrations. The 'Hastashilpa Mela' marked the beginning of a series of events and exhibitions in the Rajarhat-Newtown belt of the city and the air of festivity will culminate with Book Fair 2022. It was a relief after two years of staying in the self-imposed lockdown. It was almost surreal to actually be at a venue to be able to enjoy a congregation of happy faces. The handicrafts fair at Eco Park in New Town had now become the temporary home to artisans, craftspeople and sculptors across different districts of the state like Purba and Paschim Midnapore, Bankura and Birbhum. It is quite strange to think while they sell their wares they also carry forward the rich traditions of their ancestors. "It is always good to come here and sell products. People like these handmade unique clay products instead of readymade products available in the cities," said Manobindra Ray, who has come with his mother from a small village in Uttar Dinajpur

district. "I am 65-years old and last year I was diagnosed with COVID positive. My only son and daughter in law left me on the streets to survive on my own. Fortunately, I had some money so I could take my medicines and then I started making these jute dolls to look after my living. I got to know about this Hastashilpa Mela from our local councilor and I have high expectations from this fair" says Malobika Chitrakar, who sold handmade jute dolls. It was good to know that the state government stood by these people during the pandemic when they failed to sell anything as all fairs were put on hold. "We couldn't feel the negative impact of COVID as we were helped with food and clothing by our government and at the same time. The loss we faced last two years because of prohibition of all fairs, we expect to compensated with a good market this year" says Paschima Kha from Birbhum, who sold handmade baskets. What makes these handicrafts alluring are the people who make them. The buyers love the touch of earth that moulds the small things of life into a craft to wonder.

--Trisha Ghosh

T-20 blueprint to redemption

After a horrible year at the World Cup, Team India is all set to begin their journey towards redemption with their "newly formed battalion". The first pit stop on this race to greatness would obviously be the next ICC T20 World Cup. This edition did not go well for India despite their desert odyssey and a prolonged one at that. After India's campaign started with a 10-wicket thrashing from Pakistan, the experts started to question the coach, captain and team selection. The selection was muddled they said adding it seemed that the selectors and the captain had their minds already set for the T20 World Cup before the second phase of IPL 2021 had even started. Virat Kohli in his interview said, "my team was not brave enough with the bat, ball and in its body language as it copped an eight-wicket thrashing at the hand of New Zealand." Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul led India to their first win against Afghanistan. India missed a fast-bowling all-rounder. Their best bet Hardik Pandya, who carried a niggle and did bowl eventually, made little impact. The Indian squad has been constantly shifting between various bio-bubbles since April this year. In April-May, there was IPL's first leg followed by the lengthy UK tour. Those who didn't make the cut for England Tests traveled to Sri Lanka for limited-overs matches. And right after the England tour, the second phase of IPL got underway. And two days after the T20 league ended, the players reassembled for the World Cup. Some experts

state that lack of rest was one of the main reasons behind the team's poor performance. With Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid, taking over as captain and coach, the new look team India has begun well in the home series against New Zealand. Rahul Dravid has long lived with a perception about him, that "whenever he is around, things will be fine". During his first press conference, his statement was "My job at the moment is to sit back and observe how the team runs. Every team has a different environment. There's no rush,". In his two-year term, Dravid will have three ICC championships across three formats as his assignment—beginning with the next T20 Championship in Australia. Rohit Sharma as captain is not an unknown quantity by any means. He will be leading India as the full-time T20 captain for the first time and has a completely revamped backroom staff now. His T20 World Cup heroics showed not only that he could take on tough challenges, but also that he backed himself to do so.

--Anchita Sarkar



Coach Rahul Dravid and Captain Rohit Sharma discussing a point. Pic: Internet