

Gender myths and its lurking dangers



Pic - Samrajni Karmakar

Men need to know there that there is nothing unmanly in taking care of babies. Men need to know that they can cry in public. Mothers in paid jobs need not suffer from the guilt that they are caring less for their children because they are out trying to earn a living. That a women's worth should not be measured on the yardstick of being a good homemaker, as one is not born a woman or man, but they become one through stereotypical gendered version especially during the process of socialization. How do little children know they are boys or girls? These are some of the poignant issues tossed up for discussion during an engaging and intent seminar on Gender Sensitization organized jointly by the Departments of Sociology and Political Science, Sister Nivedita University.



Pic - Samrajni Karmakar

The Program started with addressing the basic question of gender sensitization which briefly put is about changing behavior and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other genders. The programme began in the most unorthodox manner when the students performed four audio dramas that raised issues of gender inequality and gender stereotypes which immediately grabbed the attention of the uninitiated, while drawing them into the centrality of the problems that many chose to ignore. The first audio drama Gender Bias and Siblings showed how there is gender discrimination among siblings and going out in the evenings and short dresses are still considered invitation to rape or sexual assaults. The second audio drama, Marriage Commodified beautifully portrayed how dowry permeated into love marriages and how a woman could nip it in the bud by calling off such marriage. In Love without gender, we got to see how an independent woman, Ronita tried to explain to her parents why she doesn't want to get married, and that she was a lesbian and it was not abnormal to love another woman. The final one Wife's Letter Today was a modern day adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's Wife's Letter. Here, Arundhati writes a letter to her husband of fifteen years, stating how her individuality was never prioritized and the various ways she was abused and, finally asks for a divorce. The second segment consisted of an interactive session moderated by the respective HODs of Departments of Sociology and Political Science, Prof. (Dr.) Bula Bhadra and Ms. Sanchari Chakraborty where three eminent speakers from different fields of study came together to talk about their ideas on gender sensitization. The panel consisted of Dr. Suvarna Sen (eminent psychologist), Prof. (Dr.) Debasree Mukherjee (HOD, Department of Law, Sister Nivedita University) and Dr. Proma Ray Chaudhuri (Political scientist). The session concluded indubitably that gender is a social construct. We were not born as a man or woman, but rather became so through the process of socialization especially due to the influence of family, educational institutions, print and electronic media, etc and the different gendered structures of a patriarchal ensemble of institutions. Instead of treating each other, and our own selves as individuals, we think of humans in binaries of men and women. To bring about gender equality, we should nurture individuals, not men or women or transgender as these are false categories, this is made for dividing and creating others. An individual has individuality, neither femininity nor masculinity. Thus (Gender) Equality was not a concept. It was a necessity. It was like gravity. We needed it to stand on this earth as human beings. **Todi Dutt Mazumder**
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Centennial celebration of the maestro

He who leaves a trail of glitter is never forgotten...

This second May marked the birth centenary of the biggest filmmaker of all times, Satyajit Ray. He was also an illustrator, scriptwriter, documentary film maker, author, lyricist and music composer who brought about a scenic change in Indian cinema, especially Bengali film and literature and have inspired generations of film makers and audiences with his marvelous cinema. Legendary Japanese director, Akira Kurosawa said in 1995, "Never having seen a Satyajit Ray film is like never having seen the sun or the moon." He was endowed with several awards such as Dadasaheb Phalke Award, The National Film Award and Bharat Ratna by Government of India, and became the first Indian to receive the Honorary Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1992. Ray earned 11 international prizes on his masterpiece "Pather Pachali".

He contributed immensely to position Indian films in world cinema. In his career spanning nearly four decades, he directed thirty-seven films, including feature films, documentaries, and short. Satyajit Ray is known for introducing realistic cinema to India with films like Pather Panchali, The Music Room, Charulata, The Apu Trilogy and many many more. His films have received worldwide appreciation and recognition. However, the documentaries that he made aren't much renowned. In order to understand what really makes him one of the greatest filmmaker of the 20th century, watching his documentaries are a must.

He made five marvellous documentaries namely Rabindranath Tagore, Sikkim, The Inner Eye, Bala and lastly, Sukumar Ray. He was also a fiction writer, publisher, illustrator, graphic designer and film critic. His other writings on cinema include the bestsellers Our Films Their Films and Speaking of Films.

On the occasion of Ray's 101st birth anniversary, two new books by the author was released. 'Another Dozen Stories' by Satyajit Ray was translated from Bengali to English by Indrani Majumdar which was mainly aimed for kids aged nine years and above. The book was a collection of 12 magical and spooky stories.

Two books by Satyajit Ray was also released by Penguin India. Titled '3 Rays: Stories from Satyajit Ray' and 'Satyajit Ray in 100 anecdotes', these books are a collection of Satyajit Ray's previously unpublished autobiographical writings, stories, poems, illustrations, fiction and non-fiction works. This was a befitting tribute to the Master on his birth centenary.

Also, to celebrate 100th years since the birth of one of the founding fathers of Indian cinema, Aneek Dutta's film 'Aparajito' was released as a tribute to the master filmmaker through a plot that went into the story of making of the director he was. This story behind the making of Ray's iconic film 'Pather Panchali' depicted the struggle of a beginner and his unrelenting spirit in face of depressing obstacles. While Jeetu Kamal played the role of Aparajito Ray, a character based on Satyajit, Saayoni Ghosh was seen as his wife Bimala, a character based on Ray's wife Bijaya.

Another OTT series was released on June 25th, 2021 which is an anthology series based on Satyajit Ray short stories premiered on Netflix. Titled 'Ray', the anthology series consists of four different tales of love, lust, betrayal and truth tied together by Ray's visionary writings.

Satyajit Ray was someone who used the camera with empathy to tell stories. Stories that capture the beauty and severity of life in rural Bengal, the struggles and aspirations of the Bengali middle class and its conflict with dogmatic religion. He revolutionized Indian cinema and crafted several extraordinary masterpieces of cinematic beauty.

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Rushdie leads the list 40 Indians in Elizabeth II's list

Salman Rushdie, the Mumbai-born author of the Booker Prize-winning novel 'Midnight's Children', led a list of more than 40 people of Indian descent to be honored in the Queen's Birthday Honors list. Rushdie was named a Companion of Honor, an exclusive club with membership limited to just 65 people at any given time, for services to literature in a list released recently as the Jubilee Honors in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Elizabeth II's 70 years of service to the UK. "It is a privilege to be included in such a glorious company, both past and present," said the 74-year-old author, in an interview published in the media. This award had been bestowed in the past on former British Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and John Major and famous physicist



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Stephen Hawking. "He was born in Bombay and later attended Rugby School and King's College, Cambridge, where he read History," read the quote for Rusdhie, author of 14 novels. Other higher awards like Order of the British Empire (CBE) was given to Avnish Mitter Goyal, chairman of Care England. Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBEs) included hotelier Kishorkant (Vinu) Bhattessa and Liverpool head teacher Rohit Naik. Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) recognized councilors Pranav Bhanot and Ameet Jogia, Prof. Indranil Chakravorty and Prof. Srimathi Rajagopalan Murali. **Shristi Hazra**
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Unanswered questions, unending promises

None of us really wanted to tell him 'Alvida'. But unfortunately we had to. We lost the magical voice of Krishnakumar Kunnath & it raised thousand questions. As always, emotions broke all barriers & in this age where social media is deciding almost everything, it is quite normal that overdose of emotion will wash away the logic. Though KK's renditions always take us to a world full of emotion, his tragic demise showed us the ugly side of the glittering stage. The basic amenities & rules disappear under the psychedelic light & high octave sound. KK's death came to us as a bolt from the blue but wasn't it inevitable? Unfortunately, KK fell victim to the system but it could have been any of the performers!

In fact, this concern has been voiced by many singers directly or indirectly. While Singers from outside like Palash Sen, Kailas Kher or Shalmali Kholgade have raised the questions, performers from this state also could not hide their concern. Where was the crowd control system? Nazrul Manch, for the matter, has an old & unenvious tradition of overcrowding. Especially, in Musical concerts where crowd pullers perform, the place always exceeds its crowd capacity. Keeping the architecture of Nazrul Manch in mind, the organisers could at least ensure that the stage was kept free from the unwanted crowd & the performer could feel comfortable. Was it too much as a demand?

The AC machines were not working and temperature on stage was almost unbearable. Did the organisers really bother about the singer who was visibly uncomfortable?

Was it really difficult to keep a doctor and basic medical facility available near the backstage? These questions have been raised already in different platforms. But at the same time, both the mainstream media & social media are even more interested to curse Bengali singer Rupankar Bagchi who made some uncalled for comments regarding KK.

But people are happily forgetting that his comments, though absolutely unethical & derogatory, have nothing to do with KK's tragic death! And that is the tragedy of this social media oriented life of today. All the issues are like junk food. You consume it and forget it. Next day you are again looking for something new. In this hit and run lifestyle we are actually losing our focus. The same is happening in this issue too.

We rue the tragic incident. But have we really learnt from this? Some steps have been taken immediately after the incident. Will we remember to continue with that? Many more promises will be made. Will those be kept? Will we be professional in our approach?

Forget about other countries, music professionals wish Kolkata to turn professional at least like the other metropolises. Will that happen? Questions remain unanswered. Promises were waiting to be kept. We can only say 'Khuda jane'!

Saikat Majumder

The unlikely prince of a rising state

When Naveen Patnaik won the fifth consecutive term as the Chief Minister of Odisha in 2019, he was destined to make history upon the completion of his term.

Presently, he is the longest sitting Chief Minister of Odisha and third longest ever in the history of India. But not for long. When he completes his term in 2024 he would have overtaken Jyoti Basu to lock in on the second spot, trailing only behind Pawan Chamling of Sikkim.

Two and half decades have elapsed since Naveen ‘Babu’ stepped into his father’s shoes to carry forward a legacy he was bothered about until Prime Minister I K Gujral personally convinced him to work for the cause of his people. Patnaik hasn’t looked back since.

Naveen Patnaik’s pre-politics days oscillate between his ventures and carefree ways. In the first phase of his life, Naveen could not have been any more detached from politics as he is deeply involved today.

While Biju was a political stalwart since pre Independence days, Naveen did not take after him. Naveen was just as distant from Odisha as he was from politics. Have you ever come across a CM in an Indian state who does not speak its regional language? Well, you have one in him.

After his Welham Boys’ days he went to The Doon School and then to Delhi University. He moved to the US for higher education. All this while Odisha was nothing but a vacation home for him.

In the States, he made friends with the likes of Mick Jagger, who later founded The Rolling Stones. Patnaik’s glitzy friend list also included JFK’s wife and former US First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy, who even helped him edit two of his books. Few might know that during 1960s, Patnaik had opened a fashion boutique named the Psychedelhi in Delhi’s renowned Oberoi Hotel. His patrons included The Beatles.

Patnaik was once regarded as a neophyte,



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uninterested in politics. His father never considered him for the position of successor. In fact, after Biju Patnaik’s death in 1997, he was reportedly pushed by the then-undivided Janata Dal leadership to run for the by-poll from Aska, his father’s south Odisha Lok Sabha constituency. Very few bet on his success, let alone the sustained nature of it.

Despite his lack of political expertise, Naveen founded his own political party, Biju Janata Dal, on December 26, 1997. Since 2000, the party has gone undefeated in elections, first in coalition with the BJP and then on its own since 2009. As chief minister of Odisha he truly made his mark, transforming the state from abject poverty to one of the country’s most attractive investment destinations and tourist spots.

Naveen Patnaik’s long spell can be credited to his calm, introverted demeanor and the precise weeding out of any internal or external threat to the party. Regarded as a clean and honest politician, Patnaik has gained trust of the populace through his simple lifestyle and soft, calm nature, as well as the successful implementation of pro-poor and pro-farmer schemes.

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India first in its wheat diplomacy



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India has decided to put a ban of wheat export sending an unexpected panic wave in the global market.

Russia’s war in Ukraine had already upended trade flows out of the critical Black Sea breadbasket region which accounted for a quarter of total wheat trade. Global wheat supplies were further disrupted when on May 13th, in an unusual move that sent shockwaves across the globe, India, the second-largest wheat producer, decided to withhold wheat exports.

Two factors were said to have contributed to this drastic turn in India’s global food security commitments.

First, severe heatwaves in the wheat growing regions of India had dampened India’s wheat output by as much as 50 per cent in certain pockets and had led to a downfall in domestic supply and a concomitant hike in prices of wheat and other commodities.

Second, wheat procurement by the Government as of May 2022 had declined sharply by 44 per cent to 16.2 million tonnes in the current Rabi marketing season due to heavy lifting by private players in Punjab and Haryana regions amid demands for

export of grains due to Russia-Ukraine war. Additionally, India had to take care of its Public Distribution System (PDS) under which the Centre had extended free distribution of 5 kg of food grains (including wheat) for individuals living below poverty line, which was about 80 crore, for six months from April to September 2022. While the ban led to a rise in the international prices by almost 6 per cent a bushel (a measure of capacity equal to 8 gallons, which is equivalent to 36.4 liters) amid the opening of the global market, several states in India, on the contrary witnessed a sharp decline in the prices by almost 5 to 8 per cent.

Speaking at the UN Ministerial meeting on “Global Food Security Call to Action” V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs stated that, “there is a sudden spike in the global prices of wheat arising out of many factors as a result of which the food security of India, neighbouring and other vulnerable countries is at risk”. Muraleedharan further added that exports will be permitted on the basis of permission granted to other countries in order to fulfil their food security requirements and based on the requisition made by concerned governments.

Framed within the logic of “Neighbourhood First Policy”, India’s policy of wheat diplomacy only to the ‘needy’, although inviting criticism from the West, appeared to be a strategic attempt to curtail soaring prices of food grains in the international market in the face of indiscriminate hoarding and speculation by richer countries. However, whether India’s wheat protectionism would actually help stabilize soaring prices of food grains or negatively impact India’s image as a trustworthy and responsible global leader is left to be seen.

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Government’s social media control

As the Government broached the subject of a grievance appellate for social media one fine afternoon in June, questions like does this mean a transfer of control—swirled in the air.

Deciding on the need to arm itself with an arsenal of powers in the domain of social media, the Central Government decided to propose a draft, seeking amendments to last year’s bellicose Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed amendments to Part I and II which also incorporate the setting up of a grievance appellate committee that would be established by the government and will directly report to it. However, more than the draft what caught the eyes of the netizens was its swift removal as it came to the forefront.

If it’s true, what does it mean for the commoners? “The move, if implemented will give the government the final word when it comes to content removal or reinstatement of suspend ended accounts. Indirectly, the Government would be able to censor content that they otherwise will

not be able to do directly in a manner consistent with the laws,” stated legal researcher Gurshabad Grover in the media.

The addition of this Grievance Appellate Committee was significant especially for two reasons.

First, the addition of this extra layer of protection seemed to be inspired by Facebook’s feature of an oversight board. However, while the Oversight Board has recommendatory powers, and Facebook may choose not to accept its decision, it does offer an avenue for users to appeal such a decision.

Secondly, it’s interesting to note that although the Government wanted to have control over the regulation of content on these platforms, Sec 69 of the IT Act, which gives the liberty of not making orders directing content removal to be public, allows the Government to evade accountability.

The Government stated that the law of the land was the ultimate law and nobody was beyond that. While it’s something that makes every citizen accountable for their actions, rarely does it make a difference in the functioning of the Government.

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Indo-Israel Defence ties to get boost



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Indo-Israel Defence ties and military cooperation topped the agenda during Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Defence minister Benjamin Gantz recent visits to the country’s capital.

He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd June in New Delhi that also marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic ties between India and Israel. In the course of the official visit, Gantz and Modi discussed on a wide-range of topics including strategic global challenges, military cooperation, and defense-industrial cooperation.

Both leaders focused on joint Research and Development and signed an agreement between DRDO and Israeli Directorate for Defence Research and Development which would enable the expansion of technological collaborations between the countries. Plans also included joint military training and implementing drone technology.

Gantz, while recognizing India as an industrial superpower and Israel as a technological superpower, underlined that cooperation between the two would significantly expand the capabilities of both the countries to cope with challenges of development in a post-Covid world and to maintain global stability.

Modi in this meeting encouraged Israeli defense

companies to benefit from opportunities of co-development and co-production in India. India has been importing arms from Israel and remained one of Israel’s top purchasers. In the last decade India had bought military equipment worth US \$2.9 billion from Israel. Some of India’s important purchases included missiles, radars and UAVs.

Israel had been actively involved in India’s defense indigenization drive under the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ format. With continued support from Israel, India looked forward to boost the production also upgrade of the existing defense architecture and technology. Israel’s emphasis on signing a ‘special declaration’, was also indicative of a greater reciprocity being planned than just mere revision of deals.

Gantz also met Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, to review the long-standing Indo-Israel defense structure.

Both sides adopted the ‘India – Israel Vision on Defence Cooperation’ with an intention to further improve the existing defense framework and architecture. Gantz and Singh also exchanged a ‘Letter of Intent’ on improving cooperation on the field of futuristic defense technologies.

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Moose Wala killing and the bigger threat



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Human beings have been advocated as creatures of reason. However, if actions are justified by rationale one wonders what world supported a rationale that justified killings. Now Salman Khan had received threat calls of meeting with the same fate as Moose Wala.

The last Sunday of May witnessed Shubdeep Singh Siddhu well known as Siddu Moose Wala succumb to multiple bullet wounds at Jawahar Ke village in the Mansa district in Punjab.

Gurwinder Singh and Gurpreet Singh were two of Moose Wala’s friends travelling with him when the unfortunate incident took place. According to the duo, Moosewala had previously spotted a vehicle following them. However, suspecting it to be a fan vehicle and being armed himself he asked his friends not to get worried.

This singer and Congressman who decided to opt for his Thar SUV instead of his bulletproof car was ambushed after his vehicle’s tyre had been punctured. It was believed that the accused kept firing at him with automated weapons till he succumbed. Moosewala defended himself with the only two bullets he had.

The AAP-led Bhagwant Mann government had been heavily criticized by Moose Wala’s family, fans, and opposing parties for removing Moose Wala’s security the day before the incident took place. The government in its defense stated that security had been retrieved because it was required elsewhere to establish law and order. It seemed that government’s motive was to smash the VIP culture with this action.

Gangster Goldy Brar located in Canada claimed responsibility for Moose Wala’s murder and also mentioned Lawrence Bishnoi’s name in

association with the incident. Punjab Police Chief V K Bhawra after initial queries into the incident concluded the murder was the result of inter-gang rivalry. Mirror Now brought to its audience a list of 8 suspects who had been detained. They were Harkamal, Jagroop Singh Roopa, Manpreet Singh Mannu, Santosh Jadhav, Priyavrat Fauji, Saurav Mahakal, Manjeet, and Subhash Banuda from Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Maharashtra showing it could not be an inter-gang affair.

Taking advantage of the Moosewala killing, a separatist group from Canada threatened Punjabi artists to take a stand for the Khalistani movement or be met with a similar fate.

Expressing their sincerest condolences, various Punjabi artists stood in solidarity and threw light on the imminent threat in Punjab. A P Dhillon shared how Punjabi artists faced constant judgement, heavy criticism, and threats. Shortly after this incident, it came to light that Punjabi singer Mankirt Aulakh had been receiving death threats from the Davinder Bambiha Gang.

Singer Mika Singh’s statements have proved helpful in shedding light on the underworld activities taking place in Punjab. Expressing regret in not being able to save Moosewala when he previously opened up to him about such threats, he confided that Punjabi artists constantly have to brave through such threats as soon as they hit fame. They often needed to pay up such gangsters to protect themselves. Artists who paid off these gangsters were safe whereas those that did not, received warnings of a similar fate. And this means of easy money is spreading like a virus.

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Editorial

Admission Time

The results have been exceptional. This also means that everywhere the cut-off marks would be very high. The competition would be tough. The students will realise that the battle has begun even without them knowing. This will either build them or break them. By the time they enter a college they will be forged by the fire of ruthless competition. As SNU we believe in excellence and the students that pass out of this institution irrespective of the departments and the courses they pursue have proven their mettle over and over again. They are leaders, movers and shakers who make us proud everyday. So if you are taking admission in SNU please be aware of the fact that the fight you put up to get into this premiere institute is the beginning of the war that you will wage. In the next three years for the undergraduates and two for the post-graduates you will be engaged in a battle of wits in the classrooms, on field you will battle it out for excellence. You will take part in extra curricular not to strengthen your CV but to win it at various competitions where you represent the institution. You will be honed with the killer instinct that will help you clinch interviews and rule group discussions, the seminars and symposiums will help you grow as speakers and make you confident as a human being. At SNU we do believe in focussed serious academics, but also in building your careers and making better human beings.

--Minal Pareek

Darkness lives throughMandar



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One of the last adaptations of Shakespeare's Macbeth that attracted attention of theatre lovers was the one by director Anirban Bhattacharya, named Mandar. Its interesting that the adaptation had a lasting impact and it continues to attract audience. The reason being the methodical exhaustion of the character's ability to do good for himself. Mandar is a local goon. His aspiration to become a lone wolf and a father might be contrary to each other but they are not exactly counterproductive. The presence of his wife made the reading of Lady Macbeth complicated for it highlighted the power and the gradual loss of it in the character. Bhattacharya made her hold fort for a long time and the moral degeneration was apt in presentation and acting. The treatment of the witches was bifurcated and burned the bridge between Bharadwaj's Maqbool and Shakespeare's Macbeth as the witches were three in number, one a policeman and the other two, the duo of mother and son. The mother was a visionary and the son psychologically imbalanced. This created further problems for the plot but the psychosomatic issue that the mother-son duo dealt with ws a much dramatically advanced presentation. The corrupt police officer and the inadequate Macduff became a patient existence before the advanced creation of Mandar and the witches. Set on the seashore of Mandarmoni, the location acted as a continuation of the character and visually made the series unanimous with the dislocation of cultural existence. Being the first of its kind adaptation, Mandar became a cinematic genius in terms of camera operations and the brilliant use of the bird's eye view. Sanglap Bhowmik's editing was apt. The cast included the likes of Debesh Roy Chowdhury, Sankar Debnath, Sohini Sarkar and Anirban Bhattacharya himself. The launch of the undaunting Debashish Mondol in the title role was a revelation. On the whole, this could easily be seen as a culmination point for critical and populist blend of the adaptation of Macbeth which had once again brought production of Bengali films on the platter of the intellectual audience.

Monikinkini Basu

Samrat Prithviraj—a life lesser told



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The dead can tell you the history better, because they lived it". The line is apt for the movie, "Samrat Prithviraj", which had the potential to relive the legend of the king and the chronology of events that led to the battle of Tarain. Director Chandra Prakash Dwivedi tried to weave the story in two folds, one the love story between the king of Ajmer and the daughter of the king of Kanauj and the second being the fight between Prithviraj and Mohammed Ghori. But in the process he failed to do justice to both. Akshay Kumar's attire did justice to his role but his performance didn't. Still, the opening scene and the closing fight sequence would engage you as a cinema goer. Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar, who made a debut with this film, showed her oomph and her inept acting. The chemistry between Akshay and Manushi was missing throughout the movie. This further dragged the plot. Ashutosh Rana as a father-and-king did justice, but that could hardly be said of Sanjay Dutt and Manav Vij as Ghori. In contrast Sonu Sood lived up to the expectation. The film could have been more exciting since the fight for independence started from this episode as Hindustan became a hotbed of invaders. A narrative form and a proper sequencing of storyline could have made it less boring, could have brought out the true colours of the valour of the great Samrat. So if you love history skip it. If you love Akshay Kumar you have him for two hours on your face. Rik it.

Durgashree Murmu
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Dylan's handwritten lyrics for auction

"Like A Rolling Stone" continues to be Bob Dylan's most recognizable and enduring song even after over half a century. Now for the right price, you can own the lyrics, handwritten and sung by Dylan himself. A recent draft of the song's lyrics will be auctioned off via Nate D. Sanders Auctions starting Sept. 27 with a starting bid of \$125,000. Last time one of Dylan's handwritten lyric sheets for the song was auctioned off, it sold for \$2.05 million back in 2014. These high numbers are slightly less shocking considering "Like A Rolling Stone" came in at No. 1 on Rolling Stone's "greatest song of all-time" list, and that Dylan himself called it, "the best song I wrote," back in 1965. Collectors will also have the opportunity to bid on a signed copy of Blonde On Blonde, starting at the more modest price of \$5,000. This auction comes toward the end of a busy month for Dylan fans, which saw the announcements of a new Dylan-themed musical, details on the latest Bootleg Series and a new fall tour.

Anupama Das
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Suman

Depp Heard at last

June two marked the end of the high profile televised court battle, when a seven-person jury found that Johnny Depp and Amber Heard had defamed each other, but with scales tilted heavily in favour of the former. After a six weeks' trial, featuring claims and counterclaims of domestic abuse, the jury decided, Depp to be awarded \$10.3 million in damages, in contrast with \$2 million awarded to Heard. On May 23, 2016, Heard filed for divorce from Depp and a \$7 million settlement was reached out of court on 16th August 2016. Four days later, she obtained a temporary restraining order against the Oscar-nominated actor. She alleged that Depp had physically abused her during their relationship, and said it was usually while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. 58-years old Depp lost his high-profile libel case against the British publishers of The Sun in London 2018 article that described him as a "wife-beater". July 7 2020, the three-week libel trial began. On November 2 the court ruled against Depp in the libel trial. Four days later on November 6, Depp announced that he had been 'asked to resign' from his role as Grindewald in "Fantastic Beasts 3." In March 2021, Depp was once again denied permission to appeal against the high court ruling by the Court of Appeals in London. An op-ed was written by Heard in the Washington Post in December 2018 in which she recounted herself as a "public figure representing domestic abuse and I felt the full force of our culture's wrath for women who speak out". Texas- born Heard did not mention Depp's name, but he sued her for implying he was a domestic abuser and sought \$50 million in damages. The 36-year old heard countersued for \$100 million, saying she was humiliated by statements made by Depp's lawyer, Adam Waldman, who informed daily mail that it



Pic - Internet

was all "hoax." The Suit said that Heard "is not a victim of domestic abuse, she is a perpetrator," and denied that Depp ever abused her. Instead, the suit said that Heard's allegations were part of an "elaborate hoax to generate positive publicity" for the actress. In 2020 certain phone recordings were exposed where Heard admitted to physically abusing Depp. Immediately after the verdict, Heard released a statement on social media, saying in part: "The disappointment I feel today is beyond words. I'm heartbroken that the mountain of evidence still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence, and sway of my ex-husband." A spokesperson for Depp also reacted to the verdict in a statement with Insider, saying in part: "Six



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Magical Sounds

"Do you believe in Magic?" - as all grow old, everyone tends to become like a mechanical clock, dictated by the adults. The Sound of Magic - a musical web series of Netflix Originals, portrays the harsh reality, unapologetically. A misfit, because that person broke away from the norms of society, was seen in an unfavorable light when a series of crime took place in the neighborhood. Directed by Kim Seong-yoon, the plot is knit on a magical thread. Originally a webtoon named Annara Sumanara, by Ha Il-kwon was adapted into a 6 - episode musical by Netflix. "Magic doesn't create miracles but allows you to discover them". Starring Ji Chang-wook, Choi Sung-eun, and Hwang In-youp, the drama revolves around two teenagers who are forced to give up on their individuality and have dream according to the world around. The world forces the young- adults to move so fast that eventually they cease to stop and appreciate the where they are. A Magician living in an abandoned amusement park, helps these two youngsters to break free from the asphalt paved curse. The Magician himself had a scarred past, fighting for validation which he never truly wanted. Everyone is tranced into reality, to the point that the magic-believing child in them suffocates. The two teenagers come from extremely opposite backgrounds yet somehow, they suffer through the same situation - they cannot afford to live their own life. The mini-drama was made into a musical because music has a quality which reaches the subconscious - the part where dreams are buried. Music helps in releasing dopamine, which brings back the strong, happy childhood memories and dreams. The softness of the plot equates to that of the tender, transcending days in one's life - the high school days. The Sound of Magic, sways from the present to past to future. Thereby, defying the conformism of a linear flow of plot. The cinematography encapsulates its viewers in a pixie dust aura. A lot remains unresolved at the end, but why should everything have to end in an explained manner. The mind has been clipped in such a reason-finding manner that its refuses to accept an ending which is mystical in itself. This might frustrate some, but magic does not exist to reaffirm reasonings but to evoke happiness out of the unexplained. "What I taught you just now are stage tricks, but the fact that you are smiling right now is the real magic"

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Rafael-the one-man Spanish Armada

A line has been doing rounds on Internet-- There are three certainties in life -- death, taxes and Rafael Nadal winning the French Open. The affable Spaniard secured his 14th title at Roland Garros with a straight-sets rout of Casper Ruud on Sunday. In the process his record-setting Grand Slam collection reached seam-bursting 22. The crushed to a pulp red bricks of the iconic arena had now witnessed Nadal becoming the eldest statesman of clay slaying 112 opponents at the ripe age of 36. In these 17 years during his annual pilgrim to the Garros he has been vanquished thrice. This gentle giant has never indulged in any self-idolizing. He was just as happy fishing or golfing in Manacor, as winning his 14th title in French Open. However, on court he was just as ruthless as humble he is off it. In these last two decades he had shown iconic names the great exit without mercy or melancholy. For he is a winner at heart, even while being left hostage to multiple knee, wrist and ankle injuries that almost drew curtains on his career. “I have doubts every day but that’s good as it makes me work hard with more intensity. Life is never clear. If you have no doubts, then you are very arrogant. I am not an arrogant person,” Nadal said in a recent interview after his victory at Roland Garros. Such is his nature that he applauds every vanquished foe off court at every tournament. When Alexander Zverev was forced to retire with an ankle injury in their semi-final on Friday, Nadal stayed with his tearful German rival in the medical room. Nadal’s idiosyncrasies were just as charming to his supporters even if the time it took him to complete his rituals drove opponents to distraction. Something I think, he personally savours. His



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picking at the rear of his shorts and mopping of his brow, aligned with his obsessive devotion to lining up his water bottles, labels facing out, are part of the Nadal DNA. His Grand Slam CV now boasts 14 French Opens, four US Open titles, two at Wimbledon and two at the Australian Open. He has 92 career titles in total of which 63 have been on clay. As well as his 22 majors, he possesses 36 Masters. Gold in singles at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing was followed by doubles gold at the Rio Games in 2016. He has also led Spain to five Davis Cups. Along with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, he has comfortably passed the \$100 million prize money barrier. Tennis has been kind to Nadal, but he has been just as influential as a key driver of the sport’s growth as any of the other legends alive.

Team SNU

Coco Gauff’s stand speaks volumes

Coco Gauff, the youngest Grand Slam finalist after Maria Sharapova in 18 years might have failed to secure the women’s singles in the French Open against the youthful and mighty Iga Swiatek, but has won hearts for her peace appeal, aimed at her people back home. After beating Martina Trevisan in the semi-final in just two sets, the 18-year-old American used her stage to call for an end to gun irregularities in the United States following the recent shooting in Texas which killed 19 students, 2 teachers at the elementary school. Aware of the greatness of this very platform, Coco left the court only to write on the camera, “Peace. End Gun Violence”. She kept the ball rolling in the post-match interview spending the first half of her press conference solely on the shooting issue, over and above her entry into the maiden final in her Grand Slam career. To understand more about the seriousness of the context — The United States of America has a long blood-stained history of gun violence with over forty thousand deaths being recorded every year, the figures of which include mass shootings, suicide, and other forms of rivalry. And, Coco being an American nationalist is not new to gun culture. For the newly turned adult-cum-graduate, speaking on sensitive issues was not new. She had been loud since her school days on issues like black lives, and climate change, but more specifically on — gun violence. For Gauff, misuse of firearms was not just prime-time headlines, but personal. The then 13-year-old Gauff has witnessed her friends escaping death in the 2018 mass shooting which killed 17 students and personnel at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. But, Gauff says nothing has changed since then and



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there’s no will to change it either, but the society at large needs to come together and stand up to end this unaccounted mess.

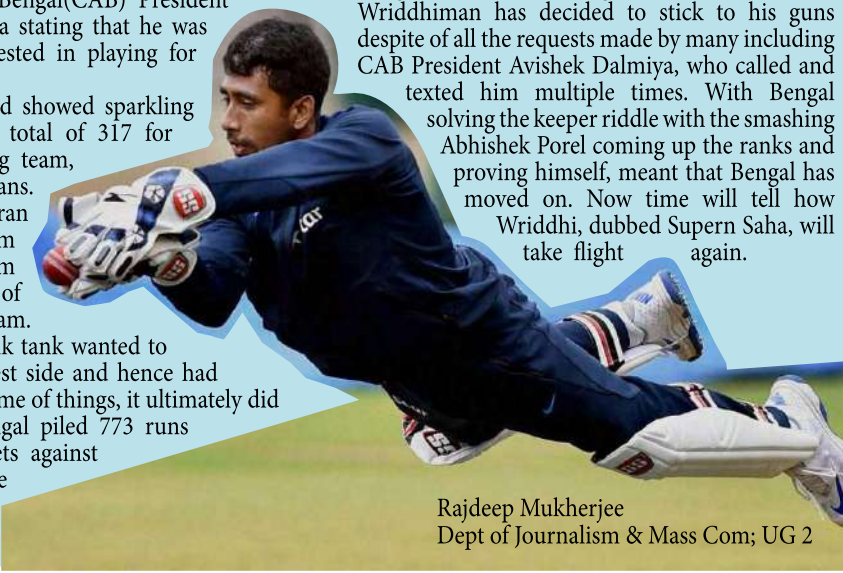
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The curious case of Wriddhiman Saha

The story begins with the senior wicketkeeper-batter being removed from the Indian team for the two test home series in Sri Lanka in 2022. This lead to Wriddhiman revealing his conversations with The Board of Control for Cricket in India’s(BCCI) President Sourav Ganguly which took place after Wriddhiman helped the team win a match in Kanpur against New Zealand. Wriddhiman said that Sourav Ganguly assured him a place in the Indian team as long as he is the President. Wriddhiman also stated that Rahul Dravid, the Head coach of the Indian Cricket Team told him to think about ‘retirement’ as he would not be considered for selection going forward. Rahul Dravid responded saying that he thought that Wriddhiman deserved ‘honesty and clarity’. He stated that he wanted to groom a younger wicketkeeper, making them the new face of the sport saying that Wriddhiman was already 37 and the 28-year old Rishabh Pant had cemented himself as the number one wicket keeper. Now with Pant donning the captain’s hat, the future looks all the more tense for Saha. Wriddhiman then opted out of the Ranji Trophy, 2022 and was not available during Bengal’s pre-season camp. Personal reasons and family priority were reasons behind his absence.

There was a shocker in the making, however, when Wriddhiman was included in the Ranji trophy team for the quarter final against Jharkhand on June 6,2022. He was not pleased and left the team WhatsApp group. He then allegedly sought a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Cricket Association of Bengal(CAB) President Avishek Dalmiya stating that he was no longer interested in playing for Bengal. Wriddhiman had showed sparkling form scoring a total of 317 for the IPL winning team, Gujrat Titans. Having a veteran player like him in good form would add a lot of value to the team. Though the think tank wanted to pick the strongest side and hence had Saha in the scheme of things, it ultimately did not matter. Bengal piled 773 runs for seven wickets against Jharkhand in the quarterfinals with the top nine batsmen



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Sports on the docks

Sports organizations work with an objective and aim with some basic fundamental principles. Sports bodies need to discharge their responsibilities with objectivity and transparency following the basic universal principles of good governance. With this objective, the Government of India had notified National Sports Development Code in 2011 and a set of regulations were passed to comply effective governance, ethics and fair play. The sports code put restrictions on the age and tenure of the office bearers of the NSFs while laying out expectations of transparent functioning and free and fair elections. This clearly explains the Sports Code within a nutshell. Three top federations of football, hockey, and table tennis were bought under court appointed Committee of Administrators (CoAs) for various violations, while a majority of the sports bodies also face the risk of de-recognition for not complying with the sports code. Rahul Mehra, a lawyer and sports activist filed a petition in 2020 in the Delhi High Court over the breach of sports code by NSFs. He stated that despite more than a decade having gone by, many NSFs continue to breach the sports code while they continue to enjoy governmental grants, concessions and recognition. In 2020 the Delhi HC ordered the sports ministry to examine the constitutions of the federations of gymnastics, handball, national Yoga, tennis, volleyball equestrian, rowing, golf, squash racket, yachting, and polo. The Supreme Court ended Praful Patel’s term as

All India Football Federations (AIFF) president for once again violating the sports code. It took control from the AIFF and transferred it to a three-member CoA led by former Chief Election Commissioner SY Qureshi. The Delhi HC bench had pulled up Hockey India for flouting the sports code. Hockey India’s constitution was not in line with the sports code and posts of life president, life member and CEO in the managing committee are illegal. The Delhi High Court suspended the executive committee of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and constituted a CoA, chaired by former Jammu & Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal, to run the federation. The Indian Olympic Association’s constitution itself is under scrutiny over sports code compliance. The Centre, in its affidavit informed the high court that only 10% i.e. 6 of the 56 NSFs, recognized by the government, are in compliance of the Sports Code. The affidavit further stated that the government has spent approximately Rs 14,391 crores in sporting activities from 2009-2010 till 2018-19 and nearly Rs 1,237 crores has been disbursed directly to the NSFs. The Delhi HC stated that most NSFs do not meet the mandatory 25% representation of sportspersons in their managing committee. The Delhi HC ordered that no money will go henceforth to any entity which does not comply with the sports code and it added that its order should be observed within a month and in the meantime, assistance to sportspersons through the Sports Authority of India will be ensured an augmented.

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The “Real” Kings of Europe are back



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To play in a UEFA Champions League Final is possibly the greatest honour in professional club football, whereas the Los Blancos won their 14th UCL title on May 28th after a terrific season that no one predicted they would win 21/22 Champions League. When the 21/22 Champions League groups were confirmed, Madrid fans surely saw a little possibility to win the league, but everyone’s hope was down after their shocking loss at home to debutantes Sheriff. Still, Real Madrid tops Group D with 15 points and qualifies for the Round of 16 to face the French Ligue 1 Champions, PSG. After the first leg 1-0 loss in Paris, many people expressed whether it would destroy Madrid’s dream to win the trophy for the 14th time. Next, what happened in the second leg at Santiago Bernabeu was pure class by the whole team, as Karim Benzema manifested an extraordinary performance and scored a hatrick to lead the

team to the quarter-finals to face Chelsea and keep the dream of La Decimocuarta alive. In a press conference before the second leg match in Madrid, Luka Modric said to the press, “If we beat PSG, we will win the Champions League.” and Real did win their 14th. In the past, the previous year’s Champions League winner, Chelsea have never lost against the Whites, for which it was a revenge time for then 13 time UCL winner and unlike Salah you don’t speak before the match about revenge if you can’t make it happen. After a sensational first leg performance from the La Liga 21/22 winners at the Stamford Bridge, Madrid had a well 1-3 lead in their hand to proceed into the second leg, all courtesy of yet another Benzema hatrick. Playing in the Santiago Bernabeu in front of the home fans, Madrid suffered as Chelsea bagged 0-3 in the second leg and with 75 minutes gone in the clock, there was no goal for Madrid. As things were beginning to look bleak, young 22-year-old substitute Rodrygo struck the first goal for the Los Merengues to force the match into extra time and once again Benzema took over the later proceedings as he scored to make it 2-3. In the end, it was a loss for Madrid but enough to make their way into the semis where they faced Manchester City. It was Pep’s side who took a 4-3 lead at their home, and unsurprisingly Benzema and Vinicius were on the scoresheet. It was very clear the second leg would be epic at Madrid’s home ground. City even after Mahrez’s goal were being cautious. Rodrygo yet again forced the match into extra time with his two quick goals, and with Benzema’s ice-cold penalty, Real Madrid booked their ticket to Paris. In the final, Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 with Vinicius’s lone goal to win their record 14th UCL title. In the final, Liverpool and Madrid had 24 and 4 shots, but the winner is decided on which team scores the most goals and not on total shots or ball possession. Words are less to define Courtois’s heroic performance throughout the season and in the UCL final. He made 56 saves only in the Champions League tournament, which is one less than Ederson’s total saves in all competitions. But Real Madrid deserves everything they have accomplished this season.

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