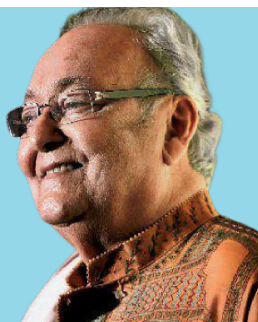


Legendary actor Soumitra Chatterjee passes away at the age of 85.



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Having a glance through old and new normal.



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2020 has been a terrible year, welcoming 2021 with great shine of expectation in our eyes.



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Farmers protesting against Farm Bill 2020

Farmer protest in India's national capital has created quite a shudder globally too. Since 26th of November 2020, the borders of Delhi have been witnessing a huge rage being carried out by farmers of Punjab and Haryana. The farmers are protesting against the 2 Farm Bills passed by Rajya Sabha recently. First, one being the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, and the second one is the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill 2020. The two bills had already been approved by the lower house, the Lok Sabha. When they were

introduced in the Rajya Sabha, there was hoopla and finally, the Bill was passed through a voice vote.

1)The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020:This Bill allows the farmers to sell their products outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) regulated markets. The APMCs are government-controlled marketing yards or mandis. So, the farmers clearly have widened choice on who they want to sell. The government's reasoning, economic expert Gurcharan Das says that the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee

(APMC) is a former institution from an age of scarcity, meant to protect the farmer but has now become his oppressor, a monopoly part-

and Farm Services Bill 2020:This Bill makes regulations for the fixing of a framework for contract farming. The farmer and an ordained buyer can

Source : Google



Farmers burning a dummy of PM Modi on the outskirts of Amritsar

nership fixing low prices for the farmers' produce, forcing distress sales.

2)The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance

strike a deal before the crop production happens. According to PRS India, a "Standing Committee on Agriculture (2018-19)" observed the APMC laws needed reforms as

cartelization had begun to crystallize due to a limited no. of traders in APMC mandis. Therefore the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill was passed in September 2020, where the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 permits intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers to manufacture beyond the physical premises of APMC markets. State governments are prohibited from imposing any market fee, cess or levy outside APMC areas.

The farmers of Ut-

tar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana are furious with the provisions of these Bills as they are afraid that these Bills may be the platform that the government (at the Centre) is setting up for the replacement or scrapping of the otherwise powerful support system prevalent in their states for the purchase of their crops. They fear that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantee that was their safety net since the Green Revolution of the 1960s kicked in, may be seized away from under the pretext of giving the farmers more playing ground and better platforms.

Prerona Munshi
(PG - 1)

BENGAL POLITICAL SITUATION

With the 2021 Vidhan Sabha elections coming up next year winter seems to be far away from the Bengal politics now. The city has started experiencing foggy mornings but the Bengal political scenario is heated up now more than ever with regular rallies of political parties, small scuffles breaking out among political workers, controversies, fiery speeches by the leaders and so on. A new trend observed in the Indian politics for the last few years has been influential leaders changing political parties right before the elections. Bengal too, now

seems to be a prey of this happening trend in Indian politics, with many influential leaders switching sides for the last couple of years. These have further heated up the political scenario in Bengal leaving the common people confused. West Bengal when compared to other India states has been a much peaceful place in terms of crime statistics but it has always been a political hotbed. Political murders have been quite frequent in the state from earlier times and now with the opposition Bhartiya Janata Party strengthening their organizational roots in the states clashes breaking out between party workers has become a regular phenom-

enon. Effective political campaigns have been started by all the parties in the states. Social media is now a recognizable platform for campaign

and advertisements by the political entities, with some parties forming separate strategist teams for the purpose. Also keeping in mind about the physical and social distancing norms many medical associations

and individuals have shown concern for the large rallies being taken out by the political parties. The safety norms now seem to be have been forgotten as

the same had been observed in the Bihar assembly elections and the Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections. North Bengal especially the areas under the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) have

seen many turbulent times. The hill politics now seem to be in a much peaceful state with tourists flocking in large number all across North Bengal. The recent turnaround in hill politics has been the wanted Gorkha leader Bimal Gurung changing sides and assuring his support to the ruling Trinamool Congress. The political leaders have started rolling out their 'to do' lists if they are elected to power. The recent developments among the government schemes has been

the opening of the 'Swastha Swathi' health coverage to people of all income groups. This has raised many questions as whether the state government has that much of a capacity to provide free health insurance cover to such a large population and whether it is just an election stunt. With all the clashes, speeches and rallies Bengal gears up for the upcoming assembly elections.

Soham Banerjee
(UG -1)

CYCLONE NIVAR: Landfall triggers torrential downpours

The “deep depression” over Bay of Bengal has intensified into ‘very severe cyclonic storm Nivar’.

An ‘Orange alert’ has been issued for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, while Andhra Pradesh is likely to receive heavy rainfall.

Chennai : Cyclone Nivar is expected to intensify into a ‘very severe cyclonic storm’ and move west-northwest wards before crossing the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between Karaikal and Mamallapuram on 25th November evening with a wind speed of 120 - 130 Kmph gusting to 145 Kmph. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall in many places across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry over the next 24 - 28 hours. The weathermen have

also forecast wide-spread rainfall / thunderstorm activity over all the mentioned places.

Cyclone Nivar has killed three people and injured three more after making landfall in southern India, where torrential rainfall lashed coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. Officials said it reached wind speed of more than 120km/h (75mph), but then weakened into a severe cyclonic storm. They said all essential services have now been restored. Tens of thousands of people from low lying areas had been evacuated ahead of its landfall. Heavy wind had already felled trees and strong rains flooded parts of Tamil Nadu and Chennai. Officials said more than 100 huts were damaged and 380 fallen trees had fallen, which have now been removed. Dozens of trains and flights from Chennai have

been cancelled and thousands of disaster management personnel have been deployed in the region. All fishing boats had been advised to return to port.

Tamil Nadu minister RB Udhayakumar said late on Wednesday that around 175,000 people were moved to shelters. Wednesday and Thursday were declared public holidays with everything shut except emergency services. Ahead of rainfall, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that he had spoken with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy, assuring him of all “possible support” from the federal government.

The damage of cyclone Nivar has caused, unlike in the past, has been minimal, owing to better preparedness and timely government action. The storm killed

at least four people and uprooted trees and destroyed huts before weakening into a deep depression as it moved towards northnorthwest. It made a landfall near Puducherry early on Thursday. Before that, there was heavy rain in parts of coastal Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, accompanied with strong winds and high tides. The administration and experts have said while the low wind helped, the state’s preparedness was important.

Chandrima Banerjee
(Ug -1)

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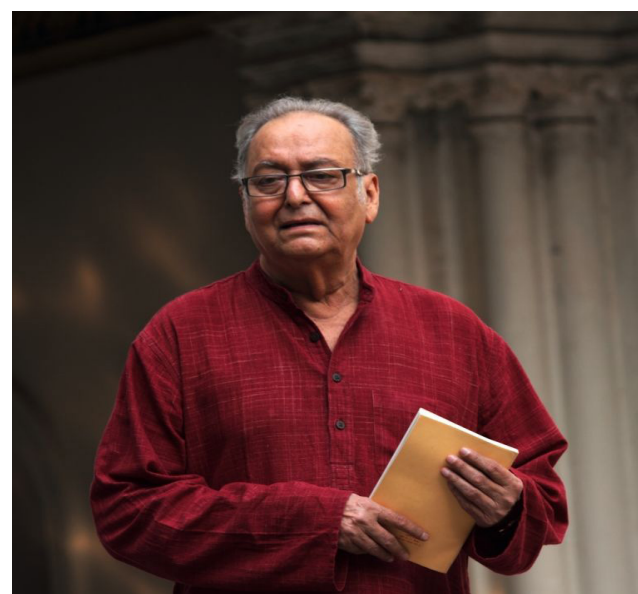
REMEMBERING LEGENDARY ACTOR SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE (1935-2020)

Our clock struck at 12:15pm on October 15, our beloved FELUDA had left the arena of life. He was the actor who epitomised the best of world cinema. Perhaps it has been weeks since we were mentally preparing for this news. Even then now we hear the news we still feel the vacuum. Soumitra Chattopadhyay has left us while the whole world of cinema lovers mourns his death. It is very difficult to explain what this means for a Bengali cinephile. We have literally watched the man grow old in

front of the camera with iconic films that were junctions in our own lives as it were for our parents.

Chatterjee’s career spent more than 60 years and 300 films. But he was best known for working with the Oscar winning director Satyajit Ray. Together they gained global recognition for the 1959 movie world of Apu. He was one of the greatest stars of both art house and commercial cinema. His greatest contribution is to bridge the gap between two kinds of cinema. Apart of being an actor, he was also a playwright, writer and a poet. He accept-

ed the prestigious PADMA BHUSHAN award in 2004 and DADASAHEB PHALKE award in



2012. He also received the ‘Officier des Arts et Metiers’, the highest award for arts given by

the French government in 1999 and the ‘Lifetime Award’ at the Naples Film Festival, Italy.

His range will remain unmatched. From playing the tragic Apu in Ray’s film to the revolutionary teacher

Udayan Pandit in ‘Hirak Rajar Deshe’ to the aimless lover in ‘Tin Bihonar Paare’ or ‘Basanta Bilap’ to the old man in recent ‘Mayurakkhi’. He meant different things to different people. He delivered revolutionary performance in film after film, with directors ranging from Ray to Mrinal Sen to Tapan Sinha, Rituporno Ghosh and in recent years Kaushik Ganguly and Sujoy Ghosh. Chatterjee was one of the rare actors who even in his 80s continued to play the lead role in films like ‘BELA SEHE’, ‘POSTO’. ‘SAJHBATI’ that came out last year was his last big cinema outing. Chatterjee was just back

from filming ‘Abhijan’ (a biopic on his life) in October this year. He lived his full life beyond the screen. There’s so much more to mention about him. His humanity and his life outside the boundaries of cinema world are no less memorable and are worth celebrating every day. There is only one way to mourn our Khidda – with gratitude.

Pritha Roy
(UG1)

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

New year is almost knocking our doors soon after the CHRISTMAS celebrations, though the year (2020) has been a rollercoaster ride for each and every person surviving in this world or those who have survived but unfortunately could not make it to the new year's due to this unfortunate situation.

Now, the "party freaks" in town are going crazy that whether to celebrate the new year's in the renowned clubs or to sit at home with the family and enjoy with them. Few medical experts in the city advised that "It's better for the people all over the world to celebrate this year's new year by sitting at their respective homes". By looking at the growth rate of the COVID-19 virus, the more people avoid going out the more lives will be saved by the end of this year", experts advised. In Kolkata the most crowded place during these times is PARK STREET. Hoping that the government will take accurate precautions to control the crowd in the city, which is going to be a challenge for the medical workers as well as the legal workers.

Though no such thing happened in this year to celebrate it in such a grand way, still the people are hoping for a better tomorrow and also for a better year ahead. It seems this could be the only new year resolution for this year, full of hopes and prayers.

OLD NORMAL

The year 2020 has been a disastrous year throughout, but if it has spoiled anything massively it's the "EDUCATION SYSTEM" of the world. The children, the growing youngsters and their future lives is getting hamper the most. The COVID-19 crisis is exacerbating education disparities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable youth, adults etc. especially those who are living in poor or rural areas. Learning losses also threaten to extend beyond this generation and erase decades of progress, not least in support of girls and young women's educational access and retention.

Similarly, the education disruption has had, and will continue to have substantial effects beyond education. Closures of educational institutions hamper the provision of essential activities of children and communities as well, including access of nutritious food, affect the ability of many parents to work and increases risks of violence against women and girls.

Also, the COVID-19 pandemic has also had a severe impact on higher education as universities closed their premises and countries had shut their borders in response to lockdown measures. Although



higher education institutions quickly replaced the void of months by starting their online lectures for the students. Though online classes have also been started by the schools all over the world still the kids, the growing children easily gets tired up as they never expected their school life being continued in such a way. In spite of so many complains and countless demands, they have adapted this 'new normal' educational system with open hands. Now with the arrival of 2021 all we could do is to hope for a better situation of the kids and the upcoming youth to build up their future with safety and security and definitely in our 'old normal' way.

POST COVID-19

There's no doubt about the fact that 2021 is now a big mystery for everyone. What new surprises are waiting? Whether the vaccine would give us a lifetime protection? What more challenges do we have to face? So many questions. But the thing is all the answers of these questions is uncertain. Now if people call it a panic or not, each and everyone around the world is really scared about what new consequences are waiting for us in 2021, as compared to 2020 which has only given us depression, sorrow, betrayal and so many bad news.

Many different scenarios can take place next year depending on what sort of vaccine and treatment options become available, in addition to how seriously the public follows rules set in place by public health officials. It also depends on what experts learn about the virus as time goes on. Things change every day, and so much of 2021 is dependent on many moving parts.

As COVID-19 lockdown has made us

learn so much in these months that there are few things we need to keep in mind in the following year. To keep a continuous check on our near and dear ones, have to work hard as the competition is hard in the upcoming years, we've now built up a habit of

zoom meetings instead of meeting at cafes or restaurants it might help us in future, people have also built up a habit of sanitization and maintenance of hygiene in their lives which would keep them safe and protected and so on.

Thus, post COVID-19 there's a lot of responsibility people have to take up and respond accordingly. If the vaccine is out in few days, people need to follow it's rules and be a bit more responsible about the virus, as it is nothing but a very deadly virus which might lead to the destruction of an entire nation. Now we need to hope for a better and prosperous new year all together, and for an amazing life ahead.

PRITI SINHA
(UG-1)



Looking at the world through monochromatic glasses

Am I really looking forward to the new year?

Drawing back the curtains and staring out at the empty desolate street, I take a walk down the rugged memory lane of this year. 2020, a year, I am sure will always bring a shiver down everyone's spines as they remember it in faint or vivid colours. 2020, a year that was supposed to be filled with the bustle of everyday life, which just turned out to be an experience worthy of the movie series the final destination. A year that will always strike fear in the hearts of those who lived it. Started with the promise of new beginnings and then took the form of a monster. A monster that we never want to encounter even in our worst nightmares. A foe that no one will wish upon their worst enemy.

Covid 19 seems to be an unwanted guest that overstayed its welcome. Humans all around the world, wonder, with rapidly beating hearts filled with fear, if it ever will leave and when it does, will we ever be able to come out of it unscathed? Will we be able to recuperate from this? Are we ready?

As a person, this unending quarantine has affected me in way, that I'm afraid I may have lost myself forever. This shaky feeling in my stomach. The cloudy breath, the shivering hands. This gut wrenching need to cry. The overwhelmed need to just give up. The embarrassment. The guilt. The feeling of being useless. Feeling I'm not enough, yet hearing for validation. Wanting to figure out my life, of my needs of my aspirations. For the first time in my life I felt wronged. I felt like I was being punished for a

crime that wasn't even mine. I wanted to just hide away forever from the world that was slowly stopping when I had just started to find meaning. I wasn't alone.

There were hundreds, no thousands no lakhs even millions like me out there who are dying, rotting away, ailing from the inside. I wasn't alone in this fight.

Humans soon figured out, that it wasn't all bad. As I was wallowing in self pity, it only seemed that everything started to slowly pick itself back again. The world, the bleak, dreary world, could no longer sit back and deplete as a measly virus, however potent, continued to raze it to the ground. It decided to fight back. It decided to have hope. It decided to move on, Virus and all.

Human beings have since then have tried to best make the semblance of the daily life, and surprisingly for whatever reason, it worked! Maybe it was the rules that they decided to follow, maybe it was the sheet bullheadedness that they exhibited as a collective, but they slowly but surely put themselves back together again. Do I look forward to the next year? Maybe, maybe I did.

Maybe it's the bullheadedness that we all share, that I can't help but be a little hopeful, that the next year, though not all good, will still be better.

Anuska Bagchi
(UG-1)

Goodbye 2020!

Well we already made through this cursed year. The holiday season is soon winding down and the end of this year is approaching. Every year we literally brainstorm on how to efficiently spend this time of the year. But this year it's a bit exception. There are plenty of things to do on New Year's Eve in a normal year, we go to a party, attend a local ceremony, host a dinner party at house, just to name a few. But this year has been anything but normal and, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, most New Year's Eve traditions are now deemed hazardous. Even gathering with a few dearest friends to watch the ball drop at midnight means increased risk of catching or transmitting the coronavirus, which doesn't exactly sound like a great start to 2021. But still there are

ways to avoid COVID hotspots and still have a good time on Dec. 31st. There are New Year's Eve activities for every type of individual. For the party people who want truly to celebrate the end of 2020, there are COVID-friendly party options. For the cozy people who want something chill, consider a movie marathon or game night with quaranteam. And for one who want to take an entirely different approach to New Year's Eve, can spend the evening reflecting on the past 366 days and making plans for the next 365. We all are looking forward to 2021 with the ray of hope in our eyes. Might the coming will bring us joy and happiness with the end of Coronavirus from our lives.

Prerona Munshi
(PG - 1)

How Christmas Carnival will be this year!

The most wonderful time of the year is ahead, but in a time of global pandemic like this will we be allowed to rock around the Christmas tree? It will be very different this year and there's no doubt in it. The precautionary norms of Covid-19 have already curtailed other religious celebrations, such as Eid and Diwali and no exception is expected in Christmas too.

Kolkata's Christmas holds a special place in all our hearts as it remains the epitome of a secular holiday, celebrated not by any religious compulsion but just because it feels good. It belongs to everyone who can afford a cheap Santa hat and a slice of plum cake—and have the will to move with the music. This is the essence of Christmas Carnival of Kolkata. We all were already in great dilemma whether the Christmas Carnival on Park Street

will take place this year or not. But leaving all speculations to rest, the Facebook page of the Carnival has announced on Tuesday that it will take place in 2020 too.

One of the main organisers of the Park Street Carnival said, "The festival is scheduled from December 21 to December 30. However, in light of the ongoing pandemic, there will be a few restrictions. This year, there will be no food stalls on Park Street or inside Allen Park. Everyday, there will be musical events for around two or

two and half hours". During the Carnival a maximum of 150 persons will be allowed inside Allen Park where the live performances takes place. The one good news is that this year we can watch all the live performances at the comfort of our own homes as they will be streaming on Facebook Live.

According to the information provided by the organizer, the Carnival has been divided into three sections. The insiders of the carnival will organize the programme on December 21, December 22 and December 23. After that Kolkata Police will take over the programme on December 24 and December 25 where the rush is expected. And then from December 26 to December 30, the West Bengal Tourism Department will run the show. The final list of performers and band have not been decided yet by the organizer but as of now they have reached out to the bands who had performed last year like The Grooverz and The Urban Monkz. But no one has confirmed anything yet. It is expected that on December 17, there will be an official press meet where decisions will be taken.

Prerona Munshi
(PG - 1)

Photo : Abanti Mukherjee



Christmass carnival at Park Street