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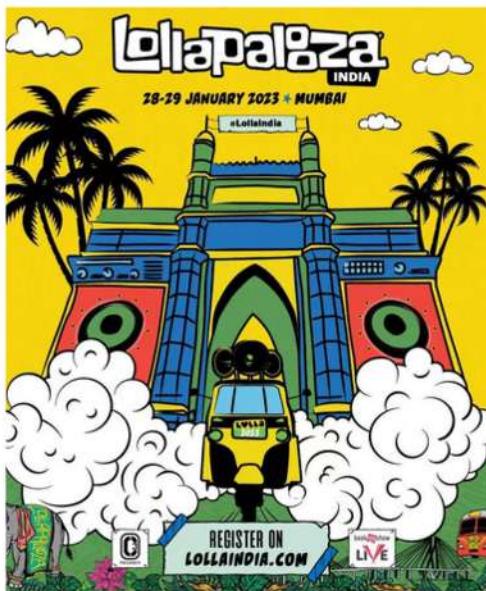
# Tropicana®



# LOLLAPALOOZA COMES TO INDIA



India has more room for global celebrities. The American music festival LOLLAPALOOZA extends its roots to India after reaching popular cities in Europe and Latin America. LOLLAPALOOZA carnival exhibits music, arts, and culture of multiple genres. The event occurs annually exhibiting a multi-genre arts carnival that has gained a reputation through the years in terms of music, visual arts, non-profit associations, and political alliances.



India's first LOLLAPALOOZA carnival is set to exhibit in Mahalaxmi Race Course in Mumbai. It will be a non-stop unique musical experience set for 2 days, on 28 and 29 January 2023. This event is meant for all age groups as it is a family-friendly show. LOLLAPALOOZA is the first event in India to have over 40 musical artists.

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LOLLAPALOOZA is here to set a high bar in terms of musical experience in India. They are bringing forward major artists who practice genres like rock, alternative, indie, pop, and even Bollywood. A lot of the genres are not very popular or in trend right now, or you could say it is a conservative genre only listened to by people with distinctive tastes unlike Bollywood-fitting music going viral in minutes.

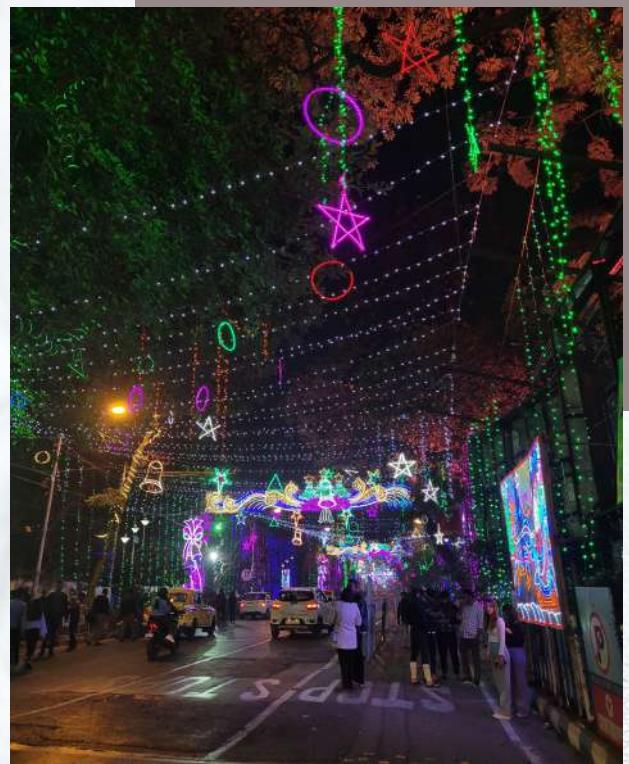
LOLLAPALOOZA won't be the first in India to bring forward western musicians with open arms. Musicians like Akon, Beyoncé, Guns n' Roses, Coldplay, Deep Purple, Enrique Iglesias, Ed Sheeran, Michael Jackson, Metallica, Porcupine Tree, Poets of the Fall, Shakira, Skrillex, U2, and many more have given a grand show for the Indian audience who enjoy the western music culture.

# MERRY VIBES ALL AROUND

Sinjini Bhowmik

Anoushka Ganguly

During Christmas, Kolkata's Park Street ushers in the merry vibes every year. With the festive jingles lingering in the air and the stars twinkling overhead, this long stretch has garnered lovers from far and wide. This joyous atmosphere extends especially inside St. Paul's Cathedral on Cathedral Road. Said to be the largest church in Kolkata and the first Anglican cathedral in Asia, the solemn chamber is decorated with garlands, lights and trinkets. Usually erected in the pedestrian zone of Allen Park, the beautifully decorated tree is a sight to behold both during the day and after dark. This room is an ideal cheerful backdrop for celebratory photos, and is often the space for events too: think carol contests, food stalls, Christmas parades, and more. Park Street is consistently one of the liveliest areas in Kolkata in December, thanks to the abundance of eateries that feature live music. The eateries, cake shops, bakeries like "FLURYS," and restaurants were all lit up in this area. They were keen to draw in both partygoers and foodies with discounts, deals, and unique meals. Additionally, the pubs offer unique drink menus to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.



There are shops on the streets selling little reindeer, stars and Santa Claus, and many children scour the ideal treetops to take home. The scent of plum cake hangs in the air as busy shoppers vie for the best deals. Despite this extension, the festive spirit remains as infectious as ever. Every corner of the street is covered with layers of thematic lighting provided by Chandannagar artisans.

# “ DECEMBER EVENTS IN KOLKATA ”

## KIFF: Kolkata International Film Festival

The famous film festival had its 28th edition last year, beginning on December 15 in Kolkata and concluding on December 22, 2022. Various domestic and foreign films and documentaries have been played during the event throughout the course of these eight days.

Over the course of eight days, 183 films, including 52 short films and documentaries from 42 nations, were presented in 10 different locations across the city.



## AMI ARTS Festival:

The third edition of the AMI Arts Festival was held from the 17th to the 25th of December, and was funded by Emami's CSR effort in partnership with Rabindra Tirtha, NKDA, and HIDCO. AMI Arts Festival is KCC's annual cultural festival that promotes current expressions of the arts while honoring its Indian cultural heritage.

## SAMARTH:

On December 17, 2022, 650 wheelchairs and 100 sewing machines were donated and distributed to the specially-abled individuals at Princep Ghat, Military Ground. The Rotary Club of Calcutta organized the event, which was supported by the Rotaract Club of Calcutta.



-Shirsha Ganguly



# NIKHIL BHARAT BANGA SAHITYA SAMMELAN

SISTER NIVEDITA UNIVERSITY HAS INAUGURATED THE CONCLUDING SESSION OF THE YEAR-LONG CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF NIKHIL BHARAT BANGA SAHITYA SAMMELAN, FOUNDED BY KABIGURU RABINDRANATH TAGORE IN 1922.



Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan was inaugurated by Dr. CV Ananda Bose, Governor of West Bengal. Sr. Satyam Roy Chowdhury, Chairman of the Reception Committee, Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University and founder and managing director of Techno India, Smt. Sharmila Tagore, Eminent Actor, Shri Sourav Ganguly, Ace Cricketer, Smt. Meera Kumar, Former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Janab Andalib Elias, Dy. High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Dhrubalvoti Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor of SNU, and other eminent Indians.

The event took place in the spacious open area of the SNU campus. The Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan program began with hoisting the Indian flag. The national anthem was sung as well. The guests lit the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of the program. On the occasion, Sri Satyam Roy Chowdhury felicitated guests, and then all the guests expressed their views. A number of citizens were present at the program.

The 3 day literary fest followed many forms of appreciation for Rabindranath Tagore's arts, be it poetry, music, or even literature. Many prestigious people attended the event to raise awareness of literature and reading. It followed a tribute to Satyajit Ray and his art forms. Many debates were held to talk about the rise of the internet and the fall of books. NBBSS believes in raising literacy awareness and preserving society's knowledge and culture. Various dance and musical programs were also held, many focusing on Rabindranath Tagore.

Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan (All India Bengali Literary Conference) is an annual convention of Indian Bengali literary personalities. They raise their voices to encourage the rest of society to read. The organization's goals are to promote, preserve, and promote Bengali language and Indian culture; attend literary sessions; exchange ideas with people of different languages; and establish friendly relations with other linguistic regions. The NBBSS has reached maturity, with branches in every major city and town in India.

WRITTEN BY PRIYA KUMARI JHA

# HASTA SHILPA MELA

The government of West Bengal's department of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles extensively supports West Bengal's unique craft tradition in order to both preserve it and advance it by keeping up with changing consumer trends and new design trends. In Kolkata, they do this activity in great detail during the "Hasta Shilpa Mela" handicraft market. This year too, about 5000 craftspeople from a variety of West Bengal districts participate in order to showcase their unique art. The handicraft fair occasionally features stalls set up by individuals even from Bihar and Bangladesh using their own artistic abilities. While Darjeeling artists provide white metal jewellery, woollen things, cane and bamboo, brass works, etc., Burdwan artists bring jute, dokra, and woodcarving. The fair is held in various parts of the city, including Milan Mela, Gate No. 1, and Eco Park, New Town, which is close to Ekante Cottage. The fair is usually held between the months of November and April.



The exact dates change from year to year. The first handicraft fair for the year 2022 began on July 16, 2022, and ended on July 31, 2022, at Purbanchal Sanskriti Kendra, Aikatan, I. A. 290, Sector 3, Saltlake, Kolkata- 700097. The event ran from 2 PM to 8:30 PM and there was no entry fee. However, it was again scheduled from 25.11.2022 to 18.12.2022 at Gate No. 1, Eco Park, New Town. The timings were from 1 PM to 8:30 PM, with free entry for all visitors. Craftspeople benefit from government assistance and are encouraged to develop creative craftwork skills in the industry. As a facility provider, the Directorate assists and promotes the growth of the handicraft industry. Every year, this creative fair features a variety of Bengal's flagship craft and artforms, such as handloom sarees known as "taant," hand-made jewellery made of paddy, bamboo, or terracotta, as well as thousands of unique painting and decorative as well as daily essential items. Every year, it is a must for Bengalis and anyone visiting Kolkata during the winter.

-SOUNAK SARKAR

# THE FAIR THAT IS NOT JUST A MERE FAIR

## SHANTINIKETAN POUSH MELA

### HISTORY

The small town of Shantiniketan was established by the great religious reformer and Hindu philosopher, Maharshi Devendranath Tagore and was scaled up by Rabindranath Tagore, Maharshi's son and a Nobel Prize winner. It was on December 21, 1843, that the cultural reformer adopted the Brahmo creed. The day this happened is said to be the 7th day of the Poush month, according to the Bengali calendar. Later, this day was zeroed in to be celebrated as Poush Utsav. Now, a fair is held every year during this time only to celebrate the same in the small town of Birbhum district called Shantiniketan.

Shantiniketan is one of those towns in West Bengal that is known for rich culture, and the same can be seen in different forms of dance and music forms, handicrafts, paintings as well as carvings. If these things intrigue you or you want to witness the same then Poush Mela is apt for you. The festival is a rural carnival that takes place on the Mela grounds of Shantiniketan in Bolpur, Birbhum District. Thus, the festival is also called Bolpur Poush Mela. The event is held every year in the month of December which is considered to be Poush Month according to the Bengali Calendar. The students from universities, the locals and the artists come together to perform different cultural dance forms that keep people hooked on the Mela. Each day of the fair has something different to offer along with, of course, the lip-smacking food and delicacies of Bengal.



### MAJOR ATTRACTION

Inauguration of Poush Utsav. The Mela starts with an inauguration ceremony on the 7th day of the Poush month in Shantiniketan. After that Vaitalik Group roams around the town and sings folk music to entertain the locals. After that, they assemble for a prayer that takes place at Chhatimtala, wrapping the inauguration process. Bengali Folk Music and Dance. One would get to witness performances on different forms of folk dances and music. Baul, Purulia, Santhal, Mundari, are some of the local dance forms that the artists perform at this Mela.

### EXHIBITION

Bengalis are known for their art, painting and poetry, handicrafts and so much more. One can get into the realm of creativity via their gorgeous handlooms, handicrafts, etc.

### FOOD FIESTA

How can someone miss the food culture of Bengal? Right from sweets to spicy, name it and you will have it all. It is a perfect blend of rural culture and modern spirit which makes it even more special and bright to the eyes. One can enjoy different delicious food items from Bengali Cuisine such as Aloo Potol Posto, Shukto, Sandesh, Alur Dom, etc.

### STALLS

Shantiniketan Poush Mela witnesses around 1,500 stalls varying from handicrafts, fabrics, to household products like home decoration items, Tasar Textile, jute products, wood and cane products, brass wares, conch-shell, terracotta, masks and many more.



**Shantiniketan, Birbhum**  
West Bengal

By  
Adita Kundu



# Fashion

By, Megha Purkayastha



## Start Dressing Up Again



Fashion is for everyone and in recent times the fashion industry is changing constantly. New styles are being incorporated into old styles. Many ideas are passed down as others are removed or altered. Others are tested. The latest idea that is being tested are the expectations for genders, particularly in models. Over the years more and more models have expressed their own personal styles and beliefs. Photographers and designers have also begun to work with this and amplify it. But what's changed? In the 21st century the style trends of the fashion industry dominate the world more than they ever did.

We all have a general idea of what is masculine and what is feminine, in a more commonly known sense. For a woman it's slender and thin. Long legs and an elegant posture; curves and smooth, clear skin. For a male it's tall, built and active. The reason for these specific ideas of each gender can be traced back in history. Men have usually been seen as the more physically active gender while women have been seen as more elegant and nurturing. In today's fashion industry, these ideas are becoming known as the old way of thinking. We have begun to see successful men, who aren't as muscular and men who cross-dress. Cross-dressing has become very popular in the last few years. Directors have begun to give male models the same treatment as female models. One prime example is in cycle 20 of America's Next Top Model. Just like the ladies, the guys have to wear colorful, heavy-handed makeup. They even wore acrylic press-on nails in one shoot. All of these things have also tied into acceptance toward sexuality. More and more male models are coming out and expressing their pride. This, without a doubt, has taken fashion to a stronger and more interesting level. This new boldness has tested social norms and has made a strong statement. It is becoming less unusual to see men wearing makeup or more "feminine" clothing.

The idea for female models has changed too. There is more diversity physically, racially and in many other ways. So, it can be rightly said that fashion is for everyone.



**END OF STIGMA.  
BEGINNING OF HOPE.**

# SKIN CARE AT HOME



Nothing beats doing skin care at home with appropriate skin care products and amazing natural skin care home remedies or recipes. Undoubtedly, skin care essentials, including toners, serums, and moisturizers, are important for the skin, but on some chosen days you can also adopt an entire skin care routine filled with home ingredients.

You can also mix and match products and use them in conjunction with home skin care recipes. Just remember to apply a good broad-spectrum mineral sunscreen afterwards to give your skin protection.

To do a natural skin care routine, you must be aware of some of the best skin home remedies, their role and method of preparation, and the time to use those remedies. So, without further ado, let's take a look at some easy but effective home remedies for skin care.



## 1. Gram Flour & Turmeric Face Cleanser

Gram flour and turmeric packs are a full-proof solution for your dull skin. This flour, also known by the name of besan, is a good exfoliator, a depigmenting agent, and helpful in preventing breakouts.

Along with these, gram flour is also known to cleanse the skin of excessive sweat. On the other hand, turmeric is a potent antioxidant that protects the skin from free radical-induced skin damage. To prepare this face wash, you need

### Method of Preparation

- 2 tablespoons of besan and 1/2 teaspoon turmeric.
- Mix both the ingredients, add some rose water or normal water to make the paste.
- Apply onto the face, massage and exfoliate for about a minute.
- Rinse the face with normal water.

## 2. Fuller's Earth & Rose Water Face cleanser

If you are not a fan of gram flour, you can use fuller's earth (Multani mitti). This is prepared by mixing fuller's earth into rose water. Multani mitti is an amazing exfoliator and deeply cleanses the skin, along with unclogging clogged pores.

### Method of Preparation

- Prepare the face wash by adding an adequate amount of rose water in one tablespoon of Multani mitti.
- Make a paste and thoroughly apply it to the face.
- Exfoliate the skin to clear all dirt, dead skin cells, grime, sweat & rinse with water.

## 3. GROUND ALMOND SCRUB

A SCRUB IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF SKIN CARE. IT HELPS TO UNCLOG THE PORES EFFICIENTLY AND REDUCES THE RISK OF WHITEHEADS, BLACKHEADS, AND BREAKOUTS. GROUND ALMOND PASTE IS AN AMAZING INGREDIENT FOR THIS STEP. IT GENTLY EXFOLIATES THE SKIN.

### METHOD OF PREPARATION

TAKE AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF GROUND ALMONDS. ADD COCONUT WATER TO IT AND MAKE A COARSE PASTE. APPLY ON TO FACE, GENTLY EXFOLIATE FOR ABOUT 2 MINUTES. RINSE WITH NORMAL WATER AND APPLY MOISTURIZER AFTERWARDS.

## 4. GROUND RICE SCRUB

LIKE ALMONDS, RICE IS ANOTHER INGREDIENT THAT CAN BE A PERFECT FIT IN THE CLASS OF SCRUBS. ALONG WITH BEING A GOOD EXFOLIATOR, THIS IS ALSO A GOOD DEPIGMENTING AGENT. SCRUBBING WITH GROUND RICE WILL HELP MAKE YOUR SKIN EVEN-TONED AND SMOOTH.

METHOD OF PREPARATION  
TO PREPARE THE SCRUB, GRIND THE RICE.  
ADD THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF HONEY OR OLIVE OIL TO IT.  
EXFOLIATE THE SKIN FOR ABOUT 2 MINUTES AND RINSE WITH NORMAL WATER AFTERWARDS.

## 5. Honey, Aloe Vera & Lemon Face Pack

Face packs are used to repair, rejuvenate, and deeply hydrate the skin. A face pack with ingredients like aloe vera, lemon, and honey is the ultimate solution to repair and hydrate your skin. To prepare the face pack.

### Method of Preparation

- Take 1 tablespoon of raw honey, ½ lemon juice and 2-3 tablespoons of aloe vera gel.
- Mix all the things and apply the pack to the face.
- Leave it for about 20 minutes.
- Do a little massage with wet hands and rinse the face.

There is no need to do this step on a daily basis. Use this face pack 1-2 times a week.

## 6. Shea Butter as Moisturizer

The next step is to moisturize the skin. For this, shea butter can be a great option to go for. It is one of the prime ingredients of certain creams and lotions.

You can directly use this to nurture your skin. It acts as an emollient that helps to retain the moisture of the skin.

Don't use it in ample amounts. Take a little amount, apply all over the skin, massage, and you are good to go.



## Rainbow Pride Walk Kolkata 2022



By Sneha Ganguly

Park Street hosted the 17th edition of the Kolkata Rainbow Pride Walk on Sunday, December 18, after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19-induced pandemic. The Kolkata Pride Walk is one of Asia's oldest Pride walks. The event that aims to raise awareness about the LGBTQIA community took place at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. Nearly 3,000 people joined the pride walk across different countries from Park Circus Maidan to reach Mayo Road via Park Street. Giving a shout out to Kolkata for making future generations "queer-friendly humans," Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra shared a glimpse of the decked-out Park Street before the Pride Walk 2022 began. "Huge shout out to Kolkata for always living and letting live." "Asia's oldest rainbow pride walk is creating future generations of humans," she tweeted. As a precursor to the event, Kolkata's eateries showed their support for the LGBTQIA community by sporting pride flags. Rainbow colors could be seen on the walls of several establishments, along with the official flag of Kolkata Pride. Moreover, the Australian Consulate-General in Kolkata also joined the pride walk yesterday.

Sharing a picture of an autorickshaw all covered in pride decorations, she wrote, "Hitching a ride to Kolkata's Pride Parade—one of the oldest in Asia." "Australia proudly supports LGBTQIA rights." Actress Ushasie Chakraborty was there to support the community. Last year, her novel about a lesbian couple was published, and during the same time, she came into contact with several LGBTQIA community members. "I hope that our beloved city becomes safe for everyone. That we accept and love everyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation," she said. Many prominent activists were also seen, like Deb Barua, Sandy Saha, Roqma Bannerjee, and Komaljit Das. The first pride march was held in Kolkata on July 2, 1999. Because of Kolkata's history of human and political rights campaigns, it was chosen as the first city in India to host the march. The Kolkata Rainbow Pride Walk is held to make a political statement for equality, tolerance, love, and solidarity.

# KNEE PAIN

IPSITA BHATTACHARYA



Knee pain is a common symptom of all age's people. The pain in or around the knee, indicate a condition affecting the knee joint itself or the soft tissue around the knee. Ruptured ligament or torn cartilage and arthritis can also be a cause of knee pain. It may begin as a mild discomfort, then slowly get worse.

The symptoms of knee pain may vary the location and severity, depending on the cause of the problem. Signs and symptoms that sometimes can be noticed are, swelling and stiffness, redness and warmth to that particular portion, weakness or instability, popping or crunching noises, inability to fully straighten the knee. A knee injury can affect any of the ligaments, tendons or fluid-filled sacs that surround our knee joint as well as the bones, cartilage and ligaments that form the joint itself. A sprained or strained knee ligament or muscle. Cartilage tears can often occur with sprains. Inflammation of the tendons may result from overuse of a tendon during certain activities such as running, jumping, or cycling. More than 100 different types of arthritis exist. Osteoarthritis is the most common type of arthritis that affects the knee.

This may be caused by excess stress on the joint such as repeated injury or being overweight. Rheumatoid arthritis affect the joint to become inflamed and by destroying the knee cartilage. Gout arthritis occurs when uric acid crystals build up in the joint. Patellofemoral pain syndrome refers to pain arising between the kneecap and the underlying thighbone. It's common in athletes and young adults. Being overweight or obese increases stress on knee joints. Also, lack of strength and flexibility can increase the risk of knee injuries.

Treatments will vary, depending upon what exactly is causing knee pain. Doctors will test and diagnosis according the problem. In a primary stage, some self – care measures can be done to relief from pain. Ice reduces both pain and inflammation, don't use ice for longer than 20 minutes at a time. Heat pack or hot-water bottle to the painful area. Take a break from your normal activities to reduce repetitive strain on knee, give the injury time to heal and help prevent further damage.

# Media and its changing priority



The sudden storm of the Covid-19 pandemic globally has caused a variety of dysfunction, which added to the fall of the economy of many countries. This pandemic played a very prominent role in disrupting daily life activities of all leading to the decline of the physical as well as mental health of people. Social distancing and the imposition of lockdown as means of controlling the situation led to the rise in increased social media usage for social networking. People were forced to stay at home in order to control the rising cases with other necessary precautions. Staying at home and working/studying on the screen for longer periods of hours and the lack of proper social gatherings caused a lot of stress among individuals. This increase in stress caused a lot of changes in appetite, interests, desire and mental health.

Mental disorder is something that needs to be highlighted in a country like India where people dealing with it fear seeking medication because of social embarrassment. This is because of multiple reasons which also includes the discrimination that people dealing with mental disorders face along with the stigma which has been created unknowingly in a course of time by media's constant negative portrayal of mental illness. This stigma and discrimination makes their problems even worse. This rise of mental illness during the pandemic situation amongst individuals is a very significant matter of concern which needs to be addressed very carefully by the media. The media plays a very important role in addressal such mental health problems during a situation like this by helping the people to learn how to cope with such stressful situations.



Media's constant striving towards normalizing the view of having a mental disorder can help at large. According to a clinical psychologist, Dr. Gupta, "Mental health is what the media should focus more upon at this point of time after the third wave of Covid-19 especially now when it's starting all over again. People should normalize the view of getting treatment for psychological disorders instead of stigmatizing it. It's high time for the media to show that it's quite natural. Media should also try to help people who are dealing with it by providing them with tips and treatments in collaboration with health experts like us. This can reduce the stigma amongst individuals leading to the normalization of psychotic disorders to promote treatments for psychotic patients without any fear of social embarrassment." Also, there's a significant increase in alcohol and drug use. In such situations, the media has an important role to play by addressing such mental health issues through their reporting to create awareness amongst the public. The reporting done on mental health in such a fragile situation needs to be more alarming, serious, unbiased, accurate, and well-balanced. This could only be done by health journalists having proper knowledge of several mental disorders to avoid creating stigma of any type amongst the public through their unbalanced reporting and negative portrayal of mental illness. This could also be done with proper assistance and collaboration with mental health Professionals.

**Written by SK AKRAM ALI**



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 **DISCOVER  
KOLKATA**



## FOOD PREVIEW

Alu posto is a classic Bengali dish. Sparing in its use of spices, this preparation relies on the flavours of potatoes, green chilies, and nigella seeds for its taste. What stands out, however, is the nutty flavor of the roasted poppy paste, which also provides body and texture to the gravy. This apparently bland-looking dish with just potatoes and poppy paste is capable of rousing much passion among Bengalis. Although alu posto is cooked without onion or garlic, in our family we sometimes add a little fried onion to the alu posto for a pleasant variation.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 60 g mustard oil
- ¼ tsp nigella seeds
- 2 pcs dried red chillies
- 25 g onions
- 500 g potatoes
- 50 g poppy seeds
- 4 pcs green chillies
- 12 g salt
- 8 g sugar

# ALU POSTO:

### METHOD:

1. Soak poppy seeds in water for two hours. Strain and add to a grinder jar, along with 2 green chillies and 75 g water. Grind to a coarse paste. Set aside.
2. Peel and cut the potatoes in 1-cm cubes. If using onions, slice them too.
3. Heat mustard oil in a pan. Once smoking lightly and pale yellow, add the onions. Fry until lightly colored (about 1 minute). Set aside the oil after draining it.
4. Temper the oil with dried red chillies and nigella seeds. Add the potatoes. Fry for about 5 minutes. The potatoes should not brown, so keep stirring them regularly.
5. Add the poppy-seed paste, along with salt and sugar. Cook on low heat until the raw smell of poppy paste goes away. This should take about 4 minutes.
6. Continue cooking on low heat, with lid on until the potatoes are soft. Once in a while, when the pan dries out, you may have to add a splash of hot water to ensure the potatoes don't stick to the pan.
7. Finish with 2 slit green chillies and 1 tsp of mustard oil.
8. If you fried the onions earlier, add those now too, and give a final stir, before serving with hot rice and dal, or with chapati.

# BENGAL'S PITHE PULI

Festive season starts in Bengal from Saradiya Durgotsab. It culminates in winter. Especially during the month of POUSH , the delicacy of Bengali cuisine comes out with flying colors with an exceptional variety of desserts. The age-old mothers and grandmothers thrilled us with their crafty handiwork by offering Pithe-Puli and Payesh. Today I'm going to describe two recipes for the most exquisite variation of Pithe to get your taste buds tingling.

## 1.RASO PULI PITHE

Ingredients:

Shredded coconut,sugar,suji, milk , nolen gur , elach, kaju ,kismish and ghee.

### Process :

First, a coconut has to be shredded. Then we have to add a teaspoon full of ghee in a pan,pour the shredded coconut ,suji and sugar into it and go on mixing and cooking until the formation of a soft consolidated mound. Take the pan off the burner and let the mound cool. Then we must form small balls, known as pulis, with our palms. Boil the milk until it condenses slightly, then add the nolen gur and continue to boil. Pour the balls, or puli, into the boiling milk and boil a little more. Add elaichi, cashew nuts, and kishmish, and cool it. Mouth-watering Rasopuli Pithe is made to

## 2.PATISAPTA

Ingredients:

Suji, maida, gobinda bhog rice powder, soya or sunflower oil, patali gur, kheer, or shredded coconut.

### Process:

First, make a soft paste with patali gur and shredded coconut or kheer. Keep it aside. Then we have to make semi-concentrated gola or a mix of maida, suji, and rice powder. Then, in a fry pan, heat a few spoonfuls of soy or sunflower oil. Light burner. Pour or mix in some gola, then spread it with a large spoon. Then, in the center of the spreaded Gola, add some already made Pur, i.e. a mixture of shredded coconut and patali gur or kheer and patali gur. Fold the dried gola in half from two sides and take it out of the hot fry pan. The patishapta pitha is ready and served.

The smell will tell you everything, and you will have the pleasure of a dedicated chief.



By Anwesha Bhattacharya and Aishwarya Chatterjee

# HOROSCOPE



## ARIES



Jupiter is on your side and may just give you a boost of energy and optimism that furthers your progress toward achieving your dreams.



## TAURUS

Venus will bring a challenge on as it forms a square with Uranus. Your increased need for freedom may cause some strain in your personal relationships.



## GEMINI

Geminis are expected to feel a burst of social charm as Venus enters Pisces and showers your 10th house of public reputation with fame and glory.



## CANCER

The sun and Pluto will join forces in your 7th house of partnerships. These planets ask that you release fear and show your true self to your loved ones.



## LEO

Saturn has taken up shop in your 7th house of partnerships, challenging you to take on more responsibility in your personal relationships.



## VIRGO

With Mercury as your planetary ruler, it will be retrograding as this month begins, you will need to prioritize patience and take extra care in your work.

## LIBRA



When the full moon in Cancer arrives on January 6, it will send power to your 10th house of career and ambition.



## SCORPIO

The radiant sun will form a conjunction with Pluto and hand you the keys to evolving your whole way of thinking.



## SAGITTARIUS

Jovial Jupiter is your ruling planet and it is having a blast in your 5th house of creation. Don't wait to take on that new creative project. Instead, you should dive right into it!



## CAPRICORN

Venus and Pluto will hold hands in your 1st house of personal identity, heightening your need for love and affection.



## AQUARIUS

With the sun in Aquarius, the pull to be your authentic, weird self will grow even stronger.



## PISCES

Venus is your planet of love and luxury that forms a favorable aspect at the beginning of the month, increasing your charm and setting the stage for a romantic encounter.

## CAN YOU SOLVE THESE RIDDLES?

SHREYA GHOSH

- What goes up and down but does not move?
- What is white when dirty and black when clean?*
- What travels around the world but stays in one corner?*
- What can you catch but never throw?*
- What can be heard and caught but never seen?*
- This is as light as a feather, yet no man can hold it for long. What is it?*
- I have no life, but I can die. What am I?*
- When the water comes down, when it rains, I go up. What am I?*
- I never ask questions, but always answer. What am I?*
- You can break me easily without touching me or seeing me. What am I?*

>>> ANSWERS <<<

- Stairs
- Chalkboard
- Stamp
- Cold
- A remark
- Breathe
- Batteries
- An umbrella
- Doorbell
- A promise



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# CHEFROME: EMPOWERING WOMEN



Rizwan Zaman, a 37-year-old entrepreneur, set out to empower women by offering them employment in his food-tech startup, Chefrome. This startup, which is based in the small locality of Mominpore in Kolkata, began six months ago. Chefrome is offering authentic home-cooked food to corporations and individuals. This also encourages women who have a passion for cooking and offers them employment to promote Micro-Entrepreneurship.

## IDEA

Rizwan says that he grew up watching his mother be completely dependent on his father for every single penny, the idea of empowering women came from his childhood; and the lack of homemade authentic food in his ten years of corporate life also played a major role in his start up. As he didn't believe in the concept of carrying tiffin boxes and wanted home-cooked food right at his workstation, these two reasons led to the foundation of Chefrome. They started with just one chef and currently work with more than 130 chefs who serve over 1,000 customers in 30 corporate offices in the city of Joy.

## CHALLENGES FACED

The biggest challenge Rizwan Zaman faced as he set up his business was learning to live with limited resources after quitting his job. Convincing people to join his start-up was tough as well, he says. "You literally have to sell yourself and a dream of the future to get someone to believe in your idea and work with you." The challenge I have faced till now is not funds but customer acquisition, uniformity in the taste of the food, and uninterrupted supply from mom-chefs. We even call them Frome chefs. "Being profitable was another challenge as there are a plethora of deep discount options in the market." His team members come from different backgrounds as well, many of whom are MBA and B Tech students with little experience, Zaman tries to incorporate his decade of experience working in the corporate world and startups with the aggression of his young team. He also has a State level cricketer on his team and hopes to recruit someone from the army as well.

## GET IN TOUCH

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WRITTEN BY NATASHA JESSICA LYONS

# BEST BOOKS TO READ THIS WINTER

*By - Sohini Mukherjee*

## *Mahashweta* by, Sudha Murty

This book addresses vitiligo, a highly touchy subject. It portrays a woman's inner power as she learned about herself the best she could when no one was around to help her. One of the few books that will make you cry or cause you to rethink your viewpoint on particular social issues and taboos is this one. Despite being a fairly straightforward and well written piece of writing, it serves as a reality check for us. In the middle of daily life and family responsibilities, it's easy to forget about the fundamental human emotions of compassion, empathy, unconditional love, and friendship.

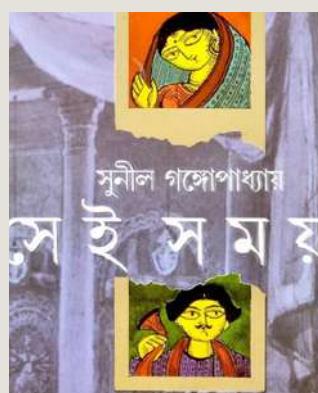


## *Just like Magic* by, Sarah Hogle

It is the season to be jolly, so why not curl up with a romantic quirky book like this one. The setup and plot live up to what the description claims. During a family Christmas celebration, a holiday spirit is unintentionally summoned, with hilarious and touching effects. The novel is about more than just that, though. The book features a variety of layers, including mystery, a large cast of characters who you somehow come to love, sunshine and grump cliché between the protagonists, humorous falsehoods and their even funnier repercussions, and most significantly, humour and love. Also a dash of emotion that will undoubtedly bring tears throughout the last 20% of the novel.

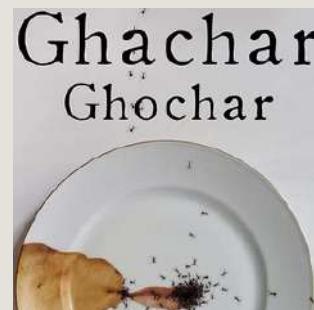
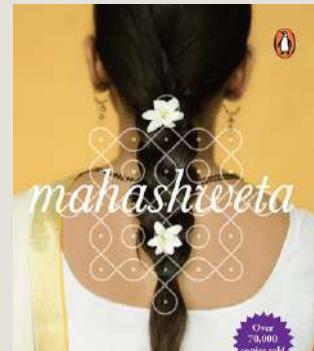
## *Gachar Gochar* by, Vivek Shanbhag

It is one of my personal favourites but according to me it is highly underrated. A straightforward and indulgent story about a family who emerged from poverty to a position where they could indulge without hesitation. Sincerity be damned, I admired the interdependence and simple things that helped them cope with their poverty and stay content. They lost the significance of relationships and even humanity when the money started coming in.



## *Sei Somoy* by, Sunil Gangopadhyay

If you want to go for a little more classic book then this book is for you. In his groundbreaking historical book "Shei Somoy" (Those Days), Sunil Gangopadhyay creates a bright and vivid portrait of Bengal in general and the city of Kolkata in particular between the years of 1840 and 1870. The time period under discussion here, in contrast to the one shown in his other well-known historical novel set in British India, is one of primarily gloom - of ignorance, of religious dogmatism, of a society rife with vice and buried in slumber. However, there are glimmers of hope as some people start to come to their senses. The story gets a welcome sparkle in the otherwise depressing environment thanks to these select few, which include social reformers, ambassadors of a new religious doctrine, and writers of a language still in its infancy. Though in both light and darkness, Sunil Gangopadhyay's outstanding flair is visible.



# Should Hindi be the national language of India?

By Samik Lahiri and Subham Biswas

## 'Hindi Hai Hum,

'Watan Hai Hindustan Humara...', for most of us, an everlasting childhood memory is standing in an assembly queue and singing the couplet (Sare Jahan se achha, Hindustan hamara) written by Muhammad Iqbal. At that time, we never thought of the real idea behind Hindustan. In the post-Westphalian or rather European conception of the nation-state, language has been the driving factor for the formation of a separate country altogether. This came as a major challenge in the constituent assembly, because, unlike in Europe, it was impossible to theorize India's linguistic diversity which ultimately accumulated under a single national identity. Some western scholars went to the extent to say that India as a nation would not exist at all. Making something like a "national language" for such a diverse society would have created chaos and public disillusionment among non-Hindi speakers of the country.

The Constitution has never declared Hindi as the national language, rather, in 1950, it has accorded Hindi in Devanagari script to be the official language of the union along with English under Article 343. For the unversed, part XVII of the Constitution deals with Official Language. "The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals", the Constitution says. The Constitution of India has not given any language a national status. So, India has no national language. The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India contains a list of 22 languages.



The Constituent Assembly while discussing the Language Formula noticed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights, which recommended the formula as per which, "Hindustani, written either in Devanagari or the Persian script at the option of the citizen, shall, as the national language, be the first official language of the Union. English shall be the second official language for such period as the Union may, by law, determine."

In 2010, Gujarat High Court observed that though the majority of people in India have accepted Hindi as a national language, there was nothing on record to suggest that any provision has been made or order issued declaring Hindi as a national language of the country. The observation was made by a division bench of Chief Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyaya and Justice A.S. Dave recently while rejecting a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that had sought a direction for mandatory printing of details — price, ingredients, and date of manufacturing — of goods in Hindi on the ground that it was the national language. "Normally, in India, the majority of the people have accepted Hindi as a national language and many people speak Hindi and write in Devanagari script but there is nothing on record to suggest that any provision has been made or order issued declaring Hindi as a national language of the country. No mandamus can be issued on any manufacturer or others for giving details or particulars of the package in Hindi in Devanagari script," the court had said in 2010. So there is no concept of "One nation, One language."

ମୁଖ୍ୟ (Assamese)

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# Poetry

## Towards the nature

Krishna Gupta

Sort on a verge where she was alone  
Distorted, Disgusted, Disgraced  
She was in a hidden hole  
offensive ness had left her way  
Politeness Cumber some  
her brightness fails  
  
Although she was holding her brightest smile  
Slowly-gradually she comprehended things aside  
Maybe she wasn't at fault  
But why did she made herself a burial vault?

Someone had given her a helping hand  
Then, she stuck to her feelings, kept them as possessions  
and denied  
Maybe it's not the way she crumpled:  
People had certainly kept using her for being more  
humble.

From the place where she was bleeding with dry blood  
Moving towards her own nature.  
She was never a fairy princess;  
Rather a lioness being her true nature.

## Come back

Joydeep Das

I will make a toad inside myself,  
I will take care of all the sunshine, memories...  
  
A couple of little magazines are returning readers or  
writers  
Will go back that way.

I have been standing under the black peak for a long time  
On the bloody wings of the petals, all the Oms of the  
grave.

I thought of you back  
It's sad to leave,

This road, this wait  
come back.



## Tell me when to stop

Priyanka Koire

Tell me when to stop  
'Twas the end?  
  
When the street's will relinquish?  
Whilst the people will dagger themselves,  
in slow-wave sleep.

Or, when nobody's around to see  
How vulnerable we've become,  
along the way?

Tell me when to stop  
When exactly is the time, for us to be;

What we always wanted to be!  
What were the odds?

If that's not supposed to be the end,  
Let us bring back the dawn that-

We've met. Quite before when we were deranged.

Tell me when to stop

Is it already too much for you to take?  
Cause I reckon I'll be there, in vain  
for the rest of my existence.

Confronting you sporadically,

To tell me when to stop enduring  
What never actually deserved, anyway!

FILLING



## Story of mine

Riya Dey

I LIE IN THE DARK, I JUST CAN'T SLEEP INSIDE ME  
LIE WORDS DROWNING DEEP  
MY COMPASS CONSTANTLY SPINNING I'M SILVER  
SILOUETTE SWIMMING  
WHY DOES THE STORM BEGIN IN THE NIGHT?  
AND HARDLY EVER IN THE BRIGHT DAYLIGHT?  
DARK CRASHING WAVES UPON ME CREST THIS  
THUNDER INSIDE IT WON'T LET ME REST  
A SWIRLING WHIRLING VORTEX IN MY FRONTAL  
LOBE CORTEX  
THE STORM INSIDE SO MADDENINGLY LOUD!  
INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS FORM AN ANGRY  
CROWD  
MY CLOCK INTERNAL (I CAN'T STOP IT'S  
TICKING)  
SHARKS SHOAL IN THE DARK AS MY DEMONS  
COME LICKING

# THE WAY OF COMING BACK

by, ROHIT KUMAR SARKAR



The world seems to be blurred to Apu. He thought whether he could have really look for him or not in these last few years. He had brought a pair of new black thick framed spectacles for his Sidhu Dadu; now, standing in front of the house, the recent news just vanishes Sidhu Dadu from the world forever in a second. Apu felt a huge pressure of the old memories in his heart. Sidhu Dadu was a great friend of him from his college time; wise in various subjects, intelligent, happy and having a great heart Sidhu Dadu was a nearest one. He used to say, "You know captain Apu that the age can never be a unit of measurement in friendship!". How many times he had spent in this house; how many adda session he had with Sidhu Dadu here and in various topics like literature, history, politics, cinema, music etc.

He was a lonely person but he had an amazing child like heart. But the recent news.....the day before going abroad he last met with him and Dadu said, "Listen to me captain! Go wherever you want to but by mistake never forget your roots!" From our life this kind of people, friends, relationships are being lost under the ambitious files continuously. Apu wanted to cry but the habit of tears has faded away for years. He understood that he had lost his path and gone away. He has to come back to his roots. For the last time he stares at the house. He begins to walk ..... he walks on his path of roots. The way is longer, yet the root is away from him, he doesn't know whether he can return back or not! Still he continues to walk.....

# **"A HAUNTED HOUSE"**

-BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

WRITTEN BY - ARPITA PACHAL

Whatever hour you woke there was a door shutting. From room to room they went, hand in hand, lifting here, opening there, making sure—a ghostly couple.

"Here we left it," she said. And he added, "Oh, but here too!" "It's upstairs," she murmured. "And in the garden," he whispered. "Quietly," they said, "or we shall wake them."

But it wasn't that you woke us. Oh, no. "They're looking for it; they're drawing the curtain," one might say, and so read on a page or two. "Now they've found it," one would be certain, stopping the pencil on the margin. And then, tired of reading, one might rise and see for oneself, the house all empty, the doors standing open, only the wood pigeons bubbling with content and the hum of the threshing machine sounding from the farm. "What did I come in here for? What did I want to find?" My hands were empty. "Perhaps it's upstairs then?" The apples were in the loft. And so down again, the garden still as ever, only the book had slipped into the grass. But they had found it in the drawing room. Not that one could ever see them. The windowpanes reflected apples, reflected roses; all the leaves were green in the glass.



If they moved in the drawing room, the apple only turned its yellow side. Yet, the moment after, if the door was opened, spread about the floor, hung upon the walls, pendant from the ceiling—what? My hands were empty. The shadow of a thrush crossed the carpet; from the deepest wells of silence the wood pigeon drew its bubble of sound. “Safe, safe, safe” the pulse of the house beat softly.

“The treasure buried; the room...” the pulse stopped short. Oh, was that the buried treasure? A moment later the light had faded. Out in the garden then? But the trees spun darkness for a wandering beam of sun. So fine, so rare, coolly sunk beneath the surface the beam I sought always burned behind the glass. Death was the glass; death was between us, coming to the woman first, hundreds of years ago, leaving the house, sealing all the windows; the rooms were darkened. He left it, left her, went North, went East, saw the stars turned in the Southern sky; sought the house, found it dropped beneath the Downs. “Safe, safe, safe,” the pulse of the house beat gladly. “The Treasure yours.”

The wind roars up the avenue. Trees stoop and bend this way and that. Moonbeams splash and spill wildly in the rain. But the beam of the lamp falls straight from the window. The candle burns stiff and still. Wandering through the house, opening the windows, whispering not to wake us, the ghostly couple seek their joy.

“Here we slept,” she says. And he adds, “Kisses without number.”

“Waking in the morning—” “Silver between the trees—” “Upstairs—” “In the garden —” “When summer came—” “In winter snowtime—” The doors go shutting far in the distance, gently knocking like the pulse of a heart.

Nearer they come, cease at the doorway. The wind falls, the rain slides silver down the glass. Our eyes darken, we hear no steps beside us; we see no lady spread her ghostly cloak. His hands shield the lantern. “Look,” he breathes. “Sound asleep. Love upon their lips.”

Stooping, holding their silver lamp above us, long they look and deeply. Long they pause. The wind drives straight; the flame stoops slightly. Wild beams of moonlight cross both floor and wall, and, meeting, stain the faces bent; the faces pondering; the faces that search the sleepers and seek their hidden joy.

“Safe, safe, safe,” the heart of the house beats proudly. “Long years—” he sighs. “Again you found me.” “Here,” she murmurs, “sleeping; in the garden reading; laughing, rolling apples in the loft. Here we left our treasure—” Stooping, their light lifts the lids upon my eyes. “Safe! Safe! Safe!” the pulse of the house beats wildly. Wakinggg, I cry “Oh, is this your buried treasure? The light in the heart.”

[An extract from “A Haunted House & Other Short Stories” (1921) by Virginia Woolf]



# STORY OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST BATA FACTORY AND KONNAGAR VILLAGE

A winter morning in 1932. A middle-aged Czech gentleman is sitting in a shoe Shop on Chitpur Road. Queues of people are walking along the busy road ahead. Meanwhile, the gentleman's eyes were caught by a scene. An old rickshaw puller in a tattered dhoti and tattered clothes rests tiredly on the road. Blood oozes from the wound on his dusty, dirty leg. On Chitpur Road, there are numerous footprints of his dusty, bloody feet. After a little rest, the man again took the rickshaw and moved forward. This small incident left a permanent mark on the mind of the Czech.

In fact, very few people in India could afford to buy shoes. One crore shoes were imported from Japan in the market for thirty three crore Indians. As a result, the number of people walking barefoot is mostly high. A few days after this incident, it was seen that the middle-aged gentleman was standing for hours in a corner of the floating Howrah Bridge. The eyes of the gentleman are on the feet of the people. The gentleman's name is written in large letters on the first page of the notebook - Tomáš Bata.

From that day, the plan to build India's first bajaj factory began. Within a few days, Thomas found out that there is an abandoned oil mill (Hatirpul Oil Mill) in the Konnagar village of Gangotri. The Anderson Wright Company of Calcutta operated the oil mill, but it was shut down three years after the Great Depression of 1929. Before that, the oil mill was home to Denmark's docks and shipyards. Of course, those are from the last century.

In one night, everything, including the warehouses and offices of Calcutta, was brought to the bosom of Konnagar. A team of fourteen young Czechs came along with him. It is located in the southern bungalow of the factory. It is said that during the East India Company period, Mr. G. McNair had a liquor factory at the site of this oil mill. It was probably he who built this bungalow on the riverbanks of the Ganga. Within a few days, all the bushes on the factory premises were cleared and a volleyball court was built. With great enthusiasm, the workers dug a swimming pool with their own hands. A Bata sign board is placed on the gate of the factory. Right in the center of the factory, two large iron plates are placed to ring the bell. An iron jetty sits on the banks of the river Ganga. In fact, starting in 1925, bata shoes have been imported from Czechoslovakia for the past six years. After import, the price of those shoes is at least five to seven rupees. But in a country where the daily income of common people is only a few annas, it is not possible for them to buy these shoes.

The only way bata shoes are made is here in this country, with this country's leather, by this country's workers. Only then will the price of the shoes come down, import duties will be avoided, and the shoes will be able to challenge the cheap Japanese shoes. There was so much planning, but the road ahead was not smooth at all.

All the Czechs who came to Konnagar could not speak Bengali or English. As a result, they encountered challenges at every stage, from hiring new employees to gathering food, marketing, and developing a sales network. Second, the problem is very strange. At that time, there was no way to wear sleepers in this country. So, considering the hot and humid climate of India, Bata Company first started importing white sleepers. But the sale was not good at all because firstly, the white color gets dirty very easily, and secondly, the white color carries a message of mourning to the people of this country. Hence, Bata's journey began with a huge financial loss. As many locals were given free bata shoes and encouraged to wear them and walk together on Kolkata's busy streets, the Konnagar Bata Club grew over time. As a result, common people also gradually learned to recognize bata shoes. In just one year, Bata has expanded its retail chain to 86 cities in the country. A retail outlet has also been created in Konnagar, but there is still significant work to be done. Bata had not yet started the production of leather shoes on Indian soil.

On July 12, 1932, Sir Thomas was killed in a plane crash. The suddenness of this incident stopped the work for a few days, but Bata Jr., soon after taking charge, followed in his father's footsteps and carried forward the work with renewed vigor. It is agreed that the Konnagar factory will have a self-contained leather workshop where up to 40,000 leather shoes can be made per week.

In December 1932, a ship named Morava left the port of Zlinn for Calcutta with all the equipment and forty engineers. But the most surprising thing is that the Bata authorities have not given any capital to the Bata men of Konnagar to implement this whole project.

As a result of all these changes, when Japanese shoes were losing market share, the first blow came from Indian distributors who had been making a fortune by importing shoes from Japan. Influenced, they started campaigning against Bata across Konnagar. It was first reported that Bata had become bankrupt after the death of Thomas Bata. The Brahmins of North Konnagar strongly objected to the manufacture of these leather shoes. As a result, the movement against Bata started with the direct support of the local landlords. But even then, the Bata factory was flourishing. The size of the market doubled within a few years, and many families rose from poverty to prosperity within three years, but as the business grows, the onus is on Konnagar to scale up the space.

Bata Shoe Store, which was established in 1933 at the junction of Creeper Road and GT Road, closed down fifteen years ago today after a long run of more than seventy years, but still people call that place Bata Mor, and what about the Japanese shoes that wanted to compete with Bata on an equal footing? After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Japanese shipments to this country stopped completely. As a result, Japanese shoes also disappeared from the Indian market. In fact, when discussing Bata, everyone brings up Batanagar, but the heart of Konnagar was unknown in the early days of Bata.

B Y S U B H A N K A R   G O S H W A M I

# THE UNEXPLAINED OCCURRENCE



Ghosts can be found everywhere—and nowhere. Cultures all around the world believe in spirits that survive death to dwell in another realm. In fact, ghosts are one of the most widely accepted paranormal phenomena. Millions of people are interested in ghosts. The idea that the dead remain with us in spirit is ancient and appears in countless stories, from the Bible to Macbeth. It even spawned a folklore genre: ghost stories. Belief in ghosts is part of a larger web of related paranormal beliefs, including near-death experiences, life after death, and spirit communication. Such beliefs offer many people comfort—who doesn't want to believe that our departed loved ones are looking out for us or with us in times of need?

Many people have tried to—or claimed to—communicate with spirits over the centuries, but it has led to some very uncertain consequences, good and bad. Despite these early, sporadic spirit investigation attempts, it wasn't until recently that ghost hunting became a topic of widespread interest around the world. If you look long enough (and your threshold for evidence is low enough), any "unexplained" light or noise could be evidence of ghosts.

I'm also going to share a snippet of my own true story about seeing a "GHOST" or something. As clearly as I can remember, I was 7 years old when I encountered the phenomenon. It was the night before my 8th birthday. My elder brother and two of my neighboring sisters were decorating the hall for my birthday, and I was just watching over the chaos among them. We were alerted by a sudden cause in those moments of chaos, but we didn't care because it was nighttime and dogs, cats, or any night animal could occur. They continued with their work, and I continued to watch the chaos. But suddenly, something suspicious caught my attention, so I decided to look outside of my house. At first, I couldn't concentrate on a specific thing, but something so clear made my eyes stick there. I was so thrilled that I couldn't even move from there or call my brother. We had a small pond in front of our house that we had not used in years. I was hearing the sound of shuffling, dry leaves. But suddenly I saw a woman, more like a humpback old lady, slowly walking towards the pond in front of my house. I was stunned but afraid to speak. I was just standing there, helpless, watching that old lady go down the pond, but the most terrifying thing was that the pond was filled from top to bottom, and there was no way a person could get in and come out alive in that darkness. That humpback old lady vanished into the darkness, into the pond, right in front of my eyes.

When I recall this incident, it still sends shivers down my spine. But it has left me with a lot of questions about whether I really saw something or whether it was just a trick of the brain.

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# Hard work vs. Smart work

NANDINI KUMARI

**N** Smart workers are those who use the best strategy to get to their destination quickly.

Hard workers arWorking toward success needs a lot of planning before execution. Deciding on the right way to perform a task is inevitable. e people who get noticed by everyone. In reality, both smart work and hard work are important to gain popularity in any field

*Work*  
*Vs.*

**SMART      HARD**

ANY PERSON WHO HAS PROVEN TO BE SMART WOULD HAVE STARTED HIS OR HER CAREER OR PERFORMED WELL IN EXAMINATIONS BECAUSE OF HARD WORK IN THE BEGINNING. HARD WORK, IN FACT, GIVES PEOPLE MORE OF A SENSE OF CURIOSITY TO TASTE VICTORY.

We would have seen people debating in many places: "Does smart work lead to success, or does hard work lead to success?" It's a topic that needs insight because people get confused about their approach to performing tasks.

Smart work helps a person complete a task efficiently—more work in fewer hours with fewer resources and reduced efforts. Hard work also helps a person complete a task successfully, but time consumption will be higher, and there is no assurance if the task can be completed with fewer resources. A person who does hard work has to put in a lot of effort to complete a task. In short, with hard work, we can complete a task successfully, but in order to gain fame among people and get recognition, smart work matters a lot. Smart workers prioritize their tasks, completing the most important ones first and the rest later. This makes their job easy since they can act toward a solution depending on the priority. Smart Work allows you to see how much time you'll spend on each task before you start. With a plan for what needs to be done, smart workers will reach the success pole soon. In a sense, working hard in a smart way will lead to success in any task assigned to us. So, be it school, college, or a job, we should learn how to complete a task in less time with fewer resources and at the same time reach the end point without flaws. We should continually improve interpersonal skills, communication skills, time management skills, and many more skills to apply our smart work and hard work in the right places in the right way at the right time.

# LOVE, HATE AND REVENGE

-MINAKSHI GHOSH



Love can make one achieve heights of success or lead one to depths of despair. It depends on the kind of love one receives and gives in return. Love is giving, and it also forgives at times. But what happens when one is discarded under the false promise of love? Now, that can definitely lead to a great deal of pain and a feeling of betrayal. What happens when love turns to obsession, and that obsession turns to hatred? What do people do when they are betrayed in love, or rather, what can they do in the face of betrayal?

There are some movies that come and go, and then there are some that leave you thinking long after they have ended. Kartik Aryan starrer "Freddy" is one of those movies. Directed by Shashanka Ghosh, this psychological thriller tells the story of "Dr. Freddy Ginwala," a well-known dentist in the Mumbai region. He is shy, introverted, lonely, desperate, socially awkward, and haunted by a traumatic past. His only companion is his grandmother. Freddy finds peace in playing with his miniature planes and talking to his best friend - his pet turtle "Hardy." Rejected multiple times for his shy, awkward behavior, Freddy has been searching for a soulmate for quite a few years. There is a dawn in Freddy's gloomy life when he meets Kainaaz Irani at a wedding, and there is attraction at first sight. We don't really get to see a natural romance blossom between the two, and after some stalking and conversations with Kainaaz, who comes in for a tooth extraction, Freddy gets to know about her abusive husband, Rustom Irani.

The two, who are now lovers, hatch a plan to kill Rustom. Soon, Freddy is sucked into a quagmire where things are not what they seem to be.

In the second half of the movie, we see that Freddy is angered and hurt by Kainaz's betrayal. He makes up his mind to exact revenge on her and her boyfriend, Raymond Nariman.

It is almost entirely a Kartik Aaryan film. Aaryan plays the protagonist, Freddy Ginwala, in this revenge saga-meets-slasher film. What I like best about Freddy is how Kartik deftly depicts the complicated psyche of an outcast trying to fit in. The entire film is to be carried by Kartik's histrionics. Many may have found it to be a risk for Kartik Aaryan considering his image, but he nails it with tremendous conviction, getting into the skin of the character with ease, and the efforts are seen.

Alaya F. also makes her presence felt in bold, and her acting chops make the pain and suffering of Freddy more intense and relatable to the audience. But the way Kainaaz's character unravels is a high point of Freddy, but this aspect isn't explored enough. The film also has a shallow understanding of domestic abuse and its survivors and uses the theme just as a plot pusher, without the necessary seriousness.

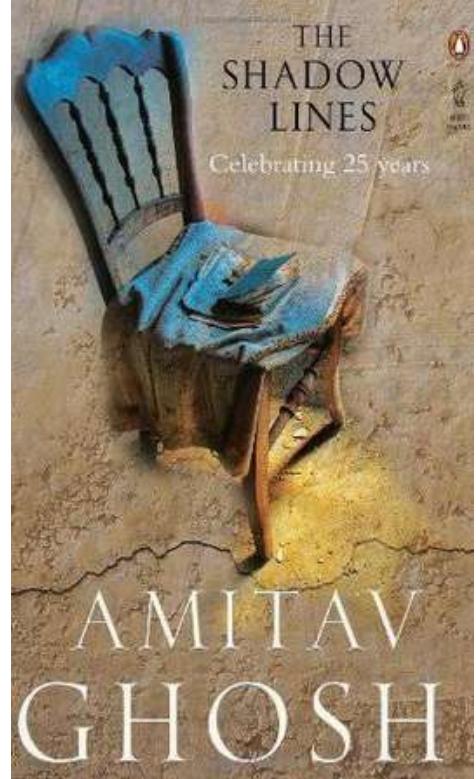
That's the problem with the entire film. It is a Kartik Aaryan showcase. The rest of the film exists as reasons we should sympathize with the dentist—hero or anti-hero? The screenplay isn't clear about who loves cleavage and faloodas. What a downer because the film began with a lot of promise.

Ayananka Bose's cinematography blends splendidly with the changing atmosphere—bright, dark, and mystical. Pritam's music goes with the flow.

Freddy is an altogether different experience for Kartik Aaryan fans, and it's pretty good in its dark, intense tones. Freddy is good enough and can't be ignored.



# FAMILY, PARTITION AND WORLD WAR II



## THE SHADOW LINES



### AMITAV GHOSH

Again and again, the author brings up the question of nationality and freedom. What 'being free' means to each one of them "I thought of how much they all wanted to be free; how they went mad wanting their freedom; I began to wonder whether it was I that was mad because I was happy to be bound; whether I was alone in knowing that I could not live without the clamour of voices within me." According to him no culture is bound to an island, the borders are only shadows – as the title suggests – created by men.

One can only hope to achieve the cultural neutrality presented in Ghosh's works. From hard-core nationalist Tham'ma to the free spirited Tridib, both hold a significant place in the novel as they are two divergent ways of approaching reality. The Shadow Lines is not the story of one person with a beginning and an end, but a social documentary perhaps. An engrossing saga with history as its centre, while love and conflict act as the orbit onto which the story moves forward.

BY AMRITA BARAUI

# HAS "HAAMI 2" MANAGED TO WIN THE HEARTS OF THE AUDIENCE?

-SHIBASIS GHOSH

DIRECTOR: SHIBOPROSAD MUKHERJEE, NANDITA ROY.

CAST: SHIBOPROSAD MUKHERJEE, ANJAN DUTTA, PROSENJIT CHATTERJEE(GUEST), KHARAJ MUKHERJEE, GARGI ROYCHOWDHURY.

RATING: 7/10



"Haami 2," directed by Shiboprasad Mukherjee and produced by Windows, earned the hearts of the audience. This film has particularly captivated the minds of children. The Windows Production House has had good successes at the box office. From "Baba Baby O" to "Belashuru," "Lokkhi Chele," and "Hami 2," all have been eye-catching successes at the box office.

After 'Ramdhanu' and "Hami," Shiboprasad - Nandita brings a different film to our society.

The main theme of this film is friendship that is still strong and how innocent it is for children is the main theme of this film. Shiboprasad Mukherjee aka Laltu Mandal's performance as the father is appreciated. Kharaj Mukherjee aka Prashant Chakraborty's performance as the acclaimed junior artist suppliers short-lived will make you laugh, and for a short span of time Anjan Dutt's aka Netai Jethu performance as the librarian will make you clap if you watch it.

There are two things to consider, such as our kids' needs and wants, which refer to what they really want.

On the other hand, regardless of how much rivalry arises between the two youngsters, this film demonstrated that the children do not ignore all of the hurdles and profits from the beginning to the end of the year.

From the beginning to the end of the year, the Windows Production House has had good profits from the beginning to the end of the year.

Gargi Roychowdhury alias Mitali Mandal's role as mother was considerably smaller and should have been better. Each song, under the music direction of Anindya Chatterjee, was beautifully composed by little musicians.

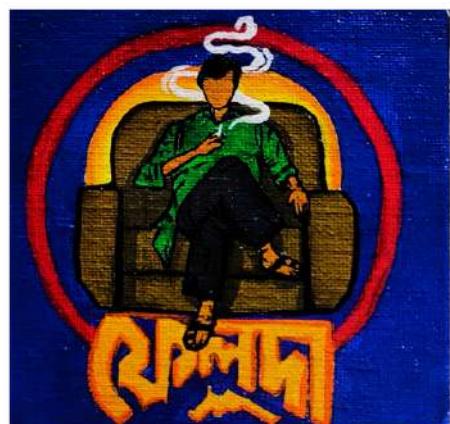
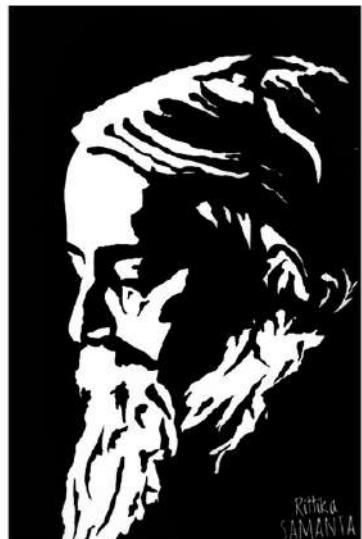
For the sake of length, the movie's latter act becomes a little dull, but overall the film is quite good. The most astonishing message that the filmmaker has been able to convey to his audience is that 'Religion is not a huge deal; we have one identity, and that is Humanity.'

After all, the picture is about children, but it is sure to touch the emotions of everyone from eight to eighty, and the audience is supposed to give up after a long time with a juvenile attitude.

# Art

COVER

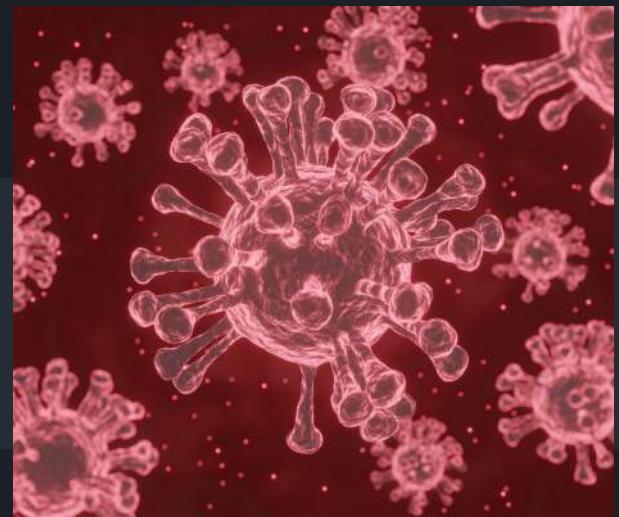
JANUARY EDITION



## Art Trend

# **COVID-19 Caused a loss of 2 Billion USD in the entire indian Film industry**

The COVID-19 pandemic imposed a long-lasting effect on the entire film industry. The impact not only includes financial losses but also the loss of popular celebrities and well-known artists. Several celebrity events and prize distribution ceremonies were canceled; however, social media trends changed, with prize winners being announced on YouTube. The producers of the films were forced to shut down the shooting process due to restrictions being imposed like lockdowns and less gathering at the filming area. Approximately 9,527 screens were shut down in early 2020, resulting in millions of dollars in losses. The OTT platforms have increased, but the problem lies in producing the movies. There are already supply chain and post-production disputes. Almost 1600 films are produced in India in all languages every year. The COVID-19 had a significant impact, resulting in approximately 200-250 films being produced in 2020. The number did increase, but it was comparatively less, and the numbers were unable to match the number of films being produced before. The daily wage workers working in the film industry were badly affected, causing a disruption in their livelihood.



Since the Indian film production industry is considered to be the world's largest in terms of the number of films produced each year, the pandemic effect shocked the entire world. The indefinite closure of film resulted in a loss of over \$2 billion USD to the Indian film industry. This amount is considered to be a lot when compared with the number of films produced outside the country. Following proper guidelines, a few changes were implemented, resulting in a safe filming environment for the crew.

-SAYAN GHOSH

# WEDNESDAY MURDER MYSTERY SERIES

Written by  
- Susmita Maiti

The series is based on the character “Wednesday Addams” by Charles Addams.

The story was created by Alfred Gough and Miles Millar.

The series is a thrilling and suspenseful artwork by the makers of it. The story evolves around one particular character “Wednesday Addams” who is in run to solve the monster mystery at her school. The series have rightly made it's place in the top five popular and chosen series of the season in Netflix. The simple plot of the story yet the surprises and continuous newness of the story has made it interesting for it's viewers to watch. This series has been depicted in the past as many comedy animation movies based on the life and family of Charles Addams which have been popular among young teenagers.

Now the premises of the story starts where Wednesday Addams, the eldest daughter of the family, gets rusticated from her old school because of her mischievous deeds as she threw some piranhas in the swimming pool to take revenge on a few guys who bullied her younger brother. Her deeds made her land to the place which became kind of hipped out throughout the series known as the “NEVER MORE ACADEMY”. This place was for the outcast, supernatural, werewolf, Serpents and many more such students who are seen as different from the common World.



The entry of Wednesday to the new school was fascinating and with the entry of the Monster's killing of a student in the woods. Now the Nevermore academy has its own rules and regulations which makes it a disciplinary step for the students out there to learn how to behave in the common world with peace and not through attempting any kind of murder or mischief. The hunt after Wednesday entered the school made her grow more interested in staying at the academy because it was in her blood as she was from the lineage of toxicity, and sadism and she was also writing a murder mystery novel which also consists of the same plots.

The town they were living in was facing a lot of similar killings where the police authorities were unable to find out the suspect. They were in a big dilemma that if the suspect is a monster or any animal. Every plot of this series is interconnected which makes it quite simple for the viewers to imagine the next step ahead of them but with the amazing cinematography and the unique elements added in the story always gives chills to the viewers. Now the police wanted to connect the dots of the murder with the Nevermore academy in particular so that they can close this academy for a lifetime. And unknowingly the dots of all pieces of evidence were giving directions towards the academy. Whereas Wednesday started to like the place because of its mysteries and with that now she was having a new psychic ability to get visions.

Now the visions were leading her toward a goal to save her community, her people and her academy. The whole series got its charm from the smallest of elements such as the euphoric design of the hostel to the fashion styles of every character. The series will make anyone have constant fascination for it because it gives the vivid layer by layer description of the history of the story. The viewers won't only love the story for its mystery but also for its charm like essence which many might have seen in an another web series like "STRANGER THINGS".

In this web series Timberton and the casting crew have added such an atmosphere that amazes the viewers. The series is more likeable to the youths because of the elements which are of this generation's attraction. The beauty of this series is not alone in the story because the story is no different than many other such mystery series but the presentation of the story made it gold for all viewers. Series like "Wednesday" have magic elements which have taken breathe away from its viewers and in the days to come hopefully it will be listed as one of the top series with such beauty.



# 1899 – web series review

MEGHA YADAV

**OTT Review :** 1899 – English series on Netflix

1899-English series Movie Review

**Release Date :** November 17, 2022

**Starring:** Emily Beecham, Andreas Pietschmann, Aneurin Barnard, Fflyn Edwards, Maciej Musial, Miguel Bernardeau, Mathilde Ollivier, Isabelle, Clara Rosagar and others

**Director:** Baran bo Odar

**Producers:** Pat Tookey – Dickson

**Music Director :** Ben Frost

**Cinematography :** Nikolaus Summerer

**Editor :** Anja Seimens

**Related Links :** [Trailer](#)



## Plus Points:

The writing of the show has been of the highest order. The way the plot is neatly and logically written deserves applause. Each episode has a solid twist toward the end that will surely blow minds. The one in the climax, in particular, is jaw-dropping. These twists are tough to guess, and the series gets very interesting in many sequences.

At the same time, the show isn't confusing, and the makers made the narrative simple and understandable for the common audience. In addition, the mysterious and eerie atmosphere is well created using the background score and the excellent production design. Though mainly the series revolves around Maura Franklin's character, there are multiple characters in the show who have backstories, and they drive the series forward. The emotional angle was brought in through these characters, adding depth to the show.

The series reaches a higher level after the midpoints, and the way the mysteries begin to unfold gives goosebumps. The casting director did a good job by roping in some of the best actors for the show. Emily Beecham, Andreas Pietschmann, Aneurin Barnard, Fflyn Edwards, and Maciej Musial are phenomenal in their roles. But the stand-out performance is from Emily Beecham, the main protagonist. The actress's expressions and dialogue delivery as a confused woman are spot-on, and she truly is the biggest asset of the series. A few scenes, like passengers jumping off the ship's deck and the storm taking over the ship, are executed brilliantly, showing the makers' craftsmanship. In addition, the characters hailing from different nations speak their own languages, bringing more authenticity and a new feel altogether to the series.

### **Minus Points:**

Having said that, the show also has its flaws. There are a few sequences that would bore the audience. Especially in the first three episodes, the proceedings' pace will test the viewers' patience. The character establishments take more time, and the makers should have made things exciting from the start.

For a series of this caliber, a faster-paced screenplay was essential. Also, a few scenes drag quite heavily, and the editing team should have shortened these sequences for a better engaging experience.

Though the show is good in its own way, as it is coming from the makers of Dark, the comparisons and expectations are evident, and Dark fans might be slightly disappointed with the simple plot line of 1899. In addition, the adult portions are more numerous, restricting the show's appeal from reaching a large section of the audience.

### **Technical Aspects:**

Technically, 1899 is easily one of the best shows. The art department's work is so exquisite that we won't be able to take our eyes off it even for one sequence. Though the entire series happens on a ship, the brilliance of the technical team doesn't bring that thought to our minds and immerses us profoundly in the series.

The tense atmosphere is super superbly by the stunning background score from Ben Frost, which will surely play on our minds even after the series. The cinematography by Nikolaus Summerer is world-class and perfectly contemplates the serious and spooky moods. The costumes department also did a splendid job replicating the 1890s period. The makers spent a bomb on the series, which is visible in every frame.

The only craft that disappoints is editing, which, if it had been better, would have created more impact. Coming to director Baran bo Odar, he has once again weaved his magic through 1899. The storytelling is nicely done without creating confusion, and credit should be equally given to Jantje Friese, the co-creator. The director's vision is too good, and he made good use of the other departments to translate his idea into reality. However, he could have been more careful with the pacing and other flaws.

### **Verdict:**

On the whole, 1899 is a mostly engrossing series. The stunning performances, excellent production design, and outstanding background score are the driving factors of the show. However, the slow pacing and boring sequences bog down the overall impact.



© Netflix

# MEET THE VIBRANT ART OF MITHILA

By

Sampurna Chakraborty

Rittika Samanta



Madhubani painting is a painting style originating from the Mithila region of India and Nepal. These paintings are created using a variety of medium, like twigs, nib-pens, brushes, and matchsticks. Even artists often used their fingers to create paintings. Madhubani painting found its way into the contemporary world after it has been practiced in various parts of Bihar.

Madhubani painting was traditionally considered as a feminine form of art and was practiced by women. This form of paintings symbolizes nature, deities, scenes from weddings and festivals and ancient epics, natural objects like sun, moon, plants and so on. All the spaces are generally filled with designs, natural objects, geometrical patterns, colours, flowers, leaves, motifs and so on. Although at the beginning this started with wall painting, but now it has now extended to different mediums like paper, cloth, wood, sarees and so on.

Madhubani paintings are of five different styles: Godna, Kohbar, Bharni, Tantrik and Katchni. These paintings are planned out in such a manner that each and every painting carries a symbolised message. Each and every object in these paintings symbolises something, like trees symbolise long life, elephants mean power, wisdom, loyalty, fish means fertility, peacocks means love, romance, lotus symbolises female gender, and so on. Paintings of Radha-Krishna, Ram-Sita, Shiva-Parvati, Ganesha, Maa Durga, and other God and Goddesses are very common in madhubani form. Depiction of God and Goddesses are mostly seen in Tantric style paintings.

For centuries, women have been making Madhubani art and visual imprints of their social behaviour to earn their daily bread and butter. Despite global recognition of this famous Madhubani culture women fail to escape the clutches of middlemen who are mostly concerned about their profits. Madhubani has got worldwide recognition for generations still fails to get a fair price for it. Mostly there are women artists who passed on this culture to their daughters. Almost all the artists are suffering from poverty and seem to live in mud houses. The most beautiful feature in Mithila is we get to see attractive Madhubani paintings on the wall of the mud houses. The origin of Madhubani painting was not for commercial purposes but the Brahmin pandits saw it as a good source of income. However, once again women were suppressed from making Madhubani paintings because it helped women to become independent and earn money. But the women artist did not stop from practicing this culture.

This could not make any huge difference in their livelihood, as middlemen gets a fair price for their art hence, leaving them in poverty. Sometimes the prices they earn are more than 70% of what they pay to the artists.

Today, the Indian government gave a special place to Madhubani artists and Madhubani paintings as they hold the Indian culture from generation to generation. Now we can find Madhubani painting painted on Indian railways. Indian Railways is spending about Rs1 lakh per coach to beautify it with Madhubani Paintings.



# ROLLING

LIGHTS, CAMERA AND ACTION

PRIYA KUMARI JHA



KOYENA ROY CHOWDHURY



PHOTOGRAPHY  
VISUALS FROM  
SOME OF THE PHOTO  
ENTHUSIASTIC  
STUDENTS OF THE  
SISTER NIVEDITA  
UNIVERSITY

MOUPARNA DUTTA

OINDRILA BANERJEE

# DANCE, MORE THAN JUST AN ART FORM

BY, TRISHA ROY



It is undeniable that dance is an art form as it exhibits emotion, character portrayal and tell stories. Dancing to music, the glittery costumes, the stage make-up and the big hairstyles are all imaginative artistic.

But dancing is a sport too. Since it requires great physical stamina, strong muscles and impressive flexibility. No matter what style of dance it is. The strength which dancers need, is almost as same as athletic as footballers, runners or swimmers.

I have been dancing since I was a 9-year-old child and I have been exploring dance ever since. It has taken me years of struggle, hard work, and research to learn to make one simple gesture. I am 21 now and still learning, and have realized that it would take as many years of concentrated effort to write one simple, beautiful sentence. Dance is the hidden language of the soul. When you are dancing, you take out all the stress and other things that later helps you as a person. As you boost your dancing skills, your confidence grows, and at some point, when you feel ready for it,

You may start performing in front of the audience. Whether you have stage fright or feel shy and awkward in front of others, once you start performing in front of others, it will all go away and as time passes, you'll be able to shake off your shyness and gain confidence. Dancing with different partners and interacting with them helps in getting comfortable around people and helps in socializing.

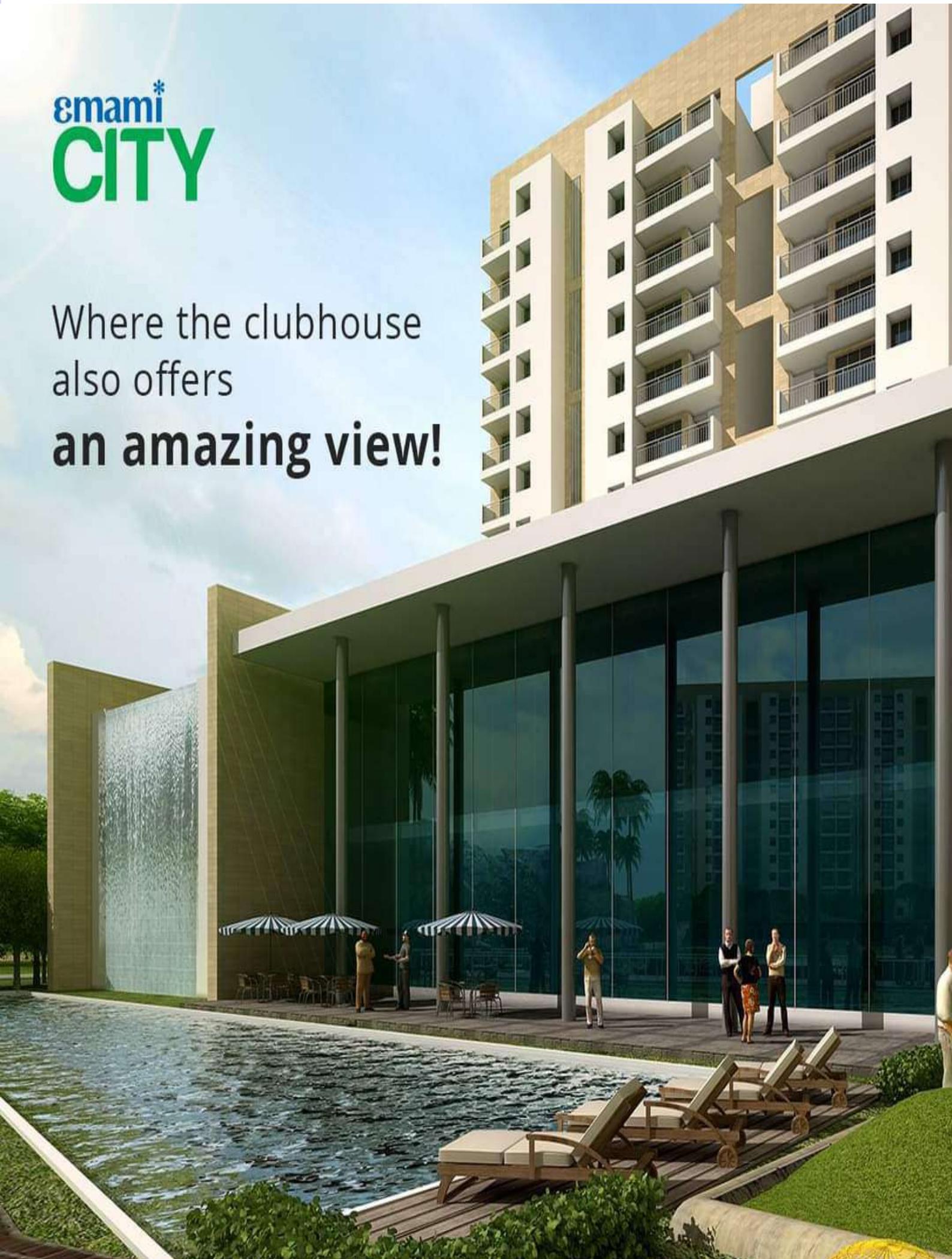


It helps in cultivating self-discipline, confidence, and positive body image, dancing gives you a sense of accomplishment while also boosting your concentration, memory, and focus. Dance is for everybody; anyone can dance regardless of their body structure. It teaches you to love yourself and burn the shackles of insecurity and accept the fact that we all are different and unique individuals. However, whether you consider dance to be an art or a sport or a stress burster, the important thing is to enjoy it!





Where the clubhouse  
also offers  
**an amazing view!**



# PLAN A TRIP TO BHITARKANIKA.

BY PARNITA KUNDU

## BHITARKANIKA: A CROCODILE HAVEN.

Winter vacations are already here and with that people have started their search for a good travel destination. For people who love to be surrounded by nature and wildlife, Odisha's Bhitarkanika is just the place. Bhitarkanika National Park is famous for its largest population of a saltwater crocodiles. Approximately 1671 saltwater crocodile's inhabitant the national reserve of 145 sq. km area. Not just crocodiles, Bhitarkanika is also a home for different wildlife like spotted dears, gharials, salt water lizards, wild boars, Indian python, and many more.



### How to reach Bhitarkanika?

There is no direct connection from Kolkata to Bhitarkanika. To reach Bhitarkanika we have to board a train from Howrah and travel to Bhadrak station and from there we can find reserved cars that can take us to Bhitarkanika or we might contact our hotel beforehand and they can send a car to pick us up. It is approximately a three-and-a-half-hour journey from Bhadrak to Bhitarkanika.



### Where to stay?

There is a lot of options to choose from but we can also stay at Panthanibash managed by Odisha Tourism development communication. It is a beautiful resort to stay in. We can also request the hotel to arrange for barbeques and other entertainment.

### What to do in Bhitarkanika?

Bhitarkanika is a heaven for all wildlife lovers. A boat will take us to the deeper section of the forest, where we can spot different wild lives and definitely crocodiles. It is a 2 nights and 3 days trip. If we want, we can extend our stay by one day to just enjoy the quietness of nature. Bhitarkanika offers us a feeling of wilderness along with an opportunity to watch plants and animals of various exotic species. This journey will give us the thrill and adventurous feeling that we miss in our daily lives.

So, this new year, let's spend our holidays at Bhitarkanika National Reserve, with friends, family and nature.



# PRECIOUS COLLECTIONS



Can we imagine someone holding feelings and emotions for "Collectibles" in this world of fleeting emotions? When the world lacks love for living creatures, there is someone who, along with living beings, shares the same love and compassion for some non-living objects as well. Unimaginable, right?

Sushil Kumar Chatterjee, also known as Nakku Babu, is 96 years old and lives in a three-story house on Nalin Street. He enjoys traveling, exploring, and collecting "treasures." Words will fall short to describe his love and emotions for his "collection." He has thousands of stories hidden in his room, which provide one not only with knowledge but also with moral values. He was 11 years old when he developed his passion for collecting "antiques." He even mentioned that he started out collecting stones and then developed an interest in antiques. His own research on sound and nature's sound is worth mentioning, and that is why many of his collections are related to sound. His interactions with great personalities like Tagore, Netaji, Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, and many more are really interesting and fascinating to hear. They were really interesting! His collections will leave anyone awestruck. Among his collectibles are a partially functional set of headphones made by Thomson-Houston (a British company) from 1926, a World War I movie camera, and a 1912 pocket microscope. A Swiss-made stopwatch, A British indigo-planter calling bell decorated with a cut-glass diamond on the top, A 1901 compass and sundial clock used by the Australian navy during World War I, an early 35mm reel projector, and a World War I army receiver.



ALONG WITH ALL THESE, 2500 PICTURES OF OLD KOLKATA'S LANDSCAPE CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN HIS ROOM. DUE TO A LACK OF SPACE, HE HAS OFTEN DUMPED COLLECTIBLES AND HAS NOT KEPT A RECORD OF THEM. HIS FAME IS NOT RESTRICTED TO THE GREAT PERSONALITIES OF OUR COUNTRY; HE HAS ALSO TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IS VERY POPULAR AMONG FOREIGNERS.

THE ROOM AND ITS "TREASURES" CAN LEAVE ANYONE MESMERIZED, AND HIS LOVE AND CARE FOR HIS "COLLECTIBLES" CAN TEACH ANYONE THE REAL MEANING OF VALUES, LOVE, EMPATHY, AND EMOTIONS. HIS ENTHUSIASM AND LOVE FOR HIS COLLECTIONS SURELY GIVE INSPIRATION TO MANY TO CHERISH THE LITTLE JOYS OF LIFE. HIS ATTACHMENT TO HIS COLLECTIONS IS NO LESS THAN A MOTHER'S FOR HER CHILDREN.

# A BEAUTIFUL PICNIC SPOT DEUL



**A** picnic is a type of emotion as well as an excursion organized with families or friends in which everyone gathers in one location. It can be done both indoors and outdoors.

During the winter holidays, people in our countries, particularly families, plan exciting picnics, and the weather is generally pleasant. In picnics, everyone cooks meals, eats together, plays various types of games, and spends the whole day with special people.

So, I know a very beautiful place, basically a picnic spot, where you can go easily after a hectic schedule to get some refreshment. The name of the destination is Deul. This is a great picnic spot, amusement park, and historical place. Deul is well-known for the Garh Forest, which is located near the Ajay River. You can enjoy the quiet and serene atmosphere. There is a temple constructed in the forest of Garh. It is said to be 600–700 years old and a beautiful piece of Bengali architecture from the old ages. Children can enjoy the fun rides at the resort. The lawn garden is also very peaceful and has beautiful seasonal blossoms to create the best ambience for you to have a great holiday. Sometimes, you can also spot some folk singers singing the Bengali folk Baul song as well. So, to take a break from our busy routine and spend some time with our families or friends, which is very important for our emotional well-being, we must visit this place.

Trisha Chatterjee

# SUDDEN TREKKING IN THE LAP OF HIMALAYAS

- DISHA SAHA



Is it true that spontaneous plans are usually the best? Is this also true for a spontaneous trek? Consider a sudden hike at a height of 3636 meters above sea level. Doesn't it sound intimidating? Readers will be taking a terrifying, abrupt journey through the writer's vision in this article. The vacation was packed for seven days, but who thought it would wind up being such an exciting experience? The first day the writer and her colleagues spent amidst greenery, nicknamed "Manebhanjan," is one such location where visitors may observe antique Land Rovers in operation. They spent the evening exploring the gorgeous countryside.

They were all ready for the next day with Tonglu after a restful night. Tonglu is a small village with modest amenities, located between Manebhanjan and Sandakphu. Travelers usually arrive at Tonglu and spend the night before continuing on to Sandakphu. One of the highlights of this trip was the writer's first sighting of blooming rhododendrons on the route to Tonglu.

# ZOOLOGICAL PARK DURING WINTER IN KOLKATA



Alipur Chiriakhana (Chiria means "animal" and Khana means "down place") is one of the most popular winter tourist attractions not only in Kolkata but also in India. You will find here a large number of crowd-pulling large animals like the Royal Bengal Tiger, African Lion, Jaguar, Hippopotamus, One-horned Rhinoceros, Reticulated Giraffe, Grant's Zebra, Dromedary Camel, and Elephant. Some attractive kangaroos have been taken recently from Australia.

There have a collection of attractive rare species birds like, large parrots including Macaw species, Conures species, Lorie's species and lorikeets species; Turacos and Hornbills; the Golden Pheasant, Lady Amherst's Pheasant and Swinhoe's Pheasant and some large flightless birds like the Emu, Cassowary and Ostrich etc.

Alipore Zoological Garden, usually called Alipore Zoo (Alipur Zoo) or Kolkata Zoo, was established in 1875. It first opened to the public on May 6, 1876. Locally, it is called Alipur Chiriakhana or Kolkata Chiriakhana in West Bengal. This garden covers approximately 20.4 hectares (50.4 acres).

The first Superintendent of the Zoological Garden of Alipore, Rai Bahadur Ram Brahma Sanyal, played an important role in its development. Today, it is the main tourist attraction in Kolkata. Especially in the winter, people of all ages were waiting in front of the ticket booths at the zoo.

The promenade outside the zoo looked much as it did before, with hawkers peddling toys, soft drinks, and peanuts in addition to the normal crowds at the fast food shops. People of all ages were seen enjoying themselves inside the zoo and making their way to see their favorite animals. This fairy tale explores several themes, such as individuality, leadership, and compassion through the journey of a young boy who finds out he is heir to the throne.



The story fulfills the aim to present stories of "coming of age" and "getting of wisdom." The two areas that attracted the most visitors were the chimpanzee and tiger enclosures.

An employee at the zoo reported that more than 15,000 people visited on Sunday. According to an authority, the foot traffic on weekends would have been roughly 45,000.

before the outbreak. According to the official, the crowd has been growing since November, when the average weekend footfall was around 5,000. The Alipore Zoo authorities have also thought of taking special care of animals in winter as well as allowing people to enjoy them.

"We will begin making proper arrangements inside enclosures in the last week of November," AZG director Asis Kumar Samanata said.

The Alipore Zoological Gardens (AZG) administration is getting ready to make extra preparations for keeping the animals comfortable during the winter. Since they have cold blood, snakes require special care during the winter. They are unable to adjust their body temperature to the environment. As a result, blankets will be stored within the snake-containing enclosures. Special grass layers have been spread out on the cement floors for the birds and monkeys. The elephants at the zoo will receive an additional jaggery dose, according to sources.

The Alipore Zoo is most famous for having been a home to several indigenous species of mammals, reptiles, and birds for over 140 years. The most famous of them is the now-extinct Aldabra giant tortoise "Adwaita," who lived for 250 years before dying in the year 2006. The place becomes the most crowded during the winter months, which are the peak tourist season in West Bengal, and footfall includes visitors from all over the country.

*Madhupriya Chanda*



# VANDE BHARAT

## The Next-Gen

BY SOUMYA NAYAK

'Train 18' is a high-speed, fully air-conditioned, intercity electric multiple unit (EMU) train developed by the Indian Railways. Train 18, also known as the 'Vande Bharat Express' and was introduced in 2018. It is currently being operated by the Indian Railways. The Vande Bharat was designed and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai under the leadership of Sudhanshu Mani and was intended to replace the Shatabdi Express as the premier intercity train in India. The service was named 'Vande Bharat Express' on 27 January 2019. The train was launched on 15 February 2019. Vande Bharat Express is designed to operate at speeds of up to 160 km/h (99 mph) and features a number of amenities, including comfortable seating, CCTV cameras, on-board WiFi, stone-pelting protection on windows, automatic doors, and a multimedia entertainment system. It is equipped with advanced safety features, including an automatic fire detection and suppression system. Train 18 has replaced the traditional locomotive-hauled trains on several routes in India and is considered to be a major step forward in the modernization of the Indian Railways. It has received widespread praise for its comfort, speed, and efficiency. The route for Train 18 varies, as it travels for different routes and destinations. In general, Train 18 operates on routes within India, connecting major cities and towns. Some examples of routes that Train 18 may operate on include Delhi to Varanasi, Chennai to Mysuru, New Delhi to Andhra Pradesh, Bilaspur to Nagpur, Delhi to Katra, Mumbai to Ahmedabad and New Jalpaiguri to Howrah. It is important to note that the specific route for Train 18 may change depending on the day and the destination. Vande Bharat is equipped with modern amenities and is intended to provide a comfortable and convenient travel experience for passengers. It has a top speed of 160 km/h and is capable of operating on both broad gauge and meter gauge tracks. The train has been met with mixed reviews, with some praising its speed and comfort, while others have criticized its cost and reliability.



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# The lost FACTORY



## My Opinion

THE HINDUSTAN MOTORS is an Indian automotive manufacturer based in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. It is a part of the Birla Technical Services conglomerate. The company was the largest car manufacturer in India before the rise of Maruti Udyog.

One of the original three car manufacturers in India, founded in 1942 by Mr. B.M. Birla, it was a leader in car sales until the 1980s, when the industry was opened up from protection. All through its history, the company has depended on government patronage for its sales and for survival by eliminating competition. Manoj Jha was the Managing Director who stepped down from the post on 21 February 2012.

On 11 February 2017, Hindustan Motors executed an agreement with Peugeot SA for the sale of the Ambassador brand, including the trademarks, for a consideration of ₹80 crore. The tie-up entails two joint venture agreements between the companies of the two groups.

## HISTORY:

Hindustan Motors Limited (HML) was India's pioneering automobile manufacturing company. It was established just before the Indian Independence Act 1947, in 1942 by B. M. Birla of the industrialist Birla family in collaboration with Lord Nuffield of Morris Motors, who were already selling their cars in India. Commencing operations in a small assembly plant in Port Okha near Gujarat, the manufacturing facilities later moved to Uttarpara, West Bengal in 1948, where it began the production of the Morris-designed Hindustan Ambassador. The HM-Mitsubishi Motors Plant is in Tiruvallur near Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

# Key Technologies for the Development of the Metaverse

The metaverse technology does not yet exist in its entirety, although metaverse-like aspects may be found on various platforms. Video games currently provide the closest metaverse experience available. Game developers have explored the limits of video games by holding in-game events and creating virtual economies.

## What is Metaverse

To create your own, choose a topic that interests you. It can be anything from fashion and beauty to travel and the news. Once you have your overall theme, you can start brainstorming the content. Just starting? Design a memorable masthead with an equally memorable name. This goes on the cover and sets up the branding for your entire magazine. What style are you going for? Is it playful? Classic? Bold? A good masthead captures the essence of your magazine, so it needs to be flexible, meaningful, and consistent enough for future issues.

## Origin of the Metaverse

Neal Stephenson created the idea "metaverse" in 1992. In his novel "Snow Crash," Stephenson describes the metaverse as a virtual world where humans communicate with digital avatars. Neal Stephenson created the idea "metaverse" in 1992. In his novel "Snow Crash," Stephenson describes the metaverse as a virtual world where humans communicate with digital avatars. The term "metaverse" is created by combining the words "meta" and "universe" in the novel. However, the metaverse's meaning and breadth did not cease evolving in 1992. Interactive worlds, sometimes known as early metaverses, were first presented in video games with titles such as Second Life. The actual narrative of the film "Ready Player One" is another example of the metaverse in popular culture. A few firms are now working to make the metaverse a reality.

## Importance of Metaverse

These ethical considerations are why it's critical for company owners to understand the many technologies that are propelling the Metaverse ahead, as well as the impact they may have on users, the environment, and society. Businesses may create new methods to enhance our society with constructive applications of virtual reality connections by comprehending these technologies, which will enrich our world and keep the digital economy growing.

### Metaverse Technologies: 5 Keys to Success

Here is the list of 5 technologies that help to develop the metaverse:

#### Edge Computing

Edge computing, popular in commercial environments, allows for quicker data transfer with fewer delays, which is essential for high-quality virtual reality experiences. When millions of individuals across the world are enjoying virtual experiences, the cloud simply cannot manage all of the computing power required to keep the system running.

#### AR/VR Technologies

The actual world is merged using digital graphic components and characters. It's more user-friendly than virtual reality and can be used on practically any smartphone or digital device with a camera. Users may observe their environment with dynamic digital images with AR applications. VR operates in a unique way. It creates a computer-generated virtual environment, similar to the metaverse idea.

#### Artificial intelligence (AI)

AI has the ability to analyze large amounts of data quickly. AI algorithms, when combined with machine learning approaches, may learn from prior iterations and historical data to provide unique outputs and insights.



ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE



# WHAT IS AUGMENTED REALITY?

The term “augmented reality” refers to reality that has been supplemented with interactive digital elements. Users may activate a smartphone’s camera, observe the actual world around them on the screen, and rely on an AR application to improve that environment. Augmented reality (AR) is an experience in which designers employ computer-generated input to augment aspects of the user’s physical surroundings. From GPS overlays to music to video, designers create inputs that adapt to real-time changes in the user’s environment. This can include graphics, videos, GPS overlays, and more.

About 190 million people worldwide suffer from visual impairments, such as blindness. Augmented reality may be able to transform their lives. One of the primary issues that disabled people suffer from is a lack of independence, especially when it comes to day-to-day tasks—something that AR can and is helping to improve substantially. For example, a recent study has successfully used augmented reality (AR) to promote independence for people with impairments in everyday activities like shopping, based on developments in GPS and current innovative technology. According to these experiments, users may acquire product data only by placing their AR smartphone or tablet on the shelf, and the products are then collected in a virtual cart.



Augmented reality and virtual reality are becoming more prevalent, and this trend is projected to continue shortly. The relevance of both technologies has been summarized in this article.

**Apps for mobile devices**-By delivering multi-sensory interaction, the combination of AR and VR improves the experience of utilizing mobile applications. Mobile gaming apps like Pokémon Go and Tilt Brush have provided a fantastic gaming experience. It is a well-known truth that entertainment enriches people's everyday lives, and AR and VR elements boost this purpose significantly. The user interface is crucial when it comes to app development. This contributes to a higher level of user engagement. This is something that mobile app developers must be aware of. VR- and AR-related apps also boost user engagement. Users will gain real-world experience or something akin to it. As a result, they will be thoroughly immersed in a particular application. This will also aid in enhancing the app's and users' engagement. Aside from that, it improves consumer satisfaction in several ways.

# SUCCESS OF ARGENTINA IN FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

By, SNEHAL CHAWDHURY

Argentina got off to a rough start at the World Cup after a surprising defeat against Saudi Arabia. Messi was the lone goal scorer for his team, but it wasn't enough as they fell 2-1. The squad rebounded against Mexico with a 2-0 victory with Messi and the young Argentine midfielder Enzo Fernandez finding the back of the net in the second period. They scored a fabulous victory against Poland on Wednesday (30 November) with their 2-0 win sending them into the round of 16. Mac Allister and Julian Alvarez scored for the winning side. The Albiceleste were in command for most of their match against Australia, with Messi and Julian Alvarez scoring goals in the 35th and 57th minutes, respectively. Australia made a late push when they scored 77 minutes into play, but ultimately, Argentina secured their place in the quarter-final. Then, the squad survived a thriller on 9th December against the Netherlands which had not lost in more than a year to advance to the semi-final. It was 2-2 through extra time with Argentina taking it 4-3 on penalties. La Albiceleste seemed to be cruising, having taken a 2-0 lead off goals from Nahuel Molina and Messi. But, then, Wout Weghorst scored - twice. Heroically, with just seconds remaining in regulation play. Messi and his team were aggressive during the 30 minutes of extra play that followed but failed to take the lead. The match went to a shootout where the superstar set the tone with an easy, first goal. But a miss from Enzo Fernandez in the fourth spot meant the drama would continue all the way through to the fifth and final shot from Lautaro Martinez. Martinez held his nerve and kept Argentina in the global tournament. In the semi-finals, Argentina cruised to a 3-0 win over Croatia. Messi opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 34th minute to take him to 11 World Cup goals, one ahead of the previous national record held by Gabriel Batistuta. Five minutes later, Julian Alvarez made it two as Argentina went into the break 2-0 to the good.



*Argentina's road to final*

And with 20 minutes to go, Messi went on a fantastic run before setting up Alvarez for his second of the night to kill any hopes of a Croatian comeback. At his fifth World Cup, Messi, 35, has finally achieved his dream having collected a runners-up medal in Brazil in 2014. The whole Argentina team was outstanding throughout the world cup and eventually managed to win the World Cup after 36 years. This is the third International trophy for Argentina under the coaching of Lionel Scaloni. Previously they won Copa America and Finalissima under Scaloni's guidance.

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# MESSI: THE MYTH

BY, TANMOY DEY



We all know about Lionel Messi's winning the world cup recently but the journey we don't, it has not happened in one day. In the year 1987, in Rossario one of the biggest city in Argentina Messi was born. At a very little age, Messi surprised everyone with his ability. At first, he played for local clubs in Argentina but soon he became more famous. Soon the famous Spanish club FC Barcelona signed him but in childhood, Messi was surrounded by some problems, he had a major health problem, financial crisis etc. but after all the hurdles he joined Barcelona academy and soon was promoted to the senior team and then the rest of history we all know. He won a record seven Ballon d'Or awards and a record six European Golden Shoes. Until leaving the club in 2021, he had spent his entire professional career with Barcelona, where he won a club record 35 trophies, including 10 La Liga titles, Seven Copa del Rey titles and four UEFA Champions League. Messi holds the records for most goals and assists in La Liga, most hat-tricks in La Liga and he had the most goals by a player for a single club also. Now he plays as a forward for Ligue 1 club PSG. After seeing all of these statistics there is no question about his greatness. But under the national team Argentina, his trophy cabinet does not look like his club trophy cabinet.

His record with the national team is impressive but the international trophy numbers are not justified by his name. Whenever any debates are arranged for proving he is the greatest there is always one negative point, he had no international trophies. Back-to-back losses in knock-out stages in tournaments like the world cup, and Copa America one time the Argentina team almost broke down, depressed Messi announced his retirement from the national team. At that time Messi was surrounded by Many trolls, criticism etc. But after all of this, he made a comeback, changed his retirement decision and wore Argentina's jersey for 2nd time.



In the year of 2021, he won his first international trophy Copa America for his nation and then won the finalissima and at last in the year of 2022, he won his most desirable trophy "The world cup" and won the award of the best player of the tournament (Golden Ball). The 35year old legend also becomes the most goal scorer in the world cup from Argentina. Everyone said that this is a poetic justice that we all wanted to see. At last, all debates are over and we can say that Through action, a man becomes a hero, Through constant hard work, a hero becomes a legend and through time, a legend becomes a myth...

# 20 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

by, Atish Ranjan Das

1. Only Europe and South America are the two continents having countries that have won the FIFA World Cup.
2. Till now, 80 countries have played in the finals of the FIFA World Cup.
3. The first-ever Football World Cup was held in 1930 in Uruguay with 13 invited teams. The trophy was won by Uruguay.
4. Brazil has won the most Football World Cups of any country, 5, followed by Germany and Italy with 4 each.
5. Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score at 5 different World Cups (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022).
6. Brazil is the only country to have played in each and every Football World Cup.
7. Hakan Sukur scored the fastest goal ever in a World Cup, till now. He scored for Turkey 10.89 seconds into the match vs. South Korea in 2002.
8. The first-ever clean sheet was kept by Jimmy Douglas of the USA in the 1930 World Cup. The USA defeated Belgium 3-0 in that match.
9. Just Fontaine of France holds the record for the most goals scored in a single World Cup, with his 13 goals in 1958.
10. Luis Monti was the first player to represent two different countries in World Cup history. (Argentina 1930 and Italy 1934) Five other players have followed him:
  - Robert Prosinecki (Yugoslavia 1990, Croatia 1998)
  - Robert Jarni (Yugoslavia 1990, Croatia 1998)
  - José Santamaría (Uruguay 1954 and Spain 1962)
  - Ferenc (Hungary 1954 and Spain 1962)
  - Mazola (Brazil 1958, Italy 1962)



11. The fastest sent-off in World Cup history was Jose Batista of Uruguay at just 56 seconds in 1986 against Scotland.
12. In 1994, Oleg Slanko of Russia scored five goals against Cameroon, setting the record for the most individual goals in a match.
13. A Dog named Pickles found the World Cup trophy in 1966 from under a bush, after it was stolen from Methodist Central Hall in Westminster.
14. The only Substitute to ever score a hat-trick in the Football World Cup was Laszlo Kiss of Hungary in 1982 in Spain. Hungary defeated El Salvador 5-1 in that game.
15. No country has ever managed to win the World Cup with a foreign Head Coach.
16. The first-ever World Cup match was played on July 13, 1930, between France & Mexico in Montevideo, Uruguay. France won 4-1.
17. The first-ever World Cup goal was scored by Lucien Laurent of France in the same match (France vs. Mexico, 1930).
18. With 16 goals in 24 games (From 2002 and 2014 World Cups), Miroslav Klose holds the record for the most goals scored in the Football World Cup history.
19. The first-ever World Cup penalty shootout was between France vs West Germany in the semi-final of 1982. West Germany won the penalty shootout by a score of 5-4.
20. Only 8 countries have won the Football World Cup out of the 22 tournaments held till now, as of 2022.





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