

# THE ECHO

Mahindra University's Official Newspaper

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## Tarang: Celebrating Cultural Vibrancy, Unity and Tradition

Sravya Prasen Puvvala, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy: Media Club

As the sun set, the gentle lights decked on either sides of the main campus amplified the serenity of the evening. The crowd entered wearing their finest traditional attire to witness an elegant opening, a Kuchipudi performance by Nikhila. The evening's celebration allowed various groups to embrace their roots, as well as cultural diversity. The evening just got better with the semi-classical fusion dance performances by Pragati and Janvi, followed by Dhriti and Sarayu's folk freestyle dance.

The crowd gathered, their eyes glued to the stage in anticipation and feet tapping to the rhythm of Sherwin's band, which took center stage. They delivered a captivating fusion of Hindi and Telugu melodies that seemed to cast a spell over everyone. As the last notes hung in the air, the atmosphere was charged with zest and admiration. The stage then welcomed a series of classical dance performances and with every twirl and beat the crowd awed with great delight. 'Voguenze', the fashion club, along with 'Kalakriti', the cultural club lined up an exceptional display of students doing a ramp walk, adorning their glamorous array of

attires, which evoked an ecstatic and overjoyed response from the audience. The models had walked the stage looking very professional and spectacular. One student reminisced, "The ramp walk gave us the jolt of energy we needed to keep us wanting more, as this event exceeded all expectations." Amidst the commotion, sweet tunes by Lekhya filled the air, followed by Varuni and the band which had a great playlist to keep the large crowd hooked.

The dhol, which is an instrument popular in Punjab for both folk, as well as other genres such as bhangra, resonated throughout. It had a pulsating and rhythmic tune which was contagious, the crowd burst out dancing and indulged themselves in the hypnotic beats. Just when everyone was feeling a bit low that the night almost came to an end, our very own band, 'Rolling Paper' had entered the scene. They were very synchronised and had an melodious list of songs, which broke down all cultural and languages barriers. There weren't multiple identities that night and the event achieved to unite the tapestry of cultural differences.

A fourth year student, Aditya, had deep emotions. It reminded us exclaimed "Honestly, I was a bit that we are Indians and there disappointed when I heard there should be no discrimination or wouldn't be a DJ. But the live bands racism on any basis. The and performances were truly out of the magnificent performances by all this world." the participants and notes from

The RP Band had just the right closing RP faded, but the crowd kept act to end this fantastic evening on a asking for more. The good and happy note. The last song management and organising played was Vande Mataram', which committee outdid themselves instilled a great sense of pride and and made this year's Tarang, just patriarchy, stirring as memorable as ever.

## The India-Canada Dispute

Vegesna Rishi Varma, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy: Kerala Kaumudi

The ongoing dispute between Canada and India concerning the killing of a Pro-Khalistan activist has intensified. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a President of a Sikh temple in Surrey, Canada was assassinated on June 18th, 2023. In the wake of this incident, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada declared that his government is launching an investigation into "credible allegations of a potential connection" between the Indian government and the assassination of Hardeep Singh on Canadian soil. The Indian government quickly denied any role in the assassination, calling the allegations absurd. This development has exacerbated tensions, straining diplomatic, political, trade, and bilateral relations between the two nations.

A year prior, the Indian government leveled accusations against Hardeep Singh, implicating him in an assault on a Hindu priest in India and

offering a reward for information that could lead to his arrest. Additionally, the government alleged his association with the Khalistan Tiger Force, a recognized terrorist organization. The origins of the Khalistan movement can be traced back to the 1970s when the Sikh community aspired to create a separate homeland. While the movement witnessed a surge in violence during the 1980s, its momentum waned with the intervention of the Indian Armed Forces. Consequently, the Indian government has maintained a vigilant watch over Sikh organizations ever since.

India voiced its concern of the Sikh extremism in Canada in the recent G20 summit but Trudeau made it clear that they will not allow violence. This back-and-forth led to the countries expelling the top diplomats. Unfortunately, the deterioration in India-Canada



relations didn't end there; it has now resulted in the indefinite suspension of their substantial \$17 billion bilateral trade partnership. But the reduction in the flow of Indian immigrants, which constitute almost one in five of Canada's recent immigrants, could be even more devastating than the deterioration of trade relations.



Illustration: K. Shri Harshitha

While Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasizes Canada's intent not to "provoke or cause problems" with India, he has urged the Indian government to approach the matter with utmost seriousness and collaborate with Canadian intelligence to uncover the truth. Unfortunately, the current state of relations between the two countries does not appear to be easing the tension. As India continues to deny the allegations and diplomatic relations with Canada further deteriorate, the effects ripple beyond these two nations. The escalating tension poses potential drawbacks for the 600 Canadian companies operating in India and the 3.2 lakh Indian students pursuing education in Canada, highlighting the far-reaching implications of this strained relationship.

# Israel-Hamas Conflicts’ Global Trade Ripples and Oil Price Surge

Medhansh Bairaria, News Editor

The recent surprise attack by Iran-backed Hamas on Israel, resulting in over 1,000 casualties, has raised concerns about its potential repercussions on global trade, particularly India, and the oil market.

## Global Trade Impact:

This sudden escalation in geopolitical tensions has reversed the recent fall in oil prices, stoking inflationary concerns. Additionally, the conflict has had broader impacts on global trade and financial markets. Stock markets globally have experienced volatility, with investor sentiment affected by geopolitical uncertainty. Safe-haven assets like gold have seen increased demand, reflecting risk aversion in the investment landscape.

## India's Trade Relations:

The immediate impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict on India's foreign trade is limited. The geographical scope of the conflict is confined, allowing Israel to continue using its ports without disruption. The biggest Israeli port, Haifa, is over 150 km away from Gaza, while the second-largest, Ashdod, is even further inland. India's primary trade route with Israel goes through the Eilat port on the Red Sea, which has experienced no disruptions. During FY23, India's exports to Israel increased significantly, recording a 76.2 per cent year-on-year growth to reach \$8.4 billion. This surge was driven by petroleum product exports, making India a major processor of cheaper Russian crude, and Israel has become the second-largest market for Indian automotive fuel exports. In contrast, India's imports from Israel primarily consist of machinery and equipment, pearls, diamonds, and other precious and semi-precious stones. In FY23, India's

imports from Israel were \$2.3 billion, reflecting a 24.4 per cent year-on-year decrease.

## Oil Price Impact:

The Israel-Hamas conflict has driven up oil prices significantly, with Brent crude oil futures rising by approximately 5 per cent to \$88.76 a barrel, and US WTI crude

higher crude oil prices. Historical data shows that following geopolitical events, such as the outbreak of conflict, oil prices often experience initial spikes that tend to stabilize over time. Therefore, while short-term volatility is expected in the oil market, it's crucial to monitor how the situation evolves



Photo Courtesy: Times Now

increasing by 5.1 per cent to \$87.02 a barrel. These price spikes are a direct result of concerns about potential disruptions in the major oil-producing region.

## Short-term Outlook:

In the short term, oil prices may experience a notable 10-12 per cent increase due to the immediate reaction to the conflict. The US, in support of Israel, may release its oil reserves to stabilize prices and control inflation. This measure is also aimed at preventing Russia from benefiting from

and its ongoing impact on oil markets.

## Takeaway:

The Israel-Hamas conflict has led to a significant surge in oil prices and introduced uncertainty into global financial markets. While India's trade has not been significantly affected at this stage, the broader impact on global trade and financial markets is a subject of concern. Monitoring the situation's evolution remains critical, as it could affect investor sentiment and economic stability worldwide.

# The New Beginnings of Enigma

Content Team, Enigma

Enigma, the Computer Science club of Mahindra University, commenced the new academic year with an event titled "Logic Weaver". Designed to introduce freshers to basic programming logic, the event spanned two days, taking place on September 27th and 28th. The first day focused on an introduction to programming logic, covering topics such as loops and control statements. Following this, a practice question session was held, comprising three levels: easy, medium, and hard.

The easy level included questions related to fundamental algorithm construction, such as calculating an Armstrong number or a factorial of a number. The medium level delved into slightly more advanced topics like arrays and strings, while the hard level presented questions featuring topics such as the Knapsack problem and Bubble sort. On the second day, participants implemented the algorithms discussed on the previous day in a programming language of their choice. Those who successfully completed the challenge received goodies like stickers and bands, which proved to be an enjoyable way to get introduced to coding.



Sastradhar Reddy, CEO of MedPac Systems

Enigma also hosted its first guest talk on October 4th, featuring Sastradhar Reddy, the CEO of MedPac Systems. Mr. Reddy is a veteran in the healthcare software industry with over 20 years of work experience at companies such as Philips, Wipro, and Broadcom. He earned his master's degree from IIT Kharagpur in Fiber Optics in 1999 and pursued his career in the United States. During the talk, he discussed DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine), a standard protocol used for transferring and viewing medical images. The presentation covered different types of DICOM modalities, including X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs, with an in-depth explanation of their operation and image capture. A demonstration of PACS (Picture Archiving Communication System) and a showcase of CT scan rendering were also provided. The talk further explored exact DICOM protocols and HL7. Towards the end, a Q&A session allowed students to ask questions, gain insights, followed by a brief discussion on basic computer networks.

All Photos Courtesy: Media Club

# The Discovery of the Eighth Continent?

Smriti M and Anshika Srivastava, Staff Writers

A new continent being added to the existing list of seven may sound unbelievable but Zealandia, also called *Tasmantis*, is the latest addition with a 1.9 million square miles land mass, located near New Zealand and Australia. Almost as big as Australia, and bigger than the Indian subcontinent, it is embedded in the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Once a part of the ancient supercontinent called “The Great Southern Continent”, it originally included Western Antarctica and Eastern Australia. Now, composed of New Caledonia and other territories and island groups, a new continent has been discovered after a lapse of 375 years!

By using various rock samples recovered from the shores of multiple islands and conducting an extensive study on them over the past 10 years, scientists have come closer to learning more about this mysterious land mass and its origins. It is said to be about a billion years old, separating from Antarctica 85 million years ago and from Australia 60 million years ago, making it a relatively young continent. From the discovery of submersed sandstone formations to deposits of basaltic rock pebbles along the outer margins of Zealandia, it has checked all the boxes for a continent and earned its title, despite being almost fully submerged in water. A surprising fact about this continent is that it was discovered in the 1600s during Roman times by the Dutch sailor Abel Tasman’s voyage. Since it was 95% submerged in water, it remained a possibility until 2017, when geologists from New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Australia first confirmed it with credible data. Do you think it’s valid to call Zealandia a continent based on its geographical composition, or would it be up for debate?



## G20 SUMMIT 2023 - A New Chapter in Global Governance

Shravani Motgi, Staff Writer

The G20 summit was a turning point in global governance and marked renewed commitment and global cooperation that sent a powerful message of hope and optimism in a time of unprecedented challenges. The G20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising the 20 largest economies in the world plus the European union. It was founded in 1999 in response to the Asian fiscal crisis and the realization that the world’s largest economies needed to work together to prevent future crises. The 18th G20 summit was hosted by India. The theme for this year was “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.” The focus was on the UN sustainable development goals, climate action and green development initiatives, multilateral financing, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and international taxation, among others.



Illustration: Shravani Motgi

Prime Minister views the G20 summit as India’s diplomatic milestone with its G20 presidency serving as a platform to amplify the Global South’s Concerns. He also advocated reforming global institutions like the UNSC to align with the changing



Photo Courtesy: India Today

world dynamics. The feather in the cap was that the African Union (AU) was granted permanent membership in the G20. India, Saudi Arabia, France, US, UAE, Germany, Italy, and the European Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the India- Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor.

The President of the USA Joe Biden called it a “game changing” regional investment. The MOU between these countries falls under the umbrella of the partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment. The Prime Minister of the UK Rishi Sunak said that he would commit to provide \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund to help developing countries to cope up with climate change. The G20 presidential gavel was handed over to the Brazilian President Lula da Silva, expressing confidence in India’s successor to promote global unity and prosperity. Russia praised the G20 Summit under India’s presidency as a “breakthrough” hinting at its outcome as a roadmap for addressing global challenges and highlighting the strength and the importance of the Global South.

## Mathematical Mysteries: Iota's Quest Unveils the Thrills of Math Society

Tanishka Wagh, MU Mathematical Society

In a thrilling and intellectually stimulating event, the college's Math Society recently held its orientation, featuring the much-anticipated "Iota's Quest.", a treasure hunt infused with mathematical puzzles, that proved to be an intriguing adventure. Participants embarked on a journey, deciphering cryptic clues and solving intricate riddles.



Photo Courtesy: Mathematical Society

The event had 47 ambitious teams exploring the campus for clues for 3 days from the 3rd of October to the Orientation on the 6th of October. The quest, planned meticulously and filled with challenges, entailed performing origami on the brochure, solving calculus problems, a choice between baked goods and solving a demanding desmos problem leading to the mess, and finally, an intrusive text conversation cryptic with instructions to win the quest. 11 teams made it to the final clue of which winners took away the first place, with 1st runner up and 2nd runner up coming in a close second and third respectively. The event served as the perfect opening chapter, underscoring the society's core mission to provide a social aspect to learning.

We believe that mathematics isn't meant to be a solitary endeavor but a shared adventure. Our members understand that learning is most effective when it engages

you beyond the classroom, which is why we're committed to building a devoted, math-themed social environment. By doing so, we hope to change the way people experience math and provide a space for deliberate discussions.

As we look ahead, the Math Society has ambitious plans to continue this mission. In the words of our society head, "You'd be surprised what qualifies as math." Our future events will expand the horizons of mathematical exploration through diverse (and maybe sometimes unorthodox) math-themed discussions. We aim to blur the lines between the seemingly unrelated and math.

With Iota's Quest as a testament to the thrill of math, and our future plans that promise to redefine the boundaries of what math can be, we invite all students to join us on this exciting mathematical adventure, where learning is a communal undertaking.

## Erudite Club's “Devil's Advocate” Event: Where Controversy Meets Comedy

Neeraj Vishwanath, Erudite Vice President

If you've ever wondered what it's like to defend the indefensible or argue the outrageous, look no further than Erudite Club's latest event, aptly named “Devil's Advocate”, where the members gathered to engage in intellectual acrobatics, proving that even the most controversial statements can spark lively debates.

Devil's Advocate was a delightful evening where participants embraced their inner provocateur, stepping into the spotlight to defend hot takes that ranged from the mildly absurd to thought-provoking. From “Dating is pay to win” to “Communism should be made universal to tackle inequality,” it was a rollercoaster ride of opinions and wit, and to join, all it took was raising a hand. Participants from the audience eagerly took the stage, ready to spin their controversial yarns. The challenge? Convince the crowd that their chosen hot take was worth considering. Laughter was the order of the day, with witty one-liners and clever repartees flying across the room.

The room buzzed with energy as participants went to great lengths to defend their takes.

Humour was the weapon of choice and in the face of such audacious propositions, people laughed along and appreciated the art of comedic argumentation. It was a reminder that sometimes, the best way to approach serious topics is with a dose of humor and a willingness to step outside your comfort zone.



Photo Courtesy: Media Club

A select few decided to take a more serious route, offering thoughtful points in defense of their statements. This added a layer of depth to the event, showing that even the most absurd ideas can be thoughtfully discussed. Erudite Club's “Devil's Advocate” event left the audience both enlightened and in stitches. It was a testament to the power of open dialogue and the importance of never taking ourselves too seriously.

## Exploring the Monumental Heritage of Hyderabad

Shreeniketh A K, News Editor

On Sunday, October 8, 2023, the history faculty of Mahindra University organized a field trip to explore some historical monuments and cultural sites of Hyderabad. The students were part of the elective course titled "Tangible Heritage of India" in their third year of the B.Tech program. The trip was initiated and led by the course instructor, Professor Paromita Das Gupta, accompanied by Professor Sehar Khwaja (history) and Professor Ankesh Shreyansh.



Prof. Paromita Das Gupta with students

Tangible heritage covers archaeological sites, monuments, artifacts, and other culturally significant physical entities. The objective of the course is to delve deep into India's rich heritage and learn the importance of preserving and creating awareness about the timeless monuments of our nation. The interest and enthusiasm this course has generated among the students is heartening indeed! In the past few months, the knowledge of Indian heritage has encouraged the students to conduct further research and make action plans for the preservation of the monuments.

The trip commenced from the campus at 9 a.m., with the first stop at Naganah Kunta, also known as Bansilalpet Stepwell in Secunderabad. This six-level stepwell, dating back to the 17th-18th century, showcases architectural styles from the Kakatiyas, Nizams, and British colonial rule. The structure, previously in a dilapidated state, was meticulously restored by local authorities and volunteers and opened to visitors in November 2022. The students also explored three galleries on the premises, featuring images of the stepwell's history and artifacts recovered during the restoration process.

The next destination was the celebrated Chowmahalla Palace near Charminar. The construction of the palace commenced around 1769 and served as the official residence of the Nizams and their family members until recent times. The complex consists of four palaces, hence the name 'Chowmahalla.' Upon entering the palace, visitors are mesmerized by a splendid courtyard adorned with a pond

and a sprawling garden. As one proceeds further into the heart of the palace, one cannot miss the grandeur of Khilwat Mubarak where the coronation ceremonies of the Nizams took place. The interiors dazzled with marble flooring and exquisite chandeliers that overawed every single student. The visit continued with the exploration of various art galleries within the palace that holds an impressive collection of weapons, furniture, clothes, vintage buggies, cars, and horse carriages.

The trip concluded with a visit to Taramati Baradari, a pavilion, where the two sisters Taramati and Premamati used to perform for Sultan Abdullah Qutb Shah, who observed their performances from the Golconda Fort, situated 2 km away. Presently, the site has been transformed into a resort by Telangana Tourism, which includes an amphitheater. The students enjoyed a buffet lunch at Taramati and climbed up around 100 steps to the *mahal* or the dancing hall—where Taramati perhaps had given stunning performances to impress the Sultan—to catch a panoramic view of the city and the intriguing Golconda Fort. By evening, all the 50 students returned to the campus with cherished memories and fresh perspectives of Indian heritage.

The purpose of this field trip transcended the excitement for Instagram-worthy photos or socializing with friends on a Sunday. Every moment was worth celebrating our country's iconic monuments that often get lost while turning the pages of history.





Photo Courtesy: Scala News

## Editorial: Canceling the ‘Cancel Culture’

Alekhya Kosuru, Editor-In-Chief

Sitting down to start Karan Johar’s ‘Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani’, I expected an extravagant Bollywood family drama (which it was), but what I watched was a carefully curated effort towards addressing deep-rooted issues such as patriarchy, gender bias, and misogyny through an out-and-out musical fare. All the glitz and glamor aside, ‘Rocky Aur Rani’ made me question something that I never gave enough thought to- Is canceling people the right thing to do?

At its very core, canceling someone is basically the act of boycotting them because of an objectionable comment or act. You’re essentially withdrawing your support from anything they do or represent. If the purpose of the cancel culture is to give less privileged groups or people a voice, then its influence isn’t as great as it ought to be. The problem lies in the way the term itself has been interpreted.

The cancel culture is far too extreme with no specific justification. People are reduced to labels of ‘good’ or ‘bad’ with no room for learning in between, creating a stubborn and unhealthy environment

Where no one is willing to grow. By treating people as disposable, we subconsciously lead them towards the feeling of shame, which is often counter-productive.

Having said that, individuals should be held accountable for making uninformed decisions. Calling someone out challenges their idea, which would be completely disregarded had the person been canceled. The very act of calling out fosters accountability and enables individuals to reflect on their mistakes instead of shaming them to believe that they can never change.

As humans, we have a fundamental desire for acceptance and being heard, which with the advent of social media, has become easier than ever. What we must prioritize now is the act of actively listening, irrespective of our personal stances on issues. Silencing the opposition or dismissing their criticism will only hinder our progress as a community. It is essential to invite people into conversations, allowing them to share ideas and seek perspectives. So next time you meet someone who necessarily isn’t as ‘gen-z’ as you expect them to be, make sure to listen, understand, process, and call them in.

## From the Editors’ Desk

We are thrilled to release our first edition for this semester and introduce ourselves as the Editors-in-Chief of Echo- MU’s very own newspaper! We are dedicated to ensure that our paper continues to be an integral part of our community by upholding the integrity and work ethic that our previous heads have so diligently cultivated.

In the coming months, you can expect to see new perspectives, thought provoking pieces, and carefully curated editions from our committed team of writers, editors, and illustrators. We strive to foster a sense of community and connection through the pages of The Echo by not just sharing

your stories, but by amplifying your voices and resonating with your experiences.

The Echo is your newspaper as much as it is ours and we’re always here to listen to your feedback and suggestions. Whether you’re a student or a faculty member, we invite you to join us in making our paper an indispensable part of our university. We are extremely grateful to be part of something that embodies the spirit and essence of our university, and as we move forward, we hope all of you reach out, engage with us, and make ‘The Echo’ your own.)

THE  
Echo

Logo by Divya Reddy

~ Alekhya Kosuru  
Prachi Kansal

## DISCLAIMER

Sudhiksha N, Staff Writer

ALL CHARACTERS AND  
EVENTS IN THIS SHOW--  
EVEN THOSE BASED ON REAL  
PEOPLE--ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL.  
ALL CELEBRITY VOICES ARE  
IMPERSONATED.....POORLY. THE  
FOLLOWING PROGRAM CONTAINS  
COARSE LANGUAGE AND DUE TO  
ITS CONTENT IT SHOULD NOT BE  
VIEWED BY ANYONE

The disclaimer as it appears before an episode of South Park (Comedy Central)

This disclaimer has an interesting origin, dating back to the 1930s. Well, the guy below is responsible for it:



Ra Ra Rasputin

That’s right! Rasputin. Not only responsible for making Moscow women swoon and introducing Boney M to Gen-z but also for the origin of disclaimers (well, not by his own accord!)

In 1932, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) released ‘Rasputin and the Empress,’ a film centered on the final days of the Romanov Dynasty and the enigmatic mystic Rasputin. The movie deviated from historical accuracy by introducing a character named Prince Paul Chegodieff who murdered Rasputin. In this fictional plotline, Rasputin detested Paul’s wife, Natasha, and a controversial

scene depicted him assaulting her.

This creative interpretation of Rasputin’s character and actions led to a legal dispute. Prince Felix Yusupov, who played a significant role in the assassination of Rasputin, and his wife Irina were still alive then. They felt that the film’s portrayal defamed Irina, even though she had never met Rasputin. Despite the substantial deviations from the true story; Yusupov argued that Paul and Natasha were intended to represent him and Irina.

The lawsuit against MGM ended with a \$125,000 (approx. \$2,708,001 in 2023) settlement, emphasizing the film industry’s need to exercise caution when depicting historical figures like Rasputin. This incident contributed to the commonality of disclaimers seen in films today.

The ‘disclaimers’ that are often so elegantly called ‘trigger warnings’ were initially introduced with good intentions, but now they have been misused in ways that have diminished their effectiveness. While some say that they have lost their purpose, others maintain that they still serve a valuable role in providing individuals with a choice regarding their exposure to potentially distressing content.

Increased sensitivity is never a negative development; greater awareness of social issues and empathy for others’ experiences can lead to a positive societal change. However, it’s also essential to strike a balance between sensitivity and resilience to ensure open dialogue and the free exchange of ideas to thrive in today’s society.

## Why People Gravitate Towards Reality TV

Aditya Chourasia, Staff Writer

In today’s modern scenario, media has utmost influence on people wherein reality TV is the epitome of the miraculous entertainment industry, and has captivated an enormous audience over time. Despite having an array of enthralling entertainment options, why is there a paradigm shift towards reality TV? Whether it’s a sneak peek to celebrities’ lifestyle, horrifyingly articulated

physical challenges, flamboyance of family drama or exuberant competitions, reality TV has drawn our gaze towards it.

Reality TV is a direct repercussion of stress which leads to the need for feeling some sort of escapism from our monotonous lives. It enables us to be in someone else’s feet and



experience their lives and temporarily vanquish our feeling of despair and sorrow.

One of the most significant reasons why people are drawn towards reality TV is the sense of relatability and authenticity. Being able to empathize with the characters involved and robust resemblance with our daily lives makes the spectator inexplicably compelled to feel the emotions and a sense of representation, an ideal which is innate to our being.

The enigma of heated arguments coupled with romantically entangled web of conflict act as a motivator for people to

watch the shows with vehement attention. It becomes irresistible for the viewers to stop themselves from watching such bouts of such exquisite irony unfold.

The essence of reality television lies in its versatility and ability to romanticize our human emotions and its supreme relatedness to our lives makes it a chosen pass-time for the majority of viewers. Reality TV makes a relative footprint of resemblance leading to escapism in people's lives that most people can't let go of.



Photo Courtesy: VeryWell Mind

## Intricacies in Academia: When Attendance Takes Center Stage

Akshaya Buri, A&E Editor



Photo Courtesy: Shutterstock

Picture this: the approach of finals, a year's worth of dedication for dream grades, only to find an attendance requirement standing in your way. Disheartening, isn't it?

The reality is, statistics *do* suggest a positive correlation between attendance and academic performance. But education is not a one-size-fits-all experience. Some may find their rhythm in the halls of classrooms, while others explore different avenues—through self-study or hands-on experiences. This prompts me to seek other perspectives for a broader understanding.

“Life is unpredictable, and skipping class can be unavoidable sometimes.”, is the sentiment among students I’ve questioned. Indeed, unexpected bouts of illness, emergencies and sudden family obligations can never be accounted for. In these cases, the 75% attendance policy acts less as a guideline and more as a barricade; overlooking the validity of such situations.

Acknowledging these complexities is vital. Learning is a multifaceted and deeply personal process. Creating an environment where students can cultivate their genuine intellectual curiosity is an imperative for them to flourish in the real world. Yet, I

pose this question to a classmate, and I get a different reply, “It’s said that half of success is just showing up, right? Another response I received was surprisingly optimistic: “Who knows, attending classes I’d have skipped may have led to some unexpectedly enlightening moments.”

Navigating academics is considerably more than just passing tests; it's about adapting to both expected and unexpected challenges. So, while it may seem like an absurdity right now, it might turn out to be an important lesson - a reminder that education is not to be construed solely by grades, but also by the experiences that come one's way.

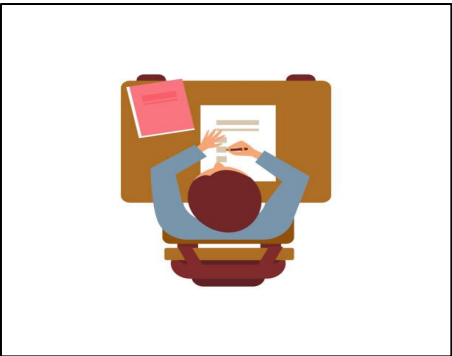


Photo Courtesy: iStock



## Homophobia in Pink!

Ashray Gupta, Staff Writer



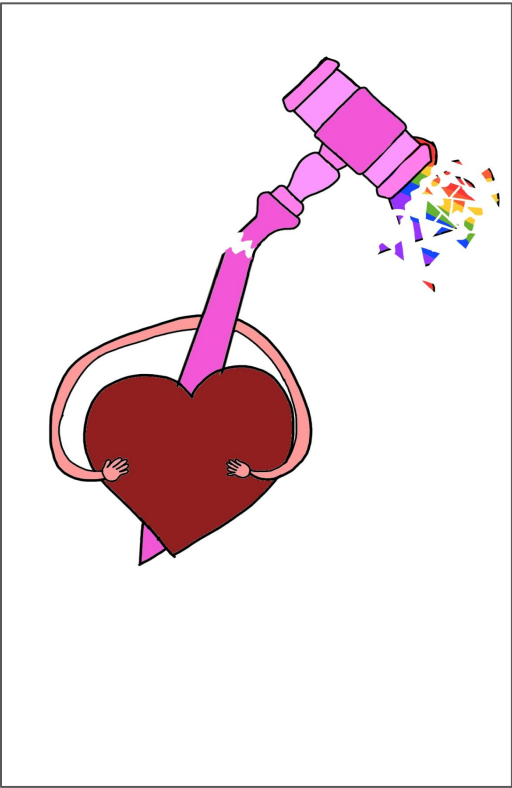
**We see you, We Hear you, We feel you, We hold the power to expand your rights but sorry our homophobia prevents us from doing so!**

This verdict fails to offer LGBTQ+ citizens anything new, as it merely reiterates what the 2014 NALSA judgment (recognizing transgender rights) and the 2018 Navtej judgment (abrogating Section 377) had already granted. The Supreme Court had a historic opportunity to build upon these landmark verdicts, but not only did it miss that chance but also neglected to establish an alternative framework for marriage that would offer some protection from the everyday discrimination and persecution faced by LGBTQ+ individuals.

Five judges of the Executive court (By a majority of 3-4) on Tuesday declined to legalise same-sex marriage and left it to parliament to decide, agreeing with Modi’s Central government that the legislature has the right to decide on this issue, a legislature which had previously upheld conservative ideals in an ever-changing country. There is no room for stagnation in a nation which is to grow into an egalitarian state pandering to the rights of all rather than a select few.

The Supreme Court could have affirmed constitutional principles - A declaration of rights, and let the legislature do its job. If Parliament differed, and it might well have, given what seems to be the current political

During a 10-day hearing before an (Un)Constitutional bench, five judges heard from a diverse range of petitioners representing various castes, classes, and religions. Each petitioner showcased the significant real-life consequences that the absence of legal recognition for their relationships had on LGBTQ+ individuals. Many individuals shared stories of the various forms of violence experienced by queer and trans individuals seeking to live their lives with their chosen families. Yet, all the empathy expressed amounted to nothing more than what the Chief Justice of India had warned against in his opening remarks – mere “judicial platitudes.”



Opinion and atmosphere, it would have done right by legal and constitutional principles and history would have judged the court better.

By refusing to recognize the right to marriage as a constitutional right and leaving the responsibility of legal recognition for LGBTQ+ couples entirely to the legislature, the court has evaded its role as a dispenser of justice in the face of political apathy and hostility. In retrospect, one could argue that this verdict, reminiscent of the Executive's viewpoint, should have been expected. Above all, we can’t expect the court which fails to stand up to the Central Government for holding the appointment of its own Judges of its own collegium's recommendation would suddenly stand for the rights and lives of Queers.



All Illustrations: Shravani Motgi



# The Allure and Pitfalls of Celebrity Idolization

Sudiksha & Gayatri Nayak, Staff Writers

People are morbidly curious about the people they admire. They want to know everything about them. Social media has made it a lot easier for celebrities to show more of themselves and their lives to the public. This illusion of intimacy leads to the formation of parasocial relationships between celebrities and their fans. The entertainment industry definitely feeds into this behavior and commodifies it. Our obsession with these people's lives is reflected in and promoted by conveniently accessible news articles that consistently focus on celebrity events and "gossip".

The example of Princess Diana, the world's most-photographed woman of her time, illustrates the intense connection people can forge with celebrities. Her death prompted a massive outpouring of grief, highlighting the profound impact of these parasocial relationships.

Our obsession with celebrity culture has always been a paradox of sorts. We love them and we hate ourselves for loving them. It comes as no shock that Mark Zuckerberg, the creator of Meta, openly

stated that "Privacy is a thing of the past," reinforcing this evolving societal perspective.

Since the era of the monarchy, humans have always had a greater and better being to aspire to. Celebrities have this higher standing in today's culture, where domination is frequently determined by



Photo Courtesy: Happy Mag

income, status, fame, etc., wherein the commonality of following celebrities fosters a sense of inclusion. Occasionally it seems that people's obsession with celebrities parallels religious people's worship of their deities. People end up worshipping celebrities that at the end of the day, are just people that they don't know much about.

Fans go to great lengths to show their adoration, often referring to their favorite stars as "idols". They spend egregious amounts on merchandise, private interactions, and engage in activities like voting for awards and clashing with rival fandoms on social media, deepening their parasocial connections.

So what is the solution? Are parasocial relationships even avoidable? It's impossible to not form a bond with our favorite musicians or people in the public eye. However, parasocial relationships inspire us and help us get through tough times in our lives and that's completely normal as long as we remember the true nature of these relationships.



Photo Courtesy: Daily Pioneer

We need to shift our perspective and detach celebrities from popular culture by placing less emphasis on the individual and more emphasis on the art, film, or music they produce. We must all pause to acknowledge that celebrities do not accurately depict everyday life. Treating them as our primary source of life guidance or idolizing them beyond our appreciation for their contributions to art and entertainment will only add to the issue.

## Melodies and Minds: Exploring the Emotional Landscape of Music

Shanmukha & Saroja, Staff Writers

Imagine a world without music - a life devoid of rhythm, melody, and harmony. It's hard, isn't it? Music is an integral part of our existence, knit into the very fabric of our being. From the moment we are born until the day we depart this being, music accompanies us on our journey, leaving an indelible mark on our souls. Life much like music is a symphony, filled with beautiful highs and poignant lows.

The emergence of music in ancient humanity is a testament to the innate human desire for self-expression and communication. It connected people across mere demarcations of language and served as a medium for transmitting traditions and emotions. Music precedes all forms of communication - fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Music plays a huge role in one's emotions, specifically the sounds of nature. The harmonious melodies of various species of birds to the soothing rush of waterfalls. These natural symphonies evoke a range of emotional responses, from tranquility and relaxation to exhilaration and wonder. Research shows that exposure to the melodies of the forests reduces stress, enhances one's mood, and improves



Photo Courtesy: Dribbble.com

the inherent connection between humans and these natural sounds may be rooted in our evolutionary history, as they signify safety and resources. In a world often dominated by urban noise, the restorative effects of nature's music reminds us of our intrinsic connection to the environment and its capacity to rekindle the inherent humanness in our psyche.

Whether it's the soothing melody of a classical piece or the energetic beats of a lively tune, music has the ability to evoke emotions within us that other forms of media can't. To conclude, the impact music has is immeasurable. Its power to connect deeply with us emotionally and its positive impact on both mental and physical health make it an invaluable resource of the human experience. So next time you find yourself needing some comfort or want to chipper up, turn up the volume and let your body ascend from the confines of your existence.

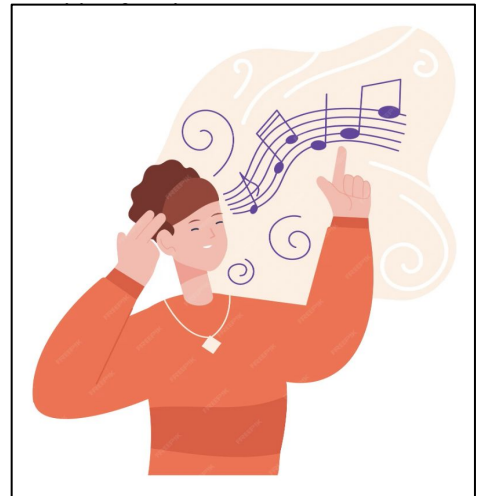


Photo Courtesy: Freepik

## The Double-Edged Sword of Star Player Attraction in Saudi Football

Krish Hindocha, Staff Writer

The Saudi Arabian football league has gained attention for attracting star players with huge financial offers, a trend not unique to the country but seen in leagues worldwide. This flow of high-profile players coming in has had both positive and negative impacts on football culture.

On the positive side, the arrival of star players has increased the league's overall quality of play exponentially, making it more competitive and entertaining for fans. These big signings have also drawn global attention to the league.

However, there are negative consequences to this inflow of foreign stars. Prioritizing expensive foreign signings over the development of local talent can hinder the growth of domestic players and create a dependency on foreign stars. Wealthy clubs that can afford big-name players often dominate the league, leading to an imbalance in competition and discouraging investment in homegrown talent. Relying on star players can lead to a short-term focus on success, neglecting long-term planning and developing talent from the country.

To preserve a healthy football culture, it's essential to bring a balance between attracting star players and investing in



Photo Courtesy: Arabian Business

local talent.

Many football leagues worldwide aim for a mix of domestic and international players to create a competitive and sustainable ecosystem. Saudi Arabia, like other nations, are facing challenges and opportunities in achieving this balance..

Critics argue that Saudi Arabia's lavish spending on sports, including football, serves as a form of "sportswashing" to divert attention from its inhuman deeds. The influx of star players and the league's international visibility could act as a divergence from these concerns. Essentially shadowing headlines by using their resources, a trojan horse-esque ploy.

In conclusion, the Saudi league's strategy for attracting star players raises questions about the balance between fame and skill. Its journey towards global recognition and influence depends on resource management and a commitment to nurturing local talent while maintaining international appeal. The future of football culture in Saudi Arabia continues to be a compelling narrative in the world of sports.



Photo Courtesy: News24



## Anirudh Ravichander- His Music, Our Masterpiece

Srinika Nulu Reddi, Staff Writer

Anirudh Ravichander, whose musical talent knows no bounds, is now one of the most influential composers in South Indian music, especially in Tamil music. His popularity exceeds far from limits of India and resonates globally, a feat rarely achieved by Indian artists. Just when people thought no one could match the musical compositions of Ilayaraja or AR Rahman, Anirudh entered the scene and redefined the game.

From composing music to producing tracks for Thalapathy, Ajith, and of course, our beloved Thalaivar’s movies, he has made music for some of the most popular actors in Tamil cinema. That’s not all, Ravichander composed “Chaleya” for the latest hit of Shahrukh Khan- ‘Jawaan’ as well. To say Anirudh is popular in Indian Cinema is an understatement. His journey started from the movie ‘3’ in 2014 with the big hit “Why this Kolaveri Di” which has become everyone’s guilty pleasure whenever they’re feeling low. His career has spanned an amazing 10 years and I think it’s safe to say he isn’t going out of the picture any time soon.



His ability to experiment through genres and being able to evoke so many emotions into a 3 or a 4-minute song is just brilliant. One of the reasons why his music is so popular is his versatility. His music can quickly transition from hip-hop beats to soulful melodies to electrifying party tracks. He has every genre covered, making his compositions universally appealing. Anirudh himself has acknowledged that he is steering film music along a trajectory with youthful rebellion, and his music reflects this beautifully. It is Anirudh's remarkable capacity to elegantly fuse the nostalgic nuances of bygone eras and the diverse musical cultures from around the world that elevates him as a captivating Tamil composer.

Anirudh once said, “Each song has a story to tell; it's the duty of a musician to bring that story to life”. His influence on the world of music is not just extraordinary; it is a testament to the power of creativity, innovation, and boundless passion that exists in millions of aspiring music composers in India. He has set an amazing example for generations to come and paved the way for an amazing era in Indian cinema.

## Highlights from the Paris Fashion Week Spring -Summer 2024

Ramaa Vaidya, Staff Writer

With the last strut down the runway, Paris Fashion Week Spring 2024 has officially ended, leaving everyone in awe. During the week-long event, we saw outfits with muted palettes paired with bold pops of color on the runway. We saw a blend of styles, from mini cocktail dresses to edgy street styles.

Inspired by her formative years studying classical and contemporary ballet and coalescing the wardrobe of the British countryside, Victoria Beckham presented an elegant take on dancewear, like cotton dresses, with embroidery inspired by vintage napkins, jersey dresses, and long socks, reminiscent of dancer’s leg warmers.




Photo Courtesy: Celebs First

L'Oréal, a renowned French cosmetics company, held a glamorous event showcasing its runway show themed "Walk Your Worth". The show featured stunning outfits, such as Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's golden gown with cape sleeves and Kendall Jenner's ethereal silver gown adorned with over 150,000 Swarovski crystals. Donatella Versace's collection was a standout, combining girly and sophisticated fashion. Gigi Hadid wowed the audience in a lemon-yellow dress with strappy sleeves, while 90s supermodel, Claudia Schiffer looked stunning in a green and silver checkerboard dress. Designer, Jun Takahashi, in a fully different realm of creativity, left the audience wanting more.

With models lighting up the ramp in lamp dresses, adorned with live butterflies and flowers, this was received with mixed reviews, some describing the collection as ‘dreamy’, while others expressed their reservations about the treatment of animals. Couturier, Daniel Roseberry’s latest collection blends American comfort with French elegance. Iconic supermodel, Shalom Harlow opened the show in a strong-shouldered black jacket, while Kendall Jenner closed the show with a



bustier dress covered in red lacquered nails and a 1950s bouffant. Coined-‘An Everyday Sensation’, this collection transformed the mundane into the extraordinary.

Just as we bid farewell to the fashion week, we must bid farewell to Sarah Burton this season as she designed her last collection for Alexander McQueen. Dedicated to Lee Alexander McQueen, she was inspired by female anatomy, Queen Elizabeth I, the blood-red rose, and a farewell hug from Anna Wintour.

The emotional resonance was palpable, with model Naomi Campbell wiping her tears, as she closed the iconic show for Burton one last time.

## Unveiling the Unfair Narrative: Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas' Divorce Saga

Gayatri Nayak, Staff Writer

Many individuals are likely to be familiar with the unfolding situation involving Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas. However, for those who may not be informed, let me provide you with an update. Following a four-year marriage and the birth of two daughters, Sophie Turner, well known for her portrayal of Sansa Stark in the television series Game of Thrones, and Joe Jonas are currently navigating a highly publicized and arduous divorce.

When Joe Jonas was spotted performing without his ring in early September, rumors of their divorce began to circulate. The couple announced their divorce on social media on September 5th, shortly after the rumors started. The media was flooded with articles almost immediately.




Photo Courtesy: ABC News



Nonetheless, internet users detected an oddity. The majority of the pieces, if not all of them, presented Jonas favorably while disparaging Turner. She was constantly being referred to as a "partygirl" and Jonas as "a good father". Many individuals found this upsetting, so internet users did what they do best: pry into the private lives of others. They discovered that the images of Turner that had been making the rounds to demonstrate her reputation as a "party girl" were, in fact, from a wrap-up dinner she attended for the project she was working on in England. Additionally, internet users discovered that Jonas was adamant on bringing his two daughters on tour with him, a decision that many opposed because a tour is not a stable setting for children.

In addition, Jonas filed for divorce while Turner was in England and withheld their daughter's passports from Turner so that their daughters could not go back to England to be with their mother, causing Turner to file a suit against Joe Jonas. Netizens were also enraged that Turner was painted out to be a bad mother when until recently, it was found out that Turner was turning down big roles to be present for her kids, while Jonas was touring and performing. By this point, most of the Internet had made up their mind. People were pledging to "Stand by the Queen in The North" in support of Turner (a reference to Sophie Turner's role in GoT). At the moment, Turner is temporarily staying in her friend and international superstar, Taylor Swift's New York residence with her daughters, while the couple mediates custody settlements.



# The Eras Tour: A Soundtrack for Economic Prosperity

Shriya Vuppala, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy: Harper's BAZAAR

It's obvious that Taylor Swift is smashing all sorts of records in her Eras Tour, whether it's in terms of Swifties who managed to start an earthquake, or if it's about her just smashing the music industry, where each Eras show had 13 million dollars in revenue, which ended in her making more than 300 million dollars at the end of her 22nd concert. Who said anything about Taylor Swift only being a singer? She just proved to everyone what a great businesswoman she is by receiving more than 100 percent face value on tickets, which not only led her to success but also had very positive effects on the livelihoods and cities that she toured in. With so many Swifties gathering up for concerts, restaurants, Uber, food stands, and hotels all tend to be booked and making profits. Swifties aren't any less popular; in fact, the cities she visited experienced supply shortages. "Friendship bracelets"

mentioned in her song, 'You're On Your Own Kid', have been boosting local businesses. The "Swift Effect" just doesn't stop here; the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia just stated that Taylor Swift's tour helped boost travel and tourism in the region. Her presence for Travis Kelce in the Kansas City Chiefs boosted his television rating and jersey sales by nearly 400 percent. She might have also lifted another corner of the economy, which is still trying to recover from Hollywood strikes and the pandemic, by releasing her era's tour movie at the box office. The box office analysts predicted a 150–250-million-dollar theatrical run in the US and Canada. With her number-one singles and devoted fan base, Taylor Swift has become a rather prominent figure in the music industry. But her Eras Tour has not only shattered music industry records; it has also demonstrated her being extraordinarily business-savvy.

# Under Legal Scrutiny: Ranbir Kapoor Faces Court in Betting Scam Case

Akshaya Buri, A&E Editor

The Mahadev Betting Scam stands as a testament to the underlying reality of the online gambling world. The scam, allegedly worth ₹5,000 crores, was orchestrated through the Mahadev Gaming App, founded by Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal. This app allowed users to bet on various sports, from cricket to tennis and football. But beneath this lay a sophisticated scheme for money laundering.

Digging deeper into the Mahadev Betting App's operation, it became apparent that this was not limited to Indian borders. Operating primarily from Dubai, the app enrolled new users and funnelled money through a network of benami bank accounts. A benami transaction is when a property is held by a person, but has been paid for by someone else. The owner is either not aware of the account, or might be completely fictional. In India, cash was liberally spent on advertising to attract new users.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), responsible for investigating financial crimes in India, swiftly stepped in, freezing assets totalling ₹417 crores and summoning prominent Bollywood figures for questioning. Among them was actor Ranbir Kapoor, accused of promoting the Mahadev betting app through advertisements and conducting a high-profile performance at a lavish UAE

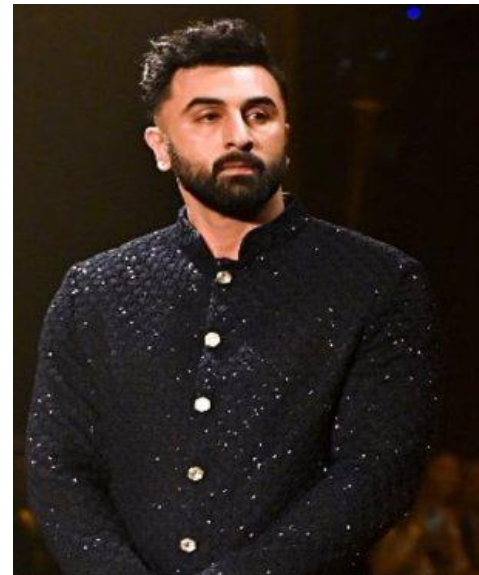


Photo Courtesy: IndiaTimes

wedding of one of the creators of the app. The actor has asked for a two-week extension before he can meet with the investigative agency.

The Mahadev Betting Scam sheds light on the pervasive issue of online gambling in India. Despite legal restrictions in most states, online gambling thrives in the shadows, exploiting the vulnerability of reckless individuals. In the face of this scandal, it is necessary for the public to exercise caution and avoid illegal gambling platforms. We must ensure that pursuit of riches does not lead us down a path of ruin.

# Brewing Stories with Roastery Coffee House

Ananya Agarwal, Staff Writer

In the heart of Hyderabad lies Roastery Coffee House, a café that seamlessly fuses the cosy charm of home with the modern allure of a trendy coffee spot. Housed in a converted old bungalow, it beckons both coffee enthusiasts and college students. As I explored Hyderabad's café scene, Roastery Coffee House beckoned with its promise of a unique experience.

The café's ambiance immediately captivates. Classic black and white flooring, both inside and out, sets a timeless tone. Outdoor seating offers petite tables and elegant metallic white chairs, perfect for Instagram-worthy moments. A quaint bookshelf and a gracefully swirling staircase add character to the space. However, it's essential to note the café's popularity. Even on my visit at 3 PM, we waited for about 20 minutes. But, as they say, patience pays off.

Upon entering, the rich aroma of fresh coffee envelops you. Roastery Coffee House, true to its name, brews coffee in-house. Their coffee mojito, a customer favourite, lives up to the hype. Initially served in two parts—coffee and mojito—the magic happens as they blend, creating a heavenly fusion of flavours.



Photo Courtesy: Justdial



Photo Courtesy: Telangana Today

Turning to the menu, Roastery Coffee House offers a delightful twist on familiar dishes, creating a heavenly fusion of flavours. Turning to the menu, Roastery Coffee House offers a delightful twist on familiar dishes. We opted for Zucchini Fries, a seemingly healthy choice that surprises with its delightful taste. These are the classic French fries where the potato is swapped for zucchini, but it is the sauce that truly steals the show. The café also features popular starters like onion rings, cheesy paprika balls, and bruschetta. For the main course, we indulged in broccoli-based spaghetti Alfredo. Generous portions and a creamy sauce made it a delectable choice. Their risotto is another crowd-pleaser.

In a city known for its café culture, Roastery Coffee House stands out for its delectable offerings and genuine warmth. In the midst of a bustling crowd, this coffee

vibrant atmosphere, coffee-infused air, and scrumptious food combine for a memorable experience. Yes, there may be a wait, but I assure you, it's worth it.



Photo Courtesy EazyDiner



# Bollywood Bounces Back

Krish Hindocha, Staff writer

In 2023, Bollywood staged a remarkable comeback, bringing back the originality and the attractive power of stars. At the beginning of the year, Bollywood's overall box office performance showed a marginal decrease compared to 2022. Hindi movies, however, exhibited an improvement in scripts and range of movies, marking a promising trend. According to various reports, the Indian film industry faced a sluggish start to 2023, generating earnings less than the usual observed pattern. The year, however, is expected to conclude on a high note, thanks to highly anticipated releases like "Dunki," "Salaar," and "Tiger 3."

The success of Bollywood in 2023 is a witness to the perfect sync between star power and compelling content. Along with renowned stars like Shah Rukh Khan drawing massive audiences with films like "Pathaan" and "Jawan," the industry recognized the paramount role of engaging storytelling. "The Kerala Story" showed the ability of a strong script and raw talent to captivate viewers, proving that it's the emotional connection that truly matters.

This year, Bollywood has experienced a revival of the romance and drama genres as well. Films such as "Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar," "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani," and "Satya Prem Ki Katha" brought back the true essence of romantic cinema, with some enchanting introductions of the cast through memorable songs. Being personally from Gujrat, Kartik Aaryan's entry song in the film will always be close to my heart.



However, a crucial focus in 2023 has been the call for originality. With a wealth of untapped talent, the industry has been urged to step away from remakes and dubbed films, emphasizing the need for fresh and unique narratives. Originality has always been at the heart of creativity, resonating with a more discerning audience. Another prominent trend this year has been the "Resurrection of the Khans." The stars of the '90s, once dismissed as past their prime, made an amazing return, proving that their box office appeal remains as potent as ever.

Bollywood's resurgence in 2023 has been truly impressive, with domestic box office earnings going off the roof. This has been a year of Bollywood's unbelievable return, characterized by the smooth blend of star charisma and original storytelling, not to mention amazing new songs. As the industry continues to evolve and innovate, it is clear that you can never write off Bollywood as it is the king of cinema.



Photos Courtesy: OpIndia

# Is Minimalist Culture Destroying Traditions?

Ananya & Mounami, Echo OC

Minimalism is a style or technique that uses the most straightforward and fewest elements to create the maximum effect. But, as always, it never stays to its true meaning when made into a trend, and it might slowly deplete the roots of spaces in our culture.

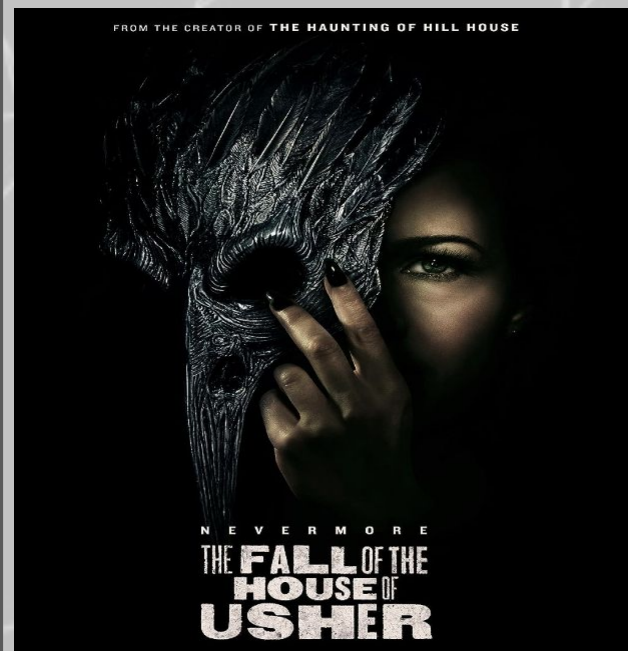
Indian weddings have always been full of colours, sparkle and everything shiny, but the recent weddings of all young Bollywood stars have been about minimalist designs with white decorations, flowers and a clean aesthetic.

Red has always had a very significant meaning in the wedding culture. It is considered a symbol of love and new beginnings, and is considered auspicious, not only for Indians but also the Chinese, Arabs, and Filipinos. All these brides also wear red on their special day. Since a wedding is a very important day in a bride's life, red is a colour which is bold and makes you stand out. Even by colour theory, red is the first colour the eyes perceive. Even on Valentine's Day, people prefer to wear red to enjoy a day of love with a symbolic colour, colours have always played a significant role in how we express ourselves and are representative of how we feel.



Illustration: Ananya Agarwal

This trend set by celebrities has unknowingly made the traditional style of wedding look like they are flaunting all they have, even if the wedding will end up costing the same. The celebrities have idealized western culture so much that they are forgetting our own culture.



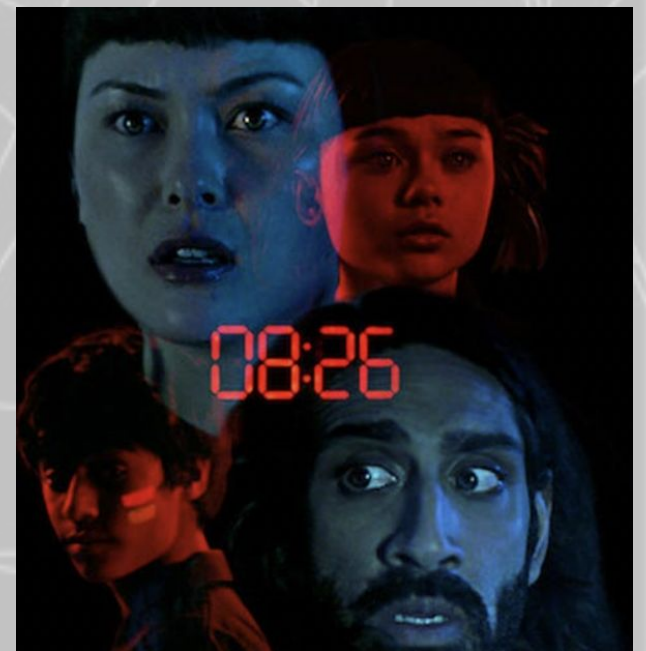
## The fall of the House of Usher

GENRE: Drama, Gothic Horror

**PLOT:** From Mike Flanagan, the creator of The Haunting of Hill House, a wicked horror series based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Siblings Roderick and Madeline Usher have built Fortunato Pharmaceuticals into an empire of wealth, privilege, and power. But old secrets come to light when the heirs to the Usher dynasty start dying at the hands of a mysterious woman from their youth.

**CAST:** Bruce Greenwood, Carla Gugino, Mary McDonnell, Mark Hamill, Carl Lumbly, Henry Thomas

**DIRECTOR AND CREATOR:** Mike Flanagan



## Flashback

GENRE: Drama

**PLOT:** When a yoga instructor is killed alongside her partner in their home one night, she finds her life flashing before her eyes in the moment before death. Through the breathing techniques she learned in yoga, she's able to slow down this flashback to "real time" and change history to stop her murder.

**CAST:** Jemma Moore, Amar Chadha-Patel, Haley Bishop

**DIRECTOR:** Jed Shepherd



## THE DEVIL ON TRIAL

GENRE: Documentary film

**PLOT:** The story of a young boy possessed by demons, terrifying Catholic exorcisms, a brutal murder, and the first (and only) time "demonic possession" has been used as a defense in a US murder trial.

**DIRECTOR:** Chris Holt



## Tussels - A Debut Event Breaks the Ice for SoM Students

Mounami & Ananya, Echo OC



Photo Courtesy: Media Club

The School of Management at Mahindra University witnessed an electrifying start to its academic year with their debut event "Tussels", held on the 4th of October. This interactive event, organized by a dedicated committee of 2nd-year BBA students, brought together students and professors for an unforgettable day of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and fun.

Tussels showcased a wide range of competitive games that catered to diverse interests. From the exhilarating 100 meters sprint to the intense Arm Wrestling, strategic Badminton and captivating Basketball tournaments, there was something for everyone. The event featured the thrilling Tug of War, a Push-up Competition and Dodgeball, ensuring a fun day filled with excitement.

What made Tussels truly unique was the active participation of professors from the School of Management.

These esteemed academics not only cheered on their students, but also got in on the action themselves. Witnessing professors engage in a fun and friendly competition added an extra layer of excitement to the event.

The primary goal of Tussels was to create an opportunity for all the students to break the ice and forge meaningful connections within the School of Management. The event successfully achieved this objective, by fostering a sense of unity and belonging among participants. Winners in each game were awarded certificates, adding an element of healthy competition to the mix.

Tussels marked an impressive debut event for the School of Management, and it promises even more exciting editions in the future. As we wrap up the first-ever Tussels, the School of Management at Mahindra University can look forward to a year filled with unforgettable moments, all thanks to this remarkable initiative.

## India's Anshul Jubli Set to Make UFC Debut on October 21st

Manas Gaddam, Staff Writer

MMA, an unpredictable sport, features fighters fighting against each other using their different martial art skills such as boxing, wrestling, kickboxing and jiu-jitsu. The UFC, a mixed martial arts (MMA) league features fighters from all over the world who compete in different weight classes. They compete for championship titles and money. Each fighter has their own unique style when they fight in that octagon ring which brings us some thrilling matchups.

Recently on September 10, in Sydney, Australia, we witnessed one of the biggest upsets in UFC history. Sean Strickland beat UFC middleweight champion Israel Adesanya via unanimous decision in a 5-round fight. He didn't get any lucky knockout, instead he fought his way through all 25 minutes. Sean not only defeated Izzy, but he also out struck one of the best strikers and kickboxers in the UFC, while accomplishing all of that with the classic Mayweather stance and 1,2 jab punch. Speaking of Sean, we must talk about Sean O'Malley. The 28-year-old phenom who was rising his way through the rankings finally found his way to a title shot on August 19. Coming off a controversial split decision win against former bantamweight champion Petr Yan, Sean definitely proved he belonged to the big dogs of the bantamweight division. He was now facing the biggest challenge of them all, UFC bantamweight champion Aljamain Sterling, who had the wrestling advantages against Sean. Sean, however, had the striking advantage over Sterling, so this was going to be a battle of wits, calmness and precision.



Photo Courtesy: X.com

During their championship fight in round 2, Sean delivered the killer a right hand, which put Aljamain down. From there, a few ground strikes did the trick and Sean O'Malley became the undisputed UFC bantamweight champion of the world.

The UFC comprises of fighters from all around the world with a good majority of them being from America and Brazil.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> we Indians are going to witness a fellow Indian go have his debut in that Octagon. Anshul Jubli who got his UFC contract after beating Jeka Saragih from Indonesia in the Road to UFC Lightweight tournament is facing Mike Breeden at Abu Dhabi at UFC 294: Makhachev Vs Oliveira 2. We are all hoping for Anshul's first victory in the UFC octagon ring.

## India Strikes Gold in Asian Games 2023

Vanshika Batra, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy: News24

The Indian delegation wrapped their 19th Asian Games journey with a remarkable numbers that will go down in Indian sporting history. Our country finished the continental meet with the largest-ever medal haul after 20 days of intense, glory-filled competition. India, with a record haul of 107 medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games (to finish fourth) , has written a glittering chapter in the country's sporting history, while also giving a strong reason to start dreaming about the best-ever Olympic performance next year in Paris.

The 660-strong contingent bagged 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze at the continental showpiece, fetching 37 more medals than at the 2018 Jakarta Games. Indian athletes even surpassed their own expectations in some of the events such as shooting and archery, giving the country its best ever hauls in these disciplines. The last day of the Asian Games was all about showering gold medals in different events for India. The team concluded by living up to the commitment of “Iss baar 100 paar” by giving their best-ever performance of 107 medals.

On the last day of the Games, Indian players won a total of 12 medals, with half of them being gold in sports events like kabaddi, badminton, hockey and archery. Shooting led the way for India at the Asian Games 2023 with an unprecedented haul of 22 medals, which included seven golds. Athletics, headlined by Neeraj Chopra's successful title defence in the javelin throw, and archery came close with six gold along, 14 silver, 9 bronze and 5 gold medals respectively. The cricket and kabaddi teams also bagged two gold medals each while the men's hockey team's gold secured a spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

India also earned their first Asian Games badminton gold medal courtesy of their men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy. Squash, tennis and equestrian completed the series with 28 gold medals for India in Hangzhou.

In addition to medals, Hangzhou offered 74 Paris 2024 Olympic quotas - six in archery, 10 in artistic swimming, 34 in boxing, two in breaking, two in hockey, 10 in modern pentathlon, six in sailing, two in tennis and two in water polo. India secured six quotas in all – four in boxing (Nikhat Zareen, Preeti Pawar, Parveen Hooda, Lovlina Borgohain) and one each in athletics (Kishore Jena) and men's hockey.

India's spectacular performance at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou will be etched in the records of Indian sporting history. The event was a testament to the collective strength and unwavering spirit of the 660-strong Indian delegation, who surpassed all expectations. This monumental success not only stands as a triumph in its own right but also sets a promising foundation for India's future endeavours on the international sporting stage.tt



## Beyond Football: Saudi Vision 2030 and the Transformation of the Saudi Pro League

Sanjit Kolla, Staff Writer

Today we will look at development of a football league which was unknown to a league filled with football's biggest names.

It all started in 2021 when Newcastle United, an English Premier League (EPL) team, was bought by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) for 300 million pounds (more than \$405 million), following the expenditure of almost 250 million pounds on new players. In just one season, the Saudi owners altered the course of the English club, helping them qualify for the Champions League for the first time in 20 years.

PIF's investments did not end there. As part of the Saudi Vision 2030 scheme, PIF acquired 75% shares in four founding members (Al-Ahli, Al-Ittihad, and Al-Nassr) on June 5th, 2023. Some contend that it has to do with the kingdom's desire to expand tourism and diversify its economy; others

announced the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo, one of football's all-time greats, making it the biggest salary in football history worth nearly \$250 million a year. Following this announcement, the league gained extensive international recognition as a result of signing multiple top players to lucrative contracts from European leagues. Karim Benzema, the 2022 Ballon d'Or winner, and Neymar Jr., Brazil's leading scorer, Gabi Veiga, one of Spain's most promising young players, are among the other notable performers.

The fact that SPL clubs are not governed by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), where there are spending and player salary restrictions, affords them much spending power. SPL clubs have a significant edge in acquiring excellent players from Europe because of the lack of regulations.



Photo Courtesy: SportsAdda

counter that Saudi Arabia is sportswashing, using these investments to enhance its reputation in the West. It might be argued that both claims are legitimate because it makes financial sense to invest in the most popular sport in the world while also giving nations the chance to enhance their international standing. The Saudi Pro League made the headlines in December 2022 when Al Nassr

Making SPL a premier football league involves more than just adding players. They intend to hire managers and referees from the best European leagues. Despite the economic benefits of these expenditures in football, they also demonstrate Saudi Arabia's capacity for disruption in other industries.

## McLaren's Resurgence: The Most Drastic Comeback In A Season Of Formula One!

Shreyas Aditya Bakshi, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy: F1

Starting this season with a P17 and a DNF(did not finish) in Bahrain to getting two consecutive double podiums in Japan and Qatar, McLaren's comeback has been inspirational. As the 2023 Formula 1 season enters its latter half, one team that has truly caught the attention of fans and pundits alike is McLaren. After a somewhat dull start to the season, the British outfit has mounted a remarkable comeback in form, proving that

they are still a force to be reckoned with in the world of motorsport.

The first half of the 2023 season was dominated by inconsistency for McLaren. While they showed flashes of brilliance, they struggled to maintain a consistent performance level. However, something changed as the season hit the Austrian Grand Prix. The team led by Team Principal Andrea Stella and drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri embarked on a journey of resurgence that has left the paddock buzzing.

One of the key factors behind McLaren's resurgence has been their ability to adapt and innovate. Their technical team has been relentless in refining the MCL60, making crucial upgrades that have improved the car's performance. This commitment to development has allowed Norris and Piastri to extract every ounce of potential from their machines.

Lando Norris, in particular, has been in

## Cricketing Brilliance: Reflecting on the Triumphs and Tales of the 2023 World Cup

Adit Potta, Sports Editor

The 2023 World Cup was a memorable and historic tournament showcasing some of the best displays of cricket. Stars shone brightly, and it marked the final dances of many of our favorite cricketers. Australia emerged victorious this year, adding another trophy to their illustrious cabinet and securing their fifth ODI World Cup. They beat out the tournament favorites to claim the title on the grandest stage.

India, the runners-up of the tournament, had a remarkable journey as well, winning every single match until the final in a dominant fashion. They topped the table, displaying extraordinary performances with both bat and ball. Virat Kohli emerged as the tournament's leading run-scorer, amassing a total of 765 runs, while also surpassing the legendary Sachin's record of 673 runs in 2003. Rohit Sharma, popularly known as the Hitman, finished as the second-highest run-scorer. Mohammad Shami emerged as the highest wicket-taker despite playing only seven matches, with three five-wicket hauls and a stellar performance of 7/57 in the semi-finals. The Player of the Tournament was none other than Virat Kohli, who had an outstanding tournament, scoring three centuries and six fifties, boasting an average of 95. He also delivered some historic game-winning performances, which includes surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most ODI centuries with 50 hundreds, achieved notably on his birthday.

Other notable team performances include Afghanistan securing a sixth-place finish, surpassing England, the previous World Cup champions, and qualifying for the upcoming edition of the Champions Trophy. South Africa also displayed a high-quality cricket standing and delivered amazing performances throughout their campaign. Similarly, Australia, despite a shaky start to the tournament, embarked on a winning streak,

ultimately securing the title they had set out to claim in India. Glenn Maxwell's remarkable 200 against Afghanistan to help Australia qualify for the semifinals cemented his place in history, considered by many as one of the greatest ODI performances given the stakes and his physical condition.



Photo Courtesy: Livemint

The 2023 World Cup was not just about records and victories; it was a celebration of the spirit of cricket, bringing together players from diverse backgrounds to showcase their skills and passion for the game. The tournament witnessed nail-biting finishes, unexpected upsets, and emerging talents making their mark on the world stage. The camaraderie among teams, the sportsmanship displayed in both victories and defeats, and the support from fans around the globe added an extra layer of magic to the spectacle. As the cricketing fraternity will look back on this World Cup, it will serve as a testament to the sports' ability to unite people and create moments that will be cherished by fans for years to come. The legacy of the 2023 World Cup extends beyond the statistics, encapsulating the essence of why cricket continues to captivate hearts worldwide.

scintillating form in the second half of the season. His stunning run of second place finishes at multiple Grand Prix's, namely the British, the Hungarian and just recently in Singapore, sent shockwaves through the F1 world. Norris' consistency and ability to fight at the front of the pack have put him in contention for podiums and even wins, a prospect that seemed distant just a few races ago.

Oscar Piastri, too, has played a pivotal role in McLaren's resurgence. The Rookie has been really impressive considering it's just his first season in Formula One. His team-spirit and racecraft have been crucial in securing valuable points for the team. His second podium finish in the Japanese Grand Prix following his second place in the sprint race at Spa has showcased his ability to perform under pressure, a quality that could prove decisive in the rookie's challenge to fight for championships in the future. In the Constructors' Championship, McLaren's strong performances have seen them close the gap to the front-runners.

In conclusion, McLaren's comeback in the second half of the 2023 F1 season is a testament to their resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to success. With Norris and Piastri firing on all cylinders and a competitive car, they have emerged as a serious threat to the likes of Ferrari, Aston Martin, Mercedes and even Red Bull at times.

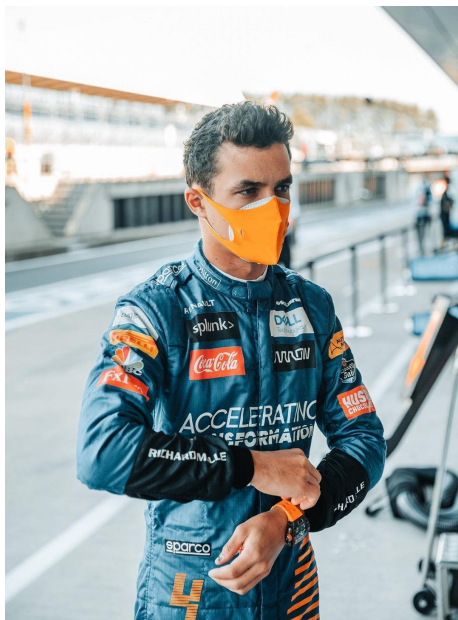


Photo Courtesy: Pinterest



Mahindra University's Cricket Team's Remarkable Performance at Shaurya'23

Mounami Jagarapu, Sports Editor

The Mahindra University cricket team made history at the distinguished "Shaurya 23" sports festival by showcasing their skill in a captivating cricket face-off at the esteemed IIT Kharagpur. Some of the most competitive teams from different institutions, including IIT Kharagpur, IIT Dhanbad, and IIT Bhuvaneshwar came together for the T20 format competition, setting the stage for an exciting match.

It began with the MU cricket team being placed in Pool B alongside fierce opponents - St Xavier's College, IIT KGP B, and IIT KGP C. The spirit and teamwork drove their campaign as they topped their pool, showcasing exceptional skills both in batting and bowling. On the other side, Pool A was contested by IIT Kharagpur A, IIT Dhanbad, and IIT Bhuvaneshwar, with IIT KGP emerging as the leaders of their group. However, the moment that will be etched in the memories of the MU cricket team and their supporters was the intense final against St Xavier's College. They narrowly lost a nail-biting match that saw them come for the trophy but fell short by mere 2 runs. The third place was claimed by IIT Kharagpur A. Throughout the tournament, Mahindra University's cricket team displayed stellar performances



that wowed the audience. Rithik's remarkable knock of 49 in the final was a testament to his batting prowess. Mufaqqam's five-wicket haul against IIT KGP B and Pranav Mogli's quickfire 50 were the highlights. On the individual front, Akshay emerged as the third-highest run-scorer of the tournament, amassing a total of 124 runs, while Rithik secured the sixth spot with 90 runs. In the bowling department, Mufaqqam shone as the leading wicket-taker, with a remarkable tally of 11 wickets, while Kapil followed closely with 10 wickets. Rithik also made a significant impact, securing the sixth position with seven wickets.



The journey to the final was a remarkable one, with Mahindra University's cricket team playing exceptionally well for the majority of the tournament. The closeness of the final match only underscores the tenacity and determination of the MU cricket team.

In essence, the Shaurya 23 tournament was a testament to the Mahindra University cricket team's unwavering spirit. Their journey, marked by brilliant performances, close calls, and a heart-stopping final, will go down in MU sports history as a story of triumph, resilience, and pure passion for the game.

All Photos Courtesy: Media Club

Damian Lillard's Shocking Trade to the Milwaukee Bucks Creates Super Duo

Manas Gaddam, Staff Writer

The NBA Offseason is one of the most exciting things basketball fans look forward to. We saw quite a lot of extensions signed with an insanely huge sum of money being involved. For instance, Jaylen Brown signed a supermax contract extension at 304 million dollars for 5 years with the Boston Celtics. Tyrese Haliburton, Anthony Edwards and Lamelo Ball all signed a 5 year 260 million dollar extension with their respective teams. Bonkers indeed.

As for the trades, we saw some unimaginable swaps. We saw Marcus Smart go to the young grizzlies squad. Chris Paul is now a part of the Warriors. The Mavericks finally added some defensive depth by getting Grant Williams to their team.

But this was not the biggest buzz during the offseason trades. Damian Lillard, who was a part of the Portland Trail Blazers for 11 years, finally requested a trade from his organization. NBA fans around the world have been eagerly waiting for the day Dame finally requests a trade because the blazers never built a competent team around Lillard. Dame wanted to get traded to the Miami Heat, and it was the only team he wanted to go to. But the problem was with the package being offered by Miami to the Blazers.



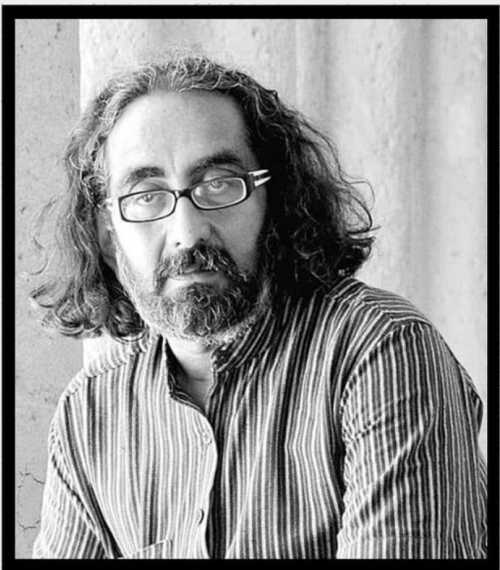
Photo Courtesy: Marca.com

A huge drama for two straight months came to a proper agreement. Two other teams chimed in, but it was futile. Suddenly on 27th September, Damian Lillard got traded to the Milwaukee Bucks in a 3-team trade. Dame is now paired with one of the best players in the NBA, Giannis Antetokounmpo. All I can say is that the pick and roll between Dame and Giannis is now going to be unstoppable.

On the other hand, we might be seeing LeBron, Steph and other NBA superstars assemble the Redeem Team 2.0 for Paris 2024 after Team USA failed to win a gold medal at the FIBA World cup. This comes after a certain comment was made by US athlete Noah Lyles, where he criticized the NBA for calling themselves World champions when they didn't necessarily represent the whole world.

With these trades and changes in place, there is no doubt that the next season has a lot packed in store for us.

In Fond Memory of Professor Ranjith Shankaran



Professor Ranjith was a remarkable individual who held a special place in our hearts. We not only mourn the loss of our dear mentor but also celebrate the profound impact he had on our lives and the legacy he left behind. Prof. Ranjith was not just a guide but a source of inspiration, wisdom and unwavering support to us. We make this tribute and seek for his blessings in our ongoing journey.

In the Footsteps of Professor Ranjith Shankaran

Ranjith sir embodied the spirit of cinema in everyone at mastershot. Without him we would be nothing but a bunch of students interested in films. His legacy will live forever.

~ Hemal Tummapudi

The impact a good teacher leaves on you is unexplainable. Professor Ranjith Shankaran will live on through MasterShot and all of the students that he's groomed.

~ Pranav Bellary

The confidence he instilled in me will forever reside in my heart as a part of his enduring memory. The absence of very few people leaves a void that lingers throughout our lifetime, and he is one such person.

~ Prabath Reddy

Remembering Satya Nihitha Penmetsa



Despite the fact that Nihitha was only with us for two years, the relationship we developed with her is extremely valuable and we will endure it forever. Her happy face remains in our hearts. We miss our beauty who had a chirpy smile that always made us feel lighter.

-Namita Koti, Shriya Poonamalli, Srija Mallipudi, Harshita Peduru, and Shivani Patel Thota

Her smile is something that is still reverberating around us, she is at a better and happier place. Her positivity and memories are something I will carry with me for a lifetime.

-Aashritha Likki