

# THE ECHO

Mahindra University's Official Newspaper

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Former Prime Minister and Leader of Indian Economic Reform; Dr. Manmohan Singh passed away on 26th of December 2024 leaving behind a legacy of economic liberalization and steadfast leadership. He presided ... **P4**

## MU Dominates Courts at BVRIT Sports Fest



The badminton players of MU participated in the BVRIT Sports Fest on January 31st and February 1st, delivering upright performances across multiple categories. The tournament saw compe..... **P11**

# THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CANCER DETECTION



By Mounami Jagarapu, Editor-in-Chief and Saahithi Potu, Staff Writer

World Cancer Day is an international day observed every 4th of February to raise awareness about cancer, encourage its prevention, and mobilise action to address the global cancer epidemic. The day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control Opens in new tab (UICC) and was established in the year 2000. Global efforts in fighting against cancer are taken each and every day. Governments, NGOs, and healthcare organizations worldwide are working towards cancer prevention, early

detection, and treatment. In 2022 alone, an estimated 20 million new cancer cases were reported globally, with 9.7 million deaths. By 2050, this number is expected to rise to 35 million. India alone reported 1.46 million new cases in 2022, highlighting the urgent need for awareness and screening. Early detection plays a vital role in survival rates. When cancer is diagnosed at its initial stages, treatment is more effective, and recovery chances are higher. Unfortunately, 50% of cancer cases are detected in late stages due to lack of awareness and misdiagnosis. Routine screenings, such as pap smears for cervical cancer and mammograms for breast cancer, are crucial.

Common risk factors include smoking, alcohol consumption, poor diet, obesity and exposure to carcinogens. It can also be inherited. Symptoms like unexplained weight loss, fatigue, persistent pain, changes in bowel habits, or lumps in the body should never be ignored. Cancer has a grave impact on students and their lifestyle choices, though it may not seem so. Although cancer is more common in older adults, lifestyle choices in youth significantly influence future risk. Poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking, and excessive stress contribute to long-term health problems. Healthy habits, physical activity, and awareness can help reduce the

risk. Vaccination is the starting stride towards fighting for cancer prevention. Certain cancers, like cervical cancer and head & neck cancer, are caused by viruses such as HPV. Vaccinations against HPV and Hepatitis B significantly reduce cancer risks, emphasizing the importance of immunization. By spreading awareness, advocating for early detection, and making informed lifestyle choices, we can combat cancer more effectively and save millions of lives worldwide.

# Decoding the Union Budget & Economic Survey

By Shrilekha Jaligama, News Editor

The first full Union Budget of Modi 3.0 is out and nobody can stop talking about the new tax slabs. This one was particularly awaited due to a slowing economy, Trump's return in America and middle class tax-dissatisfaction. We will get to that, but let us also uncover the details being left out of most headlines. The Economic Survey, presented in the Parliament on the eve of the budget session, predicts economic growth between 6.3 and 6.8% for the next fiscal year - the lowest in 4 years. Growth has to be 8% for a decade for India to become a developed country. On the bright side, inflation is expected to ease, and unemployment has fallen from 6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24. But, India will have to create 7.8 million non-farm jobs annually to serve its growing population.

The survey urges the private sector to take up infrastructure, and calls for the government to get rid of red-tapism to encourage private players. AI has found its way to the survey, which advises that upskilling workers is important to protect jobs. Corporate profits are at an all-time high, but wages lag. The Chief Economic Advisor, Anantha Nageswaran, has said that this has to be balanced out, along with ending unhealthy work hours. The survey has also proposed a health tax on junk food, to discourage people and safeguard them from conditions like obesity, diabetes and heart disease. On 1st February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for the fiscal year. Tax breaks for the common man have made it momentous. The threshold for income tax

has been raised to 12 lakh from 7 lakh, which will boost disposable income, fuel consumption, and create a ripple effect on economic growth. Even higher income groups will save lakhs. Moreover, a new income tax bill is in talks. But this means that government revenue will take a hit of about 1 lakh crore. To get through this, the government plans on investing in high-growth sectors and funding start-ups. The FM has said that a fiscal deficit down to 4.4% is their target. The government wants to build a centre for AI excellence, and incentivise MSMEs by giving better credit guarantees. Apart from these, customs and tariffs are being simplified and slashed on items including critical minerals and life-saving drugs. Infrastructure spending will continue to be priority

with money going towards building roads, railways and ports. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits have been removed for insurance, opening doors for foreign companies to fully enter the insurance sector. Energy dependence and nuclear power has also been emphasised in the budget, highlighting a commitment to sustainability. After much criticism, this budget has emerged as a game-changer. We can hope for efficient implementation to lead to a robust economy amid these uncertainties.



Source: Moneycontrol.com



# Planet Parade : A Night Etched in Starlight

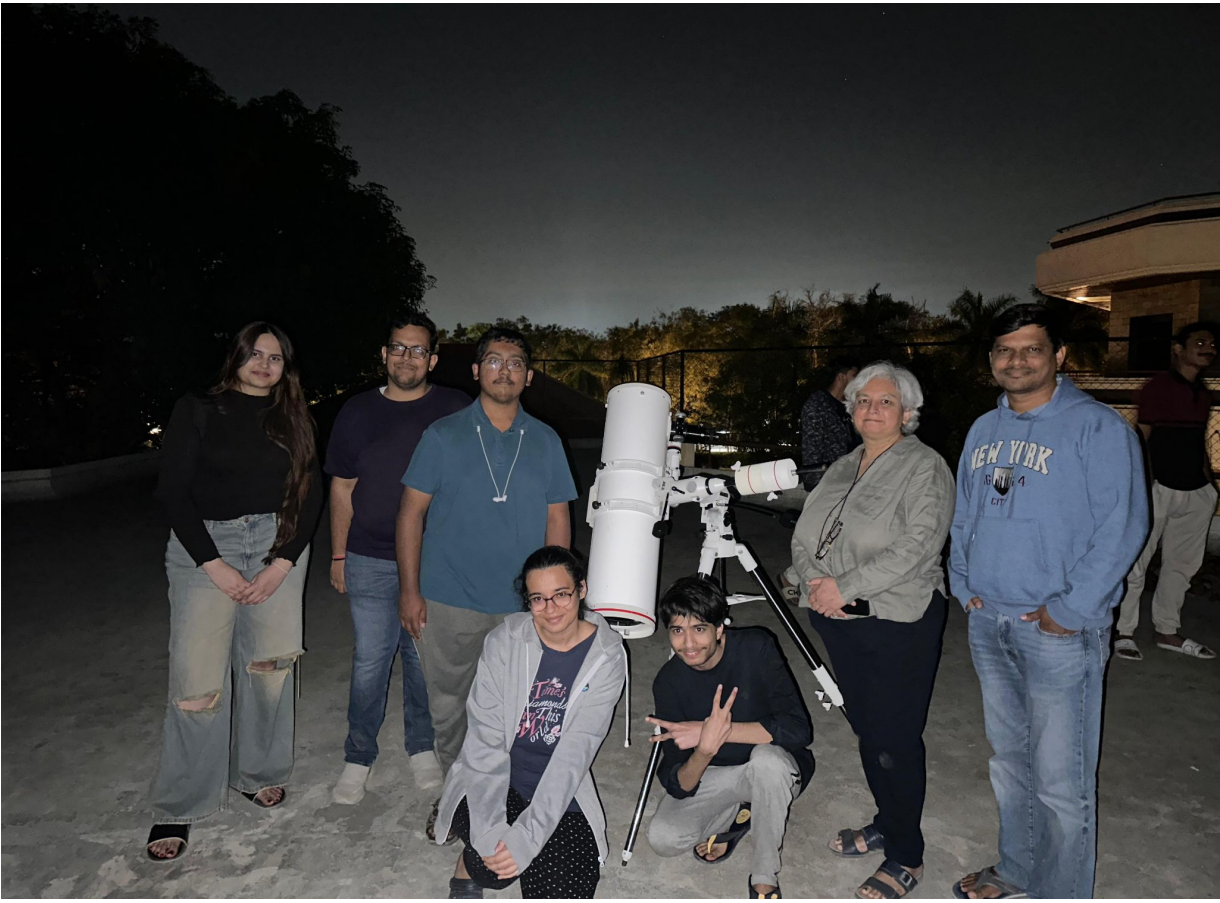
By Nayaab Yamin, Staff Writer

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Celeste, the Astronomy Club, hosted a telescope viewing party for all MU fraternity to witness the Planetary Parade - a celestial event that occurs randomly, but rarely. This extraordinary alignment of planets of our solar system together in the night sky is considered auspicious and perfect for manifestation in many cultures. Given its rarity, excitement levels were super high among our fellow students.

What started as a simple stargazing session soon transformed into one of Celeste’s most successful and engaging events to date. MU fraternity, eager to witness the cosmic parade. Parents brought their children, introducing them to the wonders of astronomy, while faculty members expressed fascination at being lost in the dreamy eyes of the cosmos – our planets – through the telescope. The enthusiasm was contagious, and the Celeste team was fully prepared to guide everyone through this once - in - a - lifetime event. Among the spotted planets were Venus, Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter— all with their own, mesmerising moons. Each celestial body brought excitement and curiosity, leading to a lively Q&A session, with questions

ranging from orbital mechanics to planetary atmospheres, that lasted well into the night. The discussions covered everything from the rings of Saturn to the possibility of life on Mars, making the event educational, interactive, and deeply engaging. Parents were especially grateful for the opportunity to introduce their children to the beauty of space , making it a wonderful event for families and students alike.

As the night came to an end, one thing was clear, the event was not just about stargazing; it was about building a community around curiosity, science, and the infinite beauty of the universe. Celeste once again proved that astronomy is for everyone, and the team cannot wait to host more such cosmic adventures in the future!



Source: Celeste Club

# A NIGHT OF CONNECTIONS

By Garvita Dalmia, Staff Writer



Source: MARC Club

On 20th October 2024, the vibrant Alumni Meet & Greet took place at the Minerva Banquet Hall in Plano, Texas, attended by our Vice-chancellor, Dr. Yajulu Medury, Dr.Jayaprakash Vemuri, and Dr. Harshavardhan Kalathur. The event, held from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, brought together alumni from diverse batches, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and nostalgia.

The meet also provided opportunities for mentoring, as seasoned alumni guided recent graduates on navigating their professional endeavors. With warm conversations, shared memories, and an atmosphere of mutual respect and inspiration, the Alumni Meet & Greet was a resounding success.

It reaffirmed the strong bond between alumni and their alma mater, leaving everyone with cherished moments and renewed connections.

The gathering served as a platform for alumni to reconnect with their peers and alma mater while sharing their professional journeys and personal milestones. The event featured interactive networking sessions, where attendees exchanged ideas, experiences, and aspirations, creating a meaningful space for collaboration and support.

Adding to the charm of the day were insightful discussions led by distinguished alumni, reflecting on their career paths and the role of their educational foundation in shaping their success.

# BLINKIT'S AMBULANCE: FROM GROCERIES TO EMERGENCIES

By Ishrath Mufaiza, Staff Writer

Blinkit has gone from grocery delivery to an ultra-fast 10-minute ambulance service. The CEO, Albinder Dhindsa, announced the same on 2nd January 2025 via X (formerly Twitter). The service will change the face of emergency medical response in India starting with Gurugram.

The very day of the announcement, five ambulances rolled out across Gurugram.

With the availability under the Basic Life Support category, these ambulances can be booked through the Blinkit app, which enables swift and reliable access to emergency care within the city limits.

The service will provide oxygen cylinders, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), stretchers, monitors, and emergency medicines at an affordable price of ₹2000.

Neonatal and ventilator facilities are under process and in the pipeline presently. Each of the ambulances will accommodate a three-member emergency team composed of a skilled driver , paramedic , and an assistant to treat patients on wheels.

Blinkit's ten -minute ambulance service will possibly revolutionize the emergency medical sector, reduce the response time of ambulances, and gain access to critical care services faster. It intends to take the pilot program developed in Gurugram to the rest of India within the next two years.

As Blinkit stretches the boundaries with on-demand, more cities in the near future could soon take advantage of that rapid-response network of ambulances, hence bringing lifesaving care closer.

# Maha Kumbh Mela: A Spiritual Journey

By Ananya Agarwal, Editor-In-Chief

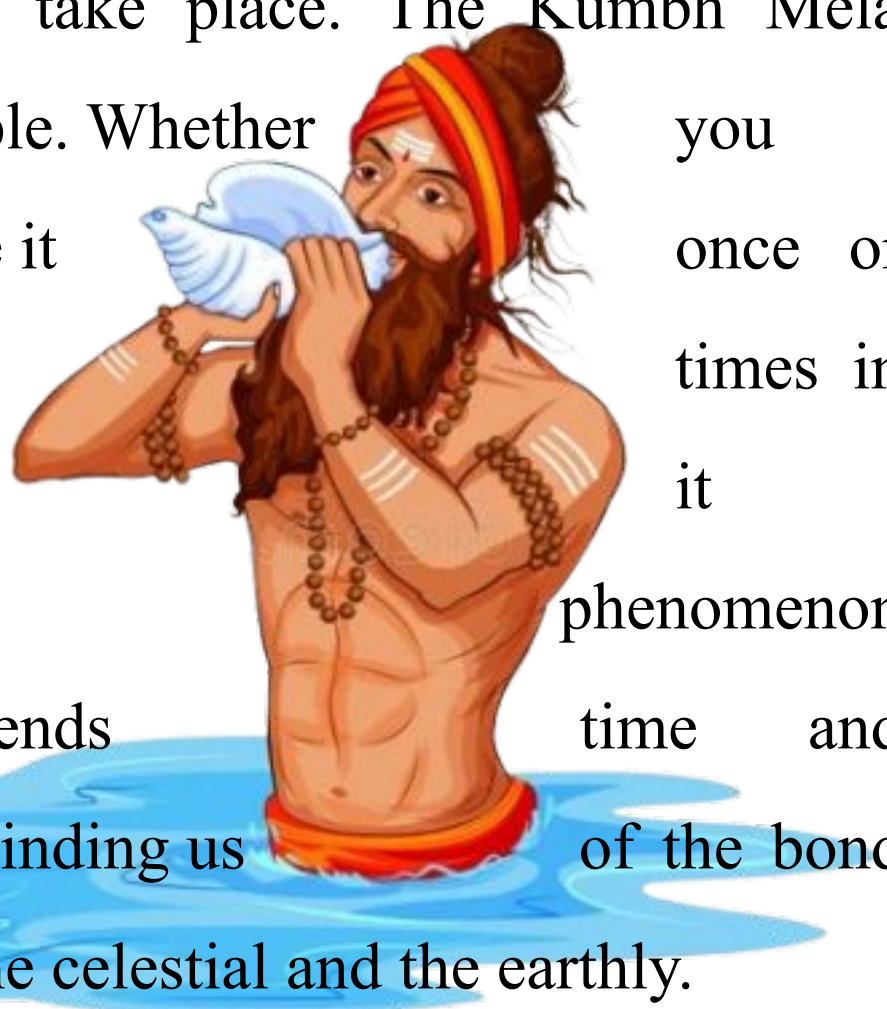
Kumbh Mela is not just a festival; it is a celestial celebration deeply rooted in the cosmic rhythms of Jupiter's revolution. Held every 6, 12, and 144 years, it is the largest human congregation on Earth, drawing nearly 45 crore devotees from all walks of life. The sheer scale of this event is awe-inspiring, a testament to faith, tradition, and devotion. Traditionally, Kumbh Mela is observed at four sacred pilgrimage sites: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik-Trayambak, and Ujjain. The ocean of milk that was churned by the gods is said to fall at these 4 auspicious places. The event marks a unique alignment of the planets, guiding devotees toward enlightenment and liberation.

This year, the Maha Kumbh Mela—an event that occurs once in 144 years—was held in Prayagraj, coinciding with a rare planetary alignment. At the *Triveni Sangam*, the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and Sarasvati, millions of devotees of all ages gathered to take a dip and experience unparalleled spiritual awakening, especially on the days of *Shahi Snan*, including *Makar Sankranti* (14<sup>th</sup> January) and *Mauni Amavasya* (29<sup>th</sup> January).



The atmosphere at Kumbh Mela was electrifying, yet serene. Spanning over 22 kilometres, the festival grounds were adorned with great *acharyas* and *sadhus*, radiating wisdom and tranquillity. The air was filled with prayers, *yagnas* and hymns, creating a deeply immersive and transcendental experience. Everywhere, people extended kindness and assistance—out of sheer devotion and faith.

One of the most mesmerizing sights was the holy Ganga itself—its presence evoking an indescribable sense of divinity and purity. The *Triveni Ghat* became the epicentre of devotion, as millions took the sacred dip, believing it to cleanse their sins and can give moksha, which is the ultimate liberation from the cycle of life, death and rebirth. What makes Kumbh Mela even more mystical is the arrival of the revered sadhus, who guided by the stars, instinctively know when and where the next Mela will take place. The Kumbh Mela binds people. Whether you experience it once or multiple times in a lifetime, it remains a phenomenon that transcends time and space, reminding us of the bond between the celestial and the earthly.





# The Atul Subhash Case

By Arushi Krishna Sharma, Staff Writer

The heartbreaking story of Atul Subhash has brought to light the silent struggles many men face in the complex web of family disputes. Atul, a father fighting for his son’s custody, felt unheard in a system that often tilts in favour of mothers, regardless of the circumstances. Despite his repeated claims of being manipulated and emotionally drained, the court awarded custody to his estranged wife, reflecting a persistent bias where fathers are often overlooked as capable caregivers. Adding to Atul’s anguish was the public misrepresentation of "maintenance", wrongly equated with Western-style "alimony".

In reality, maintenance in India is designed to ensure financial stability for a dependent spouse, not to punish the other. Yet, such misconceptions, coupled with societal judgment, can deeply impact men like Atul, who bear not only financial but also emotional burdens in silence. Atul’s story isn’t just about legal battles—it’s about the toll these disputes take on mental health. His tragic end is a wake-up call to address the systemic biases that push individuals to their limits . We need a system that listens, a society that supports, and a discourse that moves beyond blame to foster understanding and empathy for everyone involved.

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# deepseek : THE NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN THAT'S CHANGING THE GAME

By Abhinav Jata, News Editor

Originally which started off as a hedge fund side-project, has now effectively changed the Big Tech game and has wiped off 1 Trillion dollars from the US financial markets as the China-based company, DeepSeek, launches the most sophisticated and powerful Large Language Model yet - DeepSeek ‘R1’ - which holds better than OpenAI’s GPT ‘o1’ in different aspects. This AI startup has upended the industry by developing a model that costs much less to produce – and is open-source to a universe of tinkerers.

To understand the upheaval in the current AI market, here’s a comparison - Open AI charges \$20 to \$200 per month for its services while DeepSeek makes its platform available at no charge to individual users and “charges only \$0.14 per million tokens for developers,” reported Newsweek. According to research, it has been said that DeepSeek pioneered their approach towards reinforcement learning with human feedback (also known as ‘RLHF’) an industry-known technique which was seemingly tinkered with by DeepSeek engineers to not require human

labour but instead is fully automated by scoring algorithms like Group Robust Preference Optimization (GPRO). This form of "pure" reinforcement learning works without labeled data. They used rejection sampling (Monte Carlo-based statistical unsupervised learning technique) where the model created its own labeled data by selecting the best examples from the last successful RL run.

Other companies have started to panic and evolve too. This hints at the coming age of all big A.I. companies to start chasing to get to DeepSeek’s level almost quite instantly to desperately gain back their edge (this is what a healthy market looks like, folks. Monopolies suck!).

The breakthroughs are greatly interesting for any computer science engineer or tech enthusiast, but the R1 and R1-zero had a few common issues - being accurate with math, logic, and code while being below par at language and readability.

DeepSeek’s impact goes far beyond technology, creating a war in the financial markets. Firstly, this model was created for a few million dollars, billions less than the

U.S. models like o1. Secondly, it was also created without the need for top-grade GPUs and chips made by Nvidia or any other semiconductor giant. This rippled great panic through the investors as Nvidia shares dropped by almost 20% along with drops in OpenAI’s and other A.I. giants’ share value. Investors simply believe in the math and engineering of the model itself rather than the use of high levels of resources and computational power. Energy consumption is still a grave concern, potentially hinting A.I. to go nuclear in the coming years.

DeepSeek has become one of the most downloaded models worldwide, but some governments have security concerns due to the company being based in China while also hoarding tons of data. Taiwan, Texas and Italy have banned or blocked the app on government-issued devices due to cybersecurity concerns. There is more to unravel with the technological implication and even the consumer market, as DeepSeek R1 walks in as the newest and strongest competitor to the US AI giants.

# Exposé of the Corrupt Underbelly: Luigi Mangione’s Personal Fight

By Abhinav Jata, News Editor



Source: ABC7 New York

Twenty-six year-old Luigi Mangione is charged under the suspected murder of the UnitedHealthCare CEO Brian Thompson. The killing took place on a sidewalk of Manhattan on December 4th as Thompson was walking to an investor conference in Midtown Manhattan. Luigi Mangione comes from a fairly wealthy family but that did not stop him from acting as a vigilante justice in response to the horrific conduct of for-profit health insurance companies, such as UnitedHealthcare, that operate with seeming impunity in the United States. Luigi Mangione has garnered immense amounts of respect through every nook of

the world as the justice who stood up against the fangs of unregulated capitalism and greedy billionaires with an unfortunately extremist and anarchist approach, but has inspired millions to rise and stand up against the growing oligarchy. Now, nearly two months later , the shock of the early morning attack and subsequent manhunt has worn off, and Mangione now sits in a Brooklyn jail, awaiting court proceedings that will include an official indictment. After the first hearing, Mangione was arraigned in the New York Supreme Court and pleaded not guilty to his state charges. But, the fever for “Free Luigi” hasn’t worn off yet.

With unwavering support from all the working class of the country combined, there are talks of Luigi Mangione walking away a free man due to what is called a “Jury Nullification”. This sparks strong debates on “Empathy Vs. Evidence”, questioning whether a murderer can leave without consequences. On the contrary, people have brought up the unfair treatment of Luigi Mangione as a ‘martyr’ for the United States’ oligarchy, seeing the most intense and public prep walk the world has seen in recent times, leading us only to more philosophical and ethical questions in the most politically and morally controversial murder case of 2024. Luigi is unlikely to appear in Manhattan federal court again before mid-February after prosecutors and lawyers on 6th January requested more time to prepare the case for trial. Meanwhile, support for him from leftist groups, people advocating class consciousness, and citizens of America as a whole continues to grow as he becomes an icon, and the words “Deny, Defend, Depose”, which were carved on the bullet that killed Brian Thompson, have shown up as graffiti all over America.



# Greening the Law

By Shuma Talukdar, Staff Writer

Against the backdrop of the children’s book at The Bookshop In in Lodhi Colony Market, New Delhi, during the launch of her book *Governing Forest*, Arpitha Kodiveri, an environmental lawyer and assistant professor of political science at Vassar College in the United States discussed the evolving discourse on environmental law. Kodiveri critiques traditional environmental lawyering for its limitations in addressing complex ecological conflicts and advocates for innovative, community-centric approaches. Her insights suggest a need to bridge gaps in legal practice, scholarship, and activism to create impactful solutions.

One of Kodiveri’s key proposals is the establishment of environmental law clinics in major law schools. These clinics could facilitate students with in-hand training while fostering collaboration with community-based lawyers. By involving themselves with the grassroots legal issues and providing communities with the basic legal aid, like, navigating bureaucratic routes, these clinics could fill a critical gap in environmental justice. She emphasizes that lawyering should extend beyond courtrooms and encourages young legal minds to work in the ground alongside the communities.

The integration of indigenous knowledge into conservation and climate efforts is another focal point of Kodiveri’s vision. Highlighting the traditional practises of the Soliga community in Karnataka, she said, the community historically practised controlled forest burning for sustainable land use. Despite its many environmental benefits, this practise is illegal in India. This exclusionary strategy has suppressed indigenous knowledge, which is now being examined more urgently in light of climatic crisis.

Kodiveri envision creating a democratic framework for environmental law that balances conventional wisdom with contemporary legal procedures. She advocates for a change, emphasising cooperation over litigation, promoting sustainable solutions through innovative programs like setting up environmental law clinics at law schools. She also promotes for inclusivity by integrating indigenous wisdom. Her observations operate as a wake-up call for the legal fraternity to rethink how it should respond to the environmental crisis and the resulting harm. The harm, that presents challenges not only for the current generation but also for the future generation.



Source: Arpitha Kodiveri, Twitter

# FEAR AND FANATICISM: TRUMP’S BOLD EXECUTIVE ORDERS

By Kashif Shaik, A&E Editor



Source: Library of Congress

On 20th January, 2025, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States. This marked the beginning of his second term as U.S. president and also the beginning of a massive shift in American governance. Leading up to the election, political discourse was at a fever pitch, with both Democrats and Republicans becoming increasingly intolerant of the other. This divide has been highlighted by the mirrored reactions to Trump's first decisions as the POTUS.

Trump started his term with a series of

sweeping executive orders, igniting controversy across the world. He lifted restrictions on deportation, allowing ICE to detain undocumented immigrants in sensitive locations like schools and hospitals; this, coupled with a boom in raids, has left thousands, including young children, in limbo. Around the same time, he signed an executive order supporting oil drilling, mining, and logging in Alaska, threatening sacred native lands and the natural habitats of wolves and bears. He also greenlit the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accords, a move widely criticized by Alaskan native leaders and global climate activists. These actions, alongside dismissive statements about climate change, show that the current administration is focused on economic gains and nationalist policies at the expense of sustainability.

These orders are not all bad. There are benefits that come with their flaws. They are unique in being legally correct yet morally grey. But there is one order that stands out among others. In a move to ‘protect women from gender ideology extremism’, the federal government now only recognizes two sexes, male and female. This move will force all government IDs and records to properly



reflect the sex of the holder. This order has been celebrated by many as a return to common sense and a greater America, but the truth is, not one single citizen stands to gain something from this. It is an order whose sole effect is to diminish the rights of and hurt existing citizens. This is a law that serves only to appease an ideology: a law put into place to force citizens into a narrower box.

Never before has the beginning of a president's term left so many in fear. Never before have laws that actively remove rights been passed like this. A democracy must seek to uplift its supporters, not crush them to fit its own worldview. Whether you believe that transgender people are right or wrong, taking away their rights like this serves nobody. It only hurts them. Laws cannot and should not be based solely on the moral beliefs of those who make them, while ignoring their effects on those it affects.

In *Revenge of The Sith* (2005), Padme Amidala delivers the iconic line, "So this is how liberty dies... with thunderous applause." Hearing the fervent cheers of supporters as these orders are signed, it's hard to suggest she was wrong. Liberty dies when you choose your own morality over your citizens well-being.

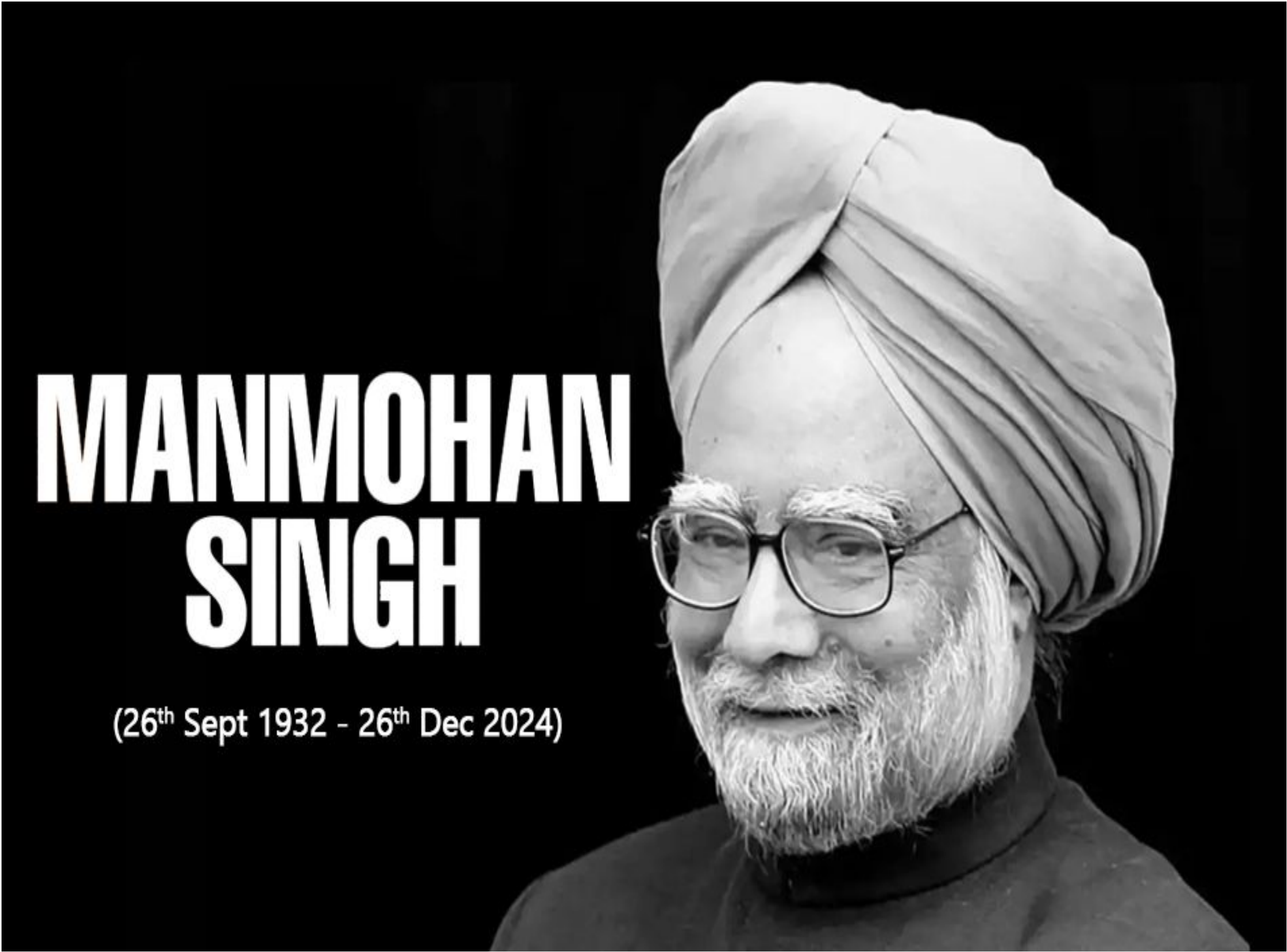
# In Memory : Dr. Manmohan Singh

By Mayank Rao Ponnala, Staff Writer

Former Prime Minister and Leader of Indian Economic Reform; Dr. Manmohan Singh passed away on 26th of December 2024 leaving behind a legacy of economic liberalization and steadfast leadership. He presided over a decade of phenomenal growth and development where India witnessed the highest growth rate in its history, averaging at 7.7% to become a nearly 2 trillion dollar economy. It is this period that launched India on its path to economic superpower status, raising the living standard of millions.

Dr Manmohan Singh was born on 26th September , 1932 in Gah, Punjab (present day Pak). After the Partition of India, his family migrated to Haldwani, India, and later to Amritsar. He received his Bachelor’s and Master’s in Economics from Punjab University in 1952 and 1954 respectively. He then completed his Economics postgraduate degree from Cambridge University in 1957, followed by a D.Phil. in Economics from Oxford University in 1962. Dr. Singh’s entry into politics was rather unexpected. He first joined the Government of India as an economic advisor in the Commerce Ministry in 1971. He was soon promoted to Chief Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry in 1972. He went on to hold various other bureaucratic positions in the government, such as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Governor of the RBI, and Chairman of the UGC.

In 1991, when India has faced a severe



Source: The United India

economic crisis with dwindling foreign reserves and soaring fiscal deficits, Dr. Singh was appointed Finance Minister by the then PM P.V. Narasimha Rao. Dr. Singh spearheaded landmark economic reforms, introducing liberalization, privatization, and globalization. His policies removed trade barriers, devalued the rupee, encouraged foreign investment, and dismantled the License Raj, setting India on a path of sustained economic growth and modernization.

In 2004, following the victory of the UPA in the General Elections, Dr. Singh was appointed Prime Minister of India. At the core of Dr Singh’s premiership was the

passage of bills that ensured citizens the legal Right to Food, Right to Education, Right to Work and the Right to Information.

Another important aspect of his premiership was the Nuclear Deal with the United States and the implementation of NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act).

In the end, Dr Manmohan Singh will be remembered as a great Prime Minister, Finance Minister and global statesman who advanced India’s interests through Bold Economic Reforms and played a key role in putting India in its rightful place on the world stage and stabilizing the Global Economy.



# CHATGPT: FRIEND OR FOE?

By Sricharan D, Staff Writer

Would you cheat on an assignment if the smartest person in the world offered all the answers to you? Navigating all those tests, assignments, and deadlines may prove to be a labyrinth for the average college goer; but that was until the world was introduced to the revolutionary technology: ChatGPT. Is it a boon offered to us during our most difficult times? Or might it be the reason to an impending downfall? Well, we are yet to know for sure. But what we DO know is that there is more to it than what meets the eye.

Stuck on a calculus problem that seems unsolvable at 2 AM in the morning? One of the biggest advantages of this ChatGPT is that it does not have any office hours. Quite possibly the smartest technology at your fingertips, wherever you want it and whenever you want it. Not only is it incredibly accessible, it becomes a go-to technology for the most accurate, specific and streamlined way to have any of your questions answered. We can say without doubt that there are irrefutable advantages

to ChatGPT, but the question eventually arises: at what cost? How far will we go, and how much will we come to depend on it? How far until we lose all independent thinking and use it as crutch for our daily activities? If college students outsource all their problems to AI, are they truly learning? What if I told you I asked ChatGPT to write this article for me? Doesn't my article suddenly lose all credibility? ChatGPT blurs the line between assistance and plagiarism. It is a fine line we tread between asking for help and purely copying from it, leading to an obvious ethical dilemma.

The verdict, you ask? ChatGPT: Neither friend nor foe. It is, but a tool; a tool meant to assist us, or perhaps even to teach us. But anything apart from that? We are pushing the limits of what it means to think critically and having an opinion for ourselves. At the end of the day, the choice is in our hands, and as a very famous person once said, "With great power, comes great responsibility."

# The Unspoken Power of Your College ID Card

By Shrilekha Jaligama, News Editor

Your college ID card may seem like a small, plastic rectangle, but don't be fooled – it holds immense power. In fact, it holds more power than your GPA. Laptops, textbooks and even your will to succeed crumble in front of it. Without this tiny card, you are nothing.

This flimsy piece of plastic controls every aspect of your life. For starters, it gives you access to college. In case you forget it, security guards will eye you as if you're wearing explosives underneath your clothing, while you start questioning your decision of waking up early for the sake of attendance.

Then, there's the mess. Your ID is the only thing standing between you and your plate of food. Swipe successfully, and you feast. If you don't, you face the shame of holding up the line while the person behind you sighs loudly, clearly judging your life

choices. But if you've left it in class, you need to beg a friend to let you in.

There's no greater relief than finding your misplaced ID card, but if you don't – you're cooked. A lost phone is manageable, but a lost RFID renders you a non-person. Congratulations – because you can't even eat now. You will shuffle over to the Student Affairs Office, where they will give you a temporary pass that screams irresponsibility. Then, after making another five rounds and paying an absurd replacement fee, you get a new ID that looks exactly like the old one but feels somehow worse, because it carries the weight of your financial regrets.

Jokes apart, your ID is your lifeline. Treat it well, and for the love of God, don't lose it. Because while tuition fee may cost lakhs, your dignity after repeatedly begging security to let you in? Priceless.

# REAL LIFE HUNGER GAMES

By Nayaab Yamin , Staff Writer

Whether it is "special dinner" or just another Wednesday, every MU student knows the drill - rush to the battlefield! The lines in the mess are normally manageable, but the very moment special meals are announced, stuff. gets. Real.

Students rush to the mess with high hopes only to find themselves stuck in a neverending queue that stretches all throughout the mess, almost like standing in a line for food that obeys Heisenberg's uncertainty principle: by the time you measure how long the line is, your hunger has already changed! Once they've bottlenecked their way to the counter, students find the food is either cold, almost finished, or even worse: fully gone.

The smart ones who somehow teleport (we all know the infamous line-cutters) to the front, enjoying their meal while the rest are left questioning their life choices. Facing this situation daily isn't just frustrating, it's inefficient. Long wait times mean students waste precious breaks standing in line, instead of actually eating and unwinding.

Special meals are great, but if we have to spend an eternity waiting for it, is it really worth it?

If the mess can manage regular days smoothly, why do things fall apart when the menu is even slightly exciting? It's time we find a better way (but don't ask me about it!)

# Language: The Science of Emotion and Expression

By Abhinav Jata, News Editor

Language is commonly overlooked, a mere source of communication for people. In reality, language is one of mankind's most beautiful and powerful creations for two reasons. The first reason stands as the fact that English is not any less than it's other logical brethren; English requires logical comprehension skills and understanding yet, the true beauty lies in the second reason.

There are many ways we interpret and understand this universe – using sciences like Physics, Chemistry, Biology with a powerful tool like Mathematics – yet, none of these sciences hold the power of empathy and communication that languages offer. We pursue conquests of scientific greatness and understanding, trying to get as technical and logically cold as we can, but we forget that although these subjects give us the logical goodness, English, the universal language, gives us ability to feel warm emotions.

All languages – no matter if its English, French, Hindi or the thousand others – are beautifully constructed in a magically perfect way such that these tools, when used by some of the greatest minds, can be sung in the form of a beautiful song or can be life-altering in the form of a complex philosophy which can touch the hearts of masses. The power words possess in languages are greater than what mankind can see but is intrinsically known by everybody. No matter how the ages evolve with upcoming new technologies, there will never be a creation that will be as emotionally intelligent and beautiful as language.

“Medicine, law, business, engineering. These are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, literature, romance and love - these are what we stay alive for.”



Source: Pinterest

# DESPAIR OR OPPORTUNITY: THE AI REVOLUTION UNFOLDS

By Abhijit Jillellamudi, Staff Writer

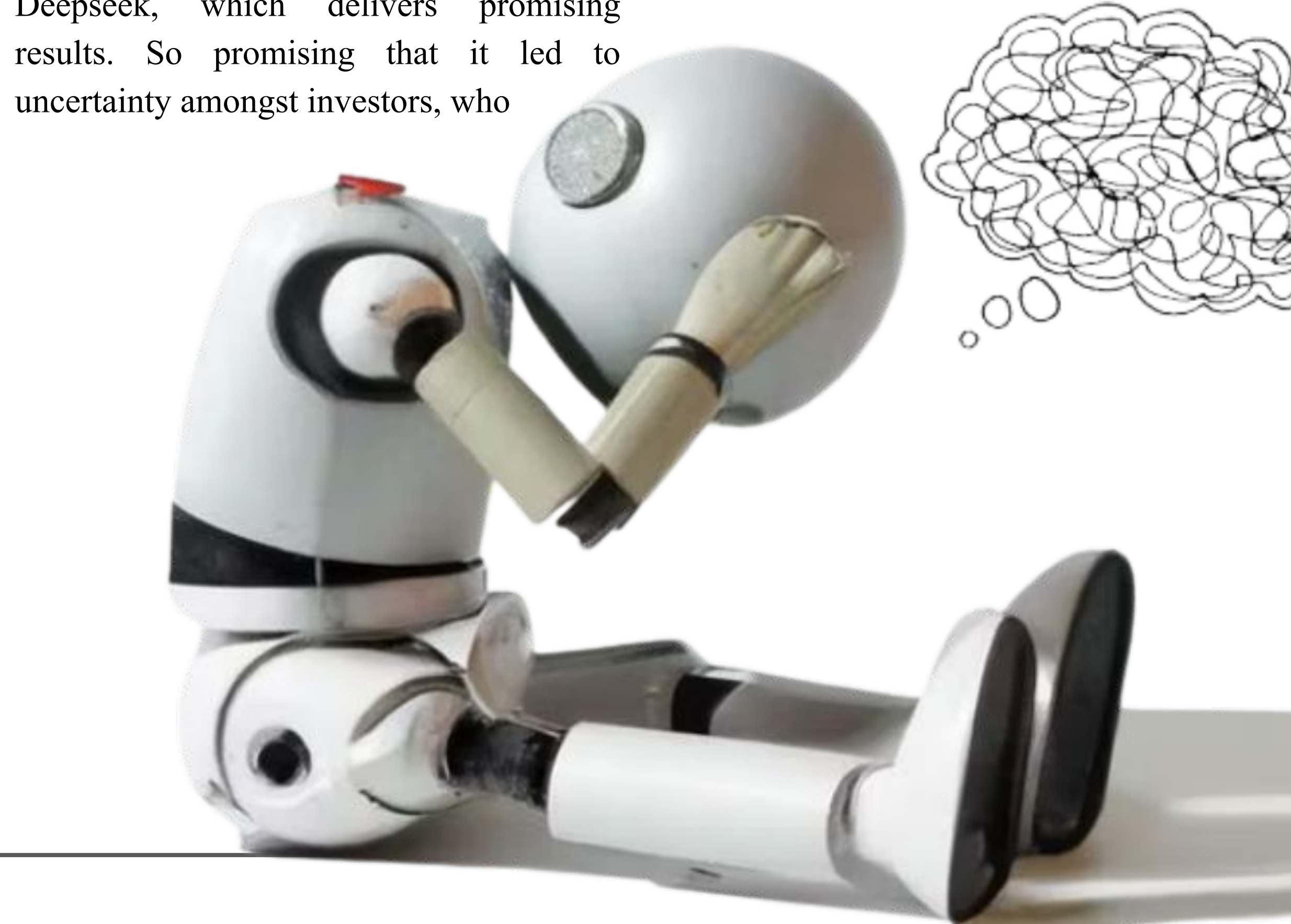
The stock market is unpredictable, and nothing proves this better than the story of an investor who invested in Netweb, Nvidia's Indian subsidiary back in November 2024. At the time Netweb was riding high, evident by Nvidia's monopoly over the AI and GPU markets. The stock price stood at around ₹2,600. Fast forward to early-January 2025, and Netweb was on a bull run at around ₹2800 that could not be stopped. Unstoppable indeed, until the crash. By late January, Netweb's stock crashed to ₹1,400, leaving many investors including yours truly, feeling at the rock bottom. A gut-punching decline indeed. But one gloomy evening gazing through my portfolio, I realized something, and let's just say: this might not be a setback.

This crash was largely due to the emergence of China's AI competitor Deepseek, which delivers promising results. So promising that it led to uncertainty amongst investors, who

skepticism Nvidia over valuation. This had a domino effect of many US shares dipping, and that effect reflected all over the world including Netweb, Nvidia's subsidiary.

However, for a long-term investor, this pullback is the golden opportunity to get into a fundamentally strong company at a discounted price. Its monopoly in high-performance compute and AI still holds a favorable position. Talking about AI, DeepSeek has been revolutionary because it challenges GPT 4o with its innovation in natural language processing and machine learning.

So, while my portfolio may be bruised, I'm holding onto Netweb with confidence, since a crash is a likely opportunity in the stock market. And if you're wondering about my sources? Well, trust me bro.





# It Ends With a Lawsuit: Justin Baldoni vs Blake Lively

By Chagani Sri Lakshmi Vahni, Staff Writer



Source: Mia Pishotti

After months of speculated behind-the-scenes drama, Blake Lively has officially filed a complaint against Justin Baldoni, her co-star and director, and his associates. In December 2024, Lively filed an official complaint with the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), accusing Baldoni of creating a hostile environment on set by making inappropriate sexual remarks and violating personal boundaries.

The lawsuit alleges that Baldoni and his team "embarked on a sophisticated press and digital plan to damage her reputation" and then hired a publicity firm for a "social manipulation campaign" to sabotage her personally and professionally.

Baldoni has now countersued Lively and her husband Ryan Reynolds for \$400M, accusing them of civil charges including defamation and interactions in contractual relations. Lively's publicist was also named in the lawsuit.

While tons of "evidence" has been released since Baldoni's suit, one video has caused quite a stir these past couple of days.

Baldoni's legal counsel released a ten-minute-long behind-the-scenes video of filming It Ends with Us. This video was a shot intended to be slowed down in editing. It represents the characters "falling in love.". The footage provided us with much to debate and little to straighten out. In the video released, there were moments where it looked like both actors were flirting. There was also a moment when Baldoni leaned in and Lively seemed to be uncomfortable. Despite statements from both sides, there is a lack of sufficient context to simply pick a side.

Many fans have expressed doubts about whether the footage was edited to favour Baldoni and prove his innocence, but one cannot know for sure. For Baldoni's supporters, this video is a step towards his vindication. For Lively's advocates, it is a genius manipulative manoeuvre. Ultimately, this unfolding legal battle highlights just how complex and layered the situation is when it comes to workplace harassment on such a public stage.

## DIL SE : HORROR OR ROMANCE?

By Aditi Praturi, Staff Writer

In the midst of the cacophony that was 1998 in India, releases ranging from the warmth of Kuch Kuch Hota Hai to the fiery action movie soldier, dil se stood out like a sore thumb. A Mani Ratnam directed film, adorned with actors like Shah Rukh Khan, Manisha Koirala and Preity Zinta, with AR Rahman and Gulzar on the music department, the film was bound to be good but somehow, didn't have the reach people expected it to.

If you watch this movie expecting a formulaic bollywood romance, you'd be surprised. From Amar's incessant stalking to his concerningly non-consensual advances onto Meghna, their story was a mess from the start. Amar, not taking Meghna's lack of response towards him as a hint, persists until she "gives in". Amar didn't care about Meghna's opinion of him and what she actually wanted, aligning with the idea that the two characters were metaphors of the states they were from. Amar being from Delhi, while Meghna hails from a war ridden region near North-East India. Amar constantly oppresses her and doesn't really

care to hear her out. Mystery being a large part of Meghna's story, we are finally made aware of her actual life, a suicide bomber, part of a terrorist organization. It is quite obvious, she wants to take advantage of his ties to the Indian army, his father being an ex-army officer and him being a government worker. Amar, who is now engaged to Preeti, is torn between the stability he finds with her and the instability and the adrenaline that follows, with Meghna. On discovering Meghna's true nature he is again torn between his love for his country and his "love" for Meghna. He still continues to be obsessed with her, even if it means he's going against his morals.

Now, even I don't understand why Meghna chose to die with Amar instead of dying for the cause she had been preparing for since she was a child but I can confidently say, this wasn't a love story between Amar and Meghna. This was a story of Meghna and the love she has for her people and a story of Amar and his obsession with his warped idea of Meghna. They were in love with things they could never have, their lives therefore, ending in tragedy

# MORE OF YOUR FAVES WILL DIE: JJK, MHA, AND MORE RETURN IN 2025

By Amithi Shangari, A&E Editor

The year 2025 is set to be a landmark moment for anime enthusiasts, with a flood of highly anticipated continuations. Beloved series like Demon Slayer and Jujutsu Kaisen headline this exciting lineup, alongside other fan favorites that are sure to make this year unforgettable.

Kicking off the year with one of my favorites, Solo Leveling: Arise from the Shadow, adapted from a web novel written by Chugong, returned in January with its second season. Fans are eager to follow Sung Jinwoo and the other hunters' journey as his powers continue to grow. Dr. Stone has also launched its fourth and final season, Science Future, with Senku Ishigami continuing his mission to rebuild civilization through science.

My Hero Academia, a popular fan favorite, is yet to make its return. As Deku and the heroes-in-training face off against the Paranormal Liberation Front, we can expect intense battles and character growth which deepen the plot. On a similar note, Mashle: Magic and Muscles is set to air in late 2025, and will cover the penultimate arc of the manga.

Jujutsu Kaisen will be making a comeback with a highly anticipated movie adaptation of the Hidden Inventory/Premature Death arc, scheduled to release in May. This will



Source: CBR

be followed by the airing of season 3 covering the Culling Game arc. In July, DanDaDan will return with its second season, mixing supernatural elements with science fiction, showing us a world where rules don't quite apply.

For fans of Demon Slayer, the much-awaited Infinity Castle movie trilogy is expected later in the year. This adaptation of one of the series' most intense arcs will showcase breathtaking battles as Tanjiro and his comrades face off against Kibutsuji Muzan within the labyrinthine castle.

With an exciting lineup of sequels, 2025 promises to be an unforgettable year for anime fans. From intense battles to moving narratives, these series are set to captivate audiences, highlight the incredible storytelling, and hopefully bring to us a break from the recent lull in the anime world.

## Box Office Collections: A Movie's True Worth?

By Rajidi Savitha Reddy, Staff Writer

Movie critics state that good box office earnings define the success and failure of a movie, proven by movies like Kalki 2898 AD and Pushpa 2 which swept the box office clean with their earnings and stole the audience's hearts with their excellent storytelling. Big-budget films with opulent sets and star-studded casts have been emerging as the highest-grossing movies in the country for quite some time. With Pan-Indian movies dominating the Indian cinema, this makes us wonder: Have films with big stars and grand settings become the formula for a smooth box office success? Are good box office numbers the only way to identify a cinematic masterpiece?

While box office numbers play an important role in determining the success of a movie, it shouldn't let us cloud our judgement about its quality. There have been many good films which despite their poor box-office performance have made an everlasting impact in people's lives. Movies like Tamasha, Lootera and Jersey which were declared box office bombs after their theatrical run managed to gain a cult following among the audience in the coming years. Some people on social media stated that the Indian audience lacked the emotional depth to understand the meaning of these films at the time of their release.

Other media websites, like Pinkvilla, stated "The box office performance of a movie depends not only on its quality but also the star cast, pre-release buzz, and promotions. Many movies that received positive word-of-mouth failed to resonate at the box office".

Other movies such as Jigra and Laal Singh Chaddha were marred with various types of controversies during their release, disallowing the appropriate box office response they deserved. However, these films were later 'rediscovered' thanks to their release on Netflix. According to the Indian Times, the audience felt they didn't do enough justice to the Aamir Khan film. They felt that the film deserved so much more, with the OST and the climax scene receiving significant praise. Even Jigra, after its OTT release, was voted one of the best movies of this decade by viewers for its gripping storyline and Alia Bhatt's 'dark feminine energy'.

In the end, while box office numbers may reflect a movie's commercial success, they should never overshadow the essence of storytelling—the ability to inspire and leave an indelible mark on the audience. Let us strive to recognize and cherish films that challenge us, resonate with us, and truly enrich our cinematic experience.



# A STORY THAT WILL MAKE YOU BELIEVE IN GOD

By Chanakya Naidu, Forum Editor

In Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi*, storytelling is not just an art, but a lens to perceive and construct reality. Through the novel’s interplay of faith, fiction, and survival, Martel invites us to reconsider the nature of belief itself. Religion, as presented by Martel, is not merely a system of institutionalized worship, but a deeply personal and spiritual practice; an act of making our own meaning in an indifferent universe.

Centrally, the novel explores how we understand and navigate existence through narratives. Pi, our protagonist, practices Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously, demonstrating a pluralistic approach to faith. His believes not in doctrinal adherence, but experiencing the divine through different perspectives. The book’s assertion that “faith is a house with many rooms” underscores that faith is not monolithic; it is expansive, accommodating both certainty and doubt, weakness as well as strength. It is precisely

in moments of crisis, when faith is tested, that the necessity of belief becomes most apparent. For Pi, faith is not a shield against suffering, but a means of enduring it.

One of the novel’s most profound metaphors is Richard Parker, the Bengal tiger who shares Pi’s lifeboat during his term at sea. Richard Parker symbolizes both the divine and the bestial human nature. He is an unknowable and terrifying force beyond Pi’s control, and still representing the animalistic instincts within Pi. This relationship reflects the eternal tension between spiritual transcendence and base human nature. Pi’s unwavering discipline - his refusal to give in to savagery even as survival demands it - is exemplified through his faith. Pi was a man that performed salah in the middle of the ocean, without knowing which direction to face. These acts, futile against his circumstances, underscore a deeper truth: faith is not about pragmatism but about defining one’s own humanity, Pi’s survival hinges on his ability to see Richard Parker

as more than an animal, for if Richard Parker is nothing but a beast, then neither is Pi. Thus, faith becomes a survival mechanism, allowing us to retain and enhance our moral and spiritual integrity. Pi’s choice to believe in something greater himself elevates him above a nihilist existence.

The novel ultimately posits that spirituality is not concerned with objective truth but with interpretation. The book’s ending - which present two versions of Pi’s nautical term asking “Which is the better story?” - challenges the reader to reconsider the nature of reality itself. If both stories explain the events, do we choose the believable or the beautiful?

Martel suggests that reality is not absolute but shaped by the stories we choose to believe. In a world often indifferent to human suffering, offering a “better story” is not an escape from truth, but as a means of surviving it.

# Are Modern Rom-Coms Getting Love All Wrong?

By Ananya Agarwal, Editor-in-Chief



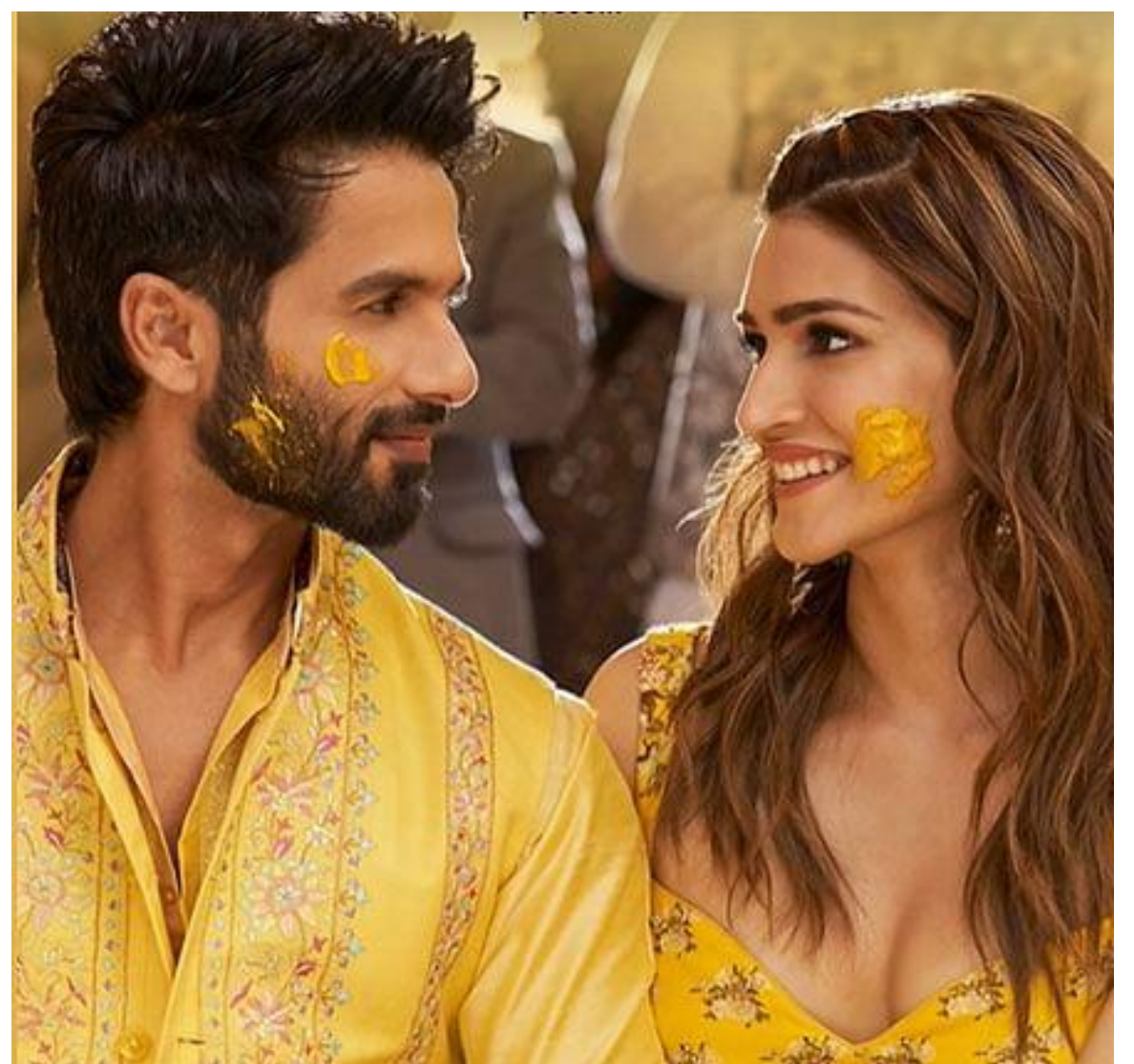
Source: *Her* (2013)

Romantic comedies used to be about passion, devotion, and deep emotional connections. Now, technology seems to be taking over, often in ways that feel more like gimmicks than genuine love stories.

Take Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (2024), where a man falls in love with a robot. Instead of exploring real emotions, the film leans into artificial intelligence as a substitute for human connection. Loveyapa (2025) tries to highlight modern dating by having a couple swap phones, but it ends up feeling shallow, missing the depth that makes love stories resonate.

Compare this to *Her* (2013), which used technology not as a replacement for love, but as a way to explore healing and emotional growth. Love isn’t about gadgets or futuristic concepts—it’s about passion, trust, and real human connection.

Filmmakers need to remember that while technology is a part of modern relationships, it shouldn’t define them. Love stories should focus on what truly matters: the raw and beautiful emotions that make love worth believing in.



Source: *ThePrint*

# Retro Revival: Why Nostalgia Sells

By Mounami Jagarapu, Editor-in-Chief

In today’s fast-paced world, people often find comfort in looking back at simpler times, which is why nostalgia-driven products and entertainment are so popular. From retro fashion trends to reboots of classic TV shows, brands have tapped into our love for the past to create modern versions of old favourites. This is not just a passing trend—it’s a psychological phenomenon.

A big reason nostalgia sells is that it triggers positive memories. Spotting an old Nokia 3310 in a store, hearing the Windows XP startup sound, or rewatching *Tom & Jerry* instantly transports people to

a time when life felt easier and more enjoyable. Companies use this emotional connection in marketing—Cadbury’s brought back its old-school Dairy Milk packaging, Polaroid cameras remain a hit despite digital photography, and even board games like Ludo and Snakes & Ladders have found a second life in mobile apps. Fashion has also embraced nostalgia, with people sporting baggy jeans, flip phones making a return, and brands reviving Y2K aesthetics.

But nostalgia isn’t just about reliving the past; it’s about reinventing it. People love things that remind them of the good old

days but still fit into their modern lifestyles. That’s why typewriters have turned into Bluetooth keyboards, classic arcade games now come in portable versions, and film cameras have been reintroduced with digital enhancements. The brands that successfully blend nostalgia with innovation and authenticity will continue to thrive. As long as people seek comfort in familiarity, nostalgia will remain a powerful force in entertainment, marketing, and fashion, proving that sometimes, the past is the best way to move forward.

# ARCANÉ: REDEFINING ANIMATION

By Akshaya Buri, Deputy Editor-in-Chief

What if an animated show could look like a moving painting? What if every color, shadow, and brushstroke didn’t just serve aesthetics but shaped the very essence of its story? *Arcane* answers all these questions with a groundbreaking style that merges artistry with technology. Through Fortiche Production’s seamless blending of hand-crafted textures and 3D animation, they deliver an experience so magical that it lingers even long after the credits roll.



Source: *Bridging the Rift*, YouTube

At its core, *Arcane* thrives on retaining a raw, textured quality. Every frame is meticulously crafted. While many modern animated series rely on CGI for smooth

character movements, *Arcane* takes it a step further by layering hand-painted textures over 3D models. This technique creates a painted sort of look, reminiscent of art coming to life.

Color plays an equally powerful role in storytelling. One of *Arcane*’s most remarkable achievements is its use of color to convey emotion and foreshadow character arcs. Piltover and Zaun, the two cities at the heart of the story, are visual opposites. Piltover, the city of progress, is bathed in warm golds and soft blues, often lit with natural sunlight, showcasing their wealth and advancement. Whereas Zaun, the Undercity, is drenched in deep greens, toxic yellows, and neon purples, often lit with eerie artificial light sources, emphasizing their poverty and pollution. These palettes also evolve with the characters. Jinx, formerly Powder, once tied to soft blues reflecting her innocence, shifts to erratic and flashy pinks and purples as she spirals into instability. *Arcane* embraces weight and

impact. Punches feel heavy, debris scatters realistically, and every movement carries a sense of purpose. This is largely due to Fortiche’s use of a lower frame rate (12 fps, compared to the standard 24) in certain sequences, which mimics the feel of hand-drawn animation, adding a visceral edge to fights.

With *Arcane*, animation isn’t just a storytelling tool—it is the story. Every brushstroke, every color choice, and every frame contributes to the emotional depth of the series. It stands as a testament to what happens when artists are given the freedom to push boundaries.



Source: *Bridging the Rift*, YouTube

Join the WhatsApp Community!



Thank you, Beyoncé

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TOUR IN HYDERABAD

By Aanchal Mathur, Social Media Head

The Grammy Awards are back, bringing with it a night of big wins, surprising snubs, and unforgettable performances. As always, the Recording Academy’s choices sparked plenty of debate, with some well-deserved victories and a few disappointments.

Beyoncé claimed Album of the Year for Cowboy Carter after four previous losses, marking a historic first in her legendary career. Meanwhile, Kendrick Lamar’s fiery diss track “Not Like Us” swept all five of its nominated categories, cementing its place as the most decorated rap song in Grammy history.

The night wasn’t just about awards—it was a spectacle of standout performances. Sabrina Carpenter’s debut Grammy stage moment was nothing short of dazzling, solidifying her status as the industry’s latest pop sensation. Chappell Roan’s Best New Artist win introduced her as an essential addition to every playlist. Charli XCX turned the stage into a full-blown rave, bringing unparalleled energy to the night. After delivering a stunningly emotional performance of “What Was I Made For?”, with Finneas, Billie Eilish walked away empty-handed—a major snub that left fans outraged, given the acclaim surrounding Hit Me Hard and Soft.

Despite not winning an award, Taylor Swift ensured her presence was felt, dancing her way into yet another unforgettable moment. As the dust settles, the 2025 Grammys will be remembered for its historic wins and performances that kept pop culture buzzing long after the final curtain call.

By Mounami Jagarapu, Editor-in-Chief

On February 2, the English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran set the stage ablaze at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad, as part of his Mathematics Tour 2025. This marked his second stop in India after Pune, and fans from all over came over to witness the musical magic unfold. The evening started off with a surprise opening act by Armaan Malik, who serenaded the crowd with some of his well-loved hits. His soulful voice set the perfect tone for what was to come. Soon after, the excitement soared as Ed Sheeran made his grand entrance, launching into Tides and instantly captivating the audience. Known for his intimate and interactive performances, he ensured the crowd stayed engaged throughout the night.

The concert venue was a haven for fans, featuring dedicated merchandise stalls and a variety of food and drink options. A seamless payment experience was offered through a QR-based wristband system, allowing attendees to top up and pay effortlessly. However, phone services remained limited for most of the night, making it a true digital detox immersed in



music. One of the standout moments of the evening was the much - anticipated duet between Ed Sheeran and Armaan Malik. The collaboration was nothing short of magical, blending their voices beautifully and leaving the crowd in awe. The energy soared when Sheeran performed his global hits like Shape of You, Perfect, Shivers, Photograph, and The A-Team. His soulful voice, paired with masterful guitar skills, made for a beautiful experience. As the night drew to a close, Ed ended on a high note with Bad Habits, ensuring the crowd left with lasting memories of an electrifying yet peaceful evening. Hyderabad witnessed not just a concert but a musical journey with Ed Sheeran at its heart.

Blood, Money and Survival

By Swati Das, Staff Writer

Netflix’s Squid Game exploded as a cultural phenomenon not just for its brutal games but also because its dystopian horror is rooted in real-world despair. Season 1’s deadly contests mirrored South Korea’s household debt crisis, where nearly 60% of citizens live paycheck to paycheck. Creator Hwang Dong hyuk drew from his own 2008 financial struggles, witnessing friends spiral into debt, and events like the 2009 Ssangyong Motors strike, where laid-off workers fought police for survival—echoing the show’s themes of betrayal and desperation. Also the Brothers Home incident (1980s), a state-sanctioned facility where thousands of homeless and disabled individuals were enslaved, tortured, and killed. These atrocities, buried for decades, mirror the show’s themes of systematic dehumanization. The season 2, however, shifts focus. While Season 1 critiqued systemic inequality, trailers suggest Season 2 will delve into the

VIPs’ global empire of exploitation, mirroring real - world elites who profit from others suffering. Yet, as the show’s lore expands, its connection to raw human struggle risks dilution. The original’s power lay in its intimacy with despair - a divorced father gambling his life for his daughter, a migrant worker cheated by employers. These stories aren’t fiction; they’re daily realities for millions trapped in predatory systems.

Ironically, as Squid Game highlights societal fractures, many fans and influencers celebrate its aesthetic—not its message. TikTok trends glamorize the “Red Light, Green Light”, doll or cosplay as pink guards, while viral challenges turn survival games into content. This detachment mirrors the VIPs' voyeurism: consuming pain as entertainment. Worse, brands capitalize on the hype, selling Squid Game-themed merchandise, reducing a critique of capitalism into its tool.



Source: Times Now

The show’s true lesson isn’t about games - it’s a warning. As household debt soars globally and gig economies trap workers in cycles of precarity, we must move beyond memes. Being “wise” means recognizing that Squid Game isn’t fantasy; it’s a reflection of choices we enable. Support policies that combat inequality, educate others on financial literacy, and reject systems that profit from desperation. Art should provoke change, not complacency.

Celebrate the Season of Love With These Movies

By Kashif Sheik, A&E Editor

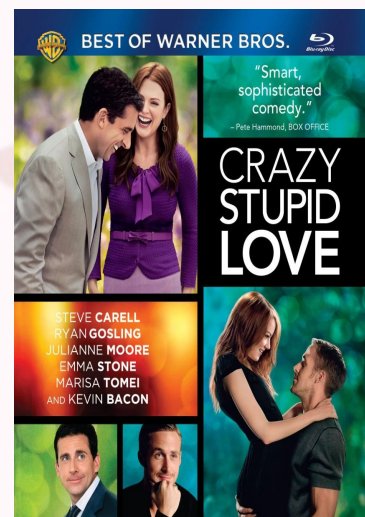
Her by Spike Jonze

★★★★★



Crazy Stupid Love by Glenn and John

★★★★★



Proposal by Anne Fletcher

★★★★★



Me before You by Thea Sharrock

★★★★★



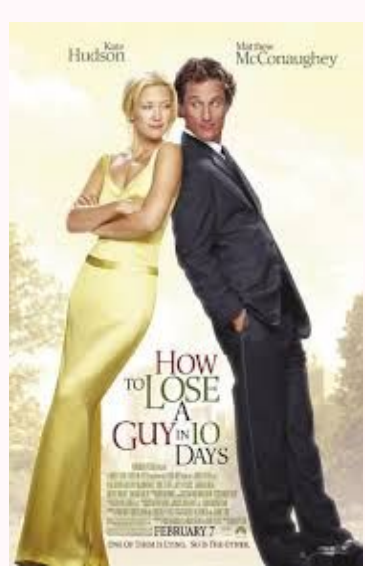
50 First Dates by Peter Segal

★★★★★



How to lose a guy in 10 days by Donald Petrie

★★★★★



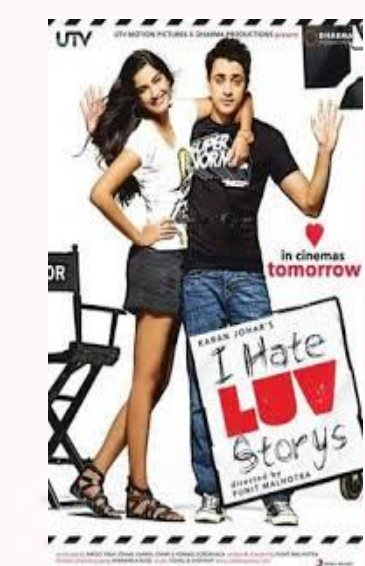
About time by Richard Curtis

★★★★★



I hate luv stories by Punit Malhotra

★★★★★



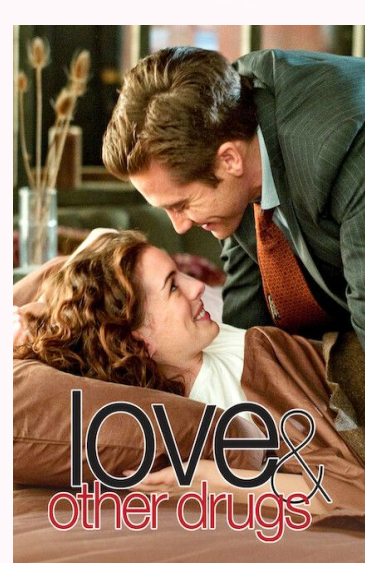
Flipped by Rob Reiner

★★★★★



Love and other drugs by Edward Zwick

★★★★★



October by Shoojit Sircar

★★★★★



Notting Hill by Roger Michell

★★★★





# AIRO 2025: A CALL TO THE BRAVE

By Avyaya Mohan, Sports Editor

MU gears up for four days of electrifying sports battles and unwavering team spirit.

The air is thick with anticipation. AIRO 2025 is upon us, and for four days—February 11th to 14<sup>th</sup>—the University will become a battlefield of grit, passion, and unforgettable moments. The highly awaited sports fest will feature thrilling competitions in football, tennis, cricket, basketball, throwball, kho-kho, kabaddi, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, snooker, athletics, chess, and e-sports like Fifa and Bgmi, ensuring a dynamic and inclusive event for all.

A proving ground for many. The athletes sense the calling, the spirit of the game, and an ultimate opportunity to showcase themselves. The sense of belonging can

already be seen building up with the talks of the upcoming events and the various practice sessions being held. At the center of the university, the glorious football pitch can be observed at this very moment as a breeding ground for passionate players and all they want is a goal up. It is no different in the other corners. Four days,



folks! Only that spirit for four days. For the spectators, your role is just as vital. A team can run, fight, and sweat, but it's the roar from the stands that turns a player on to give in their best. The collective heartbeat of the home crowd will surely be a factor and contribute to the 12<sup>th</sup> man advantage. There is the urge to let the athletes feel the weight of a thousand voices pushing them forward. So, expect some screaming until the voices give out. This fest urges you to step up. Gear up and compete. Cheer if that gives you a feel of being involved at the least. Live every second. AIRO 2025 isn't just happening. It's waiting for you.

## F1 2025 : The Greatest Season Yet?

By Shreyas Baksi, Staff Writer



Source: F1 Official

Following one of the most unpredictable seasons (2024) in recent memory, here are my predictions for the year to come.

**1.Norris to Claim the Title**

After a stellar 2024 season with four wins and a constructors' championship for McLaren, Lando Norris is tipped to secure his maiden drivers' title. The confidence and

consistency could see him rise above the rest

**2. Alonso's Winning Comeback**

Fernando Alonso could finally break his win drought, as Aston Martin's revamp leadership under Andy Cowell and Adrian Newey promises stronger performance.

**3. Rookie Podium Glory**

Six rookies debut this season, and I sense at least two will land on the podium, with Kimi

Antonelli and Liam Lawson leading the charge.

**4. Hamilton to outshine Leclerc**

In his debut season with Ferrari, I tip Lewis Hamilton to outperform teammate Charles Leclerc in 2025. With his wealth of experience and a point to prove, the seven-time champion could edge out Leclerc, despite the Monegasque's strong form. Hamilton's hunger for an eighth title might just give him the upper hand in this battle.

**5. Podium Frenzy**

I envision over half the grid tasting champagne, with an increasingly competitive field featuring strong showings from Haas, Alpine, and Williams.

**6. Mid season driver shakeups**

The season could witness yet another dramatic mid-season driver swap. With rising rookies and fierce competition for results, team dynamics may shift under pressure. Whether it's a struggling Tsunoda/Lawson or a Doohan failing to deliver, the unpredictable nature of F1 suggests a reshuffle could shake up the grid mid-year (Lance Stroll will still not make it to that list, no matter).

# A MAD MAN DIALLO: THE SAVIOUR

By Avyaya Mohan, Sports Editor

Ruben Amorim's reign at Manchester United has begun in disastrous fashion. Eleven games have yielded a mere 11 points, a dismal return for a club of United's stature and history. The atmosphere is tense, with players reportedly frustrated by the club's direction. Experienced club folks like



Source: Goal.com

Marcus Rashford and Victor Lindelof are rumored to be eyeing the exit, while big money signings like Antony have already been loaned out. To make matters worse, United's struggles against relegation-threatened teams have been stark, while flashes of brilliance against top-tier opponents have only served to underline their inconsistency.

And yet, amidst this storm of uncertainty, one name has risen from the chaos to ignite hope in the hearts of United fans: Amad Diallo Traoré. The 22-year-old Ivorian winger has been nothing short of a revelation, turning the tide in ways that defy logic and expectation. What began as mere sparks of potential has erupted into a season that already feels destined for folklore.

Diallo's impact has been seismic, a spectacle of flair and audacity that has dragged United out of darkness time and again. A player once seen as a hopeful prospect has evolved into a game-changer of the highest order.

From his sumptuous brace of assists early in the season to his deft touch that turned a derby against City on its head, Diallo's performances have been nothing short of breathtaking. Against Liverpool, it was his predatory finish that silenced Anfield, snatching a priceless point. At Old Trafford, with the team on the brink of humiliation against Southampton, Diallo produced a jaw-dropping hat-trick that turned despair into delirium.

The consecutive man-of-the-match performances. Stunning goals and clutch assists. Every touch, every run, every moment carries the weight of a man refusing to accept mediocrity. Rival fans may sneer, but to United faithful, Amad is not just a player—he's a symbol of defiance in a season marred by chaos.

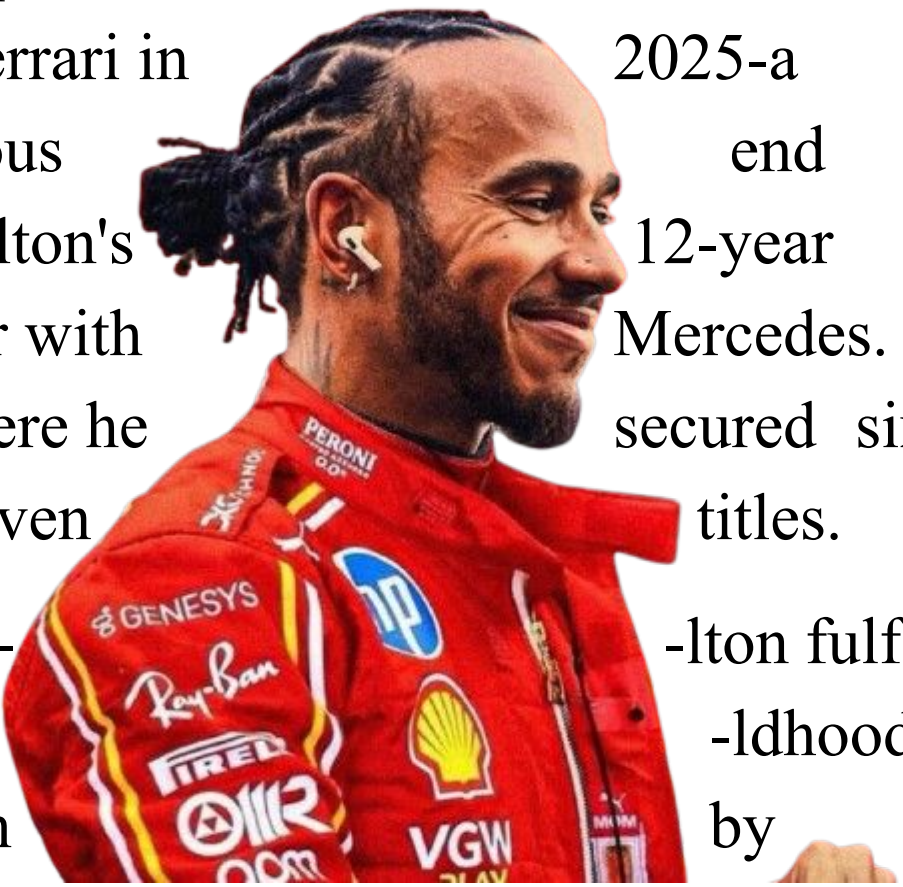
Amad Diallo isn't just making a case as United's best player this season. He's etching his name into the club's lore, one unforgettable moment at a time.

# Prancing Horse Gets Its Knight

By Goutam A, Staff Writer

In one of the most stunning shake-ups in Formula 1 history, seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton leaves Mercedes for Ferrari in 2025-a glorious end to Hamilton's 12-year career with Mercedes. This is where he secured six of his seven titles.

Hamilton fulfilled a childhood dream by switching to Ferrari, what many refer to as "Scuderia." Upon his arrival at Maranello, Hamilton said, "To race for Ferrari is a childhood dream, and it will be quite a challenge to bring back to the team the championship glory that has lacked for almost two decades."



The Brit will team up with Charles Leclerc, as Carlos Sainz Jr. looks for a move to Williams. It appears that Hamilton has signed a multi-year contract with Ferrari, which indicates both parties' commitment to a long-term partnership.

His first days aboard with Ferrari were quite eventful. He got several laps in at the Fiorano Circuit, where, however, fog misted the visibility, so that the fans were unable to catch that historic moment. His second test however did not go so well, he crashed at a private test session at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona, which caused significant damage to the chassis suspension and aerodynamics. Fortunately, he escaped unharmed and unscathed by the impact.

Mixed responses have been given by many. Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff compared the sight of Hamilton in Ferrari colors to "seeing an ex-partner with a new friend" and nevertheless, the Mercedes team principal gave his backing and admiration for Hamilton's choice. However, former F1 driver and well known pundit for sky sports-F1, Martin Brundle raised doubts over Hamilton's performance, adding that at 40, he could have "lost some edge".

As the 2025 season approaches, excitement builds to see if Hamilton can take up the record-breaking eighth world title with Ferrari. Both Hamilton and the Scuderia are raring to go into this new chapter to regain Ferrari's past prominence in the sport.



Source: Pinterest



# Barcelona Stun Real Madrid 5-2 : El Clásico Supercopa Final

By Saha Sri Gundapuneedi,, Staff Writer



Source: FC Barcelona

Barcelona delivered a sensational performance to defeat Real Madrid 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final in Jeddah. Barcelona, despite conceding an early goal and playing with 10 men for the last 30 minutes, dominated the match and secured their 15th Supercopa title in style. True to the old saying, "Never score first against Madrid", Real took the lead in the 5th minute through Kylian Mbappé, who dribbled past defenders before finishing brilliantly. But when Madridistas thought they were in control, the 17 year old Lamine Yamal quickly responded with a spectacular goal of his own, equalizing the score. Barça then took control, scoring twice in quick succession. A VAR review confirmed Eduardo Camavinga had fouled Gavi, leading to a Robert Lewandowski penalty, which he converted with ease.

Minutes later, Raphinha powered in a header from a Jules Koundé cross, making it 3-1. Just before halftime, Alejandro Balde finished off a counterattack, giving the Catalans a comfortable 4-1 lead. Madrid started the second half strongly, with Rodrygo smashing a volley off the crossbar. However, any hopes of a comeback faded when Raphinha struck again, beating the offside trap and scoring his second of the night to make it 5-1. The game took a twist when Wojciech Szczesny was sent off for tripping Mbappé outside the box. Rodrygo converted the free - kick, but Madrid still struggled to break through Barça's solid defense. Even with 10 men, Barcelona controlled the game and saw out a memorable victory. As the final whistle blew, Hansi Flick's side celebrated with their fans, proving that the Culers remain a dominant force in Spanish football.

# THE WNBA ASCENDANCE

By Arnish Raiji, Staff Writer

Even those not interested in sports can attest to the fact that the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) has recently seen a remarkable surge in popularity and viewership, garnering the attention of sports enthusiasts worldwide. This sudden interest is the result of many different factors collaborating to elevate the status of the league.

The key contributor to this is the stardom and fame surrounding the 2024 WNBA rookies who built hype through collegiate sports and progressed this hype into the WNBA. Players like Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese, Cameron Brink and more are slowly becoming household names through their excellence on the court and their immense fan followings. They bring the fanfare off the court with their engaging personalities and competitive spirit, drawing in NBA fans and newcomers alike.

The importance of promoting the WNBA cannot be understated, as it extends beyond the game and its players. Elevating women's basketball is helping society challenge the longstanding gender disparities and assumptions in sports, giving budding athletes role models who exemplify what it means to be a successful



Source:LA Sparks gallery

determined pioneer as a woman. The increasing coverage in media and support from current and former NBA stars have been important in reshaping the perception and helping the WNBA grow. As it continues to grow, the contributions of the players underscore the importance of investing and promoting women's sports. Their skill and dedication are a testament to their talent, but will also inspire future generations of women, emphasizing the importance of the WNBA and its current role in a broader sports and social landscape.

# Mahindra University Dominates Courts at the BVRIT Sports Fest

By Mounami Jagarapu, Editor-in-Chief

The badminton players of MU participated in the BVRIT Sports Fest on January 31st and February 1st, delivering upright performances across multiple categories. The tournament saw competitive matches, with MU securing medals in both men's and women's events.

In the women's category, Keerthana secured gold in the singles event, while Aishwarya took silver after an all-MU final that ended 30-17. The doubles category saw the duo of Aishwarya and Keerthana claim gold, continuing their dominant form.

The team continued in the doubles category competition giving a semi-final victory over BVRIT (21-8, 21-7) before securing the title against GNITS with a scores (21-5, 21-7).



Source: Aishwarya B

On the men's side, Medhansh and Venkrish won gold in the doubles event after a tightly contested final against BVRIT, which ended 23-21, 19-21, 22-20. The pair had earlier defeated GRIET in the semi-finals (15-13, 15-10) to reach the title match.

In singles, Dhanush secured a bronze medal. He advanced past the quarter-finals after a 30-24 win in an MU vs. MU matchup but fell short in the semi-finals against St. Peters (12-15, 11-15).

The tournament provided valuable match experience for MU's players, with several close contests testing their endurance and skill. The athletes demonstrated consistency across multiple rounds, contributing to a strong overall performance for Mahindra University at the event.



Source: Aishwarya B

# From the Editor's Desk

We're thrilled to be back with our February edition, and we couldn't be more grateful for the incredible community we've built together! Each edition is a testament to the passion, creativity, and enthusiasm of our students, and it's inspiring to see how this space has become a platform for voices, ideas, and shared experiences.

More than just a publication, we hope this serves as an archive of our time here—a collection of memories we can look back on with pride. Every story, opinion, and insight adds to the richness of our journey, and we're excited to keep growing and improving together.

As we move forward, we remain committed to making each issue better than the last. Thank you for being a part of this adventure—your support and contributions make all the difference. Here's to another edition filled with inspiration, creativity, and connection!

- Ananya, Mounami and Akshaya







# ECHO LOUNGE

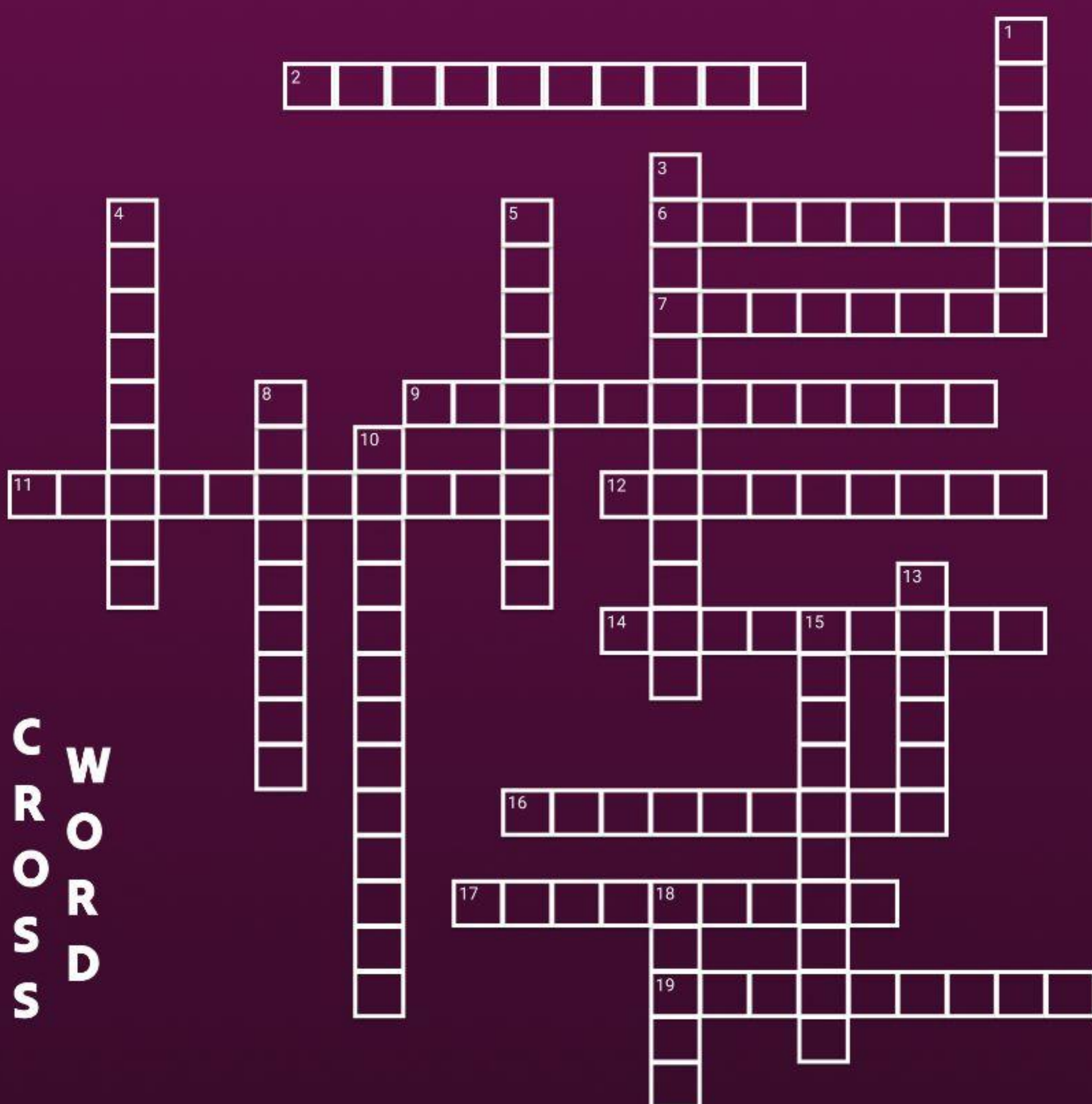
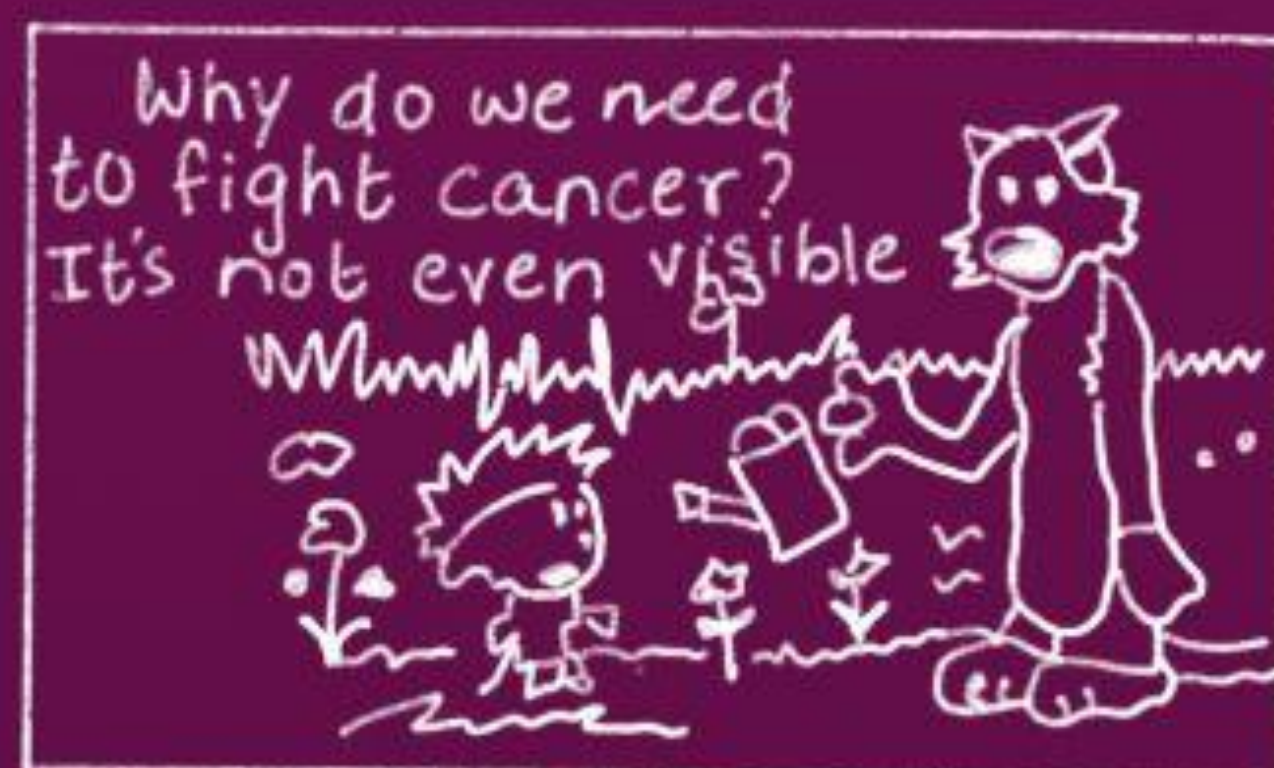
World Cancer Awareness Edition

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## Across

2. Surgery to remove only the tumor and smallest amount of surrounding tissue.
6. What is x-ray energy that kills cancer cells?
7. Loss of hair is a side effect of Chemotherapy
9. Medicines used to stop or slow the growth of cancer cells
11. Chemo-preventive agents has been shown to lower prostate cancer occurrence
12. X-ray screening for breast cancer:
14. In what condition do systems of a disease get reduced or no longer detectable?
16. What is the most common histologic type of thyroid carcinoma?
17. programmed cell death
19. Another word for cancer

## Down

1. A type of tumor found in connective tissue
3. Clinical breast exams and mammograms can help to detect this (2 words).
4. Substances produced by cells of the immune system to enhance production and functioning of components of the immune system
5. Knowledge or perception of a situation or fact
8. The science of studying the nature of a disease
10. Delivery of radiation therapy through internal implants
13. Removal of tissue to check for cancer
15. Inflammation of the oral tissues
18. What do you call an abnormal growth or mass of tissue?



## WORD SEARCH

E K J I I A X T H Y R O I D C A N C E R N R M K  
 L E A M O N I C R A C T B W Q N U V R V Z K R W  
 M D O E U C P A N C R E A T I C C A N C E R E G  
 V W K T N A Y B R L B L O O D C A N C E R L C P  
 O C G R L T K G E O J L P F T U D O O L B V N R  
 V D R E H S T A Y O G I S G X E P W N U I P A O  
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 I Y N A E N A W W A U J U U S E Y R X M E A O  
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 S W C L A E A V N K M F E D L O J D Q W M B R I  
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 P K T N S N N A C S I R M H G P M E Q W O E V Q  
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## WORDS POOL

Thyroid Cancer  
 Malignant  
 Lymphoma  
 Blood  
 Symptoms  
 Osteosarcoma  
 Intestinal Cancer  
 Blood cancer  
 Prognosis  
 Cancer  
 X-ray  
 Pancreas  
 Metastasis  
 Prostate Cancer  
 Chemotherapy  
 CAT Scan  
 Prostate  
 Leg  
 Carcinoma  
 Ovarian Cancer  
 Deadly  
 Breast Cancer  
 Intestines  
 MRI Scan  
 Lungs  
 Ovaries  
 Mammogram  
 Pancreatic Cancer

## Key Facts About Cancer Awareness

- Cancer is a major global health issue, with over 19 million new cases and 10 million deaths reported worldwide in 2020.
- Common risk factors include tobacco use, poor diet, lack of exercise, alcohol consumption, sun exposure, infections (HPV, hepatitis B/C), and genetics.
- Early warning signs may include unexplained weight loss, persistent fatigue, unusual lumps, chronic pain, skin changes, and prolonged cough.
- Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of cancer, responsible for lung and multiple other cancers.
- Preventive measures include a healthy diet, regular exercise, limiting alcohol, avoiding tobacco, sun protection, and vaccinations (HPV, hepatitis B).
- Routine screenings (mammograms, colonoscopies, Pap smears, and prostate exams) improve early detection and survival rates.
- Raising awareness and promoting healthy lifestyle choices can significantly reduce cancer-related deaths.