

Expression

Department of Mass Communication, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

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'Colour The World Orange': 16 days against violence of women

Mornika Basak
(MA, Sem 1)

Kolkata: The 16 days International campaign against gender-based violence has been organized in November 2025 by applying a wave of orange as activists and leaders came together to set out the initiatives that aim to end the violence without bias or boundaries.

This initiative was first launched by feminist activists in 1991, beginning on November 25, The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against women and concluding on December 10, Human Rights Day. The campaign takes action against the ongoing violence on all platforms against women and girls. According to the UN, violence against women has continued for decades everywhere especially in work culture and in the past few year in social media. This year's theme, "Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women And Girls" focuses on digital abuse against women and girls worldwide, a growing



Hand Says No (Source: Google Images)

concern in the current times which needs immediate attention.

Digital abuse harms the human rights, right to life and dignity of a woman of young age as well as slowing economic growth, destroying one's mental health and the right to live life freely without any hesitance. It also silences women's

voices, limits their participation in society, and creates barriers to attaining equality.

The Impact is severe especially for women with online or public visibility, such as activists, journalists and politicians and for those facing intersecting form of discrimination,

including race, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

The forms of violence against women of young and old age show up in different ways – sexual, physical, mental and economical. These forms are correlated and affect women since birth. Some of which are online abuse, forced alcohol, trafficking, many more that often go unreported.

Women who face violence at a young age, live with that trauma and agitation throughout their life which can damage social and mental state. Not only the victim, but their families are also affected by the same.

UN Women's UNITE campaign urges governments, tech companies, and individuals to take stronger action against digital abuse, from cyberbullying and trolling to image-based violence and AI deepfakes. By pushing for better laws and safer platforms, the 16-day initiative reminds us that protecting women's rights demands steady commitment so every woman can live with dignity and safety.

Celebrating world television day: Magic box that connects millions

Sahele Das
(MA, Sem 1)

Television is a vibrant world that manifests itself on a screen and is an essential part of our everyday existence. Television unites us all, from vivid realities to black-and-white dreams. The father of television, Scottish inventor and demonstrator John Logie Baird, made the discovery of this vibrant audio-visual device. Many scientists, academics, and researchers were responsible for the transition from black-and-white to color television.

Knowledge and creativity collide on television. It is a screen that displays more than just pictures - it displays narratives, feelings, and the real world. Television has a profound effect on our lives since it not only portrays reality but also shapes it. Because of this, we commemorate World Television Day on November 21st each year, in accordance with a UN statement. This acknowledgement followed the first World Television Forum in 1996, where media executives talked about the increasing significance of television in disseminating accurate information and influencing public opinion. The UN recognized the importance of television in drawing attention to conflicts, peace, and development on a worldwide scale. People all across the world are profoundly connected by television, which serves as a window bringing the outside world into our homes. In addition to providing important news and updates, it fosters emotional connections and expands our horizons via music, entertainment, culture, and other mediums. Celebrating World Television Day acknowledges the influence of television on society by fostering social, economic, and peaceful advancement.

By bringing the outside world into our living rooms,



World TV Day (Source: Google Image)

television has completely changed how individuals obtain information. Television promotes culture, art, and enjoyment through movies, music shows, and sports while also educating viewers about world issues through news, documentaries, and educational programs. It is a source of joy and relaxation for families and an educational tool for students.

We are urged to use television wisely on World Television Day. Instead of encouraging violence or false information, the shows we watch should promote awareness, positivity, and education. It serves as a reminder to viewers of their freedom to choose what they consume and to broadcasters of their obligation to serve the truth.

Even if social media and internet streaming services have grown in popularity in the current digital era, television continues to play a significant role. For

verified news and live broadcasting of significant events, it continues to be the most trustworthy source. From black-and-white screens to internet-connected smart TVs, television has changed along with technology.

Television is a potent and significant information, education, and entertainment medium that links people to a variety of cultures, viewpoints, and local and international events. It facilitates access to educational materials, strengthens family ties, and increases public knowledge of social issues and government initiatives. Television is still a major source of news and entertainment for a large audience, even though its format is constantly changing with interactive and on-demand content.

Television still serves as a bridge between nations, societies, and cultures. On World Television Day, we honor a medium that unites, educates, and informs people all over the world in addition to an innovation. The goal of television, which is to inspire and educate, is still crucial as we advance in this digital era.

As the world continues to evolve, television remains a constant companion, adapting to new technologies while preserving its core purpose of informing and connecting people. Its ability to reach diverse audiences and spark meaningful conversations ensures that it will continue to shape public understanding for generations. World Television Day reinforces this enduring relevance, reminding us that even in a rapidly changing digital landscape, television continues to guide, inspire, and unite viewers across the globe. It stands as a testament to the power of shared stories, proving that a single screen can bring millions together.

SPOTLIGHT

Jagadhatri: Goddess of hope and strength

Kasturi Shaw
(MA, Sem 1)

Kolkata: As the autumn air fades and echoes of Durga Puja slowly settle, the lanes of Chandannagar, Krishnanagar and parts of Hooghly in West Bengal awaken once more with the rhythmic beats of dhak and the fragrance of Incense. It's time for Jagadhatri Puja - a festival that celebrates the power of patience, courage, and renewal.

Jagadhatri, meaning the bearer of the world, is considered another incarnation of Goddess Durga. According to the mythology, she appeared to restore people's faith after the demon Mahishasura's defeat. While Durga represents fierce power, Jagadhatri embodies calm strength the power to rebuild and sustain the world. She is often depicted as seated on a lion, holding her weapons, with a calm yet commanding gaze, reminding devotees that true strength comes from inner peace.

Unlike the grandeur of Durga Puja, Jagadhatri Puja has a more devotional, introspective essence. The festival is celebrated mostly in Chandannagar, where entire town transforms into a luminous wonderland. The elaborate lighting displays an age-old pride of Chandannagar that paint stories from mythology and modern life alike, attracting thousand of visitors every



Jagadhatri Immersion. (Source: Kasturi Shaw)

year. In Krishnanagar and other towns of Nadia and Hooghly districts, the puja pandals showcase magnificent idols adorned with red and gold, their serenity contrasting with Maa Durga's fierce form. Local artisans spend months crafting these idols with minute

details, reflecting both artistic devotion and cultural continuity.

For Bengalis, Jagadhatri Puja is not just a religious festival, it's a symbol of resilience. Many believe the Goddess appears to remind humanity to rise again, no matter how difficult the

times are. The festive spirit also leads to community bonding. From children performing in cultural programs to elders engaging in rituals, the puja grounds become a gathering of hopes, reflecting a shared strength that carries communities forward.

Beyond the religious rituals, Jagadhatri Puja showcases the craftsmanship and artistic identity of Bengal. From intricate clay modelling to vibrant ornamentation, each idol becomes a testament to the skill passed down through generations. The lighting installations, especially in Chandannagar, are designed months in advance by expert electricians and artists who treat the festival as their creative canvas. Their work not only preserves a cultural legacy but also brings livelihood and recognition to local communities, making the festival a celebration of both faith and craftsmanship. As the immersion rituals begin, the festive energy softens into quiet reflection. Devotees carry the idol to the riverbanks with music and chants, marking not an ending but a reminder that resilience must continue beyond the celebrations. Jagadhatri Puja ultimately stands as a gentle yet powerful message that hope can be rebuilt and strength thrives in calm unity.

Diwali crackers: Faith, joy and balance

Preeti Mall
(MA, Sem 1)

Kolkata: Diwali, the festival of lights, celebrates the triumph of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. The most popular story behind the festival comes from the Ramayana, where Lord Rama returns to Ayodhya after defeating demon king Ravana and completing his 14 year exile. To honour his return the people of Ayodhya lit rows of lamps, symbolizing hope, righteousness and renewed joy. The tradition continues today and forms the heart of Diwali celebrations.

According to mythology, bursting crackers is linked to the joy of Rama's homecoming. Texts such as the Ananda Ramayana and Nilamata Purana mentions how lights and sounds were used to celebrate his arrival. Over time, these sounds evolved into fireworks. Their loud bursts were believed to ward off evil spirits and negative energies, while the bright glow symbolically guided ancestors (pitrs) visiting the earth during this period. Thus fireworks were not just entertainment but expressions of devotion, purity



Firecrackers Image (Source: Google Images)

and protection.

Modern supporters including Khan Sir, Sadhguru and Bageshwar Dham emphasize that festivals are deeply woven into India's cultural and spiritual identity. They believe that fireworks represent joy, unity and emotional continuity with ancient tradition. For many Diwali without crackers feels incomplete, as they symbolize celebration and togetherness. These thinkers encourage communities to understand the essence behind customs

rather than rejecting them blindly.

On the other hand celebrities such as Alia Bhatt and Anushka Sharma encourage reducing or avoiding fireworks due to their harmful environmental effects. They highlighted that air pollution rises sharply after Diwali, affecting children, elderly and those with respiratory issues. Noise from crackers also causes distress to animals and birds. Their view promotes sustainable celebration by lighting diyas, performing puja, donating,

sharing sweets and spending time with family instead of focusing heavily on fireworks.

Both sides offer meaningful arguments, leading to the idea of a balanced path. While crackers reflect cultural identity, joy and tradition, protecting nature is equally important. The middle path encourages limited and responsible bursting of crackers by choosing eco-friendly options, reducing noise and staying mindful of others. This approach preserves heritage without compromising environmental health, allowing Diwali to remain joyous for all. In South India, Diwali marks Lord Krishna's victory over Narakasura. Many worship Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity. For Jains, the day commemorates Lord Mahavira's nirvana, while Sikhs celebrate the release of Guru Govind Ji. Together these stories remind us that Diwali is about light, wisdom and harmony, celebrates with both devotion and responsibility. Ultimately, Diwali's spirit lies in honoring tradition while caring for the world around us, allowing the festival to shine with both joy and responsibility.

NARRATIVE PIECES

Why kids are becoming arrogant?

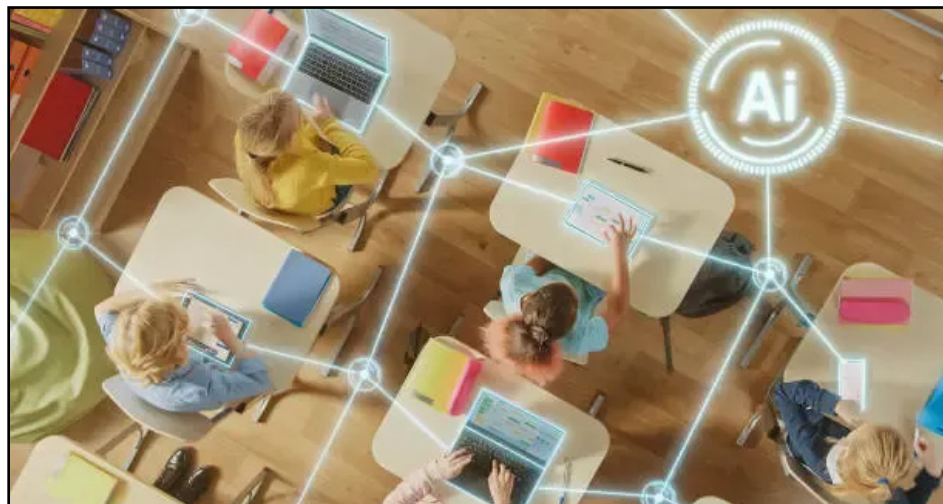
Sneha Barua
(MA, Sem 1)

The notion that “kids these days” are becoming worse is not at all new. For centuries, older generations have been grumbling about young. Young people were impolite and overconfident, according to even Aristotle. Writer Samuel Johnson asserted in the 1750s that every elderly man thought the younger generation was more arrogant than the previous one. However, current research indicates that these assessments are frequently biased. Children tend to overestimate their talents, which adds to the sense of arrogance, according to studies conducted over five decades (1968–2021). By comparing their perceived and real performance on activities, this overestimation is quantified. Ishit Bhatt, 10, on Kaun Banega Crorepati 17 was a recent case that caused controversy. Millions of people watched edited television excerpts of his behavior on the show, which led many to accuse him of being conceited and place the responsibility on his parents. Experts advise avoiding responding in such a severe manner, instead highlighting more general trends such as the “Little Emperor Syndrome.” It first appeared in China during the One Child Policy era and refers to kids who get too much attention from several elders, which frequently leads to them becoming demanding or overconfident. The “Six Pocket Phenomenon,” in which wealthy families unwittingly promote impolite or entitled behavior since every elder tends to accommodate the child, has also been introduced via social media. Helicopter parenting and over-pampering can exacerbate this. Psychologists advise the authoritative parenting approach, which combines warmth and strict boundaries, to combat this. It depends on direction, communication, and uniform regulations rather than penalties or threats. In the end, blaming an entire generation oversimplifies a much deeper issue. With balanced guidance, clear boundaries, and supportive parenting, children can grow into confident yet grounded individuals, showing that thoughtful nurture matters far more than age-old complaints. When their energy is shaped with care, the same traits often criticized today can become their greatest strengths tomorrow.

How AI tools are transforming student life

Inica Raza
(MA, Sem 1)

Kolkata: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly moved from being a futuristic idea to an everyday reality, deeply woven into student life. Across schools, colleges, and universities, AI tools are transforming how students study, learn, and manage their res-



AI Tools are Transforming the Academic World (Source: Google Images)

possibilities. This shift is not only making education more convenient but also redefining what it means to be a learner in the digital age.

AI-powered platforms such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Notion AI have revolutionized the way students approach learning. These tools help with writing essays, summarizing readings, and organizing notes efficiently. They adapt to individual learning styles, offer instant feedback, and make studying more interactive. Tasks that once took hours can now be done

in minutes, allowing students to spend more time understanding and applying concepts rather than struggling with repetitive work.

AI has also made education more inclusive and accessible. Translation and text-to-speech features have broken language barriers, enabling students from different backgrounds to engage

giving students more space for creativity and critical thinking.

However, dependence on AI also raises concerns. Overusing these tools can limit originality and problem-solving skills. Issues like plagiarism and academic honesty have become growing challenges. Educators therefore emphasize using AI responsibly — as a guide that enhances learning, not a shortcut that replaces it.

Looking ahead, AI's role in education will only expand. Future classrooms may include intelligent mentors that adjust lessons according to each student's progress. Yet, no matter how advanced technology becomes, its purpose should remain to support, not overshadow, human effort and curiosity.

In the end, AI is reshaping student life by making learning smarter, more efficient, and more inclusive — preparing the students for a future where technology and creativity go hand in hand.

As students continue adapting to this new digital landscape, AI stands as both a powerful resource and a reminder of the need for balance. When used thoughtfully, it strengthens creativity, sharpens understanding, and encourages independent thinking. The challenge is to embrace innovation without losing integrity, letting AI support rather than replace human effort. This balance prepares students for a future where technology enhances their skills while keeping learning meaningful and human-centered.

Sound of 100 drums in the hills of Meghalaya

Amarita Kumari
(MA, Sem 1)

Every November, the steady rhythm of drums fills the air as the mist softly covers Meghalaya's undulating green hills. This is the signature sound of Wangala, the lively Garo harvest festival, also known as the “Festival of a Hundred Drums.” The festival transformed the serene Garo Hills into a vibrant medley of color, dance, and spirituality in 2025. More than just a festival, “Wangala” is an opportunity to give thanks to Misi Saljong, the Sun God, for the blessings of nature and a bountiful harvest. Villages in the Garo Hills come to life as men and women dance to the sounds of horns, bamboo pipes, and big drums while wearing traditional handwoven clothing and head-dressed with feathers. Their graceful “Chachat So'a” and



Wangala Festival (Source: Google Images)

upbeat “Dama Gogata” dance moves tell tales of solidarity, hard work, and community. The strong drumbeats and their coordinated movements seem to awaken the land's very spirit. “Wangala” 2025 showcased an ideal

blend of tradition and modern energy. New performers and cultural groups brought fresh life to the festivities with music, displays, and food events. Locally made jewellery, eco-friendly stalls, and the air was filled with the aromas of traditional dishes, giving visitors a taste of the creative and sustainable lifestyle of the Garos. Tourists, photographers, and culture enthusiasts from all over India and beyond gathered to enjoy this blend of heritage and contemporary celebration. Beyond its aesthetic value, Wangala conveys a message that transcends Meghalaya: culture is a living rhythm that still directs communities, not merely a relic of the past. It serves as a reminder that real progress is found in letting traditions coexist with contemporary life rather than eschewing them.

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Echoes of India takes pride in women's glory

Shomili Mukherjee
(MA, Sem 1)

Kolkata: The second of November, 2025 was an immensely proud day for all Indians as the Maiden ODI World Cup crown was officially bestowed upon our India. The DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai witnessed a huge rush and heated moments as the audience held their anticipated breath and prayed for the victory of our nation. The finals, being played on the Indian soil, carried a massive significance to the win. It added to a very heartfelt element. The joyous screams and applauds filled the whole air with hopes of awaiting victory and prosperity. The team demonstrated extreme resilience and perseverance by standing tall again even after losing three consecutive matches in the league phase.

The star performers of the day were undoubtedly the Verma and Sharma duo among all the other super-competent players. Shefali Varma scored an amazing 87 off 78 balls in the finals making India beam pride with success. Deepti Sharma was also no less of an excellent player having bagged the 'Player of the Tournament' honours, 58 with the bat then 5 wickets for 39 with



The Indian Women's Team Celebrating Victory (Source: Google Image)

the ball. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur had to fulfil her crucial responsibility by undertaking the final catch to ensure the win. Despite South African Captain Laura Wolvaardt earning a striking century for her nation, India knocked the opponent nation out while batting first and then bowling for 246 in 45.3 overs.

This enormous win was a huge prosperous event for India as this ended years

of setback and also earning a title that the whole world has to see. This match was not only essential for establishing and making a remarkable place in the history of Indian cricket tournaments but also a huge inspirational milestone for all the young girls out there who are yet puzzled to pursue their dreams.

A lumpsum financial reward was announced for the squad in worthy recognition of their exceptionally phenome-

nal achievement. As people dearly say, it is indeed "Bharat Maata Ki Jay!"

The triumph of November 2 stands as a defining chapter in India's sporting journey, symbolising not just victory but the unbreakable spirit of a team that rose against all odds. This historic moment will continue to inspire generations, reminding every young athlete that passion and perseverance can turn dreams into destiny.

A gripping mystery that trips over its ambition

Sharanya Roy
(MA, Sem 1)

"Mandala Murders," the latest Hindi original series on Netflix, arrives with a premise as intricate as its title suggests. Created by Gopi Puthran of the Mardaani franchise, the show is an eight-episode crime thriller that attempts to weave together a complex tapestry of ancient rituals and deep-seated social commentary. While its ambition is commendable, the series often gets tangled in its own threads, resulting in an intriguing yet uneven experience.

The story is set in the fictional town of Charandasapur, where a series of gruesome ritualistic murders begins to plague the community. The killings are meticulously orchestrated and connected by a recurring macabre symbol: a mandala.

Assigned to investigate is CIB officer Rea Thomas (Vaani Kapoor), a woman grappling with past trauma. She is joined by Vikram Singh (Vaibhav Raj Gupta), a suspended police officer with a personal connection to the town's dark history. As the duo digs deeper, they uncover a secret cult called the Aayastis, who perform these sacrifices in an attempt to resurrect a god-like



Poster of Mandala Murders. (Source: Google Image)

entity named Yast. The investigation spirals from a straightforward whodunit into a sprawling saga that blurs the line between science and mysticism.

On a technical and visual level, Mandala Murders is often impressive. The cinematography by Shaz Mohammed effectively creates a gritty, atmospheric world. The dusty alleys of Charandasapur and the foreboding jungle settings are shot with a haunting stillness that perfectly complements the show's occult undertones. The production design is detailed and moody, particularly in its depiction

of the cult's eerie sanctum. The show does not shy away from graphic violence, using body horror to instill unease though at times, this can feel gratuitous.

Where the series falters is in its ambitious yet convoluted writing. It tries to tackle a multitude of themes from caste and patriarchy to trauma and blind faith within a single narrative. The result is a sprawling plot with too many subplots and characters, some of which are introduced with intrigue only to be abandoned or underdeveloped. While the initial episodes are gripping

and establish a compelling mystery, the pace begins to drag as the story delves into complex backstories and frequent shifts in timeline. The blending of ancient myths with modern science also feels clunky and unconvincing at times, and what begins as a profound genre-bender becomes muddled by the finale.

Even with its uneven storytelling, the series manages to keep viewers engaged through its strong atmosphere and compelling performances. The world it builds is haunting and immersive, offering enough mystery and tension to pull the audience along. While the narrative falters at times, its visual strength and tonal consistency help maintain interest throughout.

In conclusion, Mandala Murders is an admirable attempt at creating a unique, genre-bending thriller. It has a strong visual style and a standout performance from Vaibhav Raj Gupta. However, its overstuffed script and occasionally confusing narrative prevent it from reaching its full potential. For viewers who enjoy slow-burn mysteries with a dark, mythical twist and who can overlook some plot inconsistencies it is still worth a watch.

PHOTO GALLERY



Subham Dey (MA, Sem 1)



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PHOTO GALLERY



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