

xpression 2023

THE FESTIVE EDIT

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



“
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FESTIVAL OF THIS WORLD
”
AND YOUR LIFE IS BLESSED

RABINDRANATH TAGORE



The Story from the lanes of Kumartuli

ADRIJA KUNDU, *MA Sem 1*

The narrow lanes of Kumartuli, nestled in the heart of Kolkata, burst with activity as the rhythmic pounding of clay filled the air. Photographers flocked to capture every moment of this artistic spectacle. “If you want to interview me, make sure you have some money for my evening tea,” Subhajit Paul half-jokingly cautioned. With just three weeks until Durga Pujo, there was little tolerance for distractions. “I’ve shipped two sculptures overseas, including to America and London,” said Paul. The demand for their artistry knew no borders, and the esteemed Paul family of Kumartuli had received numerous offers from foreign nations. With the framework of Durga’s idol completed, the artisans were now diligently working on the other murtis that would accompany her, including Lord Ganesha, Goddess Saraswati, Lord Kartikeya, and Goddess Lakshmi. A key ingredient in the idol-making process was the special mud sourced from Uluberia. “This clay is preferred due to its sticky quality. Many use fibre for idol making but we prefer to stick to the basics, said Paul. It wasn’t just artistic creativity that was at play; it was also a battle against the elements. The narrow lanes of this artisan hub faced a new challenge this year - relentless heavy rainfall that had drenched the state capital over the past few days. Biswajit Pal, an experienced idol maker in Kumartuli, shared the concerns of his fellow craftsmen, said, “We had to shift to indoor workspaces to prevent the idols from getting damaged.” The clay idols, which traditionally required time to air-dry, were taking longer due to the persistent rain. Some artisans resorted to working under sheets of tarpaulins to provide extra cover and protection against the elements. The rain, though unwelcome, couldn’t dampen the



fervor and passion that drove the artisans. In Kumartuli, the art of idol making was not merely a craft; it was a labor of love, tradition, and dedication. The streets of Kumartuli bore witness to a fusion of tradition and modernity, where the ancient art of idol making thrived in harmony with the contemporary world. Dey Bari’s puja started way back in 1748 A.D by Ram Chandra Dey. It is a traditional Bengali household that has been celebrating Durga Puja for over 270 years. The puja is held in the massive thakurdalan of the house, which is decorated with stucco works and reminds one of the bygone days. The preparation for Puja starts from Tiritiya when the ladies of the household decorate the platform where pratima (statue) would be established with ‘alpona’ (patterns, and symbols that are painted on floors with paint made from rice flour). Preparation for Bengali sweets for the puja starts on the day of Chaturthi. Sweets like chinipuli, monohara, sondesh, narkol chapa, gurer naru, chinir

naru, meta pithe, chanar murki, chinir monda, pithe is made in the household. The night of Panchami is when the Pratima gets decorated for the upcoming day with ‘Daaker shaaj’. On the day of Sasthi, the idol wears Jewellery made of gold and silver and later the ladies of the household welcome goddess Durga in the evening. In the morning of Saptami ‘nobo patrika’ (also popularly known as ‘kola bou’) gets bathed in the river of ganga. After coming back, it is bathed again with 7 or 5 types of Proyag Jol (water collected from different pilgrimage) from Tribeni, Haridwar, Ganga sagar, Rishikesh. The puja is held following the Baisnab rituals, and, as such, there is no sacrifice. Sridhar Jiu, the household deity of the Dey family, is also worshipped during the puja. Kumari Puja and Dhuno porano are held on the day of Ashtami. Kumari Puja is the worship of a young girl as a manifestation of the goddess Durga. Dhuno porano is a ritual in which the goddess is awakened from her

slumber. On the day of Nabami, only married couples of the family can offer floral offerings to the goddess Durga. This is a unique practice that is not followed in other Durga Pujas. One unique feature of the Dey Bari Durga Puja is that whatever is offered to the goddess is prepared in the household and not brought from outside. Even William Carey, the missionary and social reformer, paid a visit here. The Durga Puja at Dey Bari is a cherished tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is a unique and special event that attracts devotees from all over West Bengal. Rajbari- Serampore is Well known for its multicultural Danish communities. It also features some of the best historic homes of affluent Bengali merchants, in addition to these Danish masterpieces. The Goswami Rajbari is one such magnificent building. For almost 300 years, the Goswami family of Serampore, Hooghly, has worshiped Ek Chala Durga. The graceful and unique appearance of the Protima looks more majestic with the ‘Chal Chitra’ at the back. This bonedi bari durga puja is performed following three puranas, Debi Puran, Brihat Nandikeshwar Puran, and Kalika Puran. Sasthi starts with Chandi Path and after the puja ‘Bhog Nibedan’ starts among people who visits the Rajbari and the evening ends with Aarti (waving lighted wicks before the sacred images to infuse the flames with the Deities’ love, energy and blessings). On Saptami Nabapatrika is bathed in the ‘dalan’ and rest of the day continues similarly as Sasthi. Kumari Puja is held on Navami. On Dashami the ‘Biday Baran’ is done by 15-20 people and after all the rituals are performed the idol gets taken for Bisarjan (immersion in water) at Chapatala ghat. From Sasthi to Dashami ‘Homa’ (a fire ritual) is done.



Goswami property includes “Chandni”, or “Naatmandir”, a covered courtyard, measuring 120 feet by 30 feet. The floor

was covered in Chunar stone. For the rafters and beams on the roof, Sal wood was brought from Nepal. The Chandni was used

for festive occasions of Durga Puja, the Chandni was the venue for feeding 500 people at a time. Nowadays, This puja has lost its

flamboyancy but the heritage of this place dates back to centuries and has been an important part of Bengali culture and architecture.

Pujo'23: New Market abuzz with trends

ANUSHKA CHATTERJEE

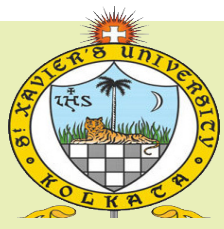
Durga Puja is not just a religious festival but a cultural extravaganza that allows individuals to express their style and creativity through their attire. The festive fervour has already hit the streets of Kolkata, with enthusiastic shoppers crowding in at markets and malls across the city. Durga Puja enthusiasts not only look forward to the grand pandal decorations and cultural celebrations but also eagerly anticipate showcasing their finest attire during the auspicious occasion. The shopping spree is quite visible in Gariahat, New Market, Hatibagan, College Street and other malls and markets across the city. Though the unpredictable weather, especially the cloud showers, has raised a hint of doubt, it doesn't shatter the fashion freaks of Kolkata. New Market, one of the city's iconic shopping destinations, is abuzz with the latest fashion trends that promise to make this year's Durga Puja celebrations even more vibrant and stylish. With its



rich history and vibrant shopping culture, New Market remains at the forefront of the fashion scene during this auspicious time. Retailers and wholesalers claim that even though the festivities this year begin in the third week of October, shopping has already started. In New Market, the shopkeepers are getting ready with new puja collections, but this year, bargaining would get tougher as ‘fixed price’ boards are hung up almost at every shop. According to Sanjib Sil, a hawker who mainly deals with graphic tees and shoes, “Prices are going to sharply rise as soon as the calendar hits October.” So, like every year, the early shoppers are going to get an edge over the prices. Rain always plays

a spoilsport in festivities, and thus this year, designer crocs, high ankle boots, and sneakers might just be the top choices for the customers. This Puja might just get more extravagant with more vibrant colours as colour gradient hand bags and sling bags are available throughout the Newmarket. Fusion fashion has become increasingly trendy, and Durga Puja is the ideal time to try it out. This year, lehenga sarees, cape-style blouses, and Indo-Western outfits with elaborate embroidery are in vogue. While bright and bold colours have always been a hallmark of Durga Puja fashion, pastel hues are making a significant splash this season. Soft pinks, serene blues, mint greens,

and powder purples are adorning sarees, lehengas, and suits. These soothing colours complement the festive ambiance and offer a refreshing departure from the customary vivid hues, making them a top choice for those looking to make a subtle yet elegant statement. This year, New Market dazzles with a stunning collection of jewellery, including temple jewellery, oxidised silver pieces, and chunky necklaces. These accessories add the perfect finishing touch to elevate any ensemble. According to Md. Hussain, a hawker who deals in women's accessories, “beaded and evil-eyed bracelets, pendants, chokers, necklaces, rings, and especially the demand for rose gold jewellery are quite high this season.” Even though modern fashion trends constantly evolve, many people still have an affinity for traditional clothing during Durga Puja. This year, as usual, New Market is filled with exquisite sarees in a variety of regional designs. Kanjivaram, and Dhakai jamdani sarees are among the best options.



From Churros to Chatni: A countdown to culinary reveries begins



Source: Saptaparni Sarkar, MA Sem I, King's Bakery, Kolkata

BUSHRASHEIKH, MA Sem I

This time of year, the city undergoes a remarkable transformation as the streets come alive with colour, music, and, of course, the irresistible aroma of delicious food. Amidst the countless pandals adorned with intricate artistry and vibrant themes, one element stands out as a unifying force: food. The frenzy for food during Durga Puja transcends age, gender, and

are nothing short of intoxicating. Tribe Cafe, located in Behala James Long, is under the capable management of Debashish Dey, who has been leading the establishment. To mark the significance of Durga Puja, Tribe Cafe will be introducing a special menu for the entire month. This menu will feature a range of dishes carefully curated to cater to the diverse tastes of the patrons. In anticipation of the increased foot fall.



Source: Saptaparni Sarkar, MA Sem I, Tribe Cafe, Kolkata

background. It's a shared passion that brings Kolkatans together like no other time of the year. From mouthwatering sweets to savoury delights, the city's culinary scene comes alive with an array of flavours and aromas that

during Durga Puja, Tribe Cafe will extend its operating hours. During this festive period, the cafe will open its doors at 11 a.m. and remain operational until 1:30 a.m., accommodating both daytime and late-night diners.



Source: Simran Tripathi, MA Sem I, Churros From South Kolkata Cafe

Tribe Cafe will accommodate customers through walk-ins only during Durga Puja and will not be accepting reservations. This approach will ensure that the cafe caters to the festive crowd efficiently and will be able to seamlessly serve pork and chicken delicacies, which it boasts of. Another restaurant is gearing up for Pujo in Behala. James Long, Koshe Kosha, under the capable stewardship of Chiranjit Khamaru, prepares to embrace the spirit of Durga Puja with open arms. Chiranjit's leadership and commitment to excellence have made Koshe Kosha a beloved name in the city's culinary landscape. Koshe Kosha's Durga Puja menu boasts a range of

mutton rolls taking centre stage. These delectable rolls have earned a special place in the hearts of patrons thanks to their affordability, with prices starting at just 35–40 rupees. In a city where delicious diversity reigns supreme, these rolls have become a staple for those seeking a quick and satisfying meal. Kasturi, renowned for its specialisation in Bengali fusion cuisine from West Bengal and Bangladesh, is no exception. Kasturi, with 12 branches across the city, has been a prominent name in the culinary landscape of Kolkata. In preparation for the Durga Puja rush, Kasturi has made strategic adjustments to its menu to streamline service and accommodate the expect-



Source: Simran Tripathi, MA Sem I, Kasturi Restaurants

popular starters, including bhetki fry and mochar chop, which are sure to whet the appetite of patrons. For main courses, dishes like Daab Chingri, Ilish, and Mutton Kosha are in high demand, offering a delightful taste of Bengali cuisine. With extended hours, a special menu, and a commitment to fairness, Koshe Kosha promises to be a fitting destination where patrons can savour the flavours and traditions of Durga Puja in all their splendour. can be enjoyed by our guests with prior enrolment. Boasting an authentic menu ranging from paella to churros, this eatery should definitely be on the must-visit list of Spanish food lovers. Among the myriad preparations that unfold across the city, the story of Peep Inn, a beloved fast-food eatery near Rabindra Sarovar metro station, stands out as a testament to the spirit of Puja. As Durga Puja approaches, this unassuming fast-food haven is ready for the festivities, offering a unique blend of tradition and modernity. The inn will open its doors at 10:30 a.m. and remain operational until an impressive 4:00 a.m. This extended schedule caters to the insatiable appetite for delicious fast food during Puja nights. The eatery boasts a fixed menu of fast food items, with the likes of egg rolls, chicken rolls, and

ed high footfall. Kasturi has partnered with food delivery platforms like Zomato, capitalising on their extensive reach and offering special deals to attract online orders. To cater to the diverse preferences of patrons, Kasturi has introduced special thalis during Durga Puja. The Maharaja Thali, in particular, has emerged as the most sought-after item during this festive period. Its popularity can be attributed to its diverse selection of traditional Bengali and Bangladeshi dishes, allowing customers to savour an authentic taste experience. During the five days of Durga Puja, Kasturi unveils a specialised menu that showcases the best of Bengali and Bangladeshi cuisine. This curated menu is designed to offer a taste of tradition and festivity to all patrons. "In anticipation of the enthusiastic crowds that Durga Puja brings, we have carefully curated our menu. We understand that time is of the essence during this festive season, so we've shortened our menu to ensure swift service without compromising on quality," said the owner of the restaurant, Bachu Bhuniya. King's Bakery in Hindustan Park, known for its Korean cuisine and unique ambience, is all set to welcome patrons of all ages and forever. Food is a must during the Durga pujas.

'Why Are Farmers Being Made Villain?'

SC Raps Punjab Govt Over Stubble Burning, Says Take Cue From Haryana

Sanjli DasGupta, MA Sem I



Farmland on fire in Punjab

-Google

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rapped the Punjab government for not taking strict actions against stubble burning, one of the biggest causes of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, and observed that farmers are presented as villains while not getting adequate chances to be heard in court. The apex court made the observations while hearing a series of petitions on the toxic air across Delhi that has created a chokehold-like situation for the residents of the national capital. According to HT, a bench of Justices SK Kaul and S Dhulia directed the Punjab and Delhi governments to take action against the burning of agricultural waste, which added significantly to Delhi's AQI crisis. The bench also stated the AAP-led Punjab government's report suggested that over 8,400 meetings were held with farmers and farmer leaders to convince them to not burn paddy straws by state house officers but still

the number of farm fires could not be abated, the publication reported. The court also questioned Bhagwant Mann's government about why the process of crop residue management is not completely free and why the administration is failing to fund the cost of petrol or diesel needed for the same. "Why doesn't the Punjab government make the process of crop residue 100% free? To burn it, all the farmer needs to do is light a matchstick. Machine for the management of crop residue to farmers is not everything. Even if the machine is given for free, there is diesel cost, manpower, etc," HT quoted the SC as saying. For this purpose, the apex court asked the Punjab government to take inspiration from its neighbouring state Haryana, which offered financial incentives and managed to significantly bring down stubble burning. "The state of Punjab should also take

a cue from the state of Haryana in the manner in which financial incentives are given," said the Supreme Court. Hearing pleas on Delhi air pollution, the Supreme Court ordered the Punjab and Delhi governments to take action against burning of agricultural waste. "Why doesn't the Punjab government make the process of crop residue 100% free? To burn it, all the farmer needs to do is light a matchstick. Machine for the management of crop residue to farmers is not everything. Even if the machine is given for free, there is diesel cost, manpower, etc," the Supreme Court said. The court also observed that land in Punjab is becoming arid slowly because the water table is getting depleted. If the land runs dry, everything else will get affected. The court also asked attorney general R Venkatramani to encourage alternate crops.

PM Narendra Modi to host virtual G20 Leaders' Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host a virtual Leaders' Summit on Wednesday evening to deliberate implementation of the Delhi Declaration prior to G20 concluding India's Presidency this month, Sherpa Amitabh Kant said adding that the virtual meeting is expecting similar attendance of global leaders as was seen in the physical meeting at Bharat Mandapam on September 9-10. Addressing a pre-summit press con-

ference, Kant said, a virtual summit of G20 after conclusion of the



physical summit is "something very rare" and "rather exceptional" as no other presidency held such a meet-

ing to take forward the guidance provided by the participating leaders into action for a just and equitable world. The meeting aims to give an impetus to implementing the Delhi Declaration that was unanimously agreed by all members at the 18th G20 Leaders' Summit held in New Delhi on September 9-10, 2023, he said "India assumed the rotating G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, for one year."

Calcutta High Court pulls up KP for rejection of BJP request to hold rally

Sanjli DasGupta, MA Sem I

The Calcutta High Court on Monday pulled up the Kolkata Police for denying permission for a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rally at Kolkata twice without any apparent reason and by way of computer-generated responses Justice Rajasekhar Mantha took critical note that auto-generated emails that were sent to the BJP General Secretary, Jagannath Chattopadhyay (petitioner), to deny permission for the rally's conduct had stated that he did not apply for permission within time. However, the Court found that the applications were made well within the two-week time frame fixed for the grant of such permissions. "There is clear non-application of mind on the part of the authorities. It also appears that the authorities have a pre-decided computer fed negation to any request from the petitioners. This cannot be accepted in law," the judge said.



Calcutta High Court

-Google

QUOTE OF MONTH

"The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis."

Dante Alighieri

FILM REVIEW

MISSION RANIGANJ

Sreosi Saha, MA Sem 1

In 1989, more than 200 miners were deep in the bowels of the Raniganj Colliery, established during British rule. It was a late-night shift, and when disaster struck, flooding part of the mine, around 70 workers were trapped (the rest were extricated immediately), with their condition becoming more perilous by the minute. Water was gushing through the tunnels, and poisonous CO2 was forming rapidly. Would they be rescued in time? This real-life incident becomes the basis of Akshay Kumar's new film 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue' in which he plays the eponymous role of mining expert Jaswant Singh Gill, who launched an operation the likes of which had never been seen in India before. In a brilliant instance of 'desi jugaad', he thought of fabricating a steel capsule that could be lowered all the way down to the high point in the deep tunnel where the miners were huddled. The capsule was just big enough to house one man, and the operation, lasting

several tense hours, was a resounding success—every single terrified worker, barring the handful who went missing, was pulled out to safety. This movie includes a lot of the essence of melodrama and belongs to the Shemaroo Entertainment Ltd., Maharashtra, India production house. The release date of this movie was on October 6, 2023, and the director of this movie was Tinu Suresh Desal. It belongs to the heroic drama genre, and the budget of this movie was 150 crore INR. Akshay's latest film, Mission Raniganj: A Great Bharat Rescue, has earned only Rs 20 crore at the box office, despite having a budget of more than Rs 100 crore. Defending the survival thriller drama, Akshay accepted that Mission Raniganj is not a non-commercial entertainer but one of his best projects. This movie includes many action shots, which are well shot with extreme close-up shots. Overall, it includes Parineeti Chopra as the female lead in the movie and the great Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan. Overall, it is a good movie to watch.



The Exorcist: Believer (2023)

Aindrila Guha, MA Sem 1

The Exorcist: Believer is a 2023 American supernatural horror film directed by David Gordon Green and written by Green and Peter Sattler. It is a direct sequel to the 1973 film The Exorcist and the fourth installment in the The Exorcist franchise. The film stars Ellen Burstyn, Leslie Odom Jr., and Ann Dowd. The film follows Chris MacNeil (Burstyn), a woman who was traumatized by the demonic possession of her daughter, Regan, 40 years ago. She is now a psychologist who specialises in helping people who have had similar experiences. When two young girls are possessed by the same demon that once tormented

Regan, Chris is called in to help. The Exorcist: Believer is a well-made and atmospheric film that captures the sense of dread and suspense of the original film. Green does a good job of balancing the horror elements with the human drama. The demon physical transformations are particularly disturbing, and the film's sound design is excellent. However, the film is not without its flaws. The screenplay is a bit predictable at times, and the film could have done a better job of developing the characters. Additionally, the film is quite lengthy, clocking in at over two hours. Overall, The Exorcist: Believer is a good film

The PAIN HAWKER: An Intense tale of existential rub and a waning society



Urboshree Banerjee, MA Sem 1

Screened at the Kolkata International Film Festival in 2019, the award-winning film Ashukwala: The Pain Hawker; directed by Polash Roy is finally premiering in Kolkata theatres. In the film Sayan Ghosh, Sneha Chatterjee and Amit Saha played the most effective roles of complexity and the social crisis faced by the people every day. The narrative of Rudra Mondal is portrayed by Sayan Ghosh, who is a pharmacist and always thinks that the medicines in the shop belong to his family. He thinks that they also have a life, and for that reason, he always talks with them. On the other side, his wife, Misty, is portrayed by Sneha Chatterjee. She is a lady who wants a child, but due to some physical issues, she cannot have it. This film is an impressive drama. It has shown the issue with which a pharmacist deals every day. People forget to solve their own problems while trying to solve everyone's problems. In this movie, Rudra forgets his physical illness while giving medicine to others. The cinematic view and editing are well done, which was done by Amar Dutta and Sanglap Bhowmik. Though the film is quite lengthy, it has a meaningful message about sex-

uality. This is not a film of romance and action. It is considered a sorrowful movie where a pharmacist suffers unknowingly for his customer who misused the medicine he gave him. The character of Sneha Chatterjee (Misti) is well written, but there is very little screen time given to that character to show what is going on inside that character. The film has the courage to openly discuss some medical problems faced by human beings in their daily lives. It also shows the hesitation of the woman while buying their sanitary product and the loneliness of an old man. It seems that the film is a reflection of some people who remain next to our door in our society. A sensational message is reflected in the film, which is good for this present society.

Director: Palash Roy

Producer: Utpal Pal

Cast:

Sayan Ghosh, Sneha Chatterjee, Amit Saha

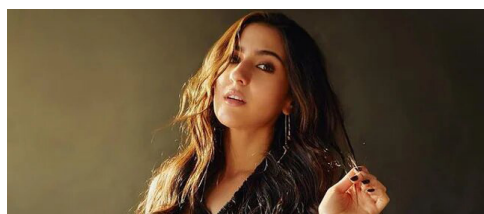
Genre: Impressive Drama

Duration: 1 hour 28 minutes

Language: Bengali

Rating: 3.5 ★★★★★

'This generation should take inspiration from Ae Watan Mere Watan': Sara



Actor Sara Ali Khan on Tuesday said her upcoming movie Ae Watan Mere Watan is a timeless story of India's freedom struggle that has the ability to inspire the current generation.

Directed by Kannan Iyer, the period drama is backed by Dharmatic Entertainment Production, and produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Somen Mishra. "This is a film based on the Indian freedom struggle, it is timeless story. The freedom struggle ended in 1947 but even after that, as a woman, child, and actor everyone struggles within ourselves," Says Sara

Whom to support in this echo of conflicts: invader or invaded?

ABHIRUP PAL MA, Sem 1

It's a story that reverberates through the annals of history of power, passion, and the unyielding human spirit. In the heart of the Middle East, amidst the ancient whispers of millennia a conflict continues its relentless and dramatic march in a land where the very soil of three major world religions' convergence and the echoes of their faiths resound through time. The roots of the conflict can be traced back to the late 19th century, with the rise of political Zionism, a movement aimed at establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, issued by the British government, expressed support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, further fueling tensions. The prologue with full tone started in 1948, with the establishment of the State of Israel. A nation was born, and with it, a dream realized for one, but a nightmare for another. The first act of this drama was marked by war, as neighboring Arab states clashed with Israel, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs. This initial conflict cast a long and ominous shadow. In the decades that followed, the drama played out on an epic stage. The Six-Day War in 1967 was a pivotal chapter, as Israel expanded its territory to include the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The stage was set for a contentious occupation that continues to shape the narrative to this day. The First Intifada, a Palestinian uprising in the late 1980s, marked a turning point in this tale of unyielding resilience. The world was forced to take notice as Palestinians rose against occupation, demanding their rights and self-determination. The Oslo Accords, signed in the early 1990s, offered a glimmer of hope, with promises of a two-state solution. But the path to peace is fraught with thorns, and the subsequent years saw ongoing violence. The Second Intifada in 2000 further eroded hopes for peace, with acts of terrorism and military responses intensifying the conflict. Israel began constructing a security barrier in the West Bank, which Palestinians saw as an attempt to unilaterally define future borders, making a two-state solution seem increasingly elusive. Gaza, a narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean coast, became a focal point in this epic saga. Israel withdrew its troops and settlers in 2005, but in 2007, a draconian blockade was im-

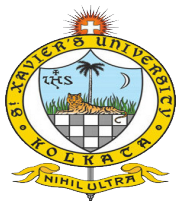


Source :Google

posed, turning Gaza into an open-air prison. Gazans needed Israeli permission to travel to other parts of Palestine, making their lives even more challenging. In 2007, control of Gaza shifted from Fatah to Hamas. Now the question arises, why is this Hamas? Islamist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood had previously avoided armed conflict and were largely dedicated to working for a more religious society. But that position shifted under the leadership of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. But Israel has always denied encouraging the rise of the Islamist movement in Gaza but it saw the groups as a way of undermining support for the PLO and recognised Mujama al-Islamiya as a charity, allowing it to operate freely and build support. Israel also approved the creation of the Islamic University of Gaza, which became a breeding ground of support for Hamas. But Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement isn't just about religion. It's about equal rights for people of all backgrounds in Palestine against the long lasting deprivation. They aim to secure the rights of Palestinian refugees addressing the issue of illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank. With this dream they captured the throne of Palestine from Palestine Liberation Organization in 2006. But in 2008, Israel launched a brutal assault on Gaza, causing the deaths of 1,200 Palestinians. Over 15 years, Gaza was repeatedly bombarded, with the year 2021 witnessing the loss of 220 lives, including 63 children. The Israel-Palestine conflict once again dominated the global headlines. Over the years, both sides have suffered, with countless lives lost, dreams shattered, and economies crip-

pled. The plight of Palestinian refugees remains an open wound, and the fear of violence constantly looms. But the recent chapters of this narrative have been particularly dramatic. On the fateful July 3rd of this year, a shadow fell upon the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank. Israeli soldiers, like dark specters, descended from the heavens, bringing with them a storm of devastation. A drone unleashed its fiery fury from above, followed by a relentless hail of gunfire on the ground. They moved from house to house, their gunshots shattering the once-peaceful neighborhood. The world watched in horror as yet another chapter in this tragic narrative unfolded. This grim event bore a haunting resemblance to a similar tragedy two decades prior. Sadly, it wasn't an isolated incident. This year, Israeli forces once again entered the West Bank, and the result was heart-wrenching. Nearly 300 Palestinians lost their lives, including 60 innocent children. In the early morning hours of 7 October 2023, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched an attack against Israel, firing barrages of rockets towards the southern and central part of the country where they injured and killed Israeli forces and Israeli and foreign civilians, including more than 260 attendees of a music festival near Re'im and residents of kibbutzim Kfar Azza and Be'eri. As of 13 October, the total number of casualties from attacks by Palestinian armed groups was 1,300 dead and 3,436 injured, the vast majority of them are civilians. On the day of the initial attack, Israel launched a large-scale counteroffensive on the Gaza Strip, with Prime Minister Netanyahu's proclamation

that the country was "at war". The Israeli military conducted an intense, "unprecedented" bombardment of Gaza, which as of 13 October leaves 1,799 Gaza residents killed and a further 7,388 injured. There were also reports about damage to hospitals, water and sewage facilities, telecommunications lines, schools, and mosques, as well as fatal attacks on journalists, healthcare workers and ambulances, and humanitarian workers, including staff of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant ordered a "complete siege" of Gaza, specifying "no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel, everything is closed". He claimed that Israel is fighting human animals and they are acting accordingly. The role of the United States in this drama cannot be underestimated. It has been a central character, offering unwavering support to Israel while professing a commitment to peace. But this tightrope walk has left questions about its impartiality, casting a shadow on the peace process. A number of Israel's Western allies declare their solidarity in the wake of the Hamas attacks. President Biden, Prime Minister Sunak, French President Macron, German Chancellor Scholz, and Italian Prime Minister Meloni released a joint statement indicating their "steadfast and united support to the State of Israel, and ... unequivocal condemnation of Hamas and its appalling acts of terrorism". Amidst the darkness, there are glimmers of hope. The evolving perspectives of nations like India, advocating for a "sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine," shows that this drama is not without its twists and turns. The India-Israel relationship has grown significantly in recent years in the field of defense and counter-terrorism, and this collaboration is crucial for India's national security. But the suffering of the Palestinian people should not be dismissed. This conflict affects energy markets, with the potential disruption of oil supplies and increased prices, further straining the already delicate balance of India's economic recovery. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement expressing "deep shock" at the recent Hamas attack also emphasizing India's unequivocal condemnation of terrorism reflects an effort to balance the situation. Now uprising puzzle is whether these usurpers will go in a same tune for which whole world is awaiting?



Ambassador of Vatican to India Visits SXUK



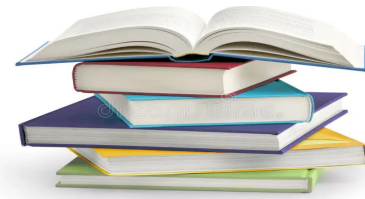
Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the ambassador of the Vatican in India, accompanied by His Grace the Archbishop of Calcutta, Most Rev. Thomas D'Douza and two Italian priests, paid a visit to the St. Xavier's University, Kolkata campus on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

The Vice-Chancellor, Fr. Felix Raj, SJ showed them around the campus and explained the gradual progress of the university. His Excellency Girelli was impressed by the clean and green campus and mighty buildings and assured the Vice-Chancellor of his prayerful support to the great educational service rendered by the University to the people of Bengal and India.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza had blessed the foundation stone of SXUK in December 2013 and again blessed the buildings and the entire campus at the time of the inauguration of the university in July 2017. Within a short span of six years, there are 3500 students on the rolls. The Vice-Chancellor, Fr. Felix Raj has introduced the next stage of development called 'SXUK Vision 2030'. Accordingly, SXUK will see both physical and academic expansions in the years to come.

How to Improve Your Scores In Your Exams

Sanjli DasGupta, MA Sem I



This collection of tips fits into both of the first two categories on this page, but I wanted to feature it first since contains a ton of ideas and content you'll probably find helpful.

How to Stop Making Dumb Mistakes on Exams – A lack of preparation will kill your exam grades faster than anything else, but careless mistakes can easily chip away at them as well. This video will help prime your brain to catch these kinds of mistakes before they happen. Be very careful.

Test that makes Anxiety Irrelevant – Test anxiety can make taking an exam a dreadful experience, but it can also literally block your brain from making connections and remembering information. However, it's something you can fight. This video gives you several strategies for doing just that. Confidence Tracking: A Brain Hack for Improving Your Exam Grades – When you're unsure about an answer you've written on a test, research has shown that you should change it. More often than not, people who do this end up being correct. However, a recent study has unearthed an elegant technique that makes the catch-all

"when in doubt, change it" advice obsolete, and it's called confidence tracking. Do it only if you can. Don't forget about your health: while studying for an exam. While it is important to invest extensive hours to score good marks in exams, it is also crucial to eat healthy food and get fresh air every day. Exercise once in every two or three days for at least 30 minutes or go for a run in the morning to freshen up your mind. Physical activities can significantly help you accentuate your learning process and will also keep you refreshed and motivated. Drink lots of water.

Make your own notes: as it will help you remember concepts in a better way. Did you ever wonder that the student you take your class notes from always scores higher in the exam? It's because writing things down assists your brain remember them for longer. So, prepare your own study notes and at least a month before the exam which will increase your chances of scoring better. All The Best For Your Exams!!

SXUK signs MoU to make New Town a smart city



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Limited (NKGSCCL) recently aiming to make it an ideal smart city. This MoU will help both SXUK and NKGSCCL to share expertise and resources in developing New Town as a smart city through collaborative efforts. Father John Felix Raj, S.J.,

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SXUK said, "Ours is a Jesuit university and it has been committed to the development of its neighbourhood areas since the beginning. Now we are looking forward to this collaboration as it gives a structured opportunity to work further." He also said, "This initiative will give exposure to our faculty members and students to work in industrial environment which has been empha-

sized in the New Education Policy." Areas where both SXUK and NKGSCCL will jointly work for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) are establishment of Bee Corridor at Eco Park, Radio New Town, Smart Library, Day Care Centre, case studies on Fuljhuri under Project Impact base and strategy for development of Eco Park under macro impact case study. The MoU is the reflection of the initiatives under the Smart City Mission, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India. It aims to carry out research and development works through collaboration between industry and academic institutions. The university has selected a team of professors under the leadership of Prof. Soma Sur to work on this project in collaboration with NKGSCCL. The release further said, "CII will also collaborate with the State Government in terms of mobilising industry expertise and resources." They aim to build new infrastructure creation and renovation of existing facilities. This will change the look.



CHAMPIONS 10

NEVER DON'T BE BLUE, MEN IN BLUE GIVE UP



BHABYA NAGPAL, MA SEM I

India and Australia will square off in a five-match series beginning on November 23 with the T20 World-Cup barely six months away. T20 series will culminate at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. The opening game of the series will take place at Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam. During the IND versus AUS T20 series, most of the Indian players who participated in their country's ODI World Cup campaign were rested. During the five-match series, Australia's captain will be Mathew Wade, while Suryakumar Yadav, the world's best T20 hitter, will head Team India. The T20 series will be played at five different locations in Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam; Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram; Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati; Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, Raipur; M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru are the venues for India vs. Australia T20 match. PTI Reported that Hardik Pandya is not fit for the upcoming T20 series against Australia and further PTI quoted a BCCI source saying, There is some time before



Hardik can be declared fit and available for selection. It would be more practical for him to try and complete his rehabilitation with a possible 'RTP' (Return To Play) during SA series. It will certainly be NCA Sports science team's call," Middle-order batsman Shreyas Iyer will join the team for the last two matches at Raipur and Bengaluru and he'll take over the vice-captain's part from Ruturaj Gaikwad. Axar Patel has also set up a place in the team after he missed the World Cup 2023 with a left quadriceps injury. still, the left-arm incentive returned to competitive justice last month for Gujarat in the Syed Mushtaq Ali jewel, where he played two matches against Punjab and Railroads. Former India batter VVS Laxman will be the head trainer of the team for the series. Australia will be without one of their most dangerous batters for their whirlwind T20 series in India with David Warner to return home following the nation's World Cup triumph. The series is theoretically the preparation for coming time's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA T20 World Cup. But India's team also only includes three players .

DHRUV ROY, MA SEM I

That match was an absolute thriller! The India vs. Australia World Cup final was a high-stakes showdown that had fans on the edge of their seats. From India's perspective, it was a game filled with intense moments and nail-biting tension. The Indian team showed incredible resilience and skill, facing a formidable Australian side known for their strength in big matches. From the Indian viewpoint, there were standout performances that kept the hopes high throughout the match. The opening partnership set a solid foundation, and the middle order played with determination, navigating the tough Australian bowling attack. The bowlers fought hard, trying to defend a competitive total, showcasing their skill and strategy. Every run and wicket was crucial, and the

excitement and pressure of a World Cup final made every moment count. Despite the result, the team displayed commendable effort and sportsmanship, earning respect and admiration from fans worldwide. It was a match that truly showcased the spirit cricket at its finest. The India versus Australia World Cup final match was quite an event! The anticipation was high, and the game itself was intense. Both teams displayed exceptional skill and determination throughout the match. The interviews following such a significant game would likely reflect the excitement, emotions, and strategies that unfolded on the field. Players might have expressed their thoughts on the match, discussing pivotal moments, strategies that worked or didn't, and the overall experience of playing in such a highstakes game. You'd probably hear about the pressure, the teamwork, and the dedication that goes into competing at that level. And, of course, there might be a mix of jubilation and disappointment based on the outcome for both teams.



Editorial Board

Chief Patron:

Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj,
S.J, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

Managing Editors:

Dr. Somak Sen
Dr. Nitesh Tripathi.

Advisors:

Dr. Achyut Chetan
Dr. Harish Kumar
Dr. Manali Bhattacharya
Mr. Tanmay Samanta

Sub-Editors:

Simran Tripathi
Saptarni Sarkar
Aindila Guha, Ankita Dey

Designers:

Sanjli DasGupta
Arundhati Bajaj
Abhirup Pal
Urbashree Bandyopadhyay