

## Freshers' Welcome 2023

At the beginning of every academic year, to welcome the freshers of the undergraduate and postgraduate batches across all departments, St. Xavier's University Kolkata organises an orientation programme for new students. The different departments had orientations for varying durations of time, from 2 days to 2 weeks. **Contd. P 3**



Holy Shrine of Imam Hussain

Source: Google

## Muharram

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar. It is considered a sacred month which brings blessings. Our Prophet refers to it as Shahrullahil Muharram, the month of Allah Al-Muharram. It is a month which marks the start of a new beginning for it's a month of blessings and comes just after Hajj. **Contd. P 5**

## Indian Vegetable Market: Inside Story

### Unveiling Price Trends and Analysis

Rhythm Sengupta, Anurag Sinha & Aiswarya Iyer, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5



Vendors in the Jadavpur Market

Source: Google

**Kolkata:** The escalation in the cost of essential goods has intensified the daily survival challenges faced by India's middle-class population. This predicament has garnered significant attention over an extended period. Individuals are encountering obstacles in purchasing basic groceries. The surge in prices of vegetables, fuel, and other necessities has posed a challenge for ordinary citizens to make ends meet. Thus,

to gather insights into the pricing of different items and capture customers' perspectives on the prevailing market scenario, we conducted a survey in our local marketplace. Upon inquiring about the prices of specific vegetables, we were taken aback by the shopkeeper's response. The prices of vegetables that were available in the Newtown Community Market are:

**Tomatoes: Rs 215/kg**  
**Green Chillis: Rs 100/kg**

**Potatoes: Rs 115/kg**  
**Onion: Rs 100/kg**  
**Ginger and Garlic: Rs 100/kg**

We also conducted our inquiry at the well-known Jadavpur Supermarket and found that the prices of some vegetables differed massively from those in Newtown. The rates here are as follows:

**Ginger and Garlic: Rs 220/kg**  
**Potatoes: Rs 30/kg**  
**Onion: Rs 40/kg**  
**Tomatoes: Rs 130/kg**

On asking the retail vendors about their opinion on the price hike, it was observed that many of them were clueless, but a certain portion of vendors blamed the unexpected heat during the April-May period, which contributed to crop losses and a decreased supply of vegetables from the wholesalers.

**Cont. on Page 2**

## It's Mr. Pooh

Adwitiya Deb, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5



Pooh Photo: Adwitiya Deb

**Kolkata:** To the world, Winnie the Pooh is a fluffy golden-yellow bear, who spreads love and sunshine and whose world revolves around his friends. But to me, Pooh is my naughty little ball of fur- my dog. It was the June 5, 2020. The world had been taken over by the corona virus pandemic. It was a hot, summer afternoon, I was just

lazing around, and suddenly I heard my doorbell ring. I opened the door to see my mother standing, holding a baby- blue colour basket. At first, I thought it had cookies or some other goodies in it, but then I saw this tiny black nose peeping through the holes of the basket.

**Cont. on Page 2**

**XPhoria**  
**2023**  
**COMING**  
**SOON!**

# Vegetable Price Hike

**Cont. from P1**

Rishi, a shop vendor in Jadavpur, said, "We are forced to buy vegetables at a higher price from the wholesalers due to low production; what can we do? Our business is also at stake here." In Salt Lake, the situation looked somewhat like this:

**"The hike in prices of vegetables like tomatoes has somehow not resulted in a decline in the number of customers, but they try to bargain and lower the prices, which we are not able to do as we would incur a loss. Apart from tomatoes, the prices of potatoes and onions have increased significantly. The price of green chili has increased to around Rs. 115 per kg. We are not facing issues as such with the price hike; business is good; it is the consumers who are the real victims,"**

**said Bubai Ghosh, a second-generation vendor at the Salt Lake BD market.**

We spoke to customers who were purchasing groceries about their perspectives on the ongoing increase in prices for vegetables and other common goods, and this is how one responded:



Vegetable Market

Source: Google

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**"In the present day of life, everybody is feeling the pinch of the price hike in essential items, especially vegetables and more particularly tomatoes. Its skyrocketing price is beyond the reach of middle-class families, let alone the poor common man. Likewise, the price of cooking gas is exorbitantly high, climbing from a mere Rs. 300 per domestic cylinder to the present Rs. 1,100 within a span of 10 years or so. Fuel prices have reached new heights which has caused an increase in the transportation fares thereby impacting the cost of transporting basic essentials including medicines, other materials and travelling.", said G. Viswanathan a commoner from Newtown**

In conclusion, the current surge in the prices of essential commodities in India has significantly amplified the daily struggles faced by the middle-class population. This predicament has garnered prolonged attention as individuals grapple with challenges in procuring basic groceries.

The escalating costs of vegetables, fuel, and other necessities have presented a formidable hurdle for ordinary citizens striving to manage their finances.

The market survey conducted in a local marketplace shed light on the exorbitant prices of key vegetables such as tomatoes, green chilies, potatoes, onions, ginger, and garlic.

The testimony of a customer purchasing groceries underscored the widespread impact of these price hikes, particularly the soaring cost of tomatoes, which has become unaffordable for middle-class and economically disadvantaged families.

As a result, the prevailing scenario calls for urgent attention and effective measures to alleviate the burdens placed upon the common populace due to the unprecedented inflation of basic necessities.

## Pooh....

**Cont. from P1**

Right then, in that very moment, I knew my life was going to change. As my mother kept the basket on the floor, I opened the hood and saw a little baby puppy sleeping like an angel. It was a forty-five-day-old, male golden retriever puppy and I can definitely say that it was love at first sight. As I held him in my

arms, it felt like I was holding a warm, fluffy cloud, dipped in liquid gold. It had just been two minutes since I saw the puppy and I knew that I had to name him Pooh. It was so difficult for me to control my joy, that I soon had tears of happiness rolling down my cheeks. It was surreal. Technically, over the last three years I have turned

into a mother, because I have done everything.

From cleaning the mess that he creates, to feeding him food every four hours to toilet training him, playing with him, scolding him, clicking pictures of him and what not! Being with him, spending time with him, and watching silly YouTube training videos, to teach him how to high five and handshake has become my life now. Even though he has turned into a tiny devil in disguise and has chewed up all my shoes and stolen

innumerable number of vegetables and groceries from the kitchen, I still love him more than anything else in the world. He is my baby, he has taught me how to be selfless and love unconditionally. I think about him more than I think about myself these days. My life is better now, my life is happier now. Even though he steals all my pillows, sleeps on my side of the bed and all my friends love him more than me, I still wouldn't trade any of this for anything else that the world has to offer.



# Oppenheimer: An Explosive Biopic

Romit Datta, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5



Oppenheimer Poster

Source: Google

The word "Masterpiece" and Christopher Nolan go hand in hand. This year, we witnessed yet another spectacle from the British American filmmaker. Science fiction has been his go-to genre over the years. However, for the first time, he opted to make a historical biography. Leaving aside Warner Brothers and Hans Zimmer, he chose Universal Pictures and Ludwig Göransson as his distributor and music director for this endeavour.

The main plot is centered around Julius Robert Oppenheimer, an American theoretical physicist, who was the director of the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory during World War II. He is the person who is majorly responsible for the creation of the Atomic bomb. The movie begins with a historical reference to Prometheus, son of Zeus in Greek mythology, for stealing fire from the gods and giving it to man, which changed the course of their history, thus laying down an important aspect that primarily constitutes the whole movie, which is, fatal historical decisions which shaped the human race. This theme is

maintained in the entire movie thereafter as it accurately covers Oppenheimer's journey, starting with him pursuing his education related to physics from Germany, to becoming the first person to bring concepts like quantum mechanics and nuclear physics to America. Nolan precisely covers incidents from his personal to professional life, where Oppenheimer, despite being questioned for having communist connections, is appointed as the Director of the Manhattan Project. He set up his group of scientists in a remote area in New Mexico to construct the first atomic bomb, knowing that he was in a race with the Nazis and Soviets. Finally, when the test was successful and the technology was approved by the then U.S President Harry S. Truman, they were dropped on Japan in order to end World War II. The use of these bombs took a massive toll on Oppenheimer as he never wanted to be the destroyer of mankind. But he realised that he had started a chain reaction that would lead the nations of the world to develop nuclear arsenals, thus, ultimately speeding up the destruc-

tion of the world.

The impeccable cast of Oppenheimer consisting of Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh, Rami Malek, Gary Oldman, have outdone themselves and portrayed the characters beyond perfection. Nolan's vision has always been to be meticulous about his work, and this movie has been acclaimed by audiences worldwide to the extent that it is being hailed as his finest work so far. The usage of black and white IMAX cameras profoundly added to the archival nature of the film and helped gain

an even more immersive experience. Many were skeptical about Nolan directing a biopic. However, Oppenheimer's box-office success and critical acclaim is proof that the ace director has, once again, created a movie to remember. This movie is one of the most accurate, thought-provoking biopics to grace the big screen. Oppenheimer doesn't just showcase the life of a celebrated scientist, but also forces its audience to think about humanity's age-old habit of using scientific discoveries for war and destruction, facilitating our own demise.



Indian Parsis celebrating Navroz

Source: Google

## Parsi New Year

Sanaya Johri, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5

The Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz, is celebrated by the Parsi community, who follow the religion of Zoroastrianism, founded by the prophet Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) in ancient Persia. The Parsi community in India, primarily resides in cities like Mumbai and Pune. It is the smallest religious group in the country according to the 2011 census. Despite that, the Parsi community, over hundreds of years, has left an indelible mark on the Indian culture. People across the nation extend wishes to members of the Parsi community on the occasion of Navroz and many non-Parsis partake in the festivities and traditions. For the year of 2023, Navroz will be celebrated on the 16th of August. It holds deep cultural and religious importance in the community, and the celebration involves various customs and rituals that reflect the community's rich heritage. The Parsis typically celebrate by offering prayers at their Fire Temple (Agiary), cooking traditional food, wearing new clothes, and bonding with their loved ones. To add a festive vibe to their household, families also adorn their doorstep with elaborate designs of colourful chalk powder, and a flower garland (Toran) hung above the doorway.

# Get Ready with Me: SXUK Edition

*Shivangi Basu, MA Mass Communication, Sem 3*



Students on campus wearing Indian traditional

Photo: Vaani Netam

**“ I think she got those pants from Urbanic”.**

I remember being disinterested in what my friend had to say about a student's 'fit' as we like to call it now. Do not misunderstand; the girl was looking incredibly chic in it. That being said, neither do fashion trends pique my interest nor do I put an effort into curating my outfit because I need to enter class by 10 in the morning. I would have frankly forgotten about it but the very next day I noticed someone else wearing the same pants, and on day 3, I could differentiate between normal pants and Urbanic pants. Why am I suddenly obsessed with pants, you ask? In one of our recent classes, we were discussing the seminal article by John Fiske, titled ' The Jeaning of America', in which he proffered that jean as a garment has socio-cultural bearings. Prior to reading his work, we were asked about the reasons behind our current attire. Most of our answers pivoted around comfort, sustainability, affordability, and other functional aspects that usually influence our choices. However, there is more to it than what meets the eye so I subtly started noticing discernible trends that dominate students' fashion preferences in our university. Baggy pants with oversized t-shirts

and cotton tote bags? Check. Transparent glasses to see your bright future and huge headphones to block out unwanted noise and people? Check. Joggers, hoodies and other 2-minute clothing fix passed off as athleisure fashion? Check. Overnight pajamas worn by hostel students? Check. Cotton shirts to beat Kolkata's heat? Check. Indian Ethnic Wear? Well, occasional check. Seldom do I find people wearing Saree, Kurta and Kurti on a regular basis. You may disagree but in my humble opinion, this is the most common trend among students across all departments. The question is, what meaning does it entail? If you were to ask me , I would say that there are two contradictory angles from which you can view and assess this vogue. On days that students mostly wear T-shirts paired with jeans, life goes on as per the normal routine but the day everyone decides to be impeccably dressed in traditional outfits, the story is completely different. The quadrangle brimming with people rushing to get photographs clicked with their clique is the order of the day. For that matter, I've seen students complimenting each other more than usual on such days. Vibrant hues and intricate patterns

lend an aesthetically pleasing touch to the otherwise insipid corridors. It truly feels like a celebration of our culture when people take pride in their ethnic garments. However, how does that pride last for a day? Why does it resurface only during specific festive occasions? When did we let it become a trend rather than a norm in a country like India? Why do we feel the need to pair our Chikankari kurtis and kurtas with jeans to call it a fashionable Indo-western look? Most of us partake in this trend and I do not intend to put this across as a criticism. I would not go to the extent of claiming that this signifies abandonment of our Indian roots. However, westernization has always had us in

a chokehold, its influence so potent that subliminally we are entering the initial stages of regarding our own indigenous attires as 'exotic'. Exoticism in the fashion industry is certainly not a new phenomenon and for years, the Western world and its fashion circuit have romanticized other countries' traditions, and by the same token, their clothes. Reserving our best sarees and most stylish kurtas/ bandhgalas/dhotis for special occasions, in a way, mirrors this romanticization that needs to be countered. It is crucial that we start a conversation and try to question what we think is the norm, and while you are at it, do not forget the most important trend in SXUK- the university ID Card.

## X-FORUM 2023

*Kritvardhan Singh, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5*



On August 29, 2023, at St Xavier's University, Kolkata, the students from B.A. in Mass communication, Semester 5, hosted the very first Edition of X-Forum, an Interdepartmental Debate Competition. The event was attended by Dr. Achyut Chetan, Dean of Arts and Social Studies, and other faculty members. Arguments for and against the motion were presented by two members of the five participating teams. The motion being debated was "Social media is making us anti-social". Strong and compelling arguments were backed by research studies from reputed institutions, to support their stance. This helped everyone get a deeper understanding of the pertinent issue at hand. Aryayan Bhowmik and Gokul Nair, speaking for and against the motion respectively, represented the English Department, securing the award for the Best Team. Gokul Nair was awarded the title of the Best Speaker.



# Freshers' Welcome 2023

Sanaya Johri & Sampreeti Purohit, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5



Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor addressing the crowd Source: File Photo

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) conducted the Freshers welcome ceremony 2023, at the first week of August 2023 for it's different Undergraduate and Post-graduate programmes.

On this occasion, faculty members of the different departments introduced themselves to the newly admitted students. The programme was conducted by individual departments as well. During the programme the students were informed about different courses- curriculums, facilities provided by the University and often opportunities available. This year, the new batches of students are also the first to be admitted under the New Education Policy, which states that certain courses will now have the option of being a four-year course, where students will have multiple exit options from their course. With the course being for a four-year-long duration, they will also be able to apply for PHD immediately after graduating. As said by Dr. Anupam Mitra, Dean of the BCom Morning batch, "There are many positive elements in the new education policy announced this year; the students

choosing their subjects is a good step, the curriculum will be versatile; and here, the multidisciplinary scope will be higher. I advise the students to have an open mind, and I hope they will accept the way we function here." The focus during the programme, aside from introducing the students to the endless possibilities here, was to make sure they felt welcome and comfortable. "We have created an environment here where the students should feel at home from the very first moment they enter. This year we have lots of students from outside West Bengal, which helps enrich the diversity of our student population. I advise them to make friends across departments and schools for a larger sense of community. We have a safe campus here where you can be yourself."- is what Dr. Achyut Chetan, Dean of Arts and Social Science, had to say.

Entering university is a new experience, and the freshers expressed a keen interest in the various facilities of the university. "I'm looking forward to the societies, social activities and holistic personality development. We had a two-day

introduction to the campus and faculty members, which was followed by an interaction with our approachable seniors who advised us to participate in extracurriculars.", said Vaibhavi Thanvi, a fresher from BA in Psychology." A few more students were asked about their orientation and their expectations from their experience at the university. Here's what they had to say:

**"The university has a reputed course and the faculty is good. I'm looking forward to the canteen and campus life. I want to do research so I think the four-year course is a good step for such students. During the three-day orientation, the introduction speech by Reverend Father and the Dean stood out to me. They focused on punctuality and discipline."**

-Aratrika Aich, BCom Day batch.

**"There is a better scope in this university and it lives up to expectations. I have explored the societies and met cooperative seniors. The faculty is friendly and helpful."**

-Suhartha Goswami, BCom LLB.

**"The curriculum is great and meets corporate standards. During our two weeks orientation, we got to meet multiple corporate professionals which was an enriching experience. Sagar Daryani from Wow Momo gave us valuable insights. The Reverend Father gave a speech on spirituality. I have high hopes that we will get good jobs after graduation."**

-Priyodeep Dey, MBA.

The first semester students were responsive and enthusiastic about the university and their life here. Mr. Mario Martin Louis, from the Placement and Training Office, said, "There is no shortcut to success, the students will need to work hard with consistency and patience." The different deans, heads of departments, and other faculty

appreciated the response received. They have certain expectations from the students and some advice to give them. Dr. Animesh Das, the Professor in charge of the Law Department, stated, "We have certain academic expectations, co-curricular expectations, and professional expectations. We hope the students will keep up with and maintain the reputation of this university." Dr. Prayag Ray, a Professor from the English Department, recounted his experience "The freshers come straight from school, our 2-day orientation helped them bridge the gap from school to university. The students need to have a thorough understanding of the values we have at our core. The orientation was structured and everyone was very friendly." Dr. Harish Kumar, head of the department of Mass Communication, said, "I hope the students nurture their dreams, here we provide them with the appropriate facilities to do so. All of them have lots of potential. We have created a good academic environment here and I hope the students will be able to identify their potential and give creative suggestions for the department. I am sure their journey here will be fruitful."

St. Xavier's University Kolkata, thus, successfully welcomes new undergraduate and postgraduate students, under the New Education Policy that offers flexibility and multidisciplinary opportunities. The university's faculty and administrative staff have created a welcoming environment, fostering a sense of community across departments. The university is committed to maintaining academic excellence, discipline, and punctuality, and the faculty is dedicated to nurturing students' potential and aligning their pursuits with professional expectations. The students are eager for growth, self-discovery, and meaningful achievement. With their minds open and aspirations high, these new students embark on a transformative journey that is poised to shape their futures and contribute positively to the university's legacy.



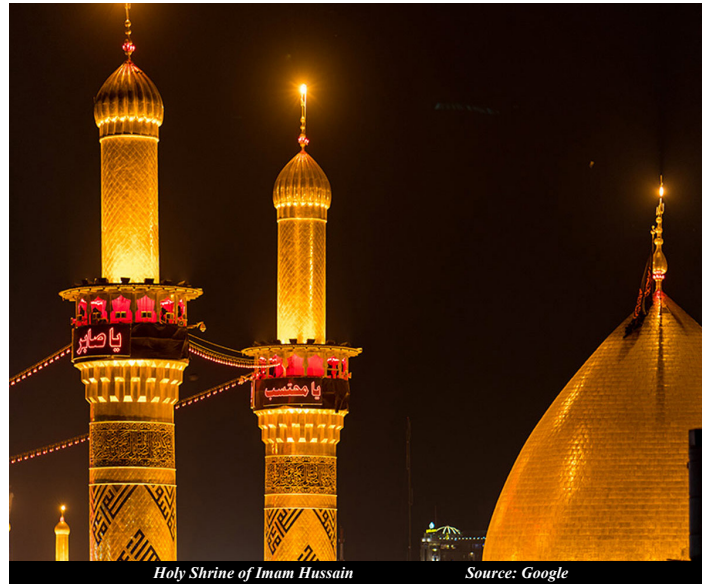
# Muharram: The Period of Prayer and Reflection

*Sidra Akhtar, MA Mass Communication, Sem 3*  
*Nushra Rahman BA, Mass Communication Sem 5*

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar. It is considered a sacred month which brings blessings. Our Prophet refers to it as Shahrullahil Muharram, the month of Allah Al-Muharram. It marks the start of a new beginning, and comes just after Hajj. During this period, the prophet would fast regularly. Ibn Abbas said "I have never seen the prophet more concerned about fasting than on the day of 'Ashura' in the month of Muharram". The day of 'Ashura' means the 10th from 'Ashara'. Fasting on this day was made obligatory, and was made wajib (a religious duty) in the first year of Islam, after the hijrah (emigration

of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Madina in the year 622 CE). Allah revealed the importance of Ramzan thereby declaring it a religious duty (wajib), and sunnat (the traditional and right way to conduct a life according to the prophet) could be attained by celebrating the month of Muharram. It was strongly encouraged from the second year of Islam. Our prophet said that the 10th day of Muharram is the day of forgiveness thus, we keep a fast on this day. Musa Allaiha Salam was saved from Pharoan, Nuh Allaiha Salam's ship landed on Mount Judi and many such incidents happened on this day symbolizing it as the period of celebration.

Our prophet had said that if Allah allowed him to live another year, he shall fast on the 9th and the 10th of Muharram. So we fast on the same days, or on the 10th and 11th day of Muharram if not according to the old hadees (a narrative record of the sayings or customs of Muhammad and his companions). If one does it properly and sincerely inshallah



Holy Shrine of Imam Hussain

Source: Google

the minor sins of the previous year will be forgiven, as this day is the day of 'ibadah, a day when we are more conscious of Allah, we are closer to him through our actions of worship and fasting.

After the passing away of Prophet Muhammad, in 632 A.D, the leadership of the new nation fell into dispute. Divisions among the people emerged and which also led to a prolonged civil war between Hussain's father Ali ibn Taleb, and Mu'awiya, former Caliph of a clan that opposed the Prophet's message and the ideas and beliefs of Islam. After the assassination of Ali ibn Taleb, Mu'awiya assumed full control. After the assassination of Hassan, Mu'awiya passed on his rule to his son Yazid, whose rule was considered oppressive and tyrannical. This was when Hussain rose as a leader and gained allegiance all over Medina.

Hussain and his army then embarked on their journey towards Kufa, Iraq. Hussain was intercepted

by a battalion of Yazid's army and was stopped on desert land known as Karbala. Hussain along with his family and followers faced brutal treatment.

On the day of 'Ashura', Hussain and his valorous army of 72 fought relentlessly against Yazid's army till their very end. Hussain witnessed the horrific death of his family one by one but he fought till his very last breath before he was brutally and mercilessly killed. Although the massacre of Hussain on the day of 'Ashura' was purely coincidental and holds no relevance to the holy month of Muharram, people consider this massacre while attributing added meaning to Muharram.

After the war the Fatmi Dynasty king- MāazUddaula AlDailmi, a follower of Hussain ordered the entire Shia community and his Kingdom to follow the mourning rituals in the memory of Hussain. According to the Shia belief, taking part in the mourning ritual

will help attain salvation on the Day of Judgment.

The major rituals were developed around the battle of Karbala. These rituals include the majalis al-ta'ziya, the public mourning processions Al-mawakib Al-husayniya or the representation of the battle of Karbala ( using one's hands only, that is, sinch-zani or chest-beating and with implements like chains, knives, swords and blades, that is, zanjeer-zani, qamazani), the flagellation (tatbir), and Tajia. Tajia is a pure Indian tradition, with no relation with Islam, and gradually the custom of Tajia came out of India and spread to the Shia community around the world. Timur Lang was from the Shia community and he went to Iraq every year in the Muharram month, but due to some disease, he could not go to Iraq for a year. After this, the courtiers gathered many artists to make the King Emperor Salamat happy, and ordered them to make artwork like Imam Hussein's grave in Karbala, Iraq. After this those artists prepared the 'grave' framework with the help of bamboo. And it was decorated with a variety of flowers. And this figure was named Tajia.

This Tajia was first placed in 801 hijri in the campus of Timur Lang. At that time, the Nawabs of the Shia community around Delhi started following this tradition with immediate effect. In order to please Timur Lang, this tradition started in the other states of the country. This way, Tajia was added to the mourning tradition. The 10th day of 'Ashura' is considered an auspicious day for both Shia and Sunni Muslims. Shia Muslims observe Muharram by conducting street processions whereby people are seen walking barefoot, chanting prayers and hitting their chest with whips until it draws blood to honor the sufferings of Hussain during the battle of Karbala. Sunni Muslims celebrate this day by fasting from the 1st to the 10th or 11th and by praying to remember the almighty and be closer to him.



## SPORTS SNIPPETS

*Monalisa Pattbaik, MA Mass Communication, Sem 3*

### Kepa Arrizabalaga is acquired by Real Madrid

Thibaut Courtois, who tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee during a training session last Thursday, will be temporarily replaced by the 28-year-old Arrizabalaga. Courtois will be out for several months. Arrizabalaga moved to Chelsea from Athletic Bilbao in 2018 for an 80-million-euro goalkeeper

transfer record, however, the London club lost interest in him, and this summer bought goalkeeper Robert Sanchez from Brighton & Hove Albion.

Bayern Munich was interested in him as they sought to replace their injured goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, but Real Madrid moved quickly and closed the transaction.

### Neymar will quit PSG and join Al Hilal



*Neymar Jr. playing for his former club*

*Source: Google*

For PSG, Neymar has struggled to shine consistently, and has also been injured frequently. The club is attempting to sell the attacker who joined them from FC Barcelona, which would only make problems worse. The Brazilian footballer was previously said to be joining

FC Barcelona, who are trying to replace Ousmane Dembele. But now that Neymar is reportedly close to joining Saudi Pro League team Al Hilal, according to transfer specialist Fabrizio Romano, it appears like the Catalans won't be signing him.

### Anirban Lahiri places second at Liv Golf in New Jersey

India's Anirban Lahiri, finished in second place at LIV Golf Bedminster and shot an overall 5-under total. Lahiri, the lone Indian competing in the Liv Series, scored rounds of 74-64-70 for a 5-under total, falling short of Australian Cameron Smith's 12-under total (66-67-68). Starting

from the first tee, Lahiri missed his second shot. After making a birdie on the third, he missed again on the sixth. He picked up back-to-back birdies on the 15th and 16th for scores of 70 and 5-under, respectively, leaving him seven strokes behind the winner.

### India's victory in the Asian Champions Trophy final will "really count"

The India hockey team rallied from a two-goal deficit to defeat Malaysia by 4-3, in the championship match on Saturday and earn their fourth ACT trophy. According to head coach Craig

Fulton, winning the Asian Champions Trophy will "really count" as India strives for the Asian Games gold medal to guarantee automatic qualification to the 2024 Paris Olympics.



*Milos Raonic after his recent defeat*

*Source: Google*

### Raonic makes an immense statement about Federer, Nadal, and Djokovic

Milo Raonic crashed to a defeat against Mackenzie McDonald in the 16th round of Toronto Masters, on Thursday. Following his defeat, the former world no. 3 was asked about the rise in men's tennis quality in recent years. The 32-year-old had a unique answer and blamed the Big Three (Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic) for putting abnormal standards in their prime.

"I think just three guys, to have three exemplary kinds of legendary athletes in one sport, not even in one generation, period, but in one sport at the same time, you kind of messed with everybody's expectation (or recalibration) of what is normal, right? If you look back at a lot of tournaments, yeah, you would have the three of them playing," he said. "Obviously, I'm talking, like, when all the three

guys were taking Masters series seriously. I think, you know, we've kind of forgotten a little bit now because it's been kind of just a pure focus on Grand Slams for them for the last couple years. When I was first on tour, it was pretty much them and Andy. Pretty much, I would say, 60%, 70% of the semifinals were them. And maybe when it came to clay, David Ferrer was kind of the guy changing things up a little bit. So, yeah, you had three guys that were there all the time and winning most of the events. "But I think you were still seeing the same kind of thing, the rotation of guys from 16 to 5 in the world, let's say, that were kind of maybe losing early in events. You know, they weren't -- like, it's not like every week the top eight seeds were all in the quarters; right? So it's quite different." he added.

# Focus on the “Bigger Picture” Hurting Indian Team’s Chances of Present Glory

Krish Saini & Arkapravo Maitra, BA Mass Communication, Sem 5



Captain Sharma motivating the team

Source: Google

23rd October 2022- Haris Rauf steamed in to cap off what had, until that moment, been a completely dominating performance by Pakistan. Indians hoped for a miracle but had little faith in the man who had been a shadow of himself for a greater part of the year, yet against all odds, against destiny, Kohli stood tall and slammed a slower short ball down the ground.

The miraculous series win in Australia in 2021, against Pakistan, led us all to believe that the men in blue would pull off something extraordinary down under, once again, and bring home an ICC trophy after a long drought. However, the dream was short-lived. The defeat against England in the semis is a reminder of everything that has been going wrong with the team for a long time now and reinforces the fact that this team does not have any of the ingredients required to lift an ICC trophy. After a successful home season in the longest format of the game, the WTC final between India and Australia was advertised as “The Ultimate Test” by both ICC and the broadcasters.

India’s preparation for the match, however, was severely lacking.

Injuries to Bumrah and Shreyas Iyer led to the belief that like many Australians, key Indian players would limit IPL participation to prioritize fitness. Opener K.L. Rahul, a standout batter in the previous England tour, was also sidelined due to an IPL injury. With a weakened squad and minimal time to adjust to English conditions after a long home season, expectations were low.

They lived up to expectations. The Indian bowlers, particularly Siraj, made a strong start with two quick wickets. Hope for a tough fight arose but faded as Travis Head partnered with Steve Smith. Smith’s 121 off 268 balls and Head’s rapid 163 off 174 balls exposed India’s bowling. Captain Rohit Sharma’s defensive tactics didn’t aid, allowing Australia to amass 469 runs.

Most believed that India, with the big names in its ranks, would put up a strong total in reply as the aggressive opening pair of Gill and Sharma walked out under a bright sun. Cummins and Boland took no prisoners however as they blew

through the Indian top-order in an instant. If it weren’t for decent knocks by Rahane, Jadeja, and Shardul Thakur, India would be out of the game in the first innings itself.

The second innings saw India miss its no. 1 ranked Test bowler- R. Ashwin, who had been dropped from the playing XI in a move that didn’t sit well with most audiences and experts. Once Australia set up a target of 434 for the Indians, everyone virtually accepted defeat. The way the batting stars of India collapsed in the final innings was something that viewers have become all too familiar with- poor shot selection, lack of game awareness, and a substandard temperament ill-suited for Test cricket. The defeat against Australia prolonged the Indians’ much awaited wait for an ICC trophy. It also highlighted several issues plaguing controversial team selections, lack of quality young talent, and repeated failures of the top order in crunch moments.

With the 2023 ODI World Cup scheduled to kickstart in just over a month, the Indian team looks

grossly underprepared. With less than six ODI matches scheduled before the WC, the management decided to rest key batters like Rohit and Kohli- despite them having played only a handful of matches in the 50 overs format this year. The underwhelming ODI series ended with the men in blue emerging victorious 2-1.

Rahul Dravid’s appointment as head coach raised expectations of him leveraging the Kohli-Shastri foundation while avoiding past errors. However, recent results have defied predictions. Dravid talks about a “big picture,” but its nature remains unclear. If not a significant event like the ODI WC, what does it entail? Poor management communication compounds outsiders’ frustration with the team.

The chances of India repeating 2011 later in the year seem less likely each day. The probability of repeating the 2007 disaster is a scary, but realistic thought at this point. One can only hope that Dravid and co. have a method to their madness; That all these baffling decisions will make sense somewhere down the line. And if the management is as confused as it appears to be from the outside, one can only pray to the cricketing Gods for someone to clear this mess and help Indian cricket find its feet again.

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