

SXUK celebrates International Yoga Day 2026

Upasana Dey (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: On June 22nd, 2026, St Xavier's University Kolkata celebrated the International Day of Yoga held at Albert Huart Hall. The event was jointly organised by Xavier Law School, Xavier University Sports Society and the Minority University Sports Society. The event was organised to bring together students, faculties and administrative staff in the spirit of promoting wellness and mindfulness through yoga practices. The programme commenced with the inaugural address of esteemed Vice Chancellor Rev. Dr John Felix Raj and other dignitaries, including Registrar Rev. Dr Xavier Jeyaraj and deans of the university. In his speech, Rev. Dr Raj stressed the importance of regular practice of yoga, maintaining that regular yoga practice enables one

to harness personal energy which acts as an incentive to take up yoga practices regularly. One of the parts of the programme was a session called "Mindful Education through Yoga". Ms Mayurakshi Biswas, a yoga teacher, led this session. She showed the people many different yoga poses, ways of breathing, stretching and meditation. She also told them how these things can help their bodies and minds. The session was very interesting. Many people took part in it. The students, teachers and staff were all very excited. This made the event more special. The programme reminded everyone that yoga's not just about moving your body; it is also about having a calm mind, being able to focus and living a balanced life. The event ended on a note. The people who came left the hall feeling happy and inspired. It was a way to celebrate,

and it showed that St Xavier's University, Kolkata, really cares about the whole well-being of its students and staff and wants to help them have healthy habits. Yoga is some-

thing that St Xavier's University, Kolkata, wants to promote. The programme was a great example of this. Inspiring healthier minds and stronger communities every day.



SXUK celebrates International Yoga Day 2026 (Source: @sxukolkata)

SXUK hosts International Fintech & DeFi conference



SXUK brings together global voices on Fintech and DeFi (Source : @sxukolkata)

Benazir Babar (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: The Faculty of Commerce and Management at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) collaborated with the Kolkata Bidhannagar Society for Academic Advancement to organise International Conference 2026 on "Decentralized Finance, Cryptocurrency and Fintech: Enroute to Viksit Bharat @2047" in a hybrid format with support of Indian Council of Social Science Research-Eastern Regional

Centre (ICSSR-ERC) and Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX). Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor, SXUK, in his inaugural address called for "ethically aligned and socially inclusive financial innovation in the quest for a developed India" "Technology should serve the people; finance should serve inclusion; innovation should serve development, and growth should be anchored on ethics and human dignity," was his statement of intent. The conference brought together academicians, researchers, industry ex-

perts, policymakers and students from across the globe to brainstorm on how decentralised finance and financial technologies can help realise India's developmental goals for 2047.

Virtual Plenary Sessions The virtual plenary sessions on the eve of the conference on 12 June 2026 acquainted participants for the discussions. Opening lectures were delivered by Prof. Charalampos Stasinakis of the Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow. These were followed by a panel discussion featuring Dr. Manish Jha, Georgia State University, USA; Dr. Parthajit Kayal, Madras School of Economics; and Dr. Shivam Agarwal, Maynooth University, Ireland.

The response from academia to the conference was phenomenal with 168 research papers being received from around the globe. The best of these, after peer review and a further vetting by SXUK and the Bidhannagar Society, amounted to 85. Of these, 70 were presented in 35 online sessions and 35 offline sessions by 20 chairpersons and co-chairpersons representing academia and industry.

Mr. Debojyoti Dey, Vice President and Head of Research at MCX, led a special session on Commodity Markets and Fintech. The plenary sessions involved Prof. Kanika Chatterjee, University of Calcutta; Dr. Xiaotong Sun,

University of Waikato, New Zealand and CA Abhinandan Baid, Founder of Finobal Services Private Limited.

Discussion at the conference ranged from Decentralized Finance (DeFi), cryptocurrency, blockchain technology and fintech innovations to financial inclusion, environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations, green fintech, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Beyond the formal sessions, the conference also created space for young researchers and students to engage directly with global experts, fostering conversations that went well beyond the scheduled panels. Many delegates remarked on the warmth and openness of the exchanges, noting that such interactions often spark the most enduring collaborations. As the two days drew to a close, there was a shared sense that this conference had not merely been an academic exercise, but a genuine step toward shaping a more inclusive financial future for the country.

The International Conference was a success with a significant discourse among the academia and the industry and the government, paving the way to meet the challenge of creating a Viksit Bharat @2047. Encouraging stronger partnerships, innovative thinking, and inclusive progress toward India's sustainable financial future together.

UNIVERSITY EVENT & FEATURE

International Yoga Day 2026: Participation of NCC cadets of SXUK at Red Road



Representing University and Directorate in the Red Road on Yoga Day (Source: NCC Member)



Soumoraj Pal (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: On 21st June 2026, the world celebrated International Yoga Day with the theme of unity, health, and peace. People across India and the world gathered in parks, schools, colleges and stadiums to practise asanas, yoga and meditation. Yoga teaches us balance in body and mind, reduces stress, and builds harmony. It helps to have a calm mind and increase patience. Everyone across the world and in India practised and embraced this ancient practice to stay fit, calm, and connected in our fast-paced lives. On International Yoga Day 2026, NCC

cadets across India took the lead in practising and promoting fitness and discipline through yoga. Wearing their NCC tracksuits, cadets performed various asanas, yoga, and meditation in schools, colleges, parks, parade grounds, and public spaces. Their mass yoga participation displayed and inspired citizens to adopt a healthy, disease-free lifestyle. where they can get rid of stress, tension, depression, and hazards of life; where they can live a free, calm, and tension-free life. Through participation, NCC cadets showed unity, discipline, patriotism, and commitment to a healthy, disease-free nation and self-disci-

pline. The NCC cadets of SXUK are also not lagging behind. They too participated on 21st June, Yoga Day. A total of 8 cadets had participated on 21 June for Yoga Day. The active participation of SXUK NCC cadets in the International Yoga Day celebrations on 21st June reflects their dedication to discipline, fitness, and national values. Dressed in NCC tracksuits, the cadets took part in mass yoga sessions at Red Road, performed various asanas and meditation with perfect coordination with each other, and helped spread awareness about the benefits and importance of yoga among students and the public.

Their involvement highlighted key NCC values like teamwork, leadership, punctuality, unity, discipline and community service. Beyond physical fitness, yoga also helped cadets manage stress, improve focus, build mental resilience, overcome depression, have a stress-free life, and have a calm and peaceful mind. Through this participation, NCC cadets demonstrated that they are not only preparing for service to the nation but are also becoming role models in promoting a healthy and stress-free lifestyle and contributing to the vision of a fit India and a healthy nation. For a stronger tomorrow together.

A landmark moment in youth-led nation-building

Aparajita Deb (BA, Sem 5)

New Delhi: The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan. The event was organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

This initiative has been addressed to the young minds across the nation with the purpose of encouraging them to put forward their ideas in the development of the nation. The speaker has described the Constitution as the world's largest and a guiding document that has shaped India's democratic journey to date. He has encouraged the participants to uphold constitutional values while contributing to the nation's

development and emphasised that the responsibility of transforming India into a developed nation rests largely with its youth. According to the speaker, the growing participation of young people in the Youth Parliament Programme has crossed nearly five million. Selected representatives from different universities have been appointed. Participants shared their ideas and perspectives on the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, discussing issues related to governance, innovation, public policy and national development. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also addressed the gathering and stressed the need to channel the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of young people towards nation-building. The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament aims to encourage meaningful participation of young citizens in democratic pro-

cesses while fostering leadership, critical thinking and awareness of parliamentary functioning.

Inspiring responsible leadership and active democratic participation for generations to come.



Youth delegates participate in Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 (Source : Google)

POLITICAL

India-Australia strategic partnership: Building closer bonds for a collective future

Swastika Dasgupta (BA, Sem 5)

Melbourne: Countries, in their efforts to address changing global challenges, often explore new alliances that can help shape their future. India and Australia are growing closer and have undertaken several measures to promote collaboration in trade, education, defence, clean energy and technology. The expanding partnership reflects the commitment of the two countries to sustainable progress, regional security and development.

The two countries have developed their relationship significantly over the last decade. Historically, education and trade had been the driving forces in their engagement, but now the relationship has evolved in many more domains. Recently, both countries' heads discussed investing in innovation and tackling issues affecting the Indo-Pacific. The countries aim to



A partnership for a shared future (Source: Google Images)

boost their trade and investment as an integral component of this relationship through the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), aiming to streamline business practices, reduce barriers, and foster greater economic opportunities. Australia is also keen on investing in India's infrastructure and renewable energy, which is a significant opportunity that promises not only a boost to the

economy but also a step towards promoting energy access and clean power for the country's citizens. Given the large number of Indian students selecting Australian universities each year for their education, education exchanges play an important role in building bridges between the two nations. In the future it is expected that the collaboration between universities and researchers of both nations

will further provide newer avenues for both students and future job opportunities. They cooperate together for ensuring a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific. As two major powers in the region, both India and Australia are part of Quad along with the United States of America and Japan; they cooperate on defence and maritime security matters to promote a free, open and inclusive regional order.

Also, their energy and climate co-operation underscores the commitment of the two nations towards a greener future. Their partnership exemplifies the ways in which two countries can align and cooperate in multiple areas to effectively navigate shared challenges and unlock new opportunities, thereby serving not only their respective national interests but also contributing to wider regional cooperation and a global sustainable future. For lasting prosperity and shared growth.

Canada and India re-establish diplomatic relations at the 2026 G7 Summit

Anweshan Ghosh (BA, Sem 5)

Evian: India and Canada took a decisive step in improving the bilateral relations between the two nations. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney held a high-level meeting on June 16, 2026, at the G7 Summit. This meeting marked a significant milestone in repairing the strained relation that had impacted the two nations previously. Following Carney's official visit to India in March, both Modi and Carney discussed the progress made since the last visit. Both leaders agreed to launch formal negotiations on the General Security of Information Agreement (GSOIA) to establish a secure pact for intelligence and defence ties.

Economic ties were also discussed further in this meeting. Modi and Carney assured their commitment to finalise a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by

the end of 2026. Additionally, they also discussed and reviewed important commercial partnerships in energy and resources, especially focusing on expanding trade for liquified natural gas (LNG), LPG, and coal. By improving these security and economic ties, India and Canada aim to build a resilient trade network, setting a stable and positive era for the two nations. This renewed cooperation between the two nations signals a major shift in strategic planning, showing shared interests in economic interests and security interests. The main aim is to effectively bridge the deep political divide which has crept along the years. This new partnership has been celebrated by the vast Indian population living in Canada, who view this as a stable partnership for the future and an additionally expanded trade with the North American region. Strengthening diplomatic cooperation, expanding opportunities, and fostering lasting prosperity for both nations together.



PM Modi and PM Carney meet at the 2026 G7 Summit in Évian (Source: PMO India)

SPORTS

FIFA World Cup 2026: The greatest show on earth begins

Anweshan Ghosh (BA, Sem 5)

Every four years the world stops as the beautiful game of football returns to its biggest stage: the FIFA World Cup. It's the time when the whole world unites and comes together, forgetting all the political chaos happening across the globe. On 11th June, football's greatest spectacle returned, hosted across three nations, the United States of America, Mexico and Canada. For the first time in the history of the competition, it expanded to forty-eight teams instead of the traditional thirty-two teams. It was not just a mere change in format but an attempt to expand football's global reach to nations dreaming of chasing glory.

The opening week of the tournament delivered exactly what makes the World Cup so special. Co-hosts Mexico returned to the iconic Azteca Stadium for the first time since 1986 as they beat South Africa 2-0 in their opening game. Social media was flooded with videos of packed stadiums, Scottish fans bringing their energy to the streets of Boston, and the Norwegian fans rowing through the streets of New York while the Argentinians cheered for their icon Lionel Messi's last dance. These

moments reminded the world why no other sport unites people from different places quite like the FIFA World Cup. The newly expanded format also gave rise to new nations like Curaçao, Haiti, Cape Verde and the DR Congo, who announced themselves on football's biggest stage. Teams like Norway and Scotland made a remarkable comeback to this stage after a wait of twenty-eight long years and won their comeback games against Iraq and Haiti, respectively. Defending champions Argentina began their title defence with a statement victory over Algeria, with Lionel Messi scoring his first-ever World Cup hat-trick in his stellar career. Other favourites, France and England, also announced themselves in style, whereas Portugal failed to impose themselves yet again despite having a stellar squad.

The group stage had 72 games in total, which saw dramatic late winners, comebacks and stunning upsets by the underdogs across packed stadiums in the US, Mexico and Canada. As June comes to an end, the group stage has paved its way for the ultimate end for the festival of football. The knockout rounds will commence in July, where every game becomes do-or-die and

every mistake could end a nation's dream. On July 19th, one nation amongst the remaining thirty-two will be crowned the world champions. The opening month has already lived up to the expectations, and the tournament promises even greater drama and

unforgettable moments as the greatest show on earth reaches its finale. Fans across continents eagerly anticipate breathtaking encounters, unforgettable goals, inspiring underdog stories, emotional farewells, glorious victories, and football history being written.



The greatest show on earth is underway (Source: Powers of Africa)

A small island nation that dared to dream: Cape Verde make world cup history

Anweshan Ghosh (BA, Sem 5)

The World Cup is known for producing stories which define football, and at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, none wrote a story as beautiful as Cape Verde. A small island nation of barely half a million people, which most of us didn't even know about, made its World Cup debut after securing a historic qualification. Drawn in a group alongside giants Spain, Uruguay and

Saudi Arabia in the group H, the Blue Sharks were tipped to finish bottom. Instead, they stunned the whole world and left the group stage unbeaten, earning a historic qualification in the Round of 32 against defending champions Argentina.

The Blue Sharks announced themselves on football's biggest stage with a stunning goalless draw against European champions Spain. Despite Spain dominating possession and creating chance after chance, the

African side defended with resilience and remained compact. Cape Verde's forty-year-old veteran goalkeeper Vozinha stood tall on his World Cup debut and carried his country on his shoulders with seven key saves in the game, earning him the Player of the Match award. This result was one of the biggest upsets in the group stage round, and the African side was heaped with praise.

If the draw against Spain raised eyebrows, their next game against Uruguay proved that their previous result was no fluke. Facing the two-time World Cup winners, Cape Verde battled it out and settled for a 2-2 draw. Kevin Pina etched his name in the nation's history books by scoring their first-ever FIFA World Cup goal. Helio Varela scored their second-ever goal in the game as they matched the South American giants, collecting a huge point to keep their qualification hopes alive.

Everything came down to their final game against giant killers Saudi Arabia. A tense, goalless draw was enough for the Blue Sharks to secure three points from their group stage campaign as they progressed from Group H as the runners-up. Spain's victory over Uruguay ensured Cape Verde

completed one of the greatest ever underdog stories in World Cup history. They remained unbeaten throughout the group stage despite facing teams with far better quality and experience. Rather than just relying on individual brilliance, led by coach Bubista, Cape Verde thrived on disciplined defensive organisation and remarkable counter-pressing. Every player in that team played with passion and secured these amazing results.

Cape Verde's success also reflects the growth of the World Cup as a 48-team tournament. Nations which were once considered outsiders are now challenging and frustrating the established giants of football. It proves that investment in youth development, proper coaching facilities and technical facilities can bridge the gap between the top sides and the underdogs. For a country appearing in its first ever FIFA World Cup, it'll always be a defining chapter in the sport. They didn't only qualify for the knockouts in their debut but also inspired many other nations who dream of playing on football's biggest stage, their fearless journey will remain a timeless reminder that belief, unity, determination, and courage can transform impossible dreams into unforgettable sporting achievements.



A small nation, a big dream (Source: Al Jazeera)

SPORTS & FEATURE

Wimbledon opens with a star-studded draw

Diyasha Das (BA, Sem 5)

Officially kicked off in the famous All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon, the world's oldest and most prestigious tennis tournament is set to entertain spectators with great tennis games, unforgettable rivalries and tough competition in two weeks' time. The 2026 Championships will be played from June 29 to July 12 and feature the best tennis players from all over the world.

There is no doubt that this year's draw caused huge buzz and interest in the tennis community as many Grand Slam champions and ranked tennis players prepare to battle for this prestigious trophy. There are no weak sections in the draw; therefore, the way to the finals becomes much more complicated than ever before. In men's singles, the focus is made on top-ranked contenders like Jannik Sinner, Carlos Alcaraz, Novak Djokovic, and Alexander Zverev, among others. All of them showed great results in the grass court season, which promises many exciting matches.

In addition to this, there are many star ladies in the women's draw, like Aryna Sabalenka, Coco Gauff, Iga Świątek, Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu. However, many talented young players joined the tournament



The Championships, Wimbledon: The prestigious tennis tournament (Source: The Sporting News)

and are ready to bring some surprise to this prestigious tournament. It is worth mentioning that Wimbledon stands out from the other three Grand Slams in terms of its playing surface. Namely, this championship takes place on natural grass, where speed is valued, and players need to change their game quickly.

To make the games even more entertaining, the 2026 Championships

introduce video review technology to some courts and allow challenging certain decisions of chair umpires in order to improve the precision of this process without losing prestige.

As always, Wimbledon attracts huge audiences and respectable celebrities not only in the stadium but also on the TV screens and in social media. Therefore, tennis lovers wait for exciting matches of this year's tournament. Fans

across the world eagerly anticipate unforgettable rallies, fierce rivalries, emotional victories, stunning upsets, remarkable sportsmanship, and historic achievements. Every match promises moments of brilliance that will inspire future generations, strengthen Wimbledon's enduring legacy, and celebrate the timeless excellence, tradition, and global spirit of tennis forever.

10 tips to fight against social anxiety

Vrinda Singh Roy (BA, Sem 5)

Does thinking about attending that upcoming get-together send a chill down your spine? Have you ever caught yourself biting your tongue to prevent yourself from saying something that you think would sound stupid in a classroom or during a social conversation? Well then, you're in for a treat. Although there are many treatments for the fear of social situations, here are 10 ways you can help to reduce the severity of your social anxiety:

1. Breathe – Whenever you find yourself panicking due to the thought of attending an upcoming social event, remember to take slow, deep breaths to try and keep yourself calm. If your stress feels really bad, just remember the word that was said before: breathe.

2. Question your negative thought patterns – A lot of people think that everyone's judgement is directed toward themselves, but truth be told, very few people have so much attention on someone else to judge their actions, let alone make any remarks about it.

Try asking yourself, 'what if it's not that bad?' or 'Is it worth the mental anguish?'.
3. Baby steps – If the idea of stepping into a large group sends shivers down your spine then don't! Start by making eye contact with an acquaintance and a subtle smile, or initiate a quick chat with a stranger and ask how their day is going.

4. Listen more – you don't always have to think of some perfect line that will wow everyone. Sometimes simply listening carefully, asking questions and trying to make conversation seems so much easier when it comes to social interactions.

5. Acknowledge that imperfection is okay – nobody's perfect, and we've all said and done things that we've wished that we hadn't. It doesn't matter what you said in a moment of anxiety and very likely nobody will even remember.

6. Practice makes perfect – just like anything else, when we practise social activities and conversations, we start to build up our self-confidence. The more that you push your limits and step outside of your comfort zone, the easier you will find it.

7. Stay a bit longer – When your anxiety has reached its peak and your primary desire is to flee, stay for an extra 5 minutes. This teaches you to resist your panicked instinct and that the situations are not as dangerous as you feel they are.

8. Don't beat yourself up over small achievements – If you were able to initiate an introduction with someone or make an effort to ask them about their day, then pat yourself on the back! Those small victories are important milestones that will get you where you want to be.

9. Focus on self-care – Maintaining your health through eating, sleeping, and exercising regularly will allow you to manage the negative emotions and stress that trigger your social anxiety symptoms.

10. Ask for help – If social anxieties are affecting your ability to do well in school or work, or if your relationships are suffering, it is absolutely okay to reach out and ask for assistance from a mental health professional. In fact, seeking the right professional help is one of the most courageous things that you can do.

Experts advise that social anxiety can be managed effectively by implementing gradual changes to bring oneself closer to desired goals. Dr Samir Parikh supports step-by-step exposure in various social settings; Dr Sonali Gupta recommends practising self-compassion while handling challenging social interactions; Dr Anand Nadkarni emphasised the development of emotional resilience. Each professional conveyed a clear message that small and persistent efforts can gradually lead to building stronger confidence and ensuring better mental well-being.



Social Anxiety (Source: BodyLogicMD)

FILM & FASHION

Metamorphosis and mastery: Paris haute couture fall/winter 2026-2027 redefines the runway

Shalini Podder (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: Paris once again stole the fashion world's heart with its record-breaking Fall/Winter Haute Couture shows, which took place in the city from July 6th to 9th. The four-day event was all about transitions as both long-established historic houses and rising design stars unveiled their latest creations in an effort to enchant the public and secure their spot in the industry. One of the week's most awaited shows was Piccioli's Balenciaga, where the new designer lived up to the brand's legacy of spectacular productions. In his very first haute couture collection for the label, Pierpaolo Piccioli went all out in his attempts to embrace the house's spirit. Big dresses, dropped waistlines, and opera-style gloves dominated the looks, while some pieces featured exclusively goose and ostrich feathers. His unconventional Balenciaga, which marked the brand's 55th haute couture show, delighted the audience so much that it awarded the creator a loud ovation. In another highly anticipated debut, Duran Lantink showcased his unique take on the French label Jean Paul Gaultier

The Dutch designer employed his signature contrasting cuts and patchwork to present a stunning display of bold fashion statements. Schiaparelli's show was the first to captivate the hearts of fashion lovers this season. Daniel Roseberry's The Abyss broke with the tradition of the house's metallic surrealist creations to unveil a variety of unique abstract silicone bustiers, latex masks, and prosthetic sculptures. Next, the audience was mesmerized by Chanel's display, where Matthieu Blazy presented a collection that could only be described as Enchanted Garden. The show started with a giant beanstalk and continued with a showcase of the brand's heritage, including a century-old book owned by Mademoiselle Coco Chanel. Meanwhile, Dior's newest couture production became an internet sensation after it starred none other than Taylor Swift. Jonathan Anderson's Dior continued the star-studded tradition as it unveiled a tailored dress specially designed for the singer. The label's haute couture events always draw enthusiastic crowds, and this year's presentation was once again accompanied by the illustrious names of Elie Saab,

Giorgio Armani Privé, Viktor & Rolf. This year's season saw a notable increase in the number of international collections, including those by Manish Malhotra and Rahul Mishra. In particular, it was Rahul Mishra's Devi: The Eternal Muse show that stopped the entire industry on July 8th at the Collège des Bernardins. The collection was inspired by the Hindu temple sculptures created over India's 2000-year-old culture. Apasara or temple dancers have long been an inseparable part of Indian culture. Mishra paid tribute to these legendary performers by unveiling spectacular haute couture pieces in an equally dramatic setting. The entire show was an experience as it transported the audience to a different world. While sculptors usually strive to unveil the image hidden inside the rock by removing the excess material, Mishra and his team did the opposite: they added layers upon layers of beads, dabka, zardozi, and intricate patterns to create a unique effect. The resulting garments were light yet as dense as the stone. The collection included a number of exceptional productions, such as a charcoal minidress with architectural reliefs etched into it and a wide hood

reminding of an ancient altar. The latter was complemented by a sheer black column dress decorated with an ironwork halo. The most spectacular creation, however, was a garment with three sculpted heads framing the model's own head, symbolizing an all-encompassing goddess. The show was a true revelation as Mishra unveiled unique collaborations with traditional clay sculptor Sunant Kumar and the Tanishq jewelry label. The star-studded show attracted a number of fashion-world heavyweights, including Isha Ambani and Cardi B. Devi: The Eternal Muse was a sensational take on the ancient art of Indian sculpting. As this year's Paris haute couture season has shown, the art of sculpting continues to fascinate fashion designers. While they continue to use unconventional materials for their garment creations, Indian designers have managed to capture the hearts of both local and international couture lovers. The industry will most definitely remember July 2022 for not only appreciating Indian fashion's rich cultural legacy but also for giving the opportunity for an Indian designer to tell his own story on the international stage.



Iris van Herpen pushed couture into the future with futuristic designs featuring glowing plasma elements and scientific novation(Source: Google)

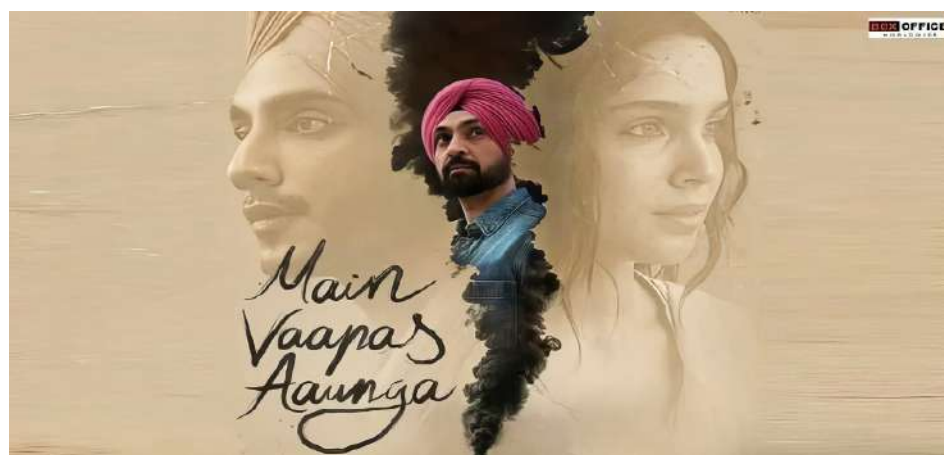


Manish Malhotra making his historic debut at Paris Haute Couture Week (Source: Google)

Main Wapas Aunga: A journey to yourself and beyond

Rooprekha Ghosh (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: Some movies do not need your attention; they quietly demand to be seen by your soul. Main Wapas Aunga, directed by Imtiaz Ali, is one such movie. It does not have exciting scenes or surprising plot twists. Instead, Main Wapas Aunga relies on moments, pauses and unspoken feelings to tell its story. Imtiaz Ali movies are often made this way. They focus on finding yourself rather than travelling to new places. Main Wapas Aunga shows that sometimes the hardest and longest journeys happen in your mind. It also shows that healing is an internal process. Healing means becoming the person you used to be. Main Wapas Aunga is a movie about this. Main Wapas Aunga makes you feel emotions like longing, nostalgia, love,



Official poster of Main Wapas Aunga (Source : Applause Entertainment)

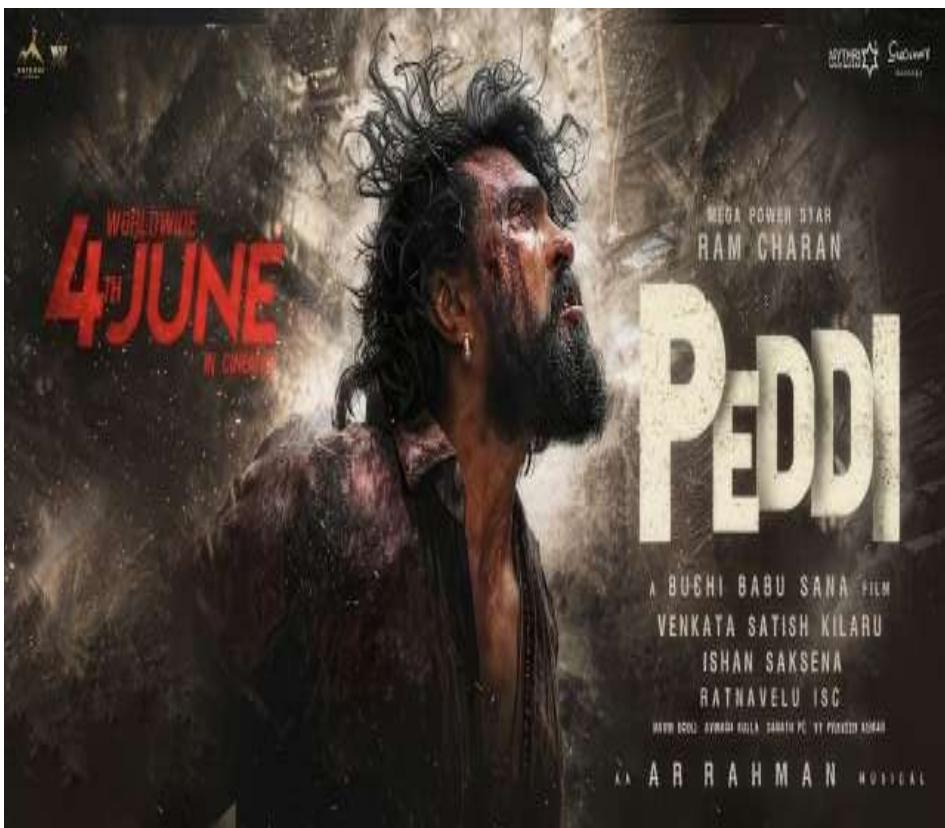
loss and hope. Each scene gives you time to feel and understand the characters journeys in Main Wapas Aunga. The dialogue is simple. It has a big impact. It stays with you even after the movie is over. You still think about Main Wapas Aunga. What makes Main Wapas Aunga special

is its honesty. It does not try to give you all the answers or fix every problem by the end of Main Wapas Aunga. It shows that life is complicated and people change. Going back may not mean going to a place but reconnecting with a part of yourself that you lost. This

is what Main Wapas Aunga is about. The pictures in the movie are beautiful and intimate, but not too flashy. The music is soulful. Makes the emotional tone of each scene in Main Wapas Aunga even stronger. This is not a movie for people who want action or quick entertainment. It is for people who like to think about their emotions. Main Wapas Aunga is a movie that makes you do that. Like many of Imtiaz Ali's movies, Main Wapas Aunga leaves you with questions. This is one of the things about Main Wapas Aunga. In a world that always tells us to move, Main Wapas Aunga reminds us to look back gently. It encourages us to think about where we came from, our memories and, most importantly, ourselves. Main Wapas Aunga is a movie that helps you do that.

FILM

Audience reactions forced Peddi to rewrite its path before finally releasing nationwide



Official poster of Peddi, released on 4 June 2026 (Source: Vriddhi Cinemas)

Angelina Anusha Gomes
(BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: After being released on 4 June 2026, Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, starring Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, soon became the subject of national discussion. Although the acting of Ram Charan was highly praised, the major part of the review was focused on Janhvi Kapoor's depiction of Achiyamma. Several viewers believed that some scenes, camera shots, and song sequences turned a very important woman character into just an image with no agency. The protest grew online as people discussed the representation of women in commercial films. In a rather peculiar twist of events, Buchi Babu Sana apologised and maintained that he did not mean to make women objects. In response to the criticisms, he assured people that

he would be more careful in future and that the film will be remade. Subsequent reports indicated that the new theatrical version had three additional scenes of Achiyamma, which were intended to enhance her characterisation and add narrative complexity to the story, rather than just being done for glamour. This incident led to some wider discussions about the film industry. While some people supported the director, such as Anantha Sriram, who is a lyricist, others believed that the director had heard their audiences. The Peddi scandal was not just about the movie. It demonstrated evolving audience expectations, the influence of social media, and the difficulty of finding the right balance between creative freedom and ethical filmmaking. In the digital era, audiences are not simply consumers but also collaborators in the film industry.

Toy Story 5 rewrites box office history with a record-breaking worldwide opening weekend

Abantika Roy (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: Pixar Animation Studios is at it again after launching another successful movie in theatres titled Toy Story 5, which hit the cinemas on June 19, 2026. The sequel earned the highest box-office collection of the year with about \$160 million in North America and \$152 million from international markets. The total worldwide collection of the movie amounted to nearly \$312 million, becoming the highest opener ever of any Toy Story film. The sequel was directed by Andrew Stanton and produced by Pixar Animation Studios in collaboration with Walt Disney Pictures. The film featured popular characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear, and Jessie and examined the effects of modern-day technology on the playtime of kids. The movie received rave reviews due to the nostalgic appeal and touching storylines, thus gaining high ratings during the opening weekend. Moreover, the film has



Buzz, Woody and Jessie reunite in Toy Story 5 (Source : Pixar)

gained widespread acceptance by critics. It received a 93% critics' score and 95% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes, a Metascore of 73/100 on Metacritic, and a 7.8/10 user rating on IMDb. Analysts considered the movie

opening as a major shot in the arm of the summer box office and Pixar's best box office performance in many years. This unprecedented success of Toy Story 5 proves that despite the fact that three decades have passed since the

debut of the first film, Woody, Buzz and other characters of the franchise remain highly popular among audiences. Continuing to inspire audiences across generations with unforgettable animated storytelling.

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