

THE ECHO

Mahindra University's Official Newspaper

New Delhi Struggles for Breath



On the 18th of November 2024, the Supreme Court of India ordered GRAP 4 (Graded Response Action Plan, Stage 4) to be initiated across all NCR States (National Capital Region). These orders were issued in response to the Air P2

MU Basketball Teams Dominate

with Dual Gold



The basketball teams of MU delivered some exceptional performances, securing gold medals in both the boys' and girls' categories, leaving a trail of triumphs in their path during recent sports fests that ... P10

Why Spotify Wrapped Hits the

Right Notes



As November draws to an end, Spotify users worldwide eagerly anticipate the annual release of Spotify Wrapped. Spotify Wrapped is a yearly recap of the streamer's listening habits, showing them data in ... P7

10 Years of Mahindra University: Insights from Minds Behind Its Legacy

Chanakya Naidu, Akshaya Buri, Anush Mohanty, Shrilekha Jaligama, The Echo OC

As Mahindra University commemorates its 10th anniversary, we had the privilege to interview our esteemed Vice Chancellor to reflect on his legacy, ethos, and aspirations. The conversation, rich with insights, showcased the university's commitment to redefining education. The VC attributed much of MU's success to its unique synergy with the Tech Mahindra and the Mahindra Group. "Interacting with a leader like Anand Mahindra, who comes prepared and values legacy, instils a drive to create something enduring," he remarked, talking about how his all-encompassing yet unobtrusive leadership allows the faculty to grow and prosper. This vision, fostered by founders like CP Gurnani and Vineet Nayyar, has shaped the university into a space where academic rigor meets holistic growth. Legacy was a recurring theme in our discussion. "Great institutions—like Oxford, IITs, or BITS Pilani—outlive us because they nurture minds and inspire communities," he said. For MU, this means fostering a qualitative environment where both faculty and students thrive in a relationship that can only be described as

symbiotic. "Good students inspire faculty to innovate, while dedicated teachers elevate the academic experience," he explained. The VC also emphasized creating a vibrant campus life, reflecting on his days as young man at IIT Kharagpur. He spoke about how even though the world had changed, the core experience of the "quintessential college life" never changed. Beyond academics, he highlighted the importance of friendships and community. "College life is where lifelong relationships are forged," he said, sharing anecdotes of his own student days, an era without the internet or nighttime curfews, but the same youthful student spirit. Looking forward, he aims to enhance the University's national and global footprint. Plans are underway for new schools, upgraded infrastructure, and partnerships with renowned institutions worldwide. "We're focused on rankings and accreditations, but our true measure lies in the success and growth of our students," he stated. This milestone not only marks 10 years of excellence but also sets the stage for a future where MU stands as a beacon of transformative education.

In a recent interview with Prof. Arya Bhattacharya, one of the pioneering professors at MU, he spoke about the ups and downs of the university. During its inception in 2014, the institute was initially set to offer a five-year M.Tech program without specific departments. However, there were different adaptations to meet regulatory and societal expectations. Despite early challenges, including difficulties in offering M.Tech degrees due to AICTE regulations, the university launched four-year B.Tech programs with various specializations. As a firm believer of sharing knowledge through interdisciplinary means, Prof. Bhattacharya's expertise played a pivotal role in the formative years. He began his journey in this institute teaching courses across multiple disciplines, namely Mathematics, Mechanical, Electrical and Computer Science Engineering. The rapid evolution was facilitated through a collaborative effort by the Mahindra Group, École Centrale Paris, and leadership from academicians like Prof. Sanjay Dhande. Eventual transitions in leadership and structural challenges led to significant shifts, including the formalization of department in 2017.

In 2020, MU was officially granted university status, creating opportunities for expansion. The launch of new programs, including B. Tech in AI, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mathematics and Computing, underlined the vision towards innovation. He highlighted the development of the AI program as a crucial milestone, emphasizing its unique curriculum and widespread appreciation. As the Dean of Research, he paved the way by formulating initiatives to support faculty and student research, introducing allowances for conferences, patent support, and funding for national and international research activities. His tenure saw the institutionalization of policies fostering a robust research culture. Planning ahead, he envisions continued expansion under the Vice-Chancellor. New schools, such as a proposed School of AI, and deepening collaborations with international institutions like University of Florida, and Virginia Tech, signal an ambitious future. Reflecting on his journey, Prof. Bhattacharya cherishes his journey and the university's transformation into an innovative hub for interdisciplinary education and global partnerships.

Some educators don't just teach; they inspire, innovate, and transform. Prof. Kalluri Ramalinga Sarma, a luminary in Indian academia and a key figure in MU's evolution, exemplifies this ethos at the age of 88. Through a career spanning over six decades, he has left an indelible mark on institutions, students, and the broader academic landscape. Prof. Sarma's story began in 1957 when he graduated from IIT Kharagpur as part of its third batch of engineers. He was part of the first batch to earn a master's degree in engineering in India. His thirst for knowledge led him to the US on a government scholarship, where a planned one-year study extended to three, culminating in a PhD. In 1961, he returned to India to join IIT Kanpur as one of its founding faculty members. Over 28 years, he played a pivotal role in shaping the institute's Electrical Engineering department. Prof. Sarma transitioned to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as an advisor and later as director of a prestigious lab. His crowning achievement during this time was leading the development of the Head-Up Display

In the world of academia, some educators leave a profound mark. Professor Bishnu Pal, Dean of the Ecole Centrale School of Engineering (ECSOE) at Mahindra University, embodies such a legacy. As Mahindra University celebrates a decade of excellence, Professor Pal's reflections shed light on the journey of this esteemed institution. Having dedicated over four decades to IIT Delhi as both a student and faculty member, Professor Pal's association with the institute began through an unexpected invitation by Professor Sanjay Dhande, the former director of IIT Kanpur, and Professor Didier Clouteau, MEC's inaugural dean. Professor Pal's transition to MEC marked a leap of faith, driven by a belief in the potential of private institutions to excel in engineering education. Professor Pal's contributions were foundational to MEC's academic and cultural identity. Guided by a French-inspired curriculum, championed by Professors Didier Clouteau and Frederic Genty, MEC placed an unprecedented emphasis on mathematics and physics. "We were determined to give students a strong foundation," Professor Pal noted, referencing the curriculum's 15 credits in

(HUD) for India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas. "This project was one of the most challenging of my career," he said. "We worked tirelessly for five years to create something no one in India had done before." The HUD became a crucial component of the LCA Tejas fighter jet, showcasing India's capabilities in advanced avionics. Prof. Sarma joined MU at its early years, contributing significantly to its academic structure and vision. One of his key contributions was establishing a 5-year collaborative program with French institutions, aimed at offering students dual degrees and exposure to international academic standards. Even as an administrator and project leader, Prof. Sarma's love for teaching never waned. He regards it as a fulfilling aspect of his career. "Teaching keeps me energized," he says with a smile. Looking ahead, Prof. Sarma envisions MU as a beacon of excellence, nurturing leaders and innovators. As MU grows, it stands tall on the shoulders of visionaries like Prof. Sarma, whose dedication continues to illuminate the path to academic excellence.

physics and over 20 in mathematics during the initial years, despite resistance from regulatory pressures. Beyond academics, Professor Pal was instrumental in establishing a research-oriented climate. Under his leadership, faculty were encouraged to pursue government-funded projects and publish in reputed journals, bridging the gap between academia and innovation. His efforts bore fruit, with the institute gaining recognition for its research output and attracting exceptional talent. In his reflections, Professor Pal highlighted the introduction of unique liberal arts courses, such as Cinema and Philosophy and documentary filmmaking, led by Professor K. Hariharan. These courses enriched the academic environment, fostering creativity and critical thinking among engineering students. "The integration of humanities made our students better leaders," Professor Pal remarked. As Mahindra University evolves, Professor Pal's legacy is celebrated not just in its achievements but in the values he instilled. His vision for an institution rooted in academic rigor and innovation continues to inspire a new generation, shaping Mahindra University's path to global excellence.

MCG Brings Consulting to Campus

Hitaasri Gowni, Staff Writer

On October 23, MCG, in collaboration with SOM, hosted an engaging and interactive event that seamlessly combined a treasure hunt with the challenge of solving a real-world problem, giving students an opportunity to step into the shoes of a consultant.

The case revolved around the potential relaunch of Pepsi Blue, a berry-flavoured drink that had previously failed in India but now holds the promise of exploring new scope for growth.

Participants were grouped into teams of four based on their personality traits and were encouraged to engage with various departmental stations such as HR, Finance, etc.—manned by the club members portraying PepsiCo representatives.

Teams gathered valuable insights from these stations, brainstormed innovative alternatives, and came up with strategic relaunch plans tailored to changing consumer preferences and market trends. Participants presented their solutions to a



Source: MCG Club

panel of judges, competing for cash prizes. The event fostered creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, as students addressed challenges like health-conscious trends, differentiating Pepsi Blue in a competitive market, and fixing past setbacks. This hands-on event highlighted the importance of teamwork and strategic decision-making in business. MCG aims to host more events to help students in building skills for successful careers in consulting and strategy.

SpaceX's: Rocket Recovery Redefined

Amithi Shangari, A&E Editor

On October 13, 2024, SpaceX reached a remarkable milestone in its journey toward spaceflight reusability with the successful landing of the Super Heavy booster from Starship Flight 5. The booster, a key part of SpaceX's mission to eventually reach Mars and beyond, was caught mid-air by the company's new innovative Mechazilla Chopsticks system at Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas. This is the first time a booster of this size was successfully caught after launch, marking a significant step forward for both SpaceX and the space industry as a whole. This achievement is not just about reusability; it's also about SpaceX's broader ambitions. The successful catch of the Super



Source: SpaceX. X.com.

Heavy booster puts the company closer to its goal of launching Starship as a fully reusable spacecraft. With future flights already in the pipeline, the October 13 event marks another step toward making space travel more sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective.

Highlights From GamesCon 2024

Rishi Varma, Staff Writer

GamesCon, organized by Enigma, the Computer Science Club, was a celebration of gaming and game development held from the 6th to 13th of November. We successfully brought everyone together for an unforgettable experience of competition, creativity, learning, and connecting with a range of industry leaders who had graced their presence this year.

The event featured e-sports tournaments with students competing in Call of Duty Mobile, FC24, and Valorant. Over five action-packed days, intense matches culminated in a grand finale streamed live in the auditorium, accompanied by enthusiastic commentators and an energetic audience. Chris Smith, co-founder and CEO of BIGH AI, added prestige by sharing insights into AI and e-sports and presenting awards to the winners.

Creativity took center stage in the Game Art Competition, showcasing exceptional hand-drawn, digital 2D, and 3D works. Judged by Ankit Garg, co-founder of Little Red Zombies, the competition provided valuable insights into character design and honored the top submissions.

The Game Jam Competition displayed impressive creativity, with submissions judged by a distinguished panel:

MU alumnus Anchit Sharma, now the Lead Developer at Rail Studios; Abhijit Swaminathan, the Founder of Visai Games; Rajat Ojha, CEO of Gamitronics; and Safal Kapoor, Head of Game Design at Miniclip. The judges participated in a lively Q&A session, discussing topics from game development to game piracy in the current economy while offering golden feedback to the participants - the future game developers of the new generation - and then proceeded to announce the winners of the Game Jam.

Finally, the GameZone offered a mix of retro games and modern titles across three rooms equipped with retro tech, high-end PCs, and consoles. With over 14 games available, it became a hotspot for casual and competitive play, fostering a space for fun and camaraderie. Workshops, including a PC Building workshop, added an educational edge to the event, equipping participants with practical and technical skills.

GamesCon 2024 was a resounding success, combining intense competitions, creative challenges, and expert insights. It celebrated gaming in all its forms, leaving participants inspired and connected.

HSTDV: India's New Defence Innovation

Ishrath Mufaiza, Staff Writer

India broke all records in its effort to update its defence system when, on November 16, 2024, the country successfully tested its first hypersonic bullet, HSTDV, developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The HSTDV bullet, which is as long as 12 metres, travels at six times the speed of sound and has a reach of more than 1500 kilometres. It is capable of carrying multiple types of payloads.

Some of the features that make HSTDV an efficient missile include its high precision for longer strikes and a low altitude flight profile, making it hard to detect by radar.

These attributes certainly make it a weapon to be reckoned with from Indian defence. The DRDO conducted several preliminary tests in 2019 and 2020 to validate the scramjet propulsion and aerodynamic configurations for a hypersonic flight, before succeeding.

The propulsion and guidance systems were fine-tuned to overcome challenges, leading to this breakthrough. India has joined the

elite club of nations - along with the US, China and Russia - that possess advanced hypersonic technology

Moreover, India is developing a non-military version to counter the threats of "DF-21D" anti-ship missiles from China.

This technology will enhance the capabilities of all three branches of the Indian defence forces and strengthen India's strategic deterrence posture.

Now, the HSTDV needs to be tested and refined for mass production. Its immense capacity to enhance India's military capabilities and national security is evident.



Source: Defence XP

New Delhi Struggles for Breath

Sreeram Vavilala, Staff Writer

On the 18th of November 2024, the Supreme Court of India ordered GRAP 4 (Graded Response Action Plan, Stage 4) to be initiated across all NCR States (National Capital Region). These orders were issued in response to the Air Quality Index (AQI), reaching its record highest level at a shocking index value of 494 on 18/11/2024 in New Delhi.



Source: ABP news bureau.

This year is particularly concerning as the Delhi government requested the Central Government to immediately initiate steps to

create artificial rain to counter the harmful effects of smog in the city.

The government is considering the issuance of a government order to announce the closure of all schools, government institutions, and corporate offices in order to enforce a strict "Work From Home" policy.

While some blame agricultural practices, the state and central government in Delhi blame each other.

The people of Delhi continue to suffer every year with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, prevalent mostly in children and in the elderly.

This is a cycle that is unnecessary on an annual basis where schools and offices shut down and go virtual, the sales of masks and air purifiers rise, trucks and heavy vehicles are banned from entering the city, and all public construction projects are halted with immediate effect.

Outreach Club's Blood Donation Drive

Shreya Sreedhar, Staff Writer

"Every hero's story starts with a simple act, yours can begin with a blood donation." The Outreach Club organised its 5th Blood Donation Drive in collaboration with the NTR Trust on 13 November, showing how even a simple Wednesday can be so meaningful. This year's drive had a successful turnout of 293 donors, with each donation being turned into a lifeline for many. Together, we have the power to save



Source: Outreach Club

lives and here, every drop truly counts.

The drive was held from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm, inviting those who wished to contribute and become heroes for the day. The event was managed by 32 volunteers and club members, who along with doctors ensured that all donors met the blood donation requirements and were well-informed for safety. The participants were given a certificate of appreciation and refreshments as a token of appreciation from the NTR Trust. We applaud this milestone, as this strengthens the Outreach Club's resolve to spread awareness about how donating blood benefits not only those in need but also the donors themselves.

The event brought together the students, faculty, and staff of Mahindra University for the noble cause of blood donation, reminding us once again that when we come together, we have the power to save lives and here, every drop truly counts.

COP29, The UN’s Climate Change Initiative: Beneficial or a Facade?

Srimedha Hasini Pappala, Staff Writer

On 11th November 2024, the United Nations commenced the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. Each year, the UN brings together a Conference of Parties (COP), bringing together public and private sector leaders to catalyze action and deliver climate progress.

This year's conference focused on a key aspect of the agenda to tackle Climate Change: agreeing to scale up the financial support to address the worsening impacts of global warming. The COP discussed the average global temperature for the first 10 months of 2024 which was 0.71°C above the 1991-2020 average, the highest on record for this period. It was also revealed that the global decarbonization rate was only 1.02% in 2023 and the world must now decarbonize at a rate twenty times faster if we are to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The lowest end of the Paris Agreement’s ambition – limiting warming to 2°C –

requires an annual decarbonization rate of 6.9%. These goals are only possible if all nations consider this a major problem and act quickly.

Kirti Vardhan Singh, Union Minister of State for Environment of India, said that the new climate financial goal to support climate action in the South should be founded on the principle of climate justice. He demanded that rich nations take the lead in mitigation and provide enough carbon space for developing countries. The Minister said free availability of green technologies and finance is a must for raising climate ambition in the Global South.

Brazil, which will host next year’s COP30, released its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) last week, making it one of the first movers along with the UAE. All countries are expected to release their NDCs by February 2025. Brazil’s



Source: RTE

new and improved national climate plan targets reductions between 59% and 67%; it prioritizes adaptation, has strong domestic policy plans, and reaffirms the country’s commitment to the COP28 deal to transition away from fossil fuels, triple renewable energy capacity, and double energy efficiency gains. The rest of the countries must showcase their climate leadership. If not attended to as soon as possible, this problem will farther create a severe negative impact on the world. Climate change, if left unchecked, could lead to increased mortality, cause ecosystem damage, food and water shortage, and other critically damaging problems.

Trump 2.0: Shaping India’s Trade, IT, and Global Diplomacy

Dhatri Chappa, Staff Writer



Source: POLITICO

Donald Trump is set to become the 47th President of the United States. His return follows a tumultuous past, including surviving assassination attempts and impeachments. Voters were drawn to his America First Policy, and his stance on immigration, inflation, employment and traditional American values. The Philip Capital report says that his return is expected to impact India significantly, affecting sectors like IT, H1B visas, pharmaceuticals, trade and the geopolitical war between Russia and Ukraine .

Trump has vowed to end the Russia-Ukraine war by brokering a peace deal and

demilitarising Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories. If Trump lifts Russian sanctions, increased supply of oil, wheat, and other Russian commodities could lower global prices, benefitting India and reducing inflation. Trump's well-known opposition to China is about to reignite one of the biggest trade wars in world history, the US-China trade war. He plans on slapping 60% tariffs on Chinese goods and snatching China’s Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status. India could benefit with higher exports to the US, attracting manufacturing investments from China to India. India can leverage this new-found status to forge deeper economic and diplomatic ties with the west and boost Indian global trade.

However, Trump’s immigration policies may harm India’s IT sector. According to a Business Standard article, India’s IT sector exports 54% of its services to the US. H1B visa restrictions may force Indian IT companies to hire American citizens. The H1B denial rate under Trump previously rose from 10% in 2016 to 24% in 2018.

Simply put, Trump wants work and study opportunities for Americans over foreigners. On the brighter side, fewer US opportunities may retain Indian talent and curb brain drain. Trump’s push to lower drug prices in the US may reduce the Indian pharmaceutical sector’s margins, whose US exports are 31% of its total. Indian companies sell affordable generic drugs, where American companies set higher prices by lobbying and cartelising.

Trump’s presidency is expected to reshape global markets and impact India across various sectors, offering both challenges and opportunities.



Source: Swarajya

Justice Sanjiv Khanna Takes Oath as the 51st Chief

Justice of India

C. Sri Lakshmi Kaumudi, Staff Writer

Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI) on November 11, 2024, succeeding Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. President Draupadi Murmu administered the oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice Khanna's tenure as CJI will be brief, ending May 13, 2025, due to the mandatory retirement age of 65. He dealt with several landmark judgements related to electoral bonds, abrogation of article 370, RTI and judicial independence Chandrachud emphasised equality, fairness, and justice. In his farewell speech, he remarked, “We are here as pilgrims, to do our work and leave, but the work can build the institution.”.Justice Khanna began his legal career in 1983 as an advocate at the Delhi Bar Council. He practised in district and high courts. His dedication and expertise led to his elevation as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court, later a permanent judge. Appointed to the Supreme Court in January 2019, he contributed significantly to legal scholarship and judicial reform. One notable case under Justice Khanna’s leadership was the declaration of the Electoral Bond Scheme as unconstitutional, citing that it violated the voters' Right to Information under Article-19(1)(a). He emphasised transparency in political funding as essential for democratic accountability. Now, as CJI he is dedicated to transparency, individual rights, and judicial reform.

First Sun Gazing Experience at MU

Nayaab Yamin, Staff Writer

On 20th November, 2024 Celeste, the university’s astronomy club, organised star studded events for the month. But the event that stood out the most was the sun gazing event that was organised for the very first time. The sun gazers were given the rare opportunity to observe our closest star through special solar filters on the Bresser Messier telescope. Students and faculty marvelled at the intricate details of the Sun’s surface while engaging in discussions about solar phenomena. The events were a perfect blend of learning, relaxation, and inspiring moments. With the Celeste team encouraging questions and engaging in space-rich discussions, the club demonstrated its commitment to fostering a love for astronomy across the university.

Radiation-Absorbing Fungus: Nature's Healer at Chernobyl

Sakshi Chandra, Staff Writer

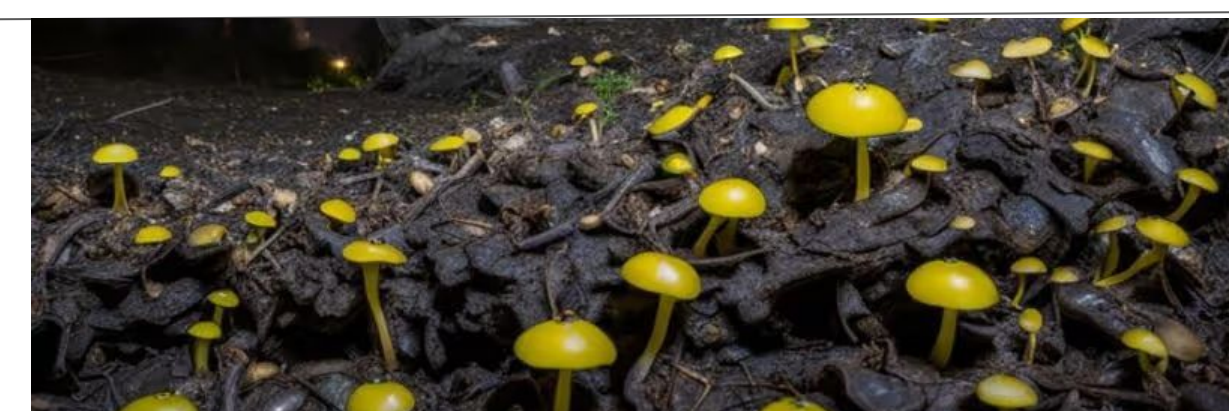
The infamous explosion of Reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine has left a 30-kilometer exclusion zone—a desolate place unfit for human habitation. Even decades later, radiation levels remain elevated, but this zone is also one of the few places on Earth where researchers can study the effects of radiation on nature.

Interestingly, scientists have uncovered an unexpected survivor: a resilient black fungus known as Cladosporium sphaerospermum. This remarkable organism not only endures but flourishes in radioactive environments, providing a captivating insight into nature’s ability to adapt.

Following the disaster, patches of black growth were spotted on the walls of Reactor No. 4, precisely where radiation levels were

the highest. Investigations showed that these fungi had evolved to withstand radiation levels deadly to most life forms. Even more incredible is the way C. sphaerospermum and other black fungi species, like Wangiella dermatitidis, “feed” on radiation. Through a process called radiosynthesis, these fungi absorb radiation via melanin—the same pigment that gives human skin its colour—and convert it into usable energy. This process is similar to how plants utilize chlorophyll to capture sunlight during photosynthesis, though the mechanisms differ. In fungi, melanin not only protects against harmful UV radiation but also aids energy production by transforming gamma radiation into chemical energy.

This groundbreaking finding has paved the way for new research in biochemistry and radiation. The potential uses of radiotrophic



Source: YourStory.com

fungi like C. sphaerospermum are equally revolutionary. These fungi hold promise for bioremediation, employing living organisms to clean up pollutants in hazardous settings. Radiotrophic fungi, with their ability to absorb radiation as energy, offer a safer and more sustainable solution to conventional methods for radioactive site cleanup.

The extraordinary capabilities of C. sphaerospermum have also piqued space researchers' interest. Samples of this fungus sent to the International Space Station (ISS) suggest its radiation resistance might shield astronauts from cosmic radiation, offering hope for radiation-protected habitats in space exploration.

Talakadu’s Sands, Mysore’s Heirs and the Enduring Curse of Alamelamma

Shrilekha Jaligama, News Editor

Truth unfolds in ways imagination wouldn’t dare. On the banks of the Kaveri river, where the waters murmur secrets and sands cradle timeless mysteries, lies a tale that lingers like a shadow - a tale of devotion, betrayal and vengeance. This is the story of Alamelamma, whose curse would echo across centuries, and weave a different thread of fate for the Wadiyar kings of Mysore.

This was when the Vijayanagara Empire faced collapse due to Mughal invasions on its northern frontiers. Alamelamma was the wife of Tirumala Raya, the viceroy of Vijayanagara stationed in Srirangapatna. The Kingdom of Mysore was a vassal of the Empire. Amid weakening authority, Raja Wadiyar of Mysore seized the Srirangapatna fort. Tirumala and Alamelamma fled to the nearby town of Talakadu for refuge. Tirumala succumbed to a terminal illness soon after.

Alamelamma was devoted to Ranganayaki, the consort of Sri Ranganatha of the temple of Srirangapatna. Widowhood forbade her from wearing jewellery, so she would lend her ornaments to the temple for a few days and keep them in her custody for the rest. Over time, the temple priests, desiring full custody of the jewellery, appealed to Raja Wadiyar for intervention. The king sent his soldiers to seize the ornaments. Alamelamma ran towards the banks of the Kaveri river to flee their pursuit. Cornered and betrayed, she stood at the edge of the roaring Kaveri. In her final act, her voice rang out with words that would seal her name in legend:

“Let Talakadu become a desert, Malangi be drowned by whirlpools, and the kings of Mysore be left without heirs.”

With the curse etched into the winds, she leapt into the river. In the following years, her wrath took form.

Talakadu, once a lush, bustling town, was slowly consumed by the shifting sands. Excavations, as a haunting reminder of past glory, have revealed glorious temples underneath the desolate landscape, but the full splendour of Talakadu remains buried. Further downstream, the Kaveri river twists into Malangi, where the whirlpools pull anyone daring enough into her watery embrace. Of all the curse’s manifestations, perhaps the most chilling is its grip on the Wadiyar dynasty of Mysore.

For generations, the family has suffered with a curious affliction - an inability to produce heirs. This cycle has occurred with every alternate king. For example, if a king inherits the throne from his biological father, he wouldn’t be able to father children. He would then have to adopt a relative and crown him. The adopted king would be able to have a biological son, but not a biological grandson.

This pattern has emerged with eerie consistency. Even the present Maharaja, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar is an adopted son. The family has an idol of Alamelamma, who is worshipped till date. Scientists attribute Talakadu’s desertification to the natural movement of sand and the Wadiyar’s dynastic issues to genetic factors. Yet, the story captivates imaginations and transcends logic for many.

Today, this legend is part of Karnataka’s cultural fabric and curious tourists flock to Talakadu each year.

The story is an interplay between history, faith and folklore. It is also the story of a woman who chose faith over fear and surrender over sacrifice. The wronged Alamelamma’s name lives on as a reminder that curses, like legends, never truly die.

Indian Student Suicide Rates on the Rise

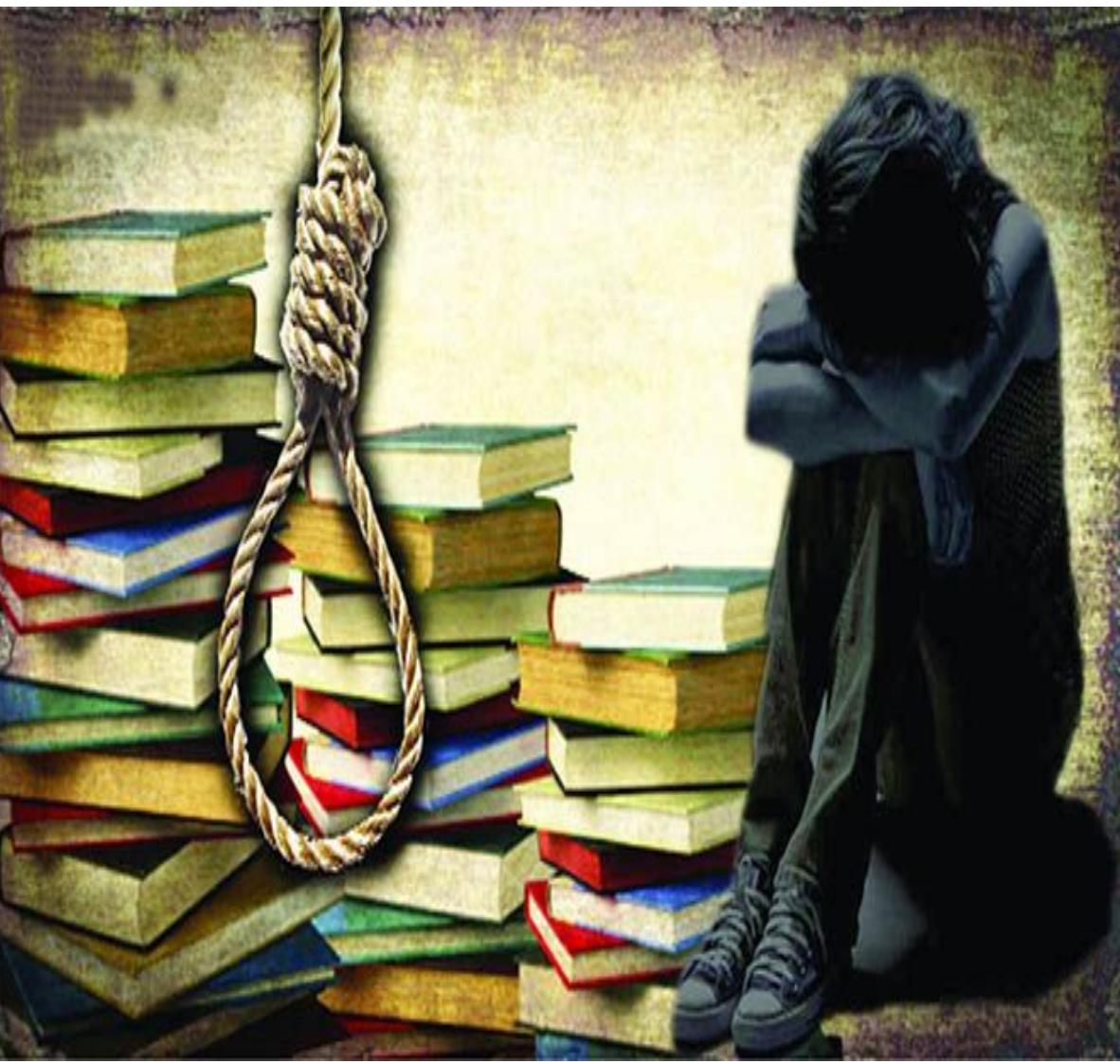
Aditya Ruchir Gupta, Snigdha Devata, Sreeram Vavilala, Staff Writer

Over the past decade, India has observed a 64% increase in youth suicides, with a recent report stating student suicide rates are surpassing population growth rates and overall suicide trends. Suicide is the leading cause of death in India amongst students, wherein female students are more prone to committing suicide. The suicide rates have increased to 12.4 per 100,000 with 1.71 lakh people dying by suicide according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Approximately 4 out of 10 students have reported episodes of depression in recent years, driven by educational institutions prioritising grades over holistic learning. This result-oriented approach pressures students to obsess over outcomes and worry about factors beyond their control, turning education into relentless competition, focused on outperforming others rather than gaining knowledge. Both struggling students and high achievers are burdened with immense pressure, with 11% of college students and 8% of high school students reporting suicide attempts. Prestigious institutions such as IITs, NITs, and IIMs are no exceptions, recording over 98 student suicides between 2019 and 2023. Students are ill-prepared to manage increasing pressure amid lower college acceptance rates, tougher exams, and expanding applicant pools worsen stress. Social media exacerbates these challenges by presenting portrayals of idealised success, relationships, and lifestyles. This creates a culture of constant self-comparison, instilling feelings of inadequacy and unhealthy perfectionism. The relentless pursuit of unattainable standards deepens self-doubt and anxiety among young people. The COVID-19 lockdown significantly impacted mental health, particularly

among youth. Confined to their homes, children felt trapped with no escape from stressful environments, which were often worsened by frequent family conflicts.

The monotony of daily life, with no change of scenery or new experiences, intensified feelings of frustration and hopelessness. Isolated from peers, many young people faced an acute sense of entrapment. Mental health remains a grossly underfunded area in India, with the government merely allocating 1% of the healthcare budget. This lack of investment reflects the broader neglect of mental health issues, despite their increasing impact. Like climate change, the depth of the problem is often overlooked, and this disregard by authorities exacerbates the crisis. While suicide is an impulsive act in itself, the emotions that motivate it simmer over a long duration. Persistent feelings of inadequacy, isolation, or failure can build up, culminating in moments of overwhelming despair. Dismissing suicidal individuals as “selfish” or “ungrateful” perpetuates stigma, discouraging them from seeking help. Simplistic statements like “You have a roof over your head and food to eat; many people don’t” undermine the complexities of mental health struggles. It is essential to acknowledge the hidden emotional burdens that push individuals toward the edge. With mental health acting as a silent killer, taking measures against suicide is imperative. Even asking questions at the right time can substantially change lives. Alongside prevention, an aspect fatally swept under the rug is post-suicide attempt care. Individuals who have a history of attempts have a strong tendency to attempt during and post 24hrs. The movement against suicide can only be fruitful through efforts to build resilience. As the rat-race nature of our world is unavoidable, turning to equip individuals with resilience goes a long way.. Therapy isn’t the only answer; talking about mental health can reduce stigma. We must all take steps to create a world in which our youth can experience the journey we call life.



Source: Coastal Digest

Kuchipudi: Culture, Grace and Wellness

Kandukuri Bhavana, Staff Writer



Illustration by Sathphala Reddy

Classical dances form an integral part of India’s culture and history. These art forms are an enchanting blend of music, graceful body movements, and expressive gestures (mudras). Among these is Kuchipudi, a prominent dance form originating from Kuchelapuram, a small village in Andhra Pradesh. Its foundation traces back to Bharata Muni’s *Natyashastra*, regarded as the fifth Veda, composed between 200 BCE and 200 CE. According to ancient scriptures, Kuchipudi comprises three aspects: Natya, Nritya, and Nrit. Natya emphasizes drama, Nritya focuses on pure dance with intricate body movements, and Nritya conveys themes or emotions (*bhava*).

Mastering Kuchipudi requires proficiency in these aspects and the ability to express the *navarasas*—Shringara (love), Hasya (laughter), Karuna (sorrow), Raudra (anger), Veera (valor), Bhayanaka (fear), Bibhatsya (disgust), Adbhutha (surprise/wonder), and Shanta (peace).

Historically, Kuchipudi was male-dominated, but over time, many women embraced and enriched this art form. It flourished during the 15th and 16th centuries under medieval kings, who documented it on copper inscriptions. Performances in the Vijayanagara Empire further popularised it. However, foreign invasions and anti-dance movements in the 16th century attempted to dismantle India’s cultural roots.

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From Donda to DC: Kanye’s 2028 POTUS Run

Mayank Rao Ponnala, Abhijit Jillellamudi, Staff Writers

With the 2024 elections over and a 2nd Trump Presidency in sight, our interest is piqued by the 2028 elections. Unlike a usual projection, this is a “What If?” spinoff on Kanye West becoming the POTUS.

The simulation starts from candidature. With Trump set to retire, the Republicans nominate JD Vance as the Presidential Nominee, and Shaquille O’Neal as the VP Nominee. Looking at the candidates in the Republican Primary, influential Pop cultural figures such as Kanye West and 50 Cent announce that they would contest in the Democratic Primary. The Democrats select Kanye West and Travis Scott as the Presidential and VP Nominees respectively.

It’s now campaign time. Both sides fight a strong battle of voices. Luckily, no assassination attempts this time. Both sides were bolstered by big names, the Republicans with the likes of Elon Musk, Jake Paul, Will Smith, and Rudy Giuliani, while the Democrats featured Drake, Mike Tyson, Snoop Dogg, Bernie Sanders, and the Obamas. The Obamas even go as far as hosting a “Make Fried Chicken Great Again Rally” to support their homie Kanye.

The elections conclude with the Democrats winning with a mandate of 315 seats, bolstered by Black and Hispanic voters, thanks to their “Free Fein and Fried Chicken” campaign. The Positions of Secretary of State, Defense, and Homeland were given to Nicki Minaj, Snoop Dogg, and Playboi Carti respectively, while Eminem was made CIA Director.

Post elections, world leaders congratulate President-Elect Kanye on social media. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Bieber even sends an AI-generated tweet, challenging him to a rap battle. Another hot topic would be whether Kim Kardashian would be the First Lady, following the rekindling of their relationship.

For Kanye's domestic policies, fried chicken and Dr. Pepper become standard school lunches. Likely bans include KSI, Prime Drinks, Taylor Swift, and Mr. Beast. President Kanye also ends climate change with a diss track, and controls national debt by monopolizing plastic surgery.

In terms of foreign policy, Nicki Minaj would rizz foreign leaders up, triggering sigmas worldwide. Also, platforms like X and Pop Culture would be “West-ernized”.

Lastly, crime rates would skyrocket, with law enforcement and justice systems in disarray. Every state would record events like that of Ohio and Alabama. In the long term, the country’s constitution itself could be rewritten, with attempts to make “Gold Digger” the American National Anthem.



Source: The Telegraph

85 Minutes of Progress: The US Presidency Problem

Arushi Krishna Sharma, Staff Writer

America’s relationship with female leadership is a curious one. In over two centuries, the Oval Office has hosted war heroes, billionaires, astronauts, and even actors with zero political experience—but not a single woman. It’s as if the country is happy to break every kind of ceiling except the glass one.

This brings us to Kamala Harris and her record-breaking 85 minutes of presidential power in 2021. A brief, anesthetics-induced historic moment that made her the first woman, Black, and South Asian, to hold presidential authority—albeit temporarily. While President Joe Biden underwent a routine colonoscopy, Harris presided from the West Wing. For a nation hesitant to fully embrace a female commander-in-chief, this was progress... with an asterisk. Harris’s moment wasn’t just historic, it was brief enough to make a stopwatch blush.

By the time Biden woke up, her term had officially ended, and America’s male-dominated leadership history remained intact. Harris had cracked the glass ceiling just enough to let a sliver of light in, but not quite enough to shatter it.

It’s 2024, and Donald Trump has stormed back into the Oval Office, leaving critics lamenting yet another missed opportunity for female leadership.

However, Harris’s stint offers a technical rebuttal: America *has* had a woman president - if only temporarily.

For all its symbolism, Harris’s tenure reflects a broader pattern: a nation endlessly flirting with progress but hesitating to commit. A woman in the Oval Office would not only symbolize progress. but also bring a much-needed fresh perspective to a table long ruled by men in suits. Women have been navigating political, social, and personal challenges for centuries.

Imagine what they could do with nuclear codes instead of grocery lists.

Studies suggest that female leaders excel in crisis management and consensus-building.

Their leadership often leans collaborative, prioritizing long-term solutions over short-term wins. Such an approach could bring much-needed nuance to political gridlocks, balancing assertiveness with empathy.

And let’s not forget optics. Electing a woman would send a clear message to young girls that ambition doesn’t have a ceiling—and to the world that America, the “beacon of progress”, is finally living up to its rhetoric.

So perhaps, it’s time to break tradition *and* that glass ceiling. After all, if America can entrust billionaires and colonoscopy survivors with the presidency, why not someone who’s been shattering stereotypes her whole life?

Margiela’s Tabis: Divisive, Defiant, and in Demand

Satakshi Reddy Buggana, Staff Writer

Although first conceptualized by Martin Margiela for Maison Margiela in 1988, Tabi boots have seen a sudden surge in popularity in the past year. From red carpet appearances like Bad Bunny’s 2024 Met Gala look to its emergence in celebrity streetwear looks by Zendaya or Dua Lipa, the Tabis have undoubtedly cemented themselves in the 2024 fashion landscape. Coming in various styles, from boots to ballet-flats to Mary-Janes, the shoe’s strange, split-toe design has proven to be an extremely divisive trend on the internet.

Inspired by 15th-century Japanese tabi socks designed for mental and physical balance, these shoes evolved into a blue-collar staple before Margiela transformed them into high fashion. The style was adapted to be uniquely high-fashion and whimsical, rebellious and unserious, but with underlying critiques on the yet unchallenged social hierarchies

Maison Margiela is popularly known for anonymity, with its founder known to live an extremely low-profile life. The brand reflects this in their deconstructed designs, otherworldly face-masks, and their white lab coats.

The lab coats may symbolize conforming to social norms with their sterile, uniform appearance reflecting the monotonous and unimaginative lives of most. The Tabis, a unique take on the otherwise blue-collar shoes, may be referencing this commentary.

The most obvious elements of the shoe, however, is their close resemblance to hooves. Debuted first in the Spring/Summer 1989 collection, Margiela instructed models to dip their shoes into bright red paint before stepping on the runway, leaving behind a trail of bloodshot hoof prints. The provocative art display hinted at a deeper commentary- the luxurious, high-end boots a stark contrast to the untamed, animalistic



Source: @maisonmargiela/Instagram

side that humans must usually hide. The boots create a strange centaur-like blend of animal and human, with the cloven hoof shape exaggerated by the utilization of calfskin leather.

Given the modern youth’s more experimental fashion sense, blending different styles and challenging typical expectations, the Tabi shoes undeniably fit right into current attitudes towards fashion. Margiela's housecode Tabi boots testify to fashion's power to challenge conventions, captivating a new generation eager to redefine the boundaries of style and self-expression.

From Tesla to Totalitarianism: Musk’s New Role

Sai Arjun, Staff Writer

Through the 2024 presidential campaign, Elon Musk went from an anonymous donor of the Republican Party (funding Trump’s campaign) to the high-profile post of “Co-Head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)” alongside Vivek Ramaswamy. Trump has emphasised that this body will aim to “dismantle government bureaucracy.” Elon’s new role will enable him to recommend the hiring and firing of all federal workers and the restructuring of entire agencies. The main function of this new body is to reform the federal government by cutting unnecessary spending, streamlining operations, and enhancing public service efficiency. But now, the world’s richest man has now partnered himself with the leader of the “Land of Liberty”, whom he helped install in office, letting unfold a partnership the likes of which the world has never witnessed. As a part of his new role, Musk has pledged maximum transparency but I think, how can we trust the word of a man who lies on his taxes, who supports

transphobia, a totalitarian system and is so profit oriented?

Mr Musk has been tasked to supervise the world's most dominant economic powerhouse, but how can he manage to do that whilst being so erratic and impulsive?

These claims are not just hearsay however. Musk has disowned his own child, Vivian Wilson for being Transgender and has also openly said that he has lost his faith in America because of how "woke" it's gotten. After acquiring Twitter, Musk made many false promises like setting up an efficient Content Moderation Council for Twitter. Speaking of Twitter, Musk has many times used his influence to delete tweets he disagrees with and has changed the algorithm in such a way that the app has become an echo-chamber for conservative right-wing supporters like him. Musk has gotten so impulsive that when President Trump was shot, he tweeted out “no one is even trying to assassinate Biden/Kamala." Another incident which corroborates to his erratic nature is when he quite literally

stormed into Twitter server rooms, cut the server wires with a pocket knife to shift the location of the servers and when he's fired over 80% of Twitter's workforce to maximize profits.

Ultimately, handing the reins of the US government's oversight to Musk is a gamble the world cannot afford. His unreasonable behaviour and self absorption may essentially turn the US into a breeding ground for catastrophes, considering the influence he will be wielding soon, and we should take every measure to avoid it.



Illustration by Hema Sahasra Vemuluri

“No” Is Just the Start: Absurdity in Bollywood Romance

Chanakya Naidu, Forum Editor

Ah, the timeless love story of Indian cinema: Boy sees girl. Boy follows girl everywhere. Girl says no. Boy hears yes, *obviously*. Because why take “no” for an answer when you can just serenade her into submission with a stalker anthem and a hero complex?

In these movies, a man’s devotion is measured by how doggedly he pursues a woman who clearly has no interest. Bonus points if he shows up at her workplace, lectures her friends about her feelings, or declares his eternal love via unsolicited dance numbers. Just when we think she might have a choice, enters the “real” villain. This secondary harasser exists purely to make the hero look like Prince Charming™ by comparison. One classic parking-lot scuffle later, and voilà! She’s suddenly in love.

Subtle messaging: Women are property, and the strongest caveman gets to keep the prize. Feminism? Never even heard of her.

Deviate from this "love by brute force" formula, and you risk audiences lamenting



Source: Still from Raanjhanaa the hero’s lost masculinity, and movie-makers lose their ability to challenge this convention. Is it any wonder that generations of men grow up equating aggression with affection? That they think romance isn’t a mutual feeling between two people, but just a conquest of worthiness?

Let’s retire this playbook. Romance isn’t just about breaking boundaries - it’s about respecting them too. These movies aren’t harmless; they teach men to dominate, and women to surrender. This isn’t love, it’s a cultural failure masquerading as entertainment.

A Student's Guide to Perfecting the "I'm Very Invested in This Class" Look

Shrilekha Jaligama, News Editor

Ever felt like everything is going over your head in class but you still want to seem like the sharpest person in the room? Good news: you don’t have to know all the answers- just look like you do.

Looking like you care in class is an art, one that every student can master. The goal is to make professors *think* you’re smart. Firstly, eye contact is key. Whenever a professor glances your way, lock eyes with the intensity of a detective on a case. Nod along solemnly, as though every word could change your life. If the professor looks away, feel free to resume scrolling on your phone under the desk - just don’t get caught.

Your notebook too is a vital prop in this charade. Bring it to every class, open it with reverence, and spend a good minute selecting a pen as if it’s a big decision. Then, proceed to take heavy notes - or, you know, draw elaborate doodles. Just be sure to make the occasional “aha” face, or mutter something academic-sounding like, “damn!” This adds an air of intellectual engagement, and if you feel daring, raise

your hand once in a while to ask a vague, open-ended question like “How does this affect everything?” It’s an easy score for brownie points. The key here is to say literally anything so they like you more.

Finally, master the “I’m listening” posture. Lean slightly forward, chin in hand, with an expression that says “contemplative genius.” Occasionally, look around to see if other students notice your devotion to study and absorb the lectures profound depths by murmuring approving sounds like “hmm”, “oh” and “yes, exactly.” This three-part method is guaranteed to fool professors, classmates, and possibly even yourself into believing that you’re the most invested student in the room. With a little practice, you’ll become an expert of academic theatre - no actual studying required!

Disclaimer: This article is a piece of satire. Paying attention in classes enables learning. I have immense respect for professors who go beyond delivering lectures and genuinely strive to make students fully understand. Listen to classes, guys!

AI in Technology and Healthcare

Nithya Rao, Staff Writer

AI is rapidly transforming both technology and healthcare,providing unexpected breakthroughs that alter industries and enhance lives. In technology, AI serves as the foundation for advancements such as machine learning, natural language processing, and autonomous systems. These technologies improve productivity, precision, and customization across various industries. For example, use of AI has resulted in advancements in domains like cybersecurity, e-commerce, and customer support. AI is becoming increasingly important in healthcare; ML algorithms can evaluate medical images with astonishing precision, allowing clinicians to diagnose illnesses like cancer at earlier stages. Furthermore, AI also improves operational efficiency in

Healthcare systems by automating administration and resource allocation, as well as improving patient care. Virtual health assistants and chatbots provide 24/7 support, decreasing the burden on healthcare staff. The incorporation of AI in healthcare has raised worries regarding data privacy, algorithmic biases, and the need for regulatory structures. But as AI evolves, its impact on technology and healthcare is apparent. It has the potential to not only improve clinical results, but also democratize healthcare by increasing global access to high-quality medical services. Lastly, AI is driving tech and healthcare innovation. Its ability to revolutionize industries and maximize efficiency reveals its enormous potential to shape the future of these sectors.

Money Matters: Building Trust and Literacy in the UPI Era

Nysha Baruah, Social Media Team



India is witnessing a digital revolution in the way we manage our money, with over 10 billion monthly UPI transactions last September. From roadside hawkers to luxury stores, online transactions are used everywhere. But financial literacy remains pitifully low even when the usage of digital channels has skyrocketed. According to a 2022 RBI report, only 27% of Indians are financially literate, leaving millions vulnerable to fraud, poor planning, and debt traps. Financial literacy in rural India is key to economic growth, given the size of the rural population. Many lack basic knowledge of savings and loans, relying on informal lending techniques and facing heavy debt. Even though digital payments are frequently used, rural adoption is low due to fears of scams and fraud. Misinformation, distrust and skepticism of online payments further widens the gap in rural financial development.

To address this issue, financial literacy must be integrated in India’s education system.



Source: globalgiving.org

The Enduring Significance of Stories: as Viewed in Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint

Akshaya Buri, Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Stories have been humanity’s lifeline since the dawn of consciousness—a thread that weaves meaning into our fleeting existence. In *Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint* (ORV), Kim Dokja’s salvation lies in his connection with a story. He isn’t a hero in the traditional sense; his only power is his knowledge of *Ways of Survival*, a web novel he’s read for over a decade. In a world overrun by apocalyptic scenarios, this story keeps him alive.

I fully believe this echoes the broader human experience. Stories have always been the blueprint for survival—myths, epics, and legends taught early societies how to live, love, and fight. In *ORV*, Dokja’s reliance on storytelling mirrors our collective dependence on narratives to structure our lives. The solace Dokja found in *Ways of Survival* highlights the power of art in human life. Even the bleakest realities can be given meaning through art.

Art is the lens through which humanity processes its existence. It allows us to explore alternate realities, confront our deepest fears, and find solace in shared experiences.

ORV stands as an example of how storytelling sustains itself through generations. Stories endure because people carry them forward, breathing new life into old narratives and finding new meanings as contexts shift. From oral traditions around



Source: Medium.com

the fire to epic novels and modern web serials, storytelling is a cultural inheritance—a testament to humanity’s need to share, connect, and endure.

Makes you wonder, does a story lose its value when not made for the greater good? This novel disagrees. *ORV* emphasizes how every story deserves to exist because every story has an audience that would benefit from reading it. And how stories can save people, but people also save stories, just by reading them. And how even if a story just has one reader, it’s worth it.

"Are all failed stories meaningless? Even if you know you will fail, isn't the story of those who have fought to the end worth it?"
-Chapter 334, *Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint*.

AI in Art and Music: Revolutionizing Creativity or Replacing It?

Amithi Shangari, A&E Editor

Over the past few years, artificial intelligence (AI) has been recognized as a new entry in the world of creativity, altering the way one thinks about art and music. This technology has the potential to evoke mixed feelings, from amazement to nervousness – as in the case of AI-generated paintings or entire symphonies created by algorithms. Is it a boon for the artists or putting them in the back seat?

AI-generated art has emerged as an interesting trend. With the use of tools such as DALL-E or Mid Journey, one can upload only text, and receive a colorful and detailed image. Such systems study thousands of works of art to reproduce tendencies including abstract expressionism or photo realism. While this is great because it allows almost anyone to make art, it also brings in issues of originality. What is ‘art’ – in its purest sense – if it can be created by an automated machine on impressive levels?

For the majority of artists, AI is not seen as a rival, but a team member, a tool working in conjunction with the artist. It helps simplify the process of sketching or color grading, while most of the creative work still has to come from a human being however, some tend to disapprove of such beliefs, arguing that it reduces the status of artistry and its value. What is the point of employing an artist if the computer algorithm can produce the same in a few minutes? AI’s impact on music is much the same. Tools such as AIVA, and OpenAI’s MuseNet compose whole tracks, sewing up genres and instruments. This is huge for independent musicians as they no longer need a full band or an expensive studio.

But the apprehension is more striking here. If AI can create pop songs that sell, what is left for human artists? Many music critics point out that the coherency of music is lost when there is no human element in it. A machine may be able to replicate the sounds of Beethoven, but can it project the pain of heartbreak in the same way a songwriter would?

AI’s role in creativity blurs the lines between innovation and authenticity. Is it a tool for enhancing human expression, or does it risk overshadowing the artist's soul? The answer, perhaps, lies in how we choose to embrace it.

Data, Music and Memories: Why Spotify Wrapped Hits the Right Notes

Advika Pagnis and Swati Das, Staff Writers

As November draws to an end, Spotify users worldwide eagerly anticipate the annual release of Spotify Wrapped. Spotify Wrapped is a yearly recap of the streamer’s listening habits, showing them data in exciting areas, like their most listened-to song to their top musical artists. But Wrapped isn’t just a musical recap, it’s also a powerful tool. As of September 2024, Spotify has more than 640 million monthly active users and 252 million subscribers, and it uses Wrapped to deepen engagement and amplify its brand visibility.

Wrapped taps into nostalgia and curiosity, creating an emotional connection with its audience. Users often feel a sense of pride or amusement as they see their top songs, genres, and artists showcased in a visually appealing format. This experience makes it more than a streaming service; it reflects their identity and memories, increasing their loyalty to the platform. Spotify Wrapped also thrives on its ability to drive social

media buzz. Millions of users share their Wrapped summaries online each year, turning the initiative into a global phenomenon. This user-driven sharing transforms listeners into brand ambassadors, creating a wave of free advertising. By dominating conversations in December, Spotify remains at the forefront of cultural discourse, particularly during the competitive holiday season when other streaming platforms vie for attention.

Spotify Wrapped is powered by an intricate process of data collection and analysis, tracking every song, artist, and genre a user listens to throughout the year. Using advanced algorithms, Spotify monitors playback frequency, duration, and timing while categorizing music into genres, moods, and themes. It also analyzes user-generated playlists and contextual data, such as device usage and seasonal trends, to deliver a personalized and



Illustration by Meenal Thota

meaningful summary of each user’s listening habits. While delivering this seamless experience, the platform prioritizes user privacy by anonymizing and aggregating data in compliance with global standards. By turning vast amounts of raw data into a nostalgic and engaging reflection, Spotify Wrapped offers more than just a recap—it creates a deeply personal celebration of music. So, the next time you’re enjoying your Wrapped, don’t forget to share it with your loved ones!

Dil-Luminati Tour: A Global Spectacle on Indian Soil

Ishrath Mufaiza, Staff Writer

Punjabi music's global icon, Diljit Dosanjh, has taken his ‘Dil-Luminati Tour’ to unprecedented heights that he could hardly have foreseen before. Having received standing ovations in North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe, the celebrity singer is now all geared up for electrifying India. The Indian leg had begun on October 26, 2024, in New Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and will cover ten cities culminating in Guwahati on December 29, 2024.

Diljit Dosanjh became the first Punjabi artist to host Vancouver's BC Place and Toronto's Rogers Centre, with over 54,000 attendees, as one of the largest Indian music shows worldwide. Always energetic, he made a connection with fans throughout, including in California, with a tribute to Punjab's renowned poet Surjit Patar. Nonetheless, in Hyderabad, local authorities warned him to stay away from tracks promoting alcohol or violence, the growing scrutiny over public performances. However, Diljit's performances are still family-friendly and culturally enriching. The concerts broke

records in ticket sales, but more importantly, they fostered an emotional connection between Diljit and his fans. Be it taking young fans on stage, sharing moments with the specially-abled attendees, or celebrating Punjabi traditions through acts like preparing "desi thandai," the concerts go beyond mere entertainment. The Dil-Luminati Tour celebrates Punjabi culture with world-class production,



Source: The Daily Guardian

providing the fan base with an unforgettable experience of soulful music and vibrant energy, characterized by songs like "G.O.A.T." and "Lover."

However, the tour didn’t escape controversies. Comedian Saumya Sahni

termed ticket prices of the Dil-Luminati Tour at Rs. 20,000–25,000 unaffordable for middle-class fans. Dancer Shilpa Sajan accused the team of mistreating her and made allegations against them; however, a spokesperson termed those claims "baseless" and publicity-driven. By embracing both East and West, Diljit Dosanjh cements his legacies as the global ambassador of Punjabi music, but this tour is breaking some records and creating others, setting the standards for cultural connections where Punjabi beats echo into the future. For Diljit, this tour may be made with global icons; for audiences, it may redefine what connecting across cultures means.

Is the Dil-Luminati Tour a shift in global concert blueprints? By combining Punjabi culture, world-class production, and vibrant performances, is it defining new heights for concerts to unite all kinds of fans? Through mixing soulful music with powerful visuals, is the tour redefining the international experience of music events while bringing down cultural barriers in its wake?

Khan-Ye West of the East

Avyaya Mohan, Sports Editor

It might seem absurd at first, but comparing the journeys of Kanye West and Salman Khan reveals striking parallels. Let's examine the tumultuous narratives surrounding these cultural icons, discussing the chaos they have both created and endured.

Let's look at their beginnings. Both men entered the picture with the support of predominant industry names and established themselves early as innovators in their industries. Salman redefined the commercial Bollywood hero with movies like Maine Pyar Kiya and Karan Arjun, while Kanye broke into the music scene to revolutionize hip-hop, beginning as a producer for Jay-Z’s The Blueprint and later as an artist with his debut album The College Dropout. While both were renowned for their primary work,

their versatility let them transcend their primary industries and become influential cultural icons, blending creativity with business acumen. Ye dominated streetwear and fashion with his brand Yeezy, and Salman branched out by working as a producer, a singer, and as a host for Bigg Boss, the most popular reality show in the country. You can't describe their careers without highlighting their longevity as well. Ye had been on the scene for about 20 years before Vultures, and Salman dominated the industry with his films for nearly 30 years before Bharat.

Early success bringing major scrutiny into their personal lives is another experience the performers share. A similar history of high-profile relationships, marriage, and divorce adds to their shared bachelor image.

Remarkably, their fan bases remain fiercely loyal in spite of real controversies and criminal allegations. Salman's image has suffered due to allegations of poaching and an infamous hit-and-run case. Kanye is no stranger to controversy either, with his public outbursts, feuds, and polarizing political statements.

Personal feuds and exhausting controversies have certainly spilled over into their professional lives. Yet there's no denying their unparalleled influence—neither of them is replaceable. Let’s not forget their 'efforts' to nurture budding talent. Questionable? Perhaps. But they make up for it with grand philanthropic gestures. Or do they? While their efforts are generous, it doesn't exactly explain the millions made in profit—now, isn't that something?

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Norwegian Wood by Haruki Murakami: A Review

P.Sudhiksha Reddy, Staff Writer

Are you a Beatles fan and would like to read a book that has similar vibes to one of their songs? Do you enjoy reading books that have brilliant writing style and evoke emotions like nostalgia and desire?

If so, Norwegian Wood sharing its title with the popular song created by band, is a compelling and thought-provoking novel that explores themes of love, loss, and the search for meaning in a tumultuous world. Initially released in 1987, this work is authored by the renowned Japanese writer Haruki Murakami; it soon turned to be a bestseller. Set in the throes of 1960s Tokyo, this novel unfolds in a world brimming with youthful rebellion, quiet despair, and the bittersweet taste of first love. The setting of the story is simple and revolves around three main characters. Toru Watanabe, the protagonist navigates his chaotic relationships with the mysterious Naoko and the free-spirited Midori. Toru’s life is by no means extraordinary, nor does he

possess the traditional hero qualities, but there’s something very human about this novel that gives its charm. Murakami’s voice is the influence behind this; the subtle but precise choice of words and the nonchalant quality of his characters is endearing. The description of the simplest things is hauntingly beautiful and makes you really appreciate the author's writing style. This book combines various themes such as grief, isolation, and self-discovery, enriched with philosophical insights that depict the uncertainties and challenges encountered by young adults as they seek to define themselves.

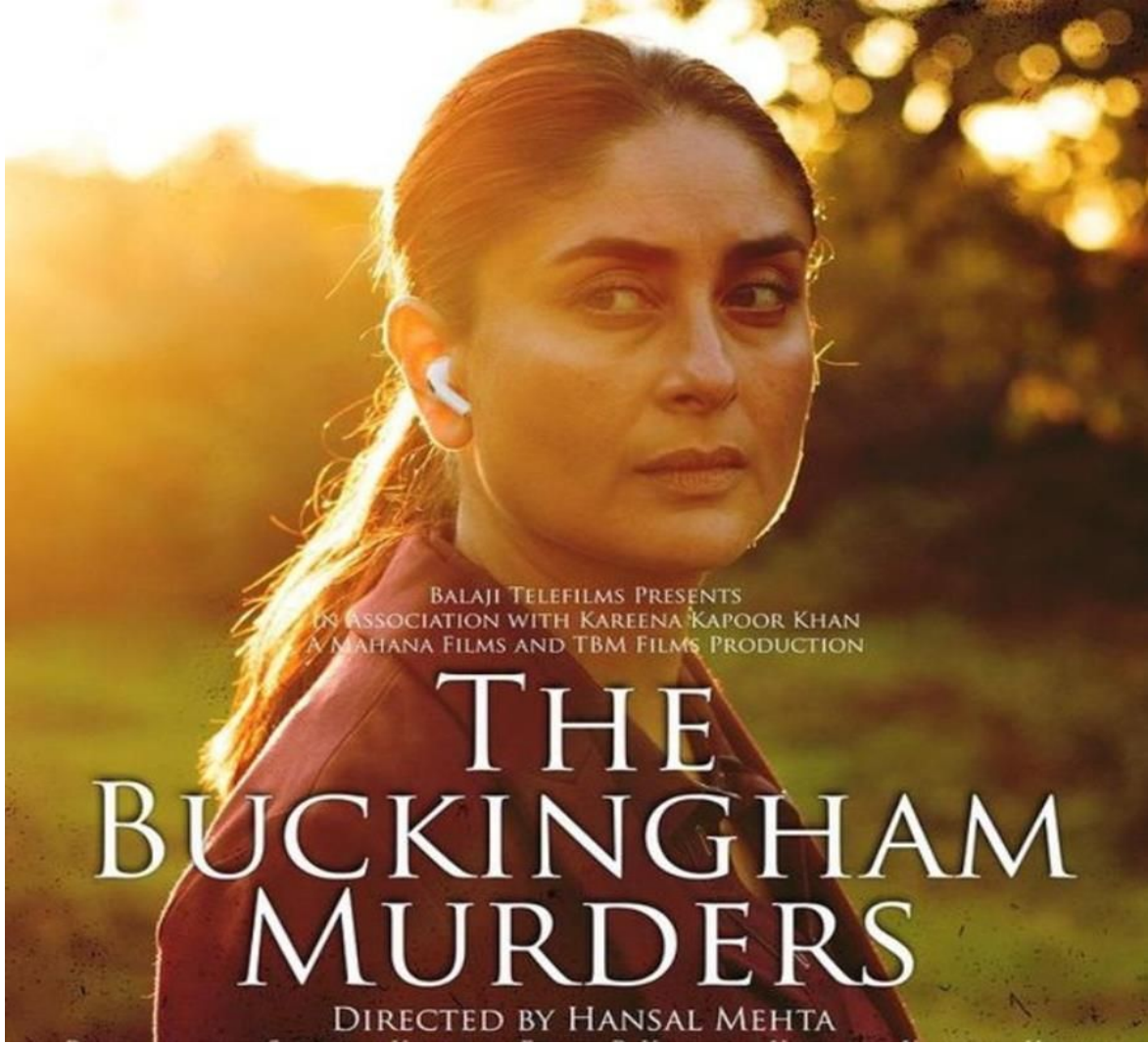
Murakami’s writing always has a strange sense of comfort – as if you’re catching up with an old friend. In conclusion, this novel makes you ponder and raises intriguing questions that leave a lasting impact. It's a perfect recommendation for readers who like coming-of-age stories with endless emotions. This book is my personal favorite, and I urge you to read it.

How ‘The Buckingham Murders’ Murdered the Audience

Rithvik T. L., Staff Writer

Kareena Kapoor’s latest crime thriller, The Buckingham Murders, has left many disappointed. The Bollywood movie was expected to be a nice diversion from the traditional stories of the industry, however, the attempt was unsuccessful. Why the audience felt more let down was because of how interesting the trailer was. While appreciating their attempt, we must still accept the truth and criticize the plot.

The movie begins well with the religious riots in parts of the U.K., hinting at the issues that would have influenced the murder. Kareena Kapoor’s character, Jasmeet Bhamra, who has lost her child to U.K. shootings, gets assigned a case regarding a missing boy. However, the sudden cuts to Jasmeet’s trauma felt unnecessary, as there was not much overlap between her trauma and the plot, except at the beginning and the ending. The writers attempted to incorporate the trope of a detective with a traumatized background, but the execution was not up to the mark and felt quite out of place. However, Kareena made a good attempt to convey her character's trauma—kudos to her efforts.Starting off with interesting and thrilling interrogations, the story quickly went downhill afterward. As the investigation progressed, when secrets came



Source:India Forums

out, many plot holes were found. Small logical mistakes threw the audience off. The majority of the audience was impressed with the beginning to the middle of the case, but the ending of it was very boring and inconsistent with the standard of reality that the movie portrayed throughout the movie. It brought in aspects of psychological manipulation to be one of the driving factors in the murder, which is known to be a lousy and weak motive.

What could have ended up as a great success from Bollywood for trying something non-routinal, ended up as a failure and great disappointment to the audience, but we must still encourage these genres of movies, as this is still a small step to better movies overall in Bollywood.

Must-Read Books

Amithi Shangari, A&E Editor

	The Devotion of Suspect X by Keigo Higashino ★★★★		Revelation Space by Alastair Reynolds ★★★★
	Ikigai by Hector Garcia ★★★★★		A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking ★★★★★
	Dark Matter by Blake Crouch ★★★★		Yellowface by R.F. Kuang ★★★★
	The Almanack Of Naval Ravikant by Eric Jorgenson ★★★★★		All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven ★★★★
	Little Women by Louisa May Alcott ★★★★★		The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho ★★★★★
	Barking Up The Wrong Tree by Eric Barker ★★★★		The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini ★★★★★
	Throne of Secrets by Kerri Maniscalco ★★★★		Turtles All the Way Down by John Green ★★★★

From Passive to Powerful: The Rise of Nuanced Women in Cinema

Kashif Shaik, A&E Editor

Bahubali: The Conclusion featured Devasena, a strong character with immense screen presence and realistic flaws. Similarly, Sumati from Kalki has a unique worldview and motivation compared to other characters. But women haven't always been represented this well on screen.

For a long time, women in Indian films have almost exclusively been love interests and eye candy, but this has changed. Shallow and often derogatory roles like Samskruthi (Sarileru Neekevvaru) have been replaced with nuanced characters such as Phool (Laapataa Ladies). This change started with the end of the stereotypical heroine template. Directors and writers started making real characters affected by their gender rather than shallow variations of the existing template. Today, just because a character is a woman doesn't mean she'll be a helpless damsel. It's a welcome change.

However, just because certain filmmakers are moving forward doesn't mean the entire industry is improving. Producers are businessmen; every choice they make is

driven by money. The surge of movies split into two parts in order to make twice the money and the rise of the solo badass male protagonist to appeal to the widest audience (young men) are examples of this.

While these movies make money, they notoriously fall flat when it comes to supporting characters, particularly women. For example, in Salaar, Shruti Haasan's character serves as a character through which audiences learn about the world and characters, which is fair. Yet she's also used as a mere damsel in distress and foil to highlight and admire Prabhas’ strength and tenacity. When writers are motivated by money, they become lazy and fail to create flawed, nuanced characters.

While the silver screen is going through a transition, animated productions are storming ahead with powerful and well-written female characters. Shows like Blue Eye Samurai hit the nail on the head when it comes to women that are not limited or defined but enhanced by their gender. Mizu's wrath and Akemi's cunning are distinctly feminine. They feel like real people. These studios put love into their productions and make sure no character is wasted, which is a mindset the film industry should live by.

Well-written women are often seen as a sign of modern, feminist directors, but I see it as the mark of a real artist. A director trying to make art would never let any of his characters be one-dimensional or shallow. Thus, I'm delighted by the surge of movies where women are depicted as full, genuine characters. It means that we are moving away from corporate cash grabs to an era of thought-provoking, artistic films.



Source: Jio Studios

K-Girls Runners-Up in Sreenidhi

Avyaya Mohan, Sports Editor



Source: Srimai Renikunta, Kabaddi Team

For a team entering its first-ever tournament, the experience that the girls’ Kabaddi team of the university underwent turned out to be nothing short of remarkable. Reflecting on their journey, team player Srimai shared the highs and lows of an unforgettable competition.

The opening day brought immense challenges, as nerves ran high and the team faced a tough opponent from CMR College. "We were all nervous, and it showed," the player admitted. Yet, a pivotal moment came from Srimai, whose incredible four-point raid shifted the game’s momentum. In a back-and-forth contest, they emerged victorious with a narrow two-point lead.

On Day 2, the team stepped onto the court with renewed confidence, fueled by their earlier win. Their opponents were the highly-regarded VIBT College. As a positive, their right corner, Harshitha, stole the show with a super tackle that

neutralized almost every opposition raider. "She was unbeatable," the player notes. With a decisive 10-point lead, the team celebrated their entry into the finals, sharing emotions and tears with their coach and mentor, Nithin Krishna, an MTech student of the university. Going against two-time champions of SNIST in the finals was nothing short of daunting. Despite battling injuries, the team displayed grit and determination. Although SNIST won with a 10-point lead, the players left the court with their heads held high. "We weren’t disappointed—we were proud, defeating 11 teams to reach this stage in our debut tournament was a victory in itself," Srimai remarks.

Acknowledgment from the winning team for their spirit and performance further uplifted the runners-up. The players credited their captain, Aashritha, for instilling values of discipline and belief, which carried them throughout. Though the trophy eluded them, this journey was a victory in every other sense—The University envisions a bright future, inspired by the potential of this team.



Source: Srimai Renikunta, Kabaddi Team

The Knight in Shining Amorim?

Avyaya Mohan, Sports Editor

New Year coming, new signings to witness. We may excuse Fabrizio for showing (as much) enthusiasm for those Ipswich and Luton contracts. But there’s no denying that the unexpected appointment of Ruben Amorim to Manchester United has set more tongues wagging than any signings that have been reported for this year. And this follows the predicted sacking of ETH.

Despite revamping the squad and securing trophies, Erik ten Hag’s tenure at Manchester United barely improved the team’s fortunes. His dismissal marks yet another instance of United parting ways with a manager mid-season—a pattern familiar since Sir Alex Ferguson’s departure. The last two sackings also came around November, 20 games into the season, and both were followed by inconsistent spells, epitomized by the dreaded "eight points from nine games" run. Enter Ruben Amorim, the latest managerial appointment. Known for his transformative work at Sporting Lisbon, Amorim led the club to their first league title in nearly two decades, adding to a remarkable record against formidable opposition, including Manchester City. His tactical acumen and fresh approach offer hope for United fans,eager for stability and

success. For a club as inconsistent as United’s, the optimism must be tempered. Initial sparks are common with new managers; Ole Gunnar Solskjær enjoyed a record-breaking start that lasted months before collapsing. Amorim’s tenure has already begun with a tempered start, his first game ending in a draw that muted the glorious hype surrounding his appointment. The real challenge lies in sustaining momentum. The cycle seems to be breakable with the promise of this Latin manager—something United have missed after Mourinho’s departure.

Amorim’s credentials are strong, but the scrutiny will be relentless. The fortune of the club also lies strongly in the fans’ reactions, which have largely evolved into a constant opposition to the system within the club. With a team featuring several Portuguese-speaking players in the glitterati such as Fernandes, Casemiro, and Dalot, communication might add an interesting dynamic to his leadership. The board might just require to be patient—more than it has been with his predecessors. For now, buckle up, United fans. Amorim’s journey at Old Trafford promises to be a compelling ride. He aims to guide the club toward a brighter future—much like his predecessors, who made similar promises, with stronger credentials.



Source: Premier League

Bumrah Blazes in Perth

Mounami Jagarapu, Editor-in-Chief



Source: Hindustan Times

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy kicked off with India claiming a decisive 295-run victory against Australia in Perth. Led by captain Jasprit Bumrah's phenomenal performance, the visitors notched several records, marking an extraordinary start to the series.

Bumrah, stepping up as captain, delivered a masterclass with the ball, registering match figures of 8 for 72—the best ever by an Indian captain in the series. His relentless precision dismantled the Australian batting lineup, especially during a fiery spell that left them reeling at 17/4. This also made Bumrah only the second Indian captain to win his debut Test in Australia, after Ajinkya Rahane in 2020.

India’s batting brilliance also shone with Yashasvi Jaiswal (161), becoming the third Indian to score a century on debut in Australia, while Virat Kohli’s majestic 100 took him closer to Sachin Tendulkar’s record for most runs in the series Down Under. The 201-run opening stand between Jaiswal and KL Rahul set the tone, propelling India to a massive target of 534. Australia, playing their first test in eight months, found themselves overwhelmed despite Travis Head’s spirited 89. With this historic win, India became the first visiting team to triumph at the Optus Stadium. The hosts face mounting pressure as they aim to bounce back in this crucial series for the World Test Championship.

The 2024 Ballon d’Or: Celebrating Football’s Finest

Tanya Mathews, Staff Writer

The Ballon d’Or is not just about individual brilliance—it reflects a player’s contribution to their team’s success and overall influence on the game. Winning it cements a player’s legacy and places them among the greatest in football history.

The competition for the 2024 Ballon d'Or is football's equivalent of an immovable object versus an unstoppable force: Vinicius' goals, speed, and creativity against the defensive prowess and keen sense of deep-lying midfielder Rodri.

Despite Rodri’s undeniable contributions, many fans—especially Real Madrid supporters—argue that Vinicius Júnior was the most deserving player and believed that he was "robbed". For Madridistas, he embodied the spirit of the team, often delivering in key moments throughout. Vinicius Júnior, as a forward, naturally focuses on creating and scoring goals, which are the primary metrics by which attacking players are judged. His superior numbers in assists and goals reflect the demands of his role, where direct contributions to the scoreboard are crucial.

There are strong arguments supporting why the Manchester City midfielder deserved the accolade. History, form, and fitness were all against Rodri, but his statistics as a defensive midfielder are outstanding for his role (9 goals, 14 assists) showcasing his

Pushing Limits, Redefining Strength

Anush Mohanty, Sports Editor

The university’s powerlifting champions have showcased remarkable grit and determination at the National Powerlifting Competition (NPC), making their mark on the national ground. Competing in the categories of Bench Press and Deadlift, the athletes have brought home a proud haul of medals.

Leading the charge was Parth Yadav, who clinched not one but two gold medals, showcasing strength and unparalleled focus. His performance set the tone for a stellar campaign. Adding to the medal tally, Yash Goud demonstrated immense resilience, securing a silver medal and a bronze medal across two highly competitive events. His dedication to excellence has been an inspiration for the entire team.

The triumph continued with Priyadarshan Reddy, who led the way to a gold medal followed by a silver medal, embodying both skill and unyielding perseverance.

These outstanding achievements are a testament to the unwavering commitment of our athletes. Their victories have elevated our university’s standing in the national sports arena and inspired countless others to push their limits.



Source: Palestro Club

ability to impact both the defensive and offensive aspects of the game. His stats are spectacular considering his defensive role. At the height of his career, with numerous achievements for both City and Spain, Rodri has become the benchmark for aspiring midfielders worldwide.

Rodri’s exceptional technique, impeccable positioning, sharp intelligence, and above all, his outstanding character, solidify his status as the best midfielder and the rightful winner of the 68th Ballon d’Or.

At the heart of the debate lies a fundamental question: What should the Ballon d’Or reward? At its core, this debate highlights contrasting philosophies on what defines greatness in football: consistency and team success versus individual brilliance and creativity. Ultimately, the Ballon d’Or debate is a reminder of the beauty of football: the diversity of styles, the passion of fans, and the endless discussions about what makes a player truly great.



Source:Football Italia

UFC Events in a Nutshell

Adit Potta, Staff Writer



Source: Wikipedia

The Ultimate Fighting Championship has been generating significant buzz following UFC 309, where the organization showcased a historic clash between the sport's greatest fighter of all time, Jon Jones, and the greatest heavyweight in UFC history, Stipe Miocic. The highly anticipated main event saw Jones defeat Miocic via TKO, demonstrating his striking prowess with a spinning back kick that immediately led to a stoppage.

There has been speculation about the outcome of this match, as Jones was away from the octagon for quite some time. However, he looked to be in phenomenal form and is now widely expected to face the interim heavyweight champion, Tom Aspinall, a fighter many believe could give Jones a serious challenge. There are also potential talks about Jones fighting Alex Pereira, the current Light Heavyweight champion and one of the sport’s most popular fighters.

Following his defeat, Stipe announced his retirement from professional fighting, bringing an end to a decorated career marked by multiple title reigns and significant contributions to the sport. Another major highlight of UFC 309 was

the co-main event between Charles Oliveira and Michael Chandler. Oliveira dominated Chandler, taking the fight to five rounds for the first time in his career. Chandler, who had trained for two years in preparation, called out Conor McGregor after the fight. McGregor, who has not fought since 2021, remains a compelling opponent, and a potential matchup between the two continues to generate excitement.

Looking ahead, UFC 310—the final card of the year—promises a thrilling conclusion to the calendar. The main event will feature a Flyweight Championship bout between Alexandre Pantoja and Kai Asakura, a former two-time Bantamweight champion. Additionally, two undefeated fighters, Shavkat Rakhmonov and Ian Garry, will face off in a Welterweight title eliminator, with the winner earning a shot at the Welterweight championship. The original opponent, Belal Muhammad, had to withdraw from the fight due to injury.

In recent years, the UFC has delivered countless memorable moments. As we move into a new year, fans can look forward to more drama, excitement, and fights that will continue to define the legacy of the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

MU Basketball Teams Dominate with Dual Gold Victories

Anisha Raju Nadimpalli, Illustrator



Source: MU Basketball Team

The basketball teams of MU delivered exceptional performances, securing gold medals in both the boys' and girls' categories, leaving a trail of triumphs in their path during recent sports fests that MU took part in.

The MU boys' basketball team showcased great skills and teamwork at VJIT, clinching several victories and ultimately earning the gold medal. Their glory was marked by impressive matches with opponents, including a dominant 26-5 victory against VJIT, a solid 28-15 win over MRIT, and a 20-10 triumph against MVSr. In the semifinals, MU defeated SNIST B to advance to the finals, where they claimed the gold medal with style against VJIT.

Further asserting their prowess, the MU boys' team excelled at the VNR’s sports fest. They began with a one-sided 22-3 victory over Siddhartha and overcame a tough battle against Anurag with a 28-16 scoreline. In the semifinals against VNR, MU edged out their opponents with a thrilling 57-55 win before securing the championship in the final showdown with a decisive 42-29 victory over KMIT.

Not to be outdone, the MU girls' basketball team delivered an equally impeccable performance, culminating in a gold medal victory. Their cohesive teamwork and strategic play were pivotal in securing their place at the top. In the SNIST tournament, the girls' team dominated their opponents, starting with a commanding 16-4 victory over NGIIT. In the finals, they delivered a flawless 20-0 win against KMIT to claim the gold medal. Additionally, in a practice match against IIT Hyderabad, the girls secured a 20-10 win, further showcasing their skill and preparation.

The dual gold medal haul highlights the dominance of MU's basketball teams, underscoring the talent, dedication, and hard work of both teams. Students can take immense pride in these achievements, as MU continues to set benchmarks in collegiate basketball.



Source: MU Basketball Team

Gas Monkeys Racing Rule the ATMoS

ATV Showdown

Anush Mohanty, Sports Editor



Source: Gas Monkeys

In a remarkable display of ingenuity and teamwork, Gas Monkeys Racing, the student-led motorsport club of Mahindra University, emerged victorious at the ATV showdown event in ATMoS, hosted by BITS Hyderabad. This event brought together young engineers across colleges in Hyderabad, to compete and secure the fastest lap around a track riddled with obstacles and challenging terrain. Gas Monkeys Racing exceeded expectations and seized the podium, etching their names in collegiate motorsports.

Their winning ATV, *Emperor Tamarind*, was a marvel of engineering and innovation. Powered by a *Briggs and Stratton 10 Gross Horsepower engine*, it boasted an in-house designed open sequential *gearbox* and *Fox dampers* to handle the toughest terrains. One of its standout features was its ability to switch from all-wheel drive to rear-wheel drive, giving it an edge in adaptability

and control. This technological prowess, combined with Aditya Rachakonda's driving skills, helped clinch the title. They boasted an in-house designed open sequential *gearbox* and *Fox dampers* to handle the toughest terrains. One of its standout features was its ability to switch from all-wheel drive to rear-wheel drive, giving it an edge in adaptability and control.

The differentiating factor wasn't just their technical expertise, but the team's collaborative spirit. Behind Aditya's winning run was a network of student engineers, mechanics, and strategists who had poured their heart and soul into this moment. Each member of Gas Monkeys displayed unique skills, from advanced computational modeling to hands-on mechanical refinement.

Their victory at the ATV Showdown was more than a trophy – it was a testament of their approach to engineering. Representing Mahindra University at BITS Hyderabad, the Gas Monkeys didn't just compete; they demonstrated the incredible potential of student-led innovation.



Source: Gas Monkeys

Remembering Mamba: The Legacy

Sahil Killedar, Staff Writer

Kobe Bryant is a name that anybody who is even mildly interested in sports has heard. Over his 20-year long career playing for the LA Lakers, Kobe Bryant has cemented his name as one of the greatest to ever play the game. Bryant’s numbers speak for themselves, with his 81-point game being the second highest individual scoring performance in the history of the league, winning five NBA championships and even making a staggering 18 all-star appearances. However, aside from his accolades, Kobe Bryant has also influenced millions of young, aspiring ballers, with the infamous “Mamba Mentality”, which became a hallmark of his relentless work ethic, and the sheer need to be the best. His extreme early morning workouts, which a lot of his teammates have spoken about, including his never-ending desire to better himself, has inspired countless people, and not even just athletes.

Kobe Bryant’s reach was not only limited to the United States, but he touched souls across the globe, particularly in countries such as China, where his passion for the game largely aided the growth of the sport in the country. His fluency in Italian and conversation abilities across multiple languages helped eliminate a lot of language barriers as well, maximizing the amount of outreach he could get.

He even produced an animated short film, *Dear Basketball*, which showcased his lifelong love for the game. He also devoted himself to mentoring young athletes, particularly through his work with his daughter Gianna’s basketball team, and the ‘Mamba Sports Academy’, which continues to provide quality mentorship.

Tragically, Kobe and his daughter Gianna’s lives were cut short in early 2020 in a devastating helicopter crash, sending shockwaves through the world of sports. Nonetheless, his legacy endures. From the athletes he inspired to the countless lives he touched through his mentorship and philanthropy, Kobe Bryant’s imprint on the world is undeniable. His life was more than basketball—it was a testament to hard work, passion, and the relentless pursuit of greatness.

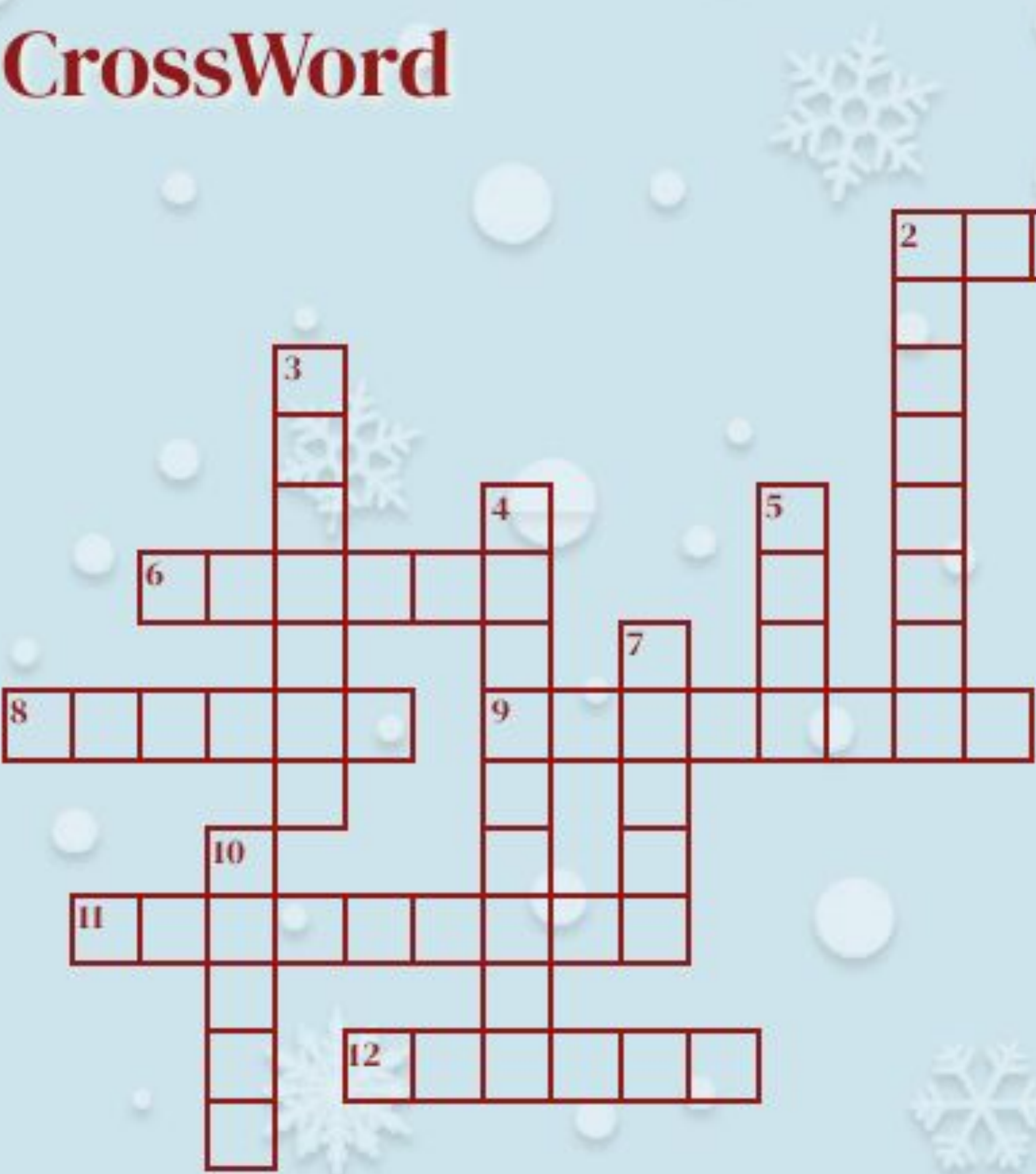


Source: WWS

Echo Lounge



CrossWord



ACROSS

- 2. Soft illumination often associated with warmth and nostalgia.
- 6. Portable heating device used outdoors in winter.
- 8. A hearty soup often enjoyed during winter evenings.
- 9. Winter tradition of singing carols door-to-door.
- 11. Term for a peaceful snowfall during the night.
- 12. A popular pattern for cozy winter sweaters.

DOWN

- 1. Classic winter toy that glides down snowy hills.
- 2. Traditional spice used in winter baking and cider.
- 3. Ancient tool used to scrape frost from windows.
- 4. A calming sound made by burning wood.
- 5. A thick fabric commonly used for scarves and blankets.
- 7. Thin ice layer formed on windows in the morning.

Answers: 1.Sled 2.(Across) Candlelight 2.(Down) Cinnamon 3.Scraping 4.Cracking 5.Wool 6.Heater 7.Frost 8.Chowder 9.Carolling 10.Wreath 11.Snowdrift 12.Argyle

Wolfie brings Christmas



-Anisha Raju



Word Search



-Shrikhar P

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

Sudoku

	2					8		
	5						4	
			8	9	1	2		
			4		9		3	
7					2			
2	1				8		6	4
		8				4		7
	4	2	6	8		9		
1	9			5				3



- Gingerbread
Blizzard
Yule
Mistletoe
Snowdrift
- Santa
Frostbite
Nutcracker
Wreath
Holly
- Tinsel
Advent
Partridge
Candles
Reindeer

Maze

