

Theatre enters SNU corridors with Mic-Up

As Nikunja and Sarada Sundari froze under the spotlight with a squall threatening to tear apart the stage, a jubilant Rudraprasad Sengupta clapped from the first row, buoyant and soaked in the spirit of theatre. He showed the same spunk and excitement during Nandikar's home production Antaron, which premiered that very evening.

Yes, the Rudraprasad Sengupta. And yes this is how Sister Nivedita University launched its Drama Society-- Mic-Up with its two-day festival Natya Shastra.

The event kicked off with a theatre workshop conducted by the group by which theatre aficionados swore--Nandikar. Saptarshi Maulik and team gave 100 odd students the time of their life as they went through the process of getting re-introduced to their body and mind. They broke into cheers and nervous excitement as they left the inertia in their soul packed in their bags and liberated themselves. That evening students of TINT, New Alipore College and iLead presented



Launching of Theatre Society-Mic-up at the SNU Campus Pic-SNU MCAJ

Jhunjhunwala and Soumitra Mitra along with actor director and iconic theatre personality Debshankar Halder left the air charged and spirits soaring, as SNU felt privileged saluting their contributions. On behalf of the university the honours were



In between these two sets of mega events, the magnum opus happened.

Five stalwarts from the world of theatre were felicitated with SNU Samman for their contribution to the art form.

Sister Nivedita University launched its theatre society Mic-Up, saluting some of the standard bearers of the drama movement in Bengal and greater India. The presence of doyens of Bengal theatre Rudraprasad Sengupta and Bibhas Chakraborty, contemporary directors like Uma

done by Vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay, Registrar Prof. Suman Chatterjee, Dean School of Humanities and Director School of International Languages Prof. Dr. Subir Dhar, HR Director and Industry Connect SNU Smt. Ina Bose, HOD Journalism and Mass Communication Department Prof. Dr. Minal Pareek. This was followed by a home production-- Bidhayak Bandhopadhyay's Sorisrip directed by Arindam



Scenes from Bola Bala Bila, Sorisrip and Anataron Pic-SNU MCAJ



from the French Play-- Quarantine, directed by Saptarshi Maulik. Four actors set the stage on fire as they took the audience on a satirical journey that they could hardly imagine. If the climax was stupendous, the buildup was a slow smoldering of

breathtaking twists. The audience left with smiles as Bola Bala Bila did an encore.

A special mention about our respected Vice-Chancellor who along with his wife sat through the squall setting the perfect example of how leaders should be.

The programme was organised by the Journalism and Mass Communication Department. Dr Minal Pareek is the president of Mic-Up, while Arindam Basu is the Secretary. The executive committee has Monikinkini Basu, Somsubhra Thakur Chaudhury, Oindrila Mukherjee, Jhumur Dutta Gupta and Saikat Majumdar, who is also the assistant secretary of the society. --Arindam Basu

to talk. Creative strokes of Cristobal and his artistic perspectives transmitted the canvas with the values of natural heritage of Santiniketan. The Birth of "Eyes of a Dream" was witnessed by 50 eminent guests and captured and filmed by the Students of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Sister Nivedita University.

It was the second extraordinary event by Cristobal Gabarron Foundation. Before Santiniketan "Flowers against Bombs" was created at Mula in Spain. AMBIT will evolve over 2 years in geographical enclaves across the 5 continents. The next edition would be held in Germany in coming June.

Rabindra Nath Tagore made a remarkable impact on the Spanish intellectual and literacy scene in the year after receiving the Nobel Prize and was admired even decades later. To rediscover the missing treasure of Kabiguru, AMBIT selected Santiniketan for the unforgettable experience with an intercultural, multidisciplinary experiment.

AMBIT Gabarron Santiniketan Project was organised by Gabarron Foundation and Casa de la India Foundation. Sister Nivedita University of Kolkata was their local partner for filming the event. --Jhumur Dutta Gupta

Lilting tunes will remain forever



Pic: Internet

Dekha Ek Khwab To Yeh Silsile Hue... an unforgettable track that is synonymous with Bollywood romance is also an epitome of the Silsila, which started with a Khwab of Uma Dutt Sharma for his fourteen-year-old son. The father's dream became reality through the illustrious musical trajectory of the legendary Indian classical musician and santoor player, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma.

The santoor was earlier known as the Shata-Tantri Veena which was used to accompany a particular type of folk singing known as Sufiana Mausiqi, popular in Jammu & Kashmir.

Since the age of seven Sharma started playing the tabla. His knowledge of 'raagdaari' as a vocalist and playing tabla helped him learn its intricacies as Sharma mentioned in his autobiography-- Journey with a Hundred Strings: My Life in Music (2002).

It was Sharma's perseverance that made santoor an important component in classical renditions globally. Sharma later modified santoor to suit the requirements of Indian classical music by enhancing its tonal quality. He was the first musician to play the instrument, weighing eight kilograms, on his lap for hours at a time. Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma with his heartfelt santoor performances soon blossomed into a versatile musician.

In 1956, he composed the background music for one of the Indian classic films Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje, directed by V. Shantaram. In 1960, he recorded his first solo album. In 1967, he teamed up with Hariprasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra to produce a concept album, Call of the Valley (1967), which was one of Indian classical music's greatest hits.

The songs he composed for Bollywood director, Yash Chopra, have been loved, sung, remixed, and rediscovered. It was the santoor maestro Shivkumar Sharma along with flutist, Chaurasia, who gave the romance in Bollywood the apt rhythm and soul in many films including Silsila, Chandni, Darr and Lamhe.

Sharma was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986; The Padma Shri in 1991; and the Padma Bhushan in 2001. Though the nation mourned the demise of this 84-year-old legend, the path created by him for the santoor will forever be etched deep in our hearts and souls.

--Atashi Bhattacharya

Kobiguru through Spanish art

After "Flowers against Bombs", it is "Eyes of a Dream". After Mula (Spain) AMBIT was at Santiniketan.

AMBIT is an international artistic proposal, conceived by Spanish painter and Sculpture Cristobal Gabarron. Each edition of it, highlighted the identity and cultural habitat on the planet. AMBIT Gabarron -



AMBIT Gabarron and team on completing the project Pic-SNU MCAJ

Santiniketan Edition was all about performance, action painting-encompassed the art of Action which was an improvised encounter with creation. Cristobal Gabarron, the Spanish artist executed the Live without prior planning on a large format

canvas of 3x9 meters within a period of 3 and 3.5 hours at Kala Bhavan, Bisva Bharati campus, in company of other artists. It started at Chena Bat Tola of Kala Bhavan. The Spanish Artist was accompanied by eminent Baul Singer Parvaty Baul, Pulak Da and Bhuva Dev. Monica de la Fuente, the Spanish dancer and choreographer

spread the magic with her Oriental-Western classical dance performance. Students of Kala Bhawan sang, recited, drew Alpanas. Mystical musical remittance of Parvaty Baul created the moment of obsession. Now the canvas started

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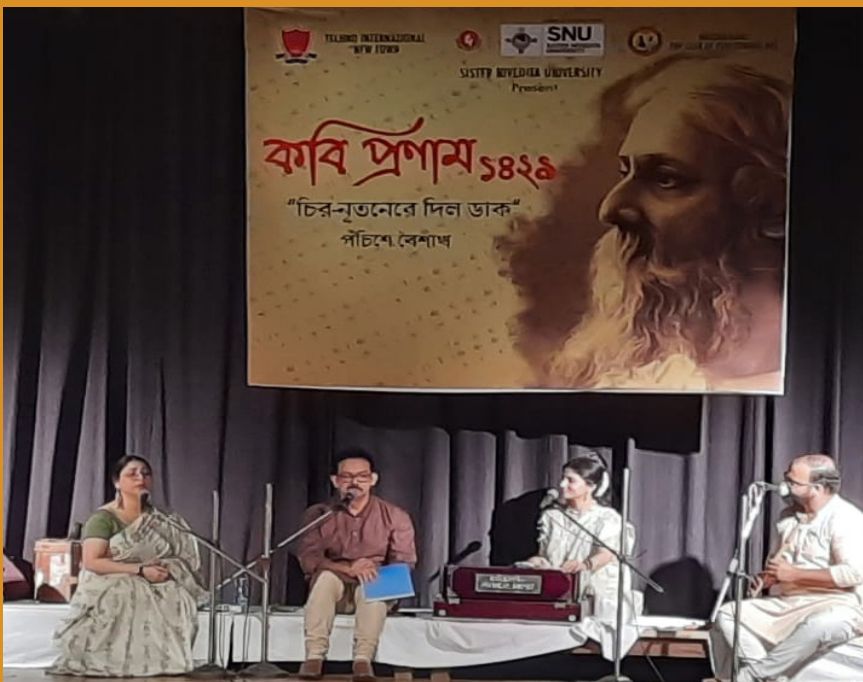
Univ celebrates Rabindra Jayanti at SNU Arts Acre amid fanfare

Celebrating Rabindra Jayanti is a way of life in Bengal. But the physical celebrations were brought to a rude halt for the last couple of years, as a raging pandemic forced us into a self-imposed.

Finally, this year relying on herd-immunity people once again has subjected themselves to the human contact which is integral to performance. Sister Nivedita University could not be any different.

The festivities moved to the verdant settings of Arts Acre as the students and teachers left the audience enthralled with their uber cool performance. From Chancellor of SNU and MD of TIG Sri Satyam Roychowdhury to the students, teachers and staff everyone was a part of the programme.

The Chancellor took Tagore narration to new heights with his narrative of the life of Rabindranath through the lens of his relationship with love and death. He narrated



Hon'ble Chancellor SNU Satyam Roychowdhury reading from a script on Tagore penned by him during Pachishe Baisakh celebration at Arts Acre. Pic-SNU MCAJ

episodes from Tagore's life that influenced his creations. Tagore's interpretation of love expressed through his verses, lyrics were enunciated in the rendition. Mr Roychowdhury's performance of Tagore's works reflected love as the central character and his various inspirations and heartbreaks from Kadambari Devi to Victoria Ocampo that generated powerful feelings that led him to creating literary canons that were relevant even today.

We were joined by Techno India New Town (TINT) who collaborated in the programme which made the presentations richer and even more vibrant. The students and staff members along with the faculty members joined in the programme as well.

SNU's performances ranged from taking a fusion route to Tagore's works to using

poetry and dance to highlight the Rabindrik influence in our lives. The big attraction in SNU's presentation was an adaptation of Balmiki Pratibha that was presented by the teachers and students in a colourful riot of music, recitation and acting. The dance drama indeed brought the audience to their feet.

TINT also kept the audience engaged with their plater of presentations which included poetry enactment and dance dramas through Tagore's iconic works like Abhisar and Krishnakoli. They finished the day with a dance drama that was much appreciated.

The five hour long programme seemed to get over in the blink of an eye. The Ex-Chairman of NAAC and UGC, Professor Chauhan was among the audience along with celebrated artist Suvaprasanna who inaugurated the programme along with the Vice-Chancellor of the University Sri Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay and the Director of the TINT Sri Tamal Goswami campus.

Registrar of the University Sri Suman Chatterjee too joined in for the celebration together with the HR Director Smt. Ina Bose and other dignitaries. The teachers, students and non-teaching staff all enjoyed the celebration of Tagore brought through a rich tapestry of events. --Monikinkini Basu (with inputs from Oindrila Mukherjee)

India’s standpoint in the Russia-Ukraine war

With the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the world has been divided into two geopolitical blocs - The West who have decided to punish the Russian President Vladimir Putin by boycotting Russia from every front and the ones who have decided to abstain from voting on this issue. Amongst the countries who have withheld from



Pic: Internet

choosing parties, India has garnered different reactions from the world for its stance of staying ‘neutral’. While the European and the American officials were busy in persuading and employing various tactics to draw India away from ‘neutrality’, India has decided to not waver from its decision. By refusing to be a part of this bloc politics and sticking to prioritizing own interests amid the ongoing churn in global order, India, as a big, strategically important power has invited a lot of global attention. As the war entered the third month, it was clear that Russia was unable to get a clean victory as per their original plan. With Russian troops not backing off and Ukraine supported by the western bloc defending hard, it has become a crucial geopolitical issue. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has, however, said that India’s stand on Ukraine, and its attempt at presenting a neutral stance has not changed “one bit” so far. With Russia and USA increasing war rhetoric over Ukraine, India stayed clear of picking any sides. The West had imposed massive sanctions on Russia and have begun supplying weapons to Ukraine and supporting them on world stage. The war seemed far from ending. While India was not the only country that had refrained from choosing sides; South Africa, The

United Arab Emirates, Israel, Turkey have also abstained from voting. But, none of these countries had come under the kind of pressure and public criticism from the West the way India had. The West led by USA strongly wanted India on their side in order to gain a strong hold against Russia even after being aware of India’s dependence on

Russian arms, the compulsions in maintaining that stock and the restrictions that such a dependence posed on India’s strategic choices. Like any other country, India also retained the right to take decisions based on pragmatic realism and its own national interests. And India believed that a neutral position anchored in strategic autonomy which kept channels open on both sides. While India had always been known as a peace-loving country, it had not condemned Russian attack on Ukraine. It did not mean that India supported the war and still called out for peace. With situation in Ukraine ; still not under control, the atrocities committed by the Russian troops in the suburbs of Kiev, which gained heavy media coverage from round the world, the countries that were seen to be supporting Russia were set to face backlash from the global communities. While the West could ill afford to cut away from India at this point, as it needed India’s markets, Joe Biden still called India’s decision of staying neutral ‘shaky’. India’s stance in Russia-Ukraine war has been quite diplomatic. While the pressure on India had still not subsided, India kept its stance as an independent nation which kept its own interests and benefits above the world geopolitics. -Vaishnavi Shukla

India stands as a big brother to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has been burning for months. The people of this peace loving island are in continuous and relentless danger. Political instability erupted in the form of large scale protest. The country is experiencing its worst economic crisis of all time. Sri Lankans were irked by the government’s miss management of financial affairs, corruption and bad judgement on initiatives that backfired, leaving the country impoverished in terms of lancing foreign exchange. This shortage of foreign currency has left the government unable to pay for essential imports including fuel, leading to debilitating power cuts. Ordinary Lankans were also dealing with shortages and soaring inflation. The Rajapaksa clan has ruled Sri Lanka’s politics from pass two decades. Presently, Mahinda Rajapaksa was the Prime Minister of the country where his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the president. Mahinda Rajapaksa had to resign as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters and sparked a day of violence. A day after a pro Rajapaksa mob went on a rampage at agitation sites in capital Colombo and in Central Kandy district. Nearly 220 persons were admitted to the hospital because of the injuries in the brutal assault and in the targeted, violent retaliation by incensed citizens. Dozens of houses belonging to ministers and member of the parliament, including the Rajapaksa’s ancestral village home, were torched. As Sri Lanka’s economic crisis deepened, India had rushed to assist the island nation. Previously, India had its own political interests in Sri Lanka and had even earned the fury of the island nation, but that is no longer the case. This time is for India to rethink its role in Sri Lanka while also becoming a stronger and more mutually beneficial partner. After China’s entry into the South Asian region through the Hambantota Port project. India had to reconsider its regional power strategy and keep China at bay- both as a geostrategic adversary and as a source has of border disputes. The situation had rendered the Sri Lankan government unable to import paper for the printing of exam papers, and the print media is already feeling the strain of a paucity of paper for printing newspapers, with prominent newspapers issuing slim editions these



Pic: Internet

days. Rising living prices, petrol, gasoline, and commodity shortages all over the country. For now, New Delhi will continue to provide Sri Lanka with economic support but not political support during the current crisis. Detailing India’s assistance to Sri Lanka in the past few months, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson said that, “India has extended support what more than \$3.5 billion, and that the people of India have provided assistance for mitigating the shortages of essential items such as food, medicine etc. The support package includes a billion-dollar credit line for essential imports and half a billion-dollar line for fuel, debt payment deferrals of loans totally a billion dollars and \$400 billion-dollar currency swap that has been extended until mid-July”. Apart from the credit lines and debt waivers, the government and the Tamil Nadu government has send consignments of rice and other supplies, hoping to help tide over the crisis. India has also committed to help Sri Lanka with a bailout plan from the World Bank, and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had made to the Sri Lankan finance minister Ali Sabry in Washington during the spring meetings in April. A team from International Monetary Fund (IMF) has now begin negotiations with officials in Colombo over the bail-out plan including tough reforms needed by the government for financial support. As public anger over the mismanagement of the situation by President Gotabaya and his brother Prime Minister Mahinda had spilled on to the streets, the Modi government had kept a close watch on the situation, but sought to keep a distance from the Sri Lankan leadership. Apart from the instability that the situation in the neighbouring country generates in South Asia, New Delhi has also been worried about a rise in refugees fleeing food shortages and other heart shaped on the Iceland nation. - Sandipa Bose

Sedition law revisited by Supreme court

Sedition Law under Section 124A of the IPC stated that people who used words or signs to incite dissent against the lawfully established government were subjected to imprisonment. Thomas Macaulay drafted this law in the Indian Penal Code during the colonial rule of the British. Underlining a constitutional court’s duty to protect civil liberties, the Supreme Court recently put on hold the 152-year-old colonial-era penal provision of sedition in India. The sedition law was largely used by the British to control the independence movement. Prominent freedom fighters like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Annie Bessant, Maulana Azad, Mahatma Gandhi were curbed and arrested under this law. This law was overlooked during inclusion in the Indian Penal Code in 1860. However, this was slightly rectified in 1890 through the Special Act XVII and sedition was included as an offense under 124A IPC. During colonial rule the punishment for violating the sedition law was exile from one’s home country. Later in 1955 the punishment for the aforementioned law was amended to life imprisonment. There had been several instances of abuse of this law in the past. There are multiple allegations that this law had been wrongfully used to curb freedom of speech of the people. Some of the legal challenges to the IPC Section 124A can be observed in Romesh



Pic: Internet

Thappar v. State of Madrad (1950), Tara Song Gopi Chand v. The State (1951), Ram Nandan v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1959), Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab (1995), Arjun Jaitley v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2016). These rulings communicate that lawful opposition of the government cannot be accused as sedition. The onus of distinguishing between sedition and lawful dissent lies on the police making the arrest. Despite various ambiguities surrounding the sedition law, the validity of it was upheld during the Kedarnath ruling. In Dr. Vinayak Binayak Sen v. State of Chhattisgarh (2011), the court held that a person responsible for circulating seditious content is punishable under the act. There have been attempts by the court to eliminate the misuse of sedition law. The court propagated that if a speech induces public disorder only then should it be considered as seditious. This is not included in the Section 124A of the IPC. Owing to ambiguous nature and repeated misuse of the law, the relevance of this colonial law is being revisited by the Supreme Court currently. The law is not being revoked as long as it is not being reviewed. The Court expects the High courts to co-operate and not accept any FIRs under this section. People who have been jailed under this non-bailable colonial British era law can now approach the trial courts for bail. --Shivangi Mukherjee

Musk drops India plans for now

India and Indians have been excited for quite some time since 2019 when the government came up with the FAME 2 scheme to introduce electric vehicles on Indian roads, but FAME 2 is an extension of the FAME 1 introduced in 2015, which failed to make the noise in those days. The idea of modern day electric car came from Tesla, and it was speculated to run on Indian roads in few years’ time, but the plan is now believed to be shelved. The issue had been a clash between the two involved, Government of India and Elon Musk. Government of India wanted to promote futuristic technology, but at the same time wanted them to procure locally to cut dependence on external powers, that juiced out India’s foreign reserves. Musk was in full gear to launch his Tesla for the ordinary customers. The company modified the Model Y, raised height suitable for Indian city roads, and put it to test to different cities which continues till date. But repeated nudge from India’s policymakers to not give in to Musk’s demand of lower tariff may have delayed Tesla from becoming a major force in India.



According to authorities involved in the matter, local automakers like TATA were not in favour of lowering import tax for Tesla or other manufacturers who chose to take the import route, instead of manufacturing in India. TATA now being a major player in the EV game, with nearly 30,000 electric cars sold in less than 2 years, felt the move would kill the local industry which contributed to the Indian economy. Elon Musk’s Tesla will now have to wait a little longer, and in the meantime the company has once again shifted the deadline to land on India as Government of India wins the round one of debate. Irrespective of the players, India gears up to aggressively deploy electric vehicles by 2030, but it will for now have to depend on local players to chase the dream. The popularity and sales of electric vehicles were increasing rapidly in the country. Hence, Indian car manufacturers were developing new electric vehicles and making them available in the market, thereby helping speed up the shift towards e-mobility and reducing the environmental impact and cost of operation. Tata Tiago, Tata Altroz EV, Mahindra eKUV 100, MG’s ZSEV, Maruti Wagoner EV, Hyundai’s Kona EV were all in the race along with Tata Nexon to grab a piece of the EV pie. Under these circumstances the delay could cost Tesla dear. --Saba Ahmed



Pic: Internet

Covid photos win Pulitzer for Danish posthumously

He may not be capturing history from behind his lenses today, but the images he left behind are still winning hearts and prizes. Ace photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was honoured with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize 2022 posthumously alongwith three Indian photographers in the feature photography section. On Monday, Siddiqui and his Indian Reuters colleagues Sanna Irsad Matto, Adnan Abidi and Amit Dave won for, “images of Covid’s toll in India that balanced intimacy and devastation, while offering viewers a heightened sense of place”, according to Pulitzer Prizes website. Siddiqui was one of the most talented and renowned photojournalist in India. He got his first Pulitzer



Pic: Internet

prize in 2018, in feature photography as a staff of Reuters, for his documenting series “the plight of Myanmar’s minority Rohingya community and their mass departure to Bangladesh”. At the age

of 38, he died while covering the Taliban-Afghan army battle in 16th July 2021. He was slain in a crossfire by the Taliban militiamen during the fight in Kandahar’s Spin Boldak district. “We feel proud of him, but we miss him” – said Danish’s father Akhtar Siddiqui after the announcement from the Pulitzer Prize. Akhtar Siddiqui also said in his son’s memories, “Danish went around the country, in the hospitals, in the Covid-19 wards, mortuaries, graveyards. He overworked during those days. His view was to show how the people were suffering and to let the world know about it so that we could collectively help people come out of this great disaster.” --Sneha Paul

Editorial

Theatre is back



Academy of Fine Arts ticket counter Pix: Monikinkini Basu

With Covid taking a backseat at elast for now, the theatre lovers are back. It is overwhelming to see queues at the counters of Academy of Fine arts, Rabindra Sadan, Shishir Mancha and many other theatre halls of Kolkata. The creative atmosphere of theatre lovers was missing around Rabindra Sadan and its surrounding premises. The hustle bustle of the audience, cheering, silence, clapping all is returning back. This not only brings theatre lovers to life but also the artists who were in a state of uncertainty for the past 2 years. The pandemic had stopped everything around. Theatre is a live art that thrives on audience feedback. It was good to see it getting back into its rhythm. The fish chop shop, the chai walas, the roadside vendors were all back, as were the drama lovers. Street plays, proscenium plays, recitation, literary gatherings limped back to normal. The counters sported long queues. The Nandan area was buzzing with activity. Yes we are finally moving back to normal.--Minal Pareek

Jordaar legal wrangle

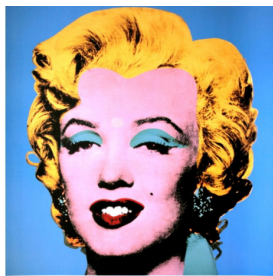
Jayeshbhai Jordaar released on May 13, but with a disclaimer accompanying it. The trailer of the film was released a few days before. It got a good response from fans to critics. But there was a scene of gender test before delivery, which created a controversy. A PIL was filed in the Delhi High Court seeking deletion of a certain scene from the movie which purportedly denounces female foeticide. According to the petitioners, it was a legal offence to know the sex of the child before delivery, since this scene in the film is promoting such things, it should be removed. Even though the film is against female foeticide, it has promoted the ultrasound technology. In the PIL it was stated, “in the ultrasound clinic scene without censoring the gender test is being shown openly, publicized. This is not permitted under sections 3, 3A, 3B, 4, 6 and 22 of the PC and



Pic: Internet

PNDT Act and hence this instant PIL has been filed.” The Delhi High Court asked the makers of Jayeshbhai Jordaar to insert in certain scenes a disclaimer concerning the illegality of the practice of sex determination of a foetus and gave its nod to the release of the Ranveer Singh-starrer film. A bench headed by Justice Navin Chawla asked Yash Raj Films to insert a prominent disclaimer in two scenes and said, “if you are sending a message, send it loud.” “We appreciate the message but you have to tell people that it is an offence,” said the bench -- also comprising Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri. “Ensure that the disclaimer appears at both the times,” it told the filmmakers. -Kasturi Banerjee

Warhol’s Marilyn auction smashes records



Andy Warhol’s “Shot Sage Blue Marilyn”, a portrait of iconic American actress Marilyn Monroe, has been auctioned for a record- breaking \$195m (£157.8m), making the iconic portrait of Marilyn

Monroe, the most expensive artwork by a US artist ever sold at auction. The portrait auctioned on Monday portrays Monroe in vibrant close-up, yellow coloured hair, blue eyeshadow, and red lips- on a turquoise background. “Shot Sage Blue Marilyn is the absolute pinnacle of American pop”, said Alex Rotter, said the chairman of Christie’s 20/21 Art Department, in a statement announcing the auction. Warhol’s painting was held in the collection of

Swiss art dealers Thomas and Doris Amman and auctioned at The Christie’s in New York on May 9. According to Christie’s auction house in New York, where the sale took place, Warhol’s portrait is the most expensive piece from the 20th century ever auctioned, as per the New York Times. Ahead of the auction, Christie’s wrote that the painting is “one of the rarest and most transcendent images in existence”, with a selling price “in the region” of \$200m. The auction ended with a sale price of \$170m, which rose to \$195m with taxes and fees taken into account. The previous record price for a piece of American artwork was \$110.5m for a skull painting created in 1982 by Warhol’s sometimes friend and sometimes competitor, Jean-Michael Basquiat. The final price also smashed the previous record for a 20th Century work of art, set in 2015 when a 1955 painting by Pablo Picasso - Les Femmes d’Alger (Version O) - sold for \$179.4m, including fees. --Riya Saha

Singapore bans The Kashmir Files

Right-wing Twitter activist and director Vivek Agnihotri’s recently released film The Kashmir Files has been banned in Singapore by the country’s media regulatory body, stating it may harm religious harmony in the country. It was released on March 11th this year. The Kashmir Files is based on the torment experienced by Kashmiri Pundits during the early 90s which led to their exodus. The film has been promoted by many current ruling party officials. Various BJP ruled state governments had also exempted the film from entertainment tax to attract more audiences. In India, many critics had already questioned the accuracy of the film and the communal tone it portrayed. People pointed out how facts were allegedly distorted and shown in the film. It had been accused of shedding light on one part of



history while being completely oblivious to the other part. If art was to be treated as a medium of social awareness, then it had to be impartial and true to the incidents. Kashmir Files is second in line after Tashkent Files had become a hot topic of discussion a couple of years back coming out of the same director’s stable. In a statement, the Singapore government said the film was analyzed to be falling way short of the country’s film classification guidelines. They were concerned it could disrupt social cohesion and may harm the peace in Singapore’s multi-religious society. The Kashmir Files were initially restricted in the United Arab Emirates. The UAE authorities later reversed their restriction by the end of March and the film was released without cuts on April 7th. In New Zealand, the Muslim community extended their concerns about the film, after which the authorities lifted the rating from R16 to R18. The move to ban The Kashmir Files in Singapore had pursued many criticisms from various segments of viewers. While the movie has been very well made and as a creative effort very appealing, it was the question of being honest to history that would forever mark The Kashmir Files as a biased work of art. --Neha Pandey

Auction for the intrepid ones

Next time you hear the name – The Intrepid-- try putting a value to it. For sooner than later the world’s largest whisky bottle holding 311 litre of sunset yellow fluid was set to fetch at least Rs 12.49 crore in the UK auction. In what seemed like great news for liquor

world’s best distilleries, The Macallan,” Fraser said. The team behind The Intrepid were inspired by the passion for exploration and sought to name the project in recognition of the drive and passion determination of some of the world’s



Pix- Intrepid official website

connoisseurs, the world’s largest whisky bottle was soon going to be auctioned in the UK. Till now, the most expensive whisky bottle ever sold was priced at USD 1.9 million (Rs 14.52 crore) as was officially certified by Guinness World Records after its bottling in 2021. Now, this new bottle of whisky will be competing to become the most expensive bottle ever sold. The Intrepid officially became the world’s largest bottle of whisky on September 9, 2021. As per an estimate, The Intrepid could well fetch upwards of £ 1.3 million which translated to Indian currency might be worth Rs 12.49 crore at least. The Intrepid, stood at 5-feet 11-inches tall and it was set to be auctioned by Edinburgh-based auction house Lyon & Turnbull. It contained the equivalent of 444 standard bottles and it would be auctioned on May 25. Some part of the proceeds will also be going to charity. The auctioneers have said that any amount the upcoming sale achieves above £1.3 million, 25% would be donated to the Marie Curie charity. As per a website, Colin Fraser of Lyon & Turnbull, who would lead the auction, said the sale of The Intrepid would be of great interest among people around the world. The Intrepid was an object to be had and displayed standing at over five feet and aged for 32 years. “I’m sure there will be significant global interest in the auction of The Intrepid, a unique collection spearheaded by the record-breaking bottling standing at an incredible 5ft 11ins tall. Bidders will have the chance to buy a piece of Scotch whisky history. They will become the owners of an exclusive 32-year-old single-malt Scotch from what is widely regarded as one of the

“ the world’s largest whisky bottle holding 311 litre of sunset yellow fluid was set to fetch at least Rs 12.49 crore in the UK auction ”

pioneering individuals including Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, Dr Geoff Wilson, Karen Drake MBE, Olly Hicks, Sarah Outen MBE, Dwane Fields FRGS, Levison Wood FRGS, Felicity Aston MBE and past Scottish adventurers pf the Year Jamie Ramsay and Will Copestake. As a mark of respect the images of these great adventurers were pasted on the bottle. “The adventurers of this remarkable group of individuals span decades and fill all corners of the Earth. In true testament to the resourcefulness and resilience of human spirit they have made it their life’s p[urpose] to overcome nature’s most extreme challenges. In this current era of global uncertainty when many are losing their way, it is imperative that we take inspiration from these intrepid souls,” the official Instagram handle of The Intrepid stated. The whisky that looked pale gold with khaki lights was the result of a vatting of two refill American oak hogsheads to create the world’s largest bottle of whisky. The premium whisky was very mild and gentle to the nose. Gradually opened it presented scents led by baked apple (and baked apple skin), supported by pear in syrup and a suggestion of flaked almond, on a base note of short-crust pastry. All subtle and understated. A drop of water would introduce a trace of vanilla fudge and a whisper of dry sherry. Upon tasting, the whisky had a smooth texture, and a sweet overall taste with some white pepper in the lengthy, warming finish and a suggestion of French apple tart in the aftertaste. --Team SNU POST

Binging on OTT

From Akshay Kumar’s Bachchhan Paandey to Prateik Babbar’s Cobalt Blue, the OTT is bubbling with a variety of movies that will keep you glued to the screen. Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hotstar, Zee 5, Jio Cinema are flooded with new content and the movie lovers are pampered for choice. Here are some of the interesting ones: **Toolsidas Junior:** Toolsidas Junior is a Hindi movie starring Sanjay Dutt and Rajiv Kapoor in prominent roles. It is a sport drama directed by Mridul with Ashutosh Gowariker. The film will stream on Netflix on April 19. **Bachchhan Paandey:** Starring Akshay Kumar, Kriti Sanon, Arshad Warsi, the movie will stream on Amazon Prime. The film is a comedy drama based on gangster Bachchhan Paandey. **Dasvi:** Streaming on Netflix, Dasvi is humor-filled drama wherein Abhishek Bachchan in the role of an uneducated politician tries to pass his 10th exam from jail. It also features Nimrat Kaur and Yami Gautam in pivotal roles. **Cobalt Blue:** Starring Prateik Babbar and Neelay Mehendale in pivotal roles, this movie is based on the life of an aspiring author who is free-spirited but is troubled by a paying guest at their home. Cobalt Blue is streaming on Netflix. **Hey Sinamika:** Starring Dulquer Salmaan, Kajal Aggarwal, Aditi Rao Hydari, and Yogi Babu in pivotal roles this comedy drama is streaming on Netflix. In the film an unhappy Mouna plots to divorce her husband and faces a dilemma. **Radhe Shyam:** Starring Prabhas and Pooja Hegde this film was recently released on Amazon Prime. In the role of Palmist, Prabhas tries to fight his destiny for love.



Sharma Ji Namkeen: Rishi Kapoor’s last film is streaming on Amazon Prime. It also features Paresh Rawal and Juhi Chawla. This feel-good movie will make you laugh at Rishi Ji antics and be emotional at some of his dialogues. **Moonshot:** Starring Lana Condor and Cole Sprouse, Moonshot are streaming on Amazon Prime. The film is based on a love story that starts when Walt and Sophie literally board a shuttle to space. --Team SNU Post

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Indian men enter the elite class



The winning Indian team that made a date with history Pic: Internet

Imagine the monkey India has been carrying for the last 73 years was finally off to the back, as the Indian shuttlers became the world team champions winning the first ever Thomas Cup at the Impact Arena in Thailand defeating defending champions Indonesia 3-0.

Earlier, the Indian men's badminton team scripted history after reaching their maiden Thomas Cup final with 3-2 win over Denmark in a thrilling semifinal on Friday. Indian men had previously reached the Thomas Cup semis in 1952, 1955 and 1979, but never beyond that.

Indian men had sporadically made India proud like the monumental first ever winner of the All England Open via Prakash Padukone in 1980. Piullela Gopichand repeated the feat in 2001. Kidami Srikanth became World No 1 in 2017. But as a team, India never hogged the glory.

Playing their first Thomas Cup semis in 43 years, India kicked off their final four fixture at the Impact Arena with Lakshya Sen, ninth in the badminton world rankings, facing off against world No 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen. This was the two shuttlers' third clash of the year. While the Indian youngster shocked the Danish ace in the German Open semis in March, Axelsen registered the win in the All England Open final later that month.

But on May 15 all that became history when India on Sunday won their first Thomas Cup title after

beating holders and 14-time champions Indonesia 3-0 in the final.

Kidambi Srikanth defeated Jonatan Christie in straight games 21-15, 23-21 as India sealed the title without losing a match.

Earlier, India had taken a 2-0 lead after Satwiksairaj Rankireddey and Chirag Shetty came from a game down to beat Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukumuljo 18-21, 23-21, 21-19. That came after Lakshya Sen gave India a 1-0 lead after beating Indonesia's Anthony Ginting in the first match.

After losing the first set 8-21, Sen made a remarkable comeback in the second game, before also shurrging off a four-point deficit in the third game. Sen defeated Ginting 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 in a match that lasted for an hour and five minutes. Ginting took the first game 21-8 before Sen edged him in the second by 21-7. This win would surely set the course for men's badminton and give it the required momentum.

Full Results:
First Singles: Lakshya Sen beat Anthony Sinisuka Ginting 8-21, 21-15, 21-16
First Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddey/Chirag Shetty beat Mohammad Ahsan/ Kevin Sanjaya Sukumuljo 18-21, 23-21, 21-19
Second Singles: Kidambi Srikanth beats Jonatan Christie 21-15, 23-21
--AB

Rise and fall of the Manchester siblings

For quite a long time, Manchester City was known as the younger sibling of United, looking as the Reds progressed. For several years, Manchester United effectively dealt with their inferior rivals in derbies, as it was just the situation of a league champion meeting face to face an antiphonary mid-table group.

Nonetheless, those years have passed, as Manchester City has won the English Premier League five times in the last ten years, ending the conclusion of an important period that gave them little to be amped up for. On the other hand, as United's downfall began, they have just won one league title in the last ten years.

The most crucial turning point for Manchester United was in 2013 when Sir Alex Ferguson left the club after a record tenure of 27 years. At the time when Sir Alex retired from football alongside CEO David Gill. Thereafter, as has been broadly covered and seen by the majority, Manchester United have failed to win any significant trophies for a reliable period, and as of today is on a dry run of five years with practically no trophies. Thus, after the departure of long-term director Sir Alex Ferguson, Manchester United has continuously lost its character as a predominant football club.

The summer of 2008 marked the start of a new chapter for the Cityzens, as Manchester City were

purchased by the Abu Dhabi United Group, who have, for an absence of better words, boatloads of cash. That summer, they made their most memorable transfer, purchasing Robinho for a British record fee of £32.5 million. The following summer, they stirred things up by signing stars like Gareth Barry, Carlos Tevez, Emanuel Adebayor and Joleon Lescott.

City improved their position in the EPL yet again adding vital players like David Silva, Mario Balotelli, Yaya Toure and Aleksandar Kolarov, coming in third spot in the 2010-2011 season. While United came out to be the winner for their nineteenth championship, they didn't end up being as predominant, posting numerous unremarkable outcomes.

It is one of the most remarkable stories in football. As no one thought, this day will come where Manchester United will finish the 2021-2022 season in 6th position even after signing big names like Cristiano Ronaldo, Raphael Varane and Jadon Sancho. Whereas, Manchester City is on the verge of winning their 6th English Premier League title. Meanwhile, the blue side of the Manchester became successive PL champions in what is seen as a team that has robbed the winning mentality from the DNA of the Red Devils.

--Aniket Datta

‘Boom Boom’ Becker struggling to cope with life in a prison cell

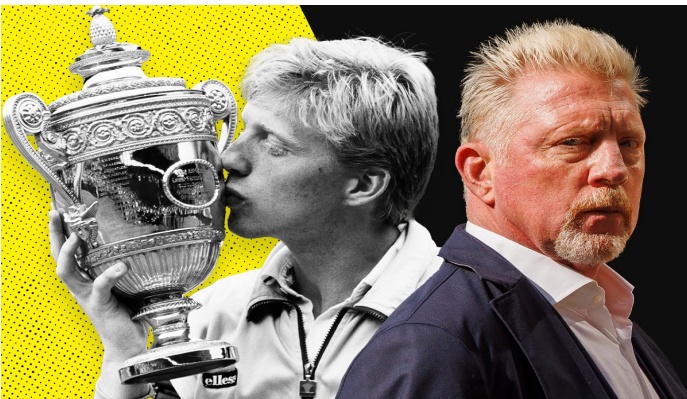
When he stunned the world by defeating Kevin Curren to win the first ever Wimbledon at the age of 17, Boris Franz Becker hardly knew he would spend a part of latter life inside a prison cell.

German tennis legend Becker was finding it difficult to adjust in his early stage of prison sentence at HMP Wandsworth. He reportedly complained about quality & quantity of food, poky nature of the cell & lack of hygiene. He was sentenced to two and half years, for hiding the assets worth £2.5million during bankruptcy proceedings, which began in 2017.

Becker, who used to live in the lap of luxury, was currently struggling to adapt to prison life and certain restrictions. He was utterly disappointed about the standard of food provided to him. He told his family and friends about that after being served corned beef, which was one of his first meals in Wandsworth Jail, which was not good enough to him. “He is having a rough time and the worst thing of all is the food. He cannot believe how bad

it is and how small the portions are”, someone close to him told newspapers.

The six time Grand Slam Champion had a love for



Pic: Internet

Cuban cigars, fine wines & restaurants. Now he was compelled to use the given £10 weekly allowance in jail, by grabbing extra foods like chocolate, biscuits & bananas from the canteen to counterbalance his

Rise of Giants and Kings in this IPL

Reaching the play-offs in their maiden appearance is commendable, for one to reach the finals is majestic. Beet the two newbees of IPL-- Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants.

IPL itself has surpassed big century old leagues like the La Liga in no time, now sitting fourth in the table in terms of revenue among all sporting leagues in the world. Eight franchisees began the tournament when many questioned the feasibility of one such league.

One left in few years time, couple of them changed names to check fortune, few remained unchanged, whereas few came and played cameo for a brief period – and with all of these ups and downs, the IPL continued to grow bigger and better, and began the 15th edition with the addition of two new teams, The Gujarat Titans (GT) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

came out strong on paper during auction, with the likes of Rashid Khan and Hardhik Pandya, Gujarat was always the team to look for, whereas the form of KL Rahul, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan and young Ayush Bishnoi made sure LSG was here to play as a team than individual heroism, quite on the expected lines with Gambhir as Mentor.

Sports is all about setting benchmarks, creating records, this is what makes a team or an individual special. The Gujarat Titans qualified for the playoffs and simply blew off Rajasthan Royals to take a place in the final. LSG also made noise with their rock solid performance till falling to Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers in the first eliminator at Eden Gardens despite Rahul's heroics.

The two teams has managed to attract eyeballs and cheers for themselves, despite starting from scratch in front of the mighty Mumbai Indians,



Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik pandya shaking hands with Lucknow Super Giants captain K L Rahul Pic: Internet

Hardhik Pandya's Gujarat Titans, owned by the Chennai Super Kings, CVC Capital group, is housed at Gujarat's Narendra Modi stadium, whereas the Lucknow Super Giants is owned by the RPSG group of Goenka, captained by KL Rahul. The RPSG group won the rights of LSG for a whopping ₹7090 crore, whereas the highest bid for Gujarat was pegged at ₹5625 crore by the CVC group.

The two teams

Kolkata Knight Riders & Royal Challengers Bangalore. Further with these new additions IPL was testing its own benchmark, only to get itself bigger in future in lines of football leagues that played all round the year.

Gujarat is awaiting their rivals in the final and if Royals beat the ther Royals from Rajasthan this tme the IPL will go to a new champion.

This will not only augur well for the League but also encourage the former champions to pull up their socks and fight.

--Saba Ahmed

The KKR Conundrum

The journey of Kolkata Knight Riders has had been high profile since inception. The franchise owned by the SRK four teams under its brand – in the USA, UAE, West Indies and in India, – the only cricket club to own teams in multiple leagues. The franchise has 6 trophies in total, including two trophies in IPL by its name. But is it all good within this time? At least in this IPL!

The team has witnessed its downfall since the departure of Gambhir. It has failed to regroup and hold onto the momentum it once had. The leadership of DK and Eoin Morgan and now Shreyas Iyer, has failed to replace Gambhir's legacy. The team has had a poor auction, followed by dull performances from retained players, minus Narine.

The think tank has failed to find the perfect playing eleven, with new combinations tried out in every other game. The decisions and performance has not gone down well within fans, with protests and suggestions pouring in for the Knights in social media sites.They failed to get to the qualifiers after a bright start and despite beating their regular nemesis Mumbai Indians twice on the road. They lost five games on the trot that included two against DC, who are now one place higher than them on the table. These two losses hurt really badly as these were matches that KKR threw away.

They also lost to RR, LSG, besides RCB. RR and GT virtually losing to every team except one. Now is the time to think regroup analyse and come back stronger for there are newer and better contenders. Shreyas looked composed as a captain, but the think tank has been too indecisive which cost them this season.



The Wagatha Christie drama unfolded in London involving Rebekah Vardy and Coleen Rooney hogging light for all its sartorial angles rather than the legal battle itself. Rooney accused Vardy of leaking posts from her Instagram account. Vardy had denied the accusations and sued Rooney for libel.

Pic: Internet

disappointment about food.

Reports said that he was also shocked about the lack of hygiene & stuffy ambience of the prison as it was way too overcrowded. According to a source, he has supposed to have said: “The conditions are miserable, almost inhumane. It can get cold in the cells and there's hardly any daylight.” He also moaned that due to the ‘constant noise’ and stink of the prison, he was suffering from lack of sleep in his six square metre cell, where he remained from 8PM to 7AM.

However, Becker was likely to spend 15 months behind the bars, and serve the rest of his term on licence. He was expected to be transferred to a ‘softer jail’, which would be a lower security prison in the near future. But, fate could be more cruel on the German legend as the British Home Office confirmed that there was a possibility that he might be deported from the UK after the end of his imprisonment. He had lived in Britain since 2012

but could be sent out of the country, as he did not have British citizenship.

The initial stage of prison life had been rough for Becker. He was spending a tough time in jail while trying to fit in there, as he had always been accustomed to leading a lavish & luxurious life. This fall from grace & dwelling against this disaster after achieving so much success in life, was something that experts felt would transform him for better or completely break him.

He shot to fame by setting the record for Wimbledon, becoming the youngest player ever to win the men's final. He was also the first unseeded player ever and the first German to win the men's single title at Wimbledon. He was nicknamed “Boom Boom” for his huge serve. Becker reached the Wimbledon final 7 times in 10 years and won 3 men's single titles, among the total of 49 singles and 15 doubles victories over the course of his career. He ranked third in sport career earnings with \$25,080,956. But pressures and demands on him brought too much stress into his life.

--Soumyadip De