



Suresh Raina
remained unsold P4

IN BRIEF



COVID UPDATE
IN INDIA
CONFIRMED : 11,499
DEATH : 255
VACCINATED : 6,534,090

WEST BENGAL
CONFIRMED : 260
DEATH : 4
VACCINATED : 713,204

Have you got your tongue twisted?

Payal Dhauria
Tongue twisters are a part of almost every language around the world. We have known about tongue twisters since we were kids and even as we grow up, we can't stop ourselves from trying out a new tongue twister at least once. They're fun to do and we all like to think that we could become the unique ones who will be able to say it correctly. But unfortunately, that rarely happens. P2

Shreya Lenka: India's new K-pop

Tiyasa Neogy
A teenager from Odisha, who is making waves in the music world, is set to be a role model for a lot of people in future. She got a wonderful opportunity at the very young age of 18. Her name is Shreya Lenka. She belongs to a middle class family and is in high school. Shreya is a contender for a fifth member spot in the famous South. P4

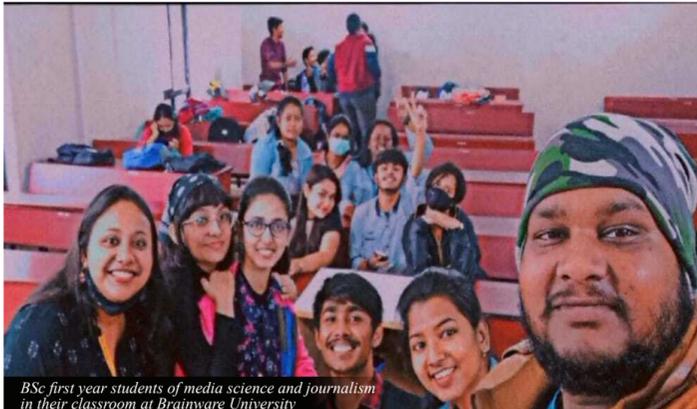
Weather Forecast



Kolkata, West Bengal

SATURDAY
Sunny
Temperature - 31°C
Precipitation - 20%
Humidity - 80%
Wind - 5 km/h

Why Brainware? Why journalism?



BSc first year students of media science and journalism in their classroom at Brainware University

As Benjamin Franklin says, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." What Franklin said is you should invest in knowledge in those universities where you never have cause for regret. If that is the case, for me Brainware University is the right place to be! Five months had passed since I am in the Media Science and Journalism department, and honestly speaking, I'm at home! To be unvarnished, my conversation with the department is beyond and above to be depicted in a couple of words. I am candidly taken aback by the way that the department functions with the sole cause of adopting pedagogy for the students to be industry equipped. The infrastructural set-up, the nature of online classes being conveyed to the students, the balanced individual consideration taken by the faculty-members for the eclectic progress of the sophomores guaranteeing that nobody is left behind is unequalled with any other university.

The manner in which workshops are directed routinely with industry virtuosos help the students to brainstorm on creative thoughts, the thorough spotlight given on relational abilities, the reception of industry-oriented syllabus speaks volume about the university and needs no different acknowledgment. I would recommend my close circles to be here and not anywhere because of the pros attached to it. The adoption of the teaching methods beyond bookish knowledge coupled with the friendly nature of the faculty members quadruples to the holistic development of anyone who is here! So you should be here, and nowhere. I repeat NOWHERE!!
Subham Chatterjee

As a child we have all wondered about how our college life would look like, will it

be as adventurous and fun as shown in the Bollywood movies? Will we ever get a chance to sit together with friends in the canteen and sing songs of friendship? Will there be an aesthetic campus where we can just walk around in nature and recharge our social batteries? Will we meet super chill yet extremely inspirational teachers who would motivate us to improve? Almost every time we wanted to fantasize about our college life, some adult would intervene and disrupt our happy thoughts and provide us with a dose of reality saying "All this only happens in movies, in real life college is extremely hard and unaesthetic". Even though I agree that the sugar-coated world of Bollywood is different from that of harsh reality, Brainware University is definitely my childhood dream come true. I immediately fell in love with the lush green campus as soon as I entered, the well-equipped labs and an extravagant library literally made me feel like I am the main character. As soon as the college started and I met with my teachers, I realized that I have made the right decision by choosing this university and the course. The teachers in my department (Media Science and Journalism) are not only intellectual and scholarly, but they are also the kindest souls I have ever met. I feel so lucky to have them as my mentor.

The reason why I chose Media Science and Journalism is that I want to be the voice of people who are often mistreated and misunderstood. I want to expose evil, uplift the virtuous and uncover the bare truth behind every story. My teachers and mentors always encourage me to do so, they have taught me to be courageous and have motivated me to work towards my dreams. One of the best things about this university is that it always takes care of

students. I loved the fact that during the Orientation Program of the freshers there was a session solely dedicated towards "Gender Sensitization" and "Awareness against Bullying". Brainware University is a place filled with wonderful people, and am so thankful that I got a chance to meet them in form of my mentors, friends and teachers.
Aiyushe Maity

We have heard that college is about newness. Although in the



MSc second year students of media science and journalism at Brainware University after the campus reopened

pandemic students didn't get to go to college, the newness of college life was not lacking in any way. From really great professors to talented classmates, to the syllabus that was easily understandable and explained. It has been updated and taught to meet industry requirements.

The free flow of communication among students and teachers where each student can contact and talk to the teachers without any restraint is something that is treasured by all of us. They're patient with students like me who have problems speaking in class or who don't speak or understand

a particular language. None of the professors makes any student feel out of place. Each and every classmate is so talented, some with natural stage presence while others are artistically blessed. Each of us is eager to learn more and receive first-hand experience and meet new people who would help us in the long run.
Payal Dhauria

Brainware University is my first institute after my school life. From the day I joined this university till now, one thing I liked the most about this university are my teachers. In one class, a variety of students study with different mindsets and temperament. To understand them and keep their nature in mind is something not everyone can do. But I've seen our university teachers... how patiently they handle each one of us, our problems and they always try to help us to guide us. I prefer this university because of our teachers.
Naincy Roy

I joined Brainware University about five months ago. Here I not only understood my subjects very well but also enjoyed



BSc second year students of media science and journalism at Brainware University in February 2022

স্ন্যুপেস আন্ড জার্নালিজম বিভাগের থার্ড সেমিস্টারের ছাত্রী। ২০০৭ সালে গ্রাজুয়েশন শেষ করার পর বলা যায় একরকম বসেই ছিলাম। বুঝতে পারছিলাম না এরপর কিভাবে এগোন উচিত। আর সেইসময় বাড়ি থেকে আমার বিয়ে ঠিক করা হয়। বর্তমানে আমি একটা ৫ বছরের পুত্র সন্তানের মা। কিন্তু এইভাবে অনেকগুলো বছর কাটায় দেওয়ার পর সংসার জীবন এবং মায়ের দায়িত্ব পালন করার পাশাপাশি মন বলাচ্ছি, আমার নিজের জন্য নিজের কিছু করা উচিত। আর শিক্ষার থেকে বড় পথ আর কিই বা হতে পারে! তখনই ব্রেনওয়ার

রায়ের সহায়তায়। সেই শুরু। তখন পরিস্থিতি এবং জীবন আমাকে বুঝিয়ে দিল, সন্তানের মা হয়ে গিয়ে আমি পিছিয়ে পড়িনি বরং ব্রেনওয়ার এবং ব্রেনওয়ারের টিচাররা হাত ধরে আমাকে নতুন প্রজন্মের দৌড়েই সামিল করেছে। তার ঠিক ৩ মাস পর আবারও একটা চাকরি। তাও আবার এক নামকরা নিউজ চ্যানেলে। সেই রাস্তাটা করে মিলেন বর্তমান প্রফেসর অর্থাৎ বসু, একটা সময়ে রেডিও জগতের বিখ্যাত নাম, 'আর জে অরো'। এরপর একটার পর একটা চাকরির সুযোগ আসতেই থাকে।

সত্যি বলতে কি, ভীষণ অবাক হই। যা শুনেছিলাম, তার একবর্ণও মিথ্যা নয়। এভাবেও সুযোগ পাওয়া যায়। আমার ডিগ্রি শেষ হতে এখনও ৬টা মাস বাকি। এরমধ্যেই আমি প্রতিভিত। আর আমার প্রতিভা পেতে সবরকম সহায়তা করেছেন আমার প্রফেসররা। আমি তাঁদের কাছে চিরকৃতজ্ঞ। সাংবাদিক হওয়ার স্বপ্নটা ছোটবেলা থেকেই ছিল। কিন্তু সে স্বপ্ন সত্যিই যে পূরণ হবে, তা জানিনি।

তবে শুধু তাই নয়, এখানে পড়াশোনাটাও কিন্তু খুব গুরুত্ব নিয়েই করলো হয়। সেই জায়গাটা তৈরি করে দেওয়া হয়, যাতে একজন স্টুডেন্ট নিজের পক্ষে দাঁড়ানোর যোগ্যতা অর্জন করতে পারে। এখানে প্রফেসরদের ভূমিকার কথাটা না বললে বোধ হয় লেখাটাই অপ্রাসঙ্গিক হয়ে যায়। প্রত্যেকটি প্রফেসর অত্যন্ত দায়িত্বশীল। যথেষ্ট পরিশ্রম করেন তাঁরা স্টুডেন্টদের সেই জায়গায় পৌঁছে দেওয়ার জন্য। সেইসঙ্গে পর্যাণ্ড ইন্সট্রাক্টর।

পাশাপাশি ইউনিভার্সিটির মনোরম পরিবেশ উত্তম মনোমুগ্ধকর। পড়াশোনার একটা আদর্শ পরিবেশ। এককথায় জমজমাট একটা ব্যাপার। স্বীকার করতে দ্বিধা নেই, অর্থাৎ স্যার, ইন্ড্রনীল স্যার- এনারা দুজনে সত্যিই স্টুডেন্টদের জীবনে আশীর্বাদ। বাকি যারা স্নানামধ্য প্রফেসররা এখানে আছেন, তাঁরাও নিজ গুণে স্টুডেন্টদের সঙ্গে একটা অটুট বন্ধন তৈরি করে নিয়েছেন। আর তাঁদের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য একটা নাম প্রফেসর সুদীপা ভট্টাচার্য, টেলিগ্রাফ নিউজপেপারের প্রাক্তন রেসিডেন্ট এডিটর।

পাশাপাশি ডিপার্টমেন্টের হেড ডঃ শতাব্দী সোম, সমানভাবে উল্লেখযোগ্য। সন্তানমেহে, বন্ধুবৎসল হয়ে এখানকার প্রফেসররা

স্টুডেন্টদের কাছে টেনে নেন। আর হাতে কলমে যেভাবে টিচাররা শিক্ষা দেন, তাতে নিজের পরিচিতি তৈরি করাটা খুব একটা কঠিন কিছু নয়। শুরু হয়েছে অফলাইন ক্লাস। অনলাইন ক্লাসে টিচাররা আমাদের জীবনভাষে এগিয়ে যেতে সহায়তা করেছেন। অফলাইন ক্লাসে তাঁরা আরও বেশি দায়িত্ব নিয়ে পড়ানো শুরু করেছেন কারণ অনলাইন আর অফলাইন পড়াশোনার মধ্যে পার্থক্য অনেকটা। তাই তাঁরা ঠিক সেভাবেই যত্নবান স্টুডেন্টদের ভবিষ্যৎ গড়তে। আর সবটা মিলিয়ে আমার উপলব্ধি, 'স্বপ্নপূরণের চাবিকাঠি- ব্রেনওয়ার ইউনিভার্সিটি'।
সুসী ঘোষাল

I completed my 10+2 in the science stream. Science, mathematics, and technology are my favourite subjects. But I did not want to follow the mainstream path followed by everyone, which is medical or engineering. Because I needed time to understand myself, I dropped a year and figured out what I wanted to do. Media science covered everything that I loved. However, all colleges in Kolkata offer journalism or mass communication except two. Brainware was one of those who provided the media science option.

Brainware was chosen for two reasons: its fees and its ecosystem. Compared to other colleges, Brainware's fees were reasonable. By ecosystem, I mean that Brainware has different branches that help me to brainstorm with my interest areas. We're finally going to offline classes after a year and a half, and it's a totally different experience. The online classes were good, but the offline classes are very good, the environment of the college and interacting with teachers face-to-face helps us hone our interest in the course. Being on campus is another great aspect. Brainware University is doing a great job.
Rahul Mondal

Passing of a nightingale; the end of an era



LATA MANGESHKAR. Sketch by Shampa Dey

Subham Chatterjee

"Naam gum jayega, chehera ye badal jayega, meri awaj hi pehchan hai...." It's undeniably true that Lata Mangeshkar's voice has left an imprint that can never be erased and generation after generation shall continue to cherish it. Where do I start to write from for a musically stalwart person who was herself an institution? The morning of February 6, 2022 marked the demise of someone who can be described as an incarnation of goddess Saraswati. Starting her foray into singing at the early age of five and the premature death of her father, Vinayak Mangeshkar, took her to Mumbai and paved the way for into the way of Marathi film industry and subsequently to Ustad Aman Ali Khan for her musical training. Her first break came with Ghulam Haider's composition Dil mera toda, mujhe kahin ka na chhora in the movie Ma-

jboor (1948). Once rejected by Shasadhar Mukherjee, the great grand-father of Kajol and Rani Mukherjee, for her "too thin" voice for the movie Shaheed (1948), she proved him wrong with her song Aayega aneewala in the movie Mahal (1949) which became phenomenal.

Since then, she did not look back and worked with almost all the contemporary music directors of her time, like S.D. Burman, Sardar Malik, Anil Biswas, Madan Mohan, Shankar-Jaikishan, Kalyanji-Anandji and Laxmikant-Pyarelal to Illiyaraja and A.R. Rahman with her usual charm of leaving none of them disappointed. Spanning her career for over seven decades (73 years) and singing over 30,000 songs in 20 different languages, she features in Guinness World Records for having the highest number of recordings. One of India's most adored voices, Lata Mangeshkar was the recipient of three National Film Awards, seven Filmfare Awards, and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1989.

She was given the Bharat Ratna in 2001, turning into the second artiste after M.S. Subbulakshmi to be so respected, while France honoured her with the Legion of Honor. She exercised her waiver to receive Filmfare Awards only for the incoming new vocal faces of the industry to be recognized. This shows how inspirational she was to every singer. Her contribution to the music industry can never be bowdlerized and she will live on in our hearts forever. Her contemporary, Gitashree Sandhya Mukhopadhyay, a classical and semi-classical singer, who was the recipient of Banga Bhushan Sanman and worked with Naushad, Madan-Mohan to Anil Biswas and had several hits in Bengali and Hindi songs also breathed her last on February 15, 2022.



Saraswati Puja at Brainware University in February 2022. Picture by Gautam Chanda

February 21: A day to uphold the mother tongue advantage



Sourav Chakraborty and Subham Chatterjee

"What is a nation without a mother tongue?" – Jack Edwards.

Languages are the most cogent means to perpetuate and develop culture around the world. The sense of belonging that is attached to one's language cannot

be expressed in few words. It is unanimously agreed that the survival of the human mankind will be in crisis without the mother tongue.

February 21 is a glorious day for people all over the world as this day is celebrated as the International Mother Language Day to beat the drum for cognizance of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote

multilingualism. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh which was approved at the 1999 Unesco General Conference. Since then, every year 21st February is observed to commemorate the martyrs of the language movement in then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) as the India-Pakistan Partition had led Urdu language in East Pakistan (comprising West Pakistan and East Pakistan) to impose Urdu language in East Pakistan despite the majority of population there being Bengali.

The urge and the struggle to establish Bengali language as the official language in East Pakistan took such a shape that it is now globally celebrated by all the countries to immerse in the mantra of mutual coexistence. In Assam, the move by the Bimala Prasad Chaliha government to make Assamese the official language via passage of the Act in 1960 citing the provisions of Article 345 of the Constitution, gave rise to tensions and ethnic riots.

May 19, 1961 is a

black day in the history of Silchar in Assam's Barak Valley as the police fired on those who were leading the footslog opposing the demand for only Assamese as the sole official language of the state where 11 people sacrificed their lives. This adds up to the cause of celebration of February 21 in an ostentatious manner at Silchar, apart from celebrating May 19 as Shaheed Diwas.

The observance of International Mother Language Day adds a feather to the crown of the struggle for the survival of human civilization and healthy culture. The concomitant of psychedelia, globalization and the itch for the people to be the denizen of the world has gnarled the mother tongue, which it is our duty to protect and preserve. English is no doubt the lingua franca, but at the end of the day we live and die with our mother tongue.

(Sourav Chakraborty is a student of Networking and Cyber Security department and Subham Chatterjee belongs to the Media Science and Journalism department)

Have you got your tongue twisted?

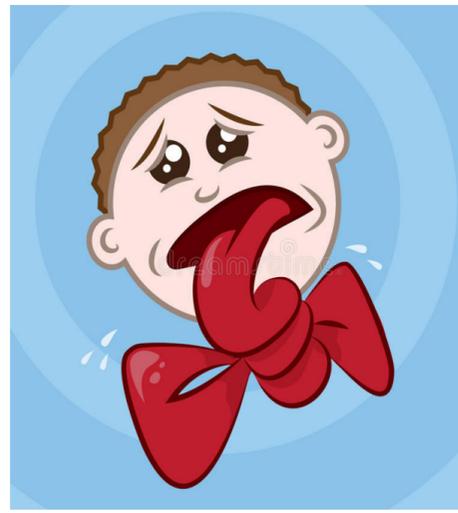
Payal Dhauria

Tongue twisters are a part of almost every language around the world. We have known about tongue twisters since we were kids and even as we grow up, we can't stop ourselves from trying out a new tongue twister at least once. They're fun to do and we all like to think that we could become the unique ones who will be able to say it correctly. But unfortunately, that rarely happens.

But what do some of the tongue twisters even mean? Like "How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?" They are more difficult to understand than to say, which means that our brains struggle with the twisters even before our tongues.

Repeated similar-sounding pronunciations of tongue twisters make it harder for our brain to articulate the repeated rhyming words properly and we mess up because our brain starts to make assumptions about what the next word would be, thus making it harder to speak correctly even for a native speaker.

For example, the sound of //Ka// and //Pa// are similar and easier for my brain to get confused



when pronounced back to back. Which is why, "Kaccha papad, pakka papad" is such a popular tongue twister in Hindi. If that's too easy then try, "Chaar kachari kacchlein chaacha, chaar kachari pakkein pakki kachari kacche chaacha, kacchi kachari pakkein."

Similarly, the sound of //Ch// and //Th// are similar, hence saying, "Ooth ucha, ooth ki peeth uchi, uche ooth ki puch uchi" is difficult. We normally exchange diffi-

cult speech sounds with commonly used ones. For instance, in India it is very common to hear the use of //J// in place of //Zh//.

Why are tongue twisters harder for some people? Everyone has a different speech technique and it can be affected by genes, mother tongue etc. When your tongue is not used to saying certain things, it can easily get twisted.

We can see the exam-

ple of that when a Western person tries to pronounce Indian names or Indians try to say East Asian names, confirming the role of accents in this phenomenon. The Indian English accent is one of the most easily decipherable accents, with very "neutral" pronunciation of English words but, since most Indians learn English as their second language, it makes it harder for us to try English tongue twisters, such as "I slit the sheet, the sheet I slit, and on the slitted sheet I sit."

According to researchers, people who speak multiple languages have more trouble with tongue twisters than monolingual people and in India, the majority of people are either bilingual or trilingual and we often have trouble even remembering common words in the languages we know. Take a look at this: "Pad kid poured curd pulled cod". In 2013, a research team of Massachusetts Institute of Technology said this to be the world's most difficult tongue twister.

Despite all the fun and games, tongue twisters are often used as tools to sharpen pronunciation skills. It helps with fluency, accuracy and affects the ability to have a more natural speech.

Language of education

Nainey Roy

"Education is a key to success." We have heard this phrase many times but what defines education? What is its limit? Where does it end? That's a matter of discussion.

I would say there's no particular description of education. I would say education is not limited to academics only and I would say there's no end to getting an education. Education means to get knowledge and knowledge is not limited to books and classrooms only. Education is not only about science but about an art too, and art cannot be defined by a particular thing. Education in the largest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual.

We all know that the purpose of education is to develop the knowledge, skills or character of students. But why do we judge students by their appearance? Students do not only mean young people and the youth. Education isn't represented by any community or generation, it is for everyone and every single person has the right to be educated. People think education means to be literate but literacy is just a step in the process of getting an education. Education is a process of learning skills, techniques and new ideas but people have limited this term "education" so much that they think education only stands for academics, marks, certificates and degrees. Education is not only about theoretical skills but also practical and technical skills. Practical doesn't only consist of laboratories or physical education but also dancing, singing, sketching, editing, sports and the like. All these come under the umbrella of education. Finally, I would say that education is like an adventure, the more you explore the more you'll get to discover new things. No need to force yourself. Just take a deep breath, let your mind rest and start again, you'll eventually find what you want. Education can't educate your mindset if you do not accept changes and if you can't respect every individual and their decisions.



Brainware University's chancellor Phalguni Mookhopadhyay at the second bhiti puja on the campus this month

Saraswati Puja at Juboghosthi

Anisha Sarkar

On the occasion of Basant Panchami, our local Juboghosthi Club at Nebadhai Bazaar, Duttapukur, organised their 8th Saraswati Puja. We have been celebrating Saraswati Puja on this day since 2014.

Around 8.30am, all the children, wearing beautiful sarees and kurtas, gathered before the temple porch. The preparation of the Puja started. The place was beautifully



decorated with flowers and different types of decorative items. A variety of fruits, vegetables and sweets were kept as offerings before the goddess.

At 11.30am, the Puja began. It was

a celebration of joy, knowledge and education. The sacred food was distributed among the local people after the puja ended. That's how the whole day went by. Again at the

evening the children accumulated to cook some food together. A small field near the temple porch was selected as their cooking spot.

Every child helped in the process of making chhole mattar. It all felt like a small picnic. Then came the distribution of the food to every single house of the locality. After that, we enjoyed the food together. That's how another celebration passed by with joy and happiness.

'Love is love; it took me 70 years to understand'

Aiyushe Maity

Swadhin Bhowmik (name changed), popularly referred to as 'Toffee Dadu' by children in our locality and 'Cholonto Library' by the adults, is an 82-year-old former maths professor, who was also a gifted athlete. He is undoubtedly a well-known and respectable figure. As a child, I spent pretty much everyday with him and everyday I learnt something new from him. He is a powerhouse of knowledge with loads of experience. As I grew up, my visits to his house became less frequent but somehow, I managed to spend my Sundays with him.

He taught me how to play chess, how to play a mouth organ, debating and teaching me how to cook several dishes. His chess skills were impeccable and he taught me several different ways to win a debate. Even though sometimes he used to compliment my debating skills, I could never win a chess match against him and there is no denying the fact that even if I tried for the next millions of years, it was impossible to beat him at his game. I really believed the only way to defeat him was to beat him in a debate, and the only way to do so was to choose a topic that would either make him uncomfortable or something he has no idea about.

I thought I was being clever when I chose "LGBTQIA+ rights" and asked him to speak for it. To my great astonishment he didn't only know the full form of the term but also knew about the history and struggles of the people who fought for the rights.

You can already sense that I was caught off-guard. So, just for the sake of winning the debate I made a point by saying "I don't think people should treat others differently and that includes providing extra rights and privileges just because they are considered to be different. In doing so rather than normalizing different sexualities and genders people tend to make them feel isolated and excluded", to make him feel a little uncomfortable I added, "Moreover being a member of LGBTQIA+ community myself, I feel like this special treatment is unnecessary".

The events that followed bamboozled me. "I am pansexual, it took me 70 years to realize that love is love. Back then if we had the awareness and presence of LGBTQIA+ rights maybe my life would have been completely different. We don't need to exercise women's rights

and LGBTQIA+ rights the day when discrimination ceases to exist but right now we need to protect the people who were mistreated for years", said Bhowmik Dadu with a stern face.

I was at loss of words; I couldn't help but break into applause. I had no regrets that I lost at my own game but rather I was curious to know more so asked him if he would mind answering a few questions and whether he would be comfortable if I shared his story with others. Being the absolute sport he is, he immediately agreed on the terms that I don't release his first name, his picture or release this information to anyone in our locality including my mother. His secrecy is valid since he has been married for 55 years and has two daughters and a son, release of this new information might affect his domestic life.

Without any hesitation I agreed and our interview began. He chose his pseudonym himself and I couldn't ignore the irony he intended since his made-up name "Swadhin" means freedom and he was never really "free" to choose his own path, the society decided what was best for him and he had to play by the rules to protect himself and his family. Bhowmik Dadu confessed that he knew he was pansexual ever since he was just 12 years old. "People have this perception that kids don't understand what love is, but they are wrong. They might not know the rules society has created for 'love', but they can feel it.

They have no idea that their parents won't like if they fall in love with someone who's not from their caste, their friends might judge if they fall in love with a person of the same sex or that people might mock them if they ever fall in love with a person who has darker skin tone or a person who doesn't fit into the 'beauty standards' of the society. "For kids, love is holding hands, playing together, chatting and sharing a piece of their favourite chocolate," exclaimed Bhowmik Dadu while serving me some of my favorite hot chocolate.

He said that he had a huge crush on a girl named Sarbani, she was a part of his school's Drama Club. He enrolled himself for the club and used to stay back after school just to spend some extra time with her. His best pal also had a crush on the same girl but despite their interest in the same girl, they never had any differences. After school, they used to ride back

home on their bicycles but one day Bhowmik Dadu's mother took away his cycle after he was caught stealing mangoes from a neighbour's house. "From then on, me and Shankar used to ride back home on his cycle.

I used to catch myself sniffing his hair from the back, I was so ashamed to even think that I was attracted to him" the chess master recounted. He said that he had no idea that other sexualities existed, the society had brainwashed him to believe that men are attracted to women but if men are attracted to men then they are transgenders. He looked quite embarrassed when he confessed that he had no idea that genders and sexualities were two different things. Whenever he used to feel attracted to Shankar, he used to go to the field to play sports or work out. "I used to do athletic activities because that made me feel strong. Being attracted to a man made me feel 'less of a man', that was a coping mechanism for me. I was so madly in love with Shankar that I worked out so much, enough to be a part of the state table tennis team", Bhowmik Dadu laughed. He used to admire Shankar from afar, enjoy his company, laugh with him and on being alone he used to write poems for him. They were friends until he turned 19 and moved out of his village to settle in Kolkata to pursue further studies. He never wrote any letter to him and nor did he visit him because he felt the need to detach in order to move on. "I thought everything would go back to normal, first few months were difficult but slowly Shankar became a long-lost memory. I finally thought I was 'normal' again but it was the calmness you feel before a hurricane hits", he said.

During his college years, he met Soumi. She was from a different college and they met at a debate competition. Bhowmik Dadu fell immediately in love with the beautiful and witty girl. She had long black hair, deep brown eyes and her signature look was a wrist watch on her right hand. After a lot of struggles, Swadhin Bhowmik could finally go out with her. They used to spend time together reading and analyzing books, watching movies and loved visiting museums. Yet Soumi never allowed him to visit her college and she never disclosed her address. After seeing each other for six months, Soumi suddenly disappeared. "It was as if she vanished into thin air, we usu-

ally used to meet at a park from where we used to go to different places every Friday.

She didn't show up the first Friday, then the next and like that almost a month went by. I didn't know her address but one day I decided to visit her college. The day before I was supposed to visit her college, I received a letter from London. The contents of the letter was a shock to me. Soumi had moved to London to study and she carried with her a secret. Soumi was a transgender, she never told me so because she was afraid I would leave her. Her entire college was aware of it and her family didn't accept her", Bhowmik Dadu said, showing me a picture of him and Soumi on a picnic outing with their friends. Soumi apologized and mentioned that he could write back at her on that address but he never did. It was then when he realized that he didn't really care about Soumi's gender but he was hurt that she left him suddenly and kept it a secret. Out of frustration and sadness he decided to marry the girl his mother chose for him. "I love my wife and we have created so many amazing memories but I think I would have led a different life if I ended up with Soumi or gave my poems to Shankar", Bhowmik Dadu said.

In 2013 when he read a blog about LGBTQIA+ community, he learnt the term 'pansexual'. According to him, he was confused between sexuality and gender, he wishes that society hadn't blinded him and even though he chooses to be in the closet for the sake of his family, he would never ever shun this side of him. "I loved everyone despite their gender, caste or race. I looked at a person's soul," said the 82-year-old liberal scholar.

Bhowmik Dadu made me realize that even though the world glamorizes love, it also sets boundaries and rules. There's nothing wrong with loving someone, people who criminalize or judge love are the ones who are in the wrong. Love whoever you want to love, it doesn't matter if society gives you a few dirty looks, don't think of the consequences, don't be scared that you might fall out of love because if you do so, it means that at least you were in love. Love comes in different colours are we should love a person with every shade of colour in our heart.

Love is about two souls, two beating hearts and two hands intertwined!

Confidence is the key

Shampa Dey

That day was the first day of my sixth standard. I was 12 years old. I saw her for the first time on the first day in my school. She got out of the red car, had a school bag, wore a clean school uniform and also a rabbit cap on her head. That rabbit cap made her look different from other students. That time we did not understand the real meaning of love or what is love. You can say it was juvenile love. I just fell in love with her.

From the next day onwards, I started going to school early morning, sometimes arriving first. Later I found that her father was the principal in the same school. I was from the middle-class family, there was a struggle

even when I asked for Rs 100. Every day I rode a broken bicycle to school and she used to get down from a big car.

One day I went and told her to be my friend. She hit on my ear and said, "Have you



seen your face?" I said that my face was fine. I thought perhaps she was telling me on the

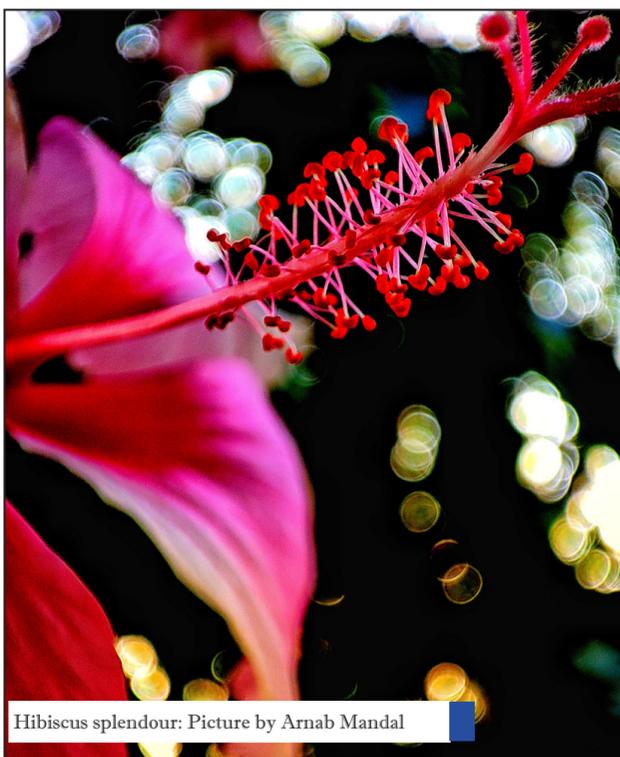
pretext of my appearance, that I have a broken bicycle and was beneath her status. She said no to me.

In seventh standard again I proposed to her. She refused me once again. Every year, in class VIII, IX, X, XI and XII I proposed to the same girl and as usual she turned me down. First year, second X study in different colleges. But I used to visit her in every sixth month. Her stream was different and she was continued to refuse me for 10 years.

But I didn't give up, and finally, in 2018, she said yes to marriage and we have a cute son now. So, from day one I understood that if you want something, just keep following it with confidence. If you stay loyal to your goal, no power in the world can stop you from



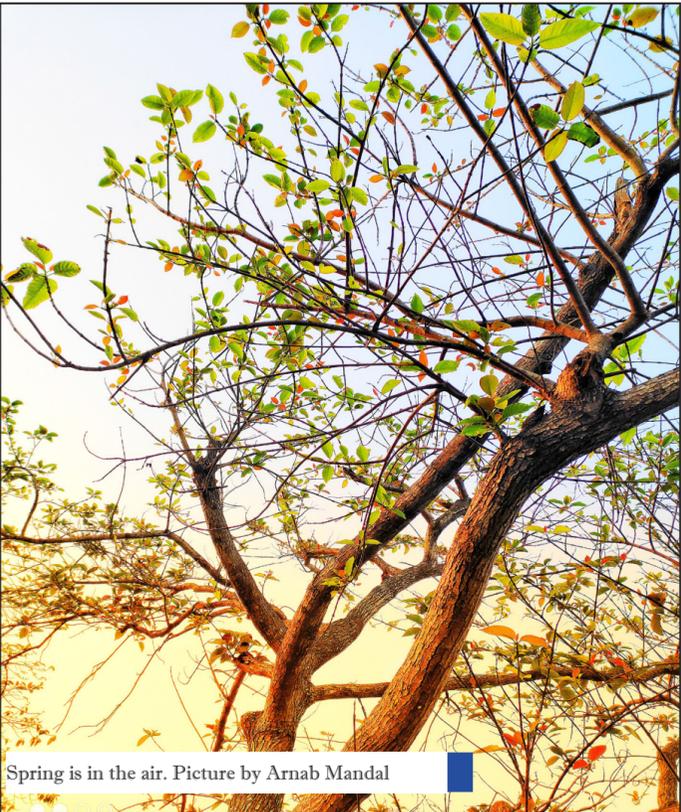
Chameleon hues. Picture by Diya Mistry



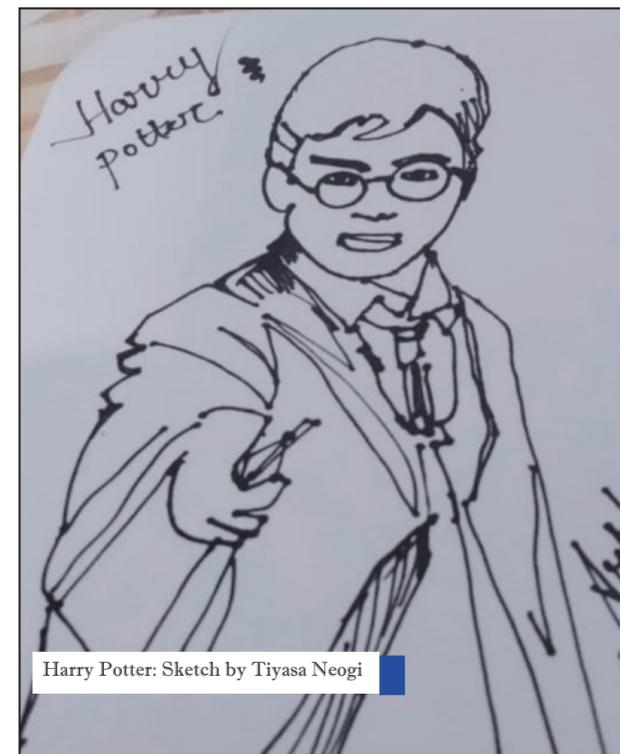
Hibiscus splendour: Picture by Arnab Mandal



Lata Mangeshkar: Sketch by Chitra Kumbhakar



Spring is in the air. Picture by Arnab Mandal



Harry Potter: Sketch by Tiyasa Neogi



Sunbeam shades. Picture by Farah Sultana

Short story: Ladies' compartment

The train to Titagarh

Aiyushe Maity

In the previous episodes – Orthodox Suman encounters his former lover Priyanka in a train compartment. Years ago, they fell in love on Facebook when Priyanka sent Suman a friend request. As all stories end, the first chapter of their love story ended quite abruptly but even after so many years Suman still seems to be in love with her. On the other hand, Priyanka seems to have moved on and is now on the train with a child who could possibly be her son. How will the second chapter of their story end? In a different compartment, an ambitious corporate woman named Anamika silently admires the life of happily married Savita who runs a tea stall with her husband. Savita also seems to adorn the fast-paced corporate life Anamika is leading. Are they seeing the truth or are they unaware of the huge window blinding them? Different compartments all filled with different stories and emotions. How will it all end when the train suddenly stops?

Wouldn't it be amazing if you could hear what other people were thinking? Imagine if you had the power to read minds! You could probably hear the thoughts of someone judging you for your loud laughter or you could hear the thoughts of someone admiring the way your cheeks flush when you smile, either way you would have a huge advantage. Now, what if I told you that you can hear people's thoughts for a little while? I am going to grant you that power, you are soon about to hear the intimate thoughts of the colourful souls travelling in the ladies

compartment on the train to Titagarh. Go grab a seat near the window, stay quiet and listen carefully. Ssssssh Prapti (a 19-year-old college student who stays up all night and then chugs 5 cups of coffee to start the day) – “Goodness, why is that old woman staring at me like that? It's probably because am wearing a skirt. If women objectify women like that, then I guess we shouldn't really blame men. Is she still looking? Oh god she still is, it's so uncomfortable. Is she going to say something about my dress? Bloody Boomers! Mrs D'souza (a 65-year-old woman who was mistreated by her sons) - I love this girl's skirt, it would have looked so much better if she paired it with a cute knitted sweater instead of that yellow top but nevertheless, she looks amazing. I wish I had a daughter like her, would she have treated me the same way my sons did? If I had a daughter, would she have kicked me out of my own house? Wait am I freaking that girl out? She looks uncomfortable. I should look the other way. I wish I had a daughter... like her.... I would have stitched her clothes and probably in return she would have loved me... I wish I had a daughter, just like her. Zeenat (a 22-year-old girl from a conservative Muslim family (who in real life is 'not so conservative') - This burkha is so uncomfortable and why do I always feel people look at me differently whenever I wear it? Like chill man, I am not hiding a bomb underneath it. Wait a minute, is that a hickey on that woman's neck? Damn she's bold, love the way she flaunts that. Abba would probably burn

the whole house down if he even learns that I have a boyfriend, and a hickey??? Tauba! Tauba! He would probably declare war on the state lol. Zeenat, you need to stop using humour to cover up your traumas, you need to work hard so that you can get out of that hell hole and live life on your own terms! I wish I was that lady, fearlessly flaunting the “mark of love” left on my skin by someone special. But why is she covering half her face like that? Anoushka (apart from being the mother of three kids and a former school teacher, 25-year-old Anoushka is also a transgender female who recently transitioned. She was mistreated by people around her, even her parents disowned her after she came out) - I don't know why I can't breathe freely anymore, would they kick me out just like they did the previous day? “This is a ladies compartment, what are you doing here? You are a man”. I was “too girly” for the guys at school and now when am actually a girl, I am “too masculine” to travel in a ladies compartment, funny how the world works!

Even though they say nothing, I can see the way they all stare at me when I get up on a ladies compartment as if I am some sort of a freak. Even though I am a woman at heart, why can't I blend in? Why can't I feel comfortable when am surrounded by women? Why does my heart start racing out of fear and paranoia whenever I enter a ladies compartment? As if

again, someone would pick me out and throw me out. Quite a gift, isn't it? Being able to read through people's thought? We have all done it, haven't we, framing a thought of opinion in our mind about a stranger? Trying to write their life story for them? But often do we really know about their life? That jolly girl happily chatting on the phone might be a victim of child abuse, that man wearing an expensive watch might not be a successful man but a thief and the woman you saw crying while looking at her phone might not have received a break up text as you anticipated but maybe the tears are out of joy because she just got the approval letter of a job she wanted for years in her e-mail. The point is, we are all writers and painters and we explore the broadness of creativity and sometimes we use a stranger's life as a canvas or a notebook but how often do we sit down and talk to them. What do you think? Will these women, each very different from the other finally bond? Will Prapti ever know that Mrs D'souza wasn't judging her but admiring her from afar? Do you think Zeenat would ever know that the “bold” and “fearless” Anoushka's “marks of love” are actually marks left by something far from what she thinks is love? Will Shivani and Karishma talk about their different feelings surrounding women or will they stand afar from each other on a train with their own train of thoughts? Don't leave the compartment, stay silent, listen carefully and wait till the train stops and the different worlds collide. Ssssssh now!

প্রথম বেলায় প্রেম

শিউলি মন্ডল
তুমি আমার প্রথম বেলায় প্রেম,
কিংবা হয়তো নিছক একটা ভুল।
অনেকে বলে দোষটা মনের;
আমি দায়ী করি বয়সকে,
সে বয়সে শরৎচন্দ্রের আগমন,
সাথে প্রেমিক রবি।
সে বয়সে ‘দেবদাস’ পড়ে কেঁদে ফেলা,
লুকিয়ে পড়া ‘চরিত্রহীন’।
‘চার অধ্যায়’ পেরিয়ে তখন
‘চিত্রা’ হয়ে আমিও খুঁজছি ‘অর্জুন’-কে।
উড়ে-বুড়ে কিছু প্রস্তাব তখন
উড়িয়ে দিচ্ছি ঝড়ের গতিতে।
ঠিক এমন সর্বশেষে বয়সে
হাতে এসে পড়লে তুমি;
খুঁড়ি-তোমার পাঠানো প্রেমপত্র।
আবেগ আর উষ্ণতার
চরম রাসায়নিক কেই ঠাওরালাম
‘শেখর দা’ বলে।
তুমি আমার প্রথম দেখানো স্পর্ধা,
প্রথম সত্য স্বপ্ন,
একরাশ প্রিয় স্মৃতি
যেন ছাতিম ফুলের গন্ধ,
তুমি আমার প্রথম বেলায় প্রেম।
ভালোবাসা?
সে তো ভীষণ ভারী শব্দ!
তখন কি ছাই বুঝতাম তার মানে?
তখন শুধু ভালোলাগার কিছু মুহূর্ত,
বুকের মধ্যে শিমুল-পলাশ রঙ,
কিংবা হয়তো আলতো একটু ছোঁয়া,
হঠাৎ-হঠাৎ স্কুল পালাবার ঝোক।
নতুন শেখা অভিমানে পাল্লা,
একটু রাগেই নোনা জলের ডেউ,
সম্পর্কে অটুট অস্থান-আসা,
দূরত্বকে ও ভয় পাইনি কেউ।
তারপর জীবনে এল পরিণত হৃদ,
বয়সের সাথে সাথে
প্রথম প্রেম ও মিলিয়ে গেল
সময়ের মুখগন্ধের,
মিলিয়ে গেলো তুমি।
আর যে প্রেম করিনি,
তা তো নয়; কেহেই বহুবীর,
কিন্তু সেগুলো তো, ‘শুধু যাওয়া-আসা,
শুধু দ্রোহে ভাসা’।
তোমার মুখটা মনে পড়ে না বিশেষ,
দেখলেই চিনব, সে দাবী ও করছি না।
তবু রাস্তা-ঘাটে নামটা শুনলে,
ধমকে দাঁড়াই কিছুক্ষণ,
সেই ফণটা ফণিকের চেয়েও কম,
তবুও গভীর প্রিয় নাম,
প্রথম চিঠির প্রেরক,
প্রথম বেলায় প্রেম।
সেই উড়ে চিঠি কিন্তু
উড়িয়ে দিইনি মোটেই,
গভী তেলো আছে বইয়ের তাকে;
ওর আবেগেই চাপা পড়ে আজ,
‘বাইরন’ আর ‘কীটস্’-র দীর্ঘশ্বাস।



শীপ দত্ত	নাকি তুমি আমার?
প্রেম তুমি কার?	চেনা শহর, অচেনা আমি
শত লাঞ্ছনা, কতো বিদ্রোহ,	থেকে যাওয়া পিছুটান, রয়ে যাওয়া তুমি
কত প্রতিশ্রুতির মাঝেও পরে থাকো,	তোমার কাজল রেখায় নিজেকে ফিরে পাওয়া
যাদের মনে আজও চিরস্থায়ী হয়ে,	কোনো এক বাউল গানে আমাদের দেখা
পুরাতন বাস্তবের মিহিলের অন্তহীন	হওয়া
উন্মাদ প্রেমিকেরা! নাকি আমার?	অবহেলিত কোনো এক বসন্তে,
	থেকে গেলো প্রেম, রয়ে গেলো তুমি।
আচ্ছা প্রেম?	
তুমি কী সত্যিই নিকেটিনের	আর আমি?
ধোঁয়ার দ্রোহে নিয়ন আলোর কলকাতা,	তখনও হিসেব কষে মেলাচ্ছি তাল
শহরে বাস্তব ট্রাফিকের লাল হলুদ রঙে	বেহিসাবী সুরে আর খুঁজছি তখন
নিজেদের হারিয়ে ফেলা,	নিতানতুন প্রেমের প্রতিশ্রুতি, আর?
ক্রান্তি মেশানো দিনের শেষে,	তোমায় পেয়েও বিদ্রোহ করি তোমায় পায়ে
নিজেকে আশ্বাস দেওয়া বাস্তব মানুষেরা!	বলে..

Beautifully crafted nostalgia: Hridayam



Payal Dhuria

Written and directed by Vineeth Sreenivasan, Hridayam is a Malayalam coming of age romance-drama. In the movie, the audience follows Arun Neelakandan in his journey from college life to being a working professional. While the premise of the story might sound boring and uneventful, the movie proves these assumptions wrong. We not only see but experience the lessons he learns throughout his journey that helps him become a better person.

The story is targeted towards the young adult and new adult audience and it's done beautifully to resonate with them. Whether you are just starting college or in your late twenties, this movie will feel nostalgic, from the things we have a hard time facing in this period of time to the things that had put a smile

on our faces. We see Arun learn things like how not every person we get involved with are meant to stay with us forever or how to move on and get better. We see him lose a sense of himself in the rush of trying to prove himself, which is faced by most people at some point in their lives.

The story of Arun tells us about the lessons and experiences people have to go through in order to ensure a secure future. Moving out of your culture and environment to fit in a completely different one can take a toll on us and this has been highlighted identically in the movie.

From the movie's ability to draw the emotions from the audience in the simplest scenarios possible to the intense moment softening their blow, there is the added bonus of gorgeous music provided by Hesham Abdul Wa-

hab. Hridayam has 15 songs in total, but as excessive as it looks, each song fits perfectly with every scene, not taking anything away from the scene and only enhancing the experience of the audience. The soundtrack of Hridayam is easy to fall in love with.

The character Arun is portrayed brilliantly by Pranav Mohanlal, from the various events of acknowledging and understanding himself as a person, his decisions to the poetic dialogues of interactions with the characters of Nithya Balagopal played by Kalyani Priyadarshan and Darshana played by Darshana Rajendra.

Everything moulds Arun's character to who he is at 30. Southern Indian movies are known for their brilliant story-telling and Hridayam is another proof of that. It is a trip down memory lane for millennials.

Hollywood Highlights

From Rihanna to Priyanka, Julia Fox to Dakota Johnson, Aiyushe Maity serves the gossip of the stars on a delectable platter

1. After years and years of speculation and rumours, fans are overjoyed to learn the news of Rihanna's pregnancy. Rihanna was seen flaunting her baby bump in a Pink Chanel Puffer coat alongside her baby's daddy ASAP Rocky.

2. Just after a few days Rihanna announced her pregnancy, Kylie Jenner posted a picture of her baby on Instagram with the caption – "2/2/22" the birth date of the baby and a blue heart which has led many to believe that it's a boy!

3. Another celebrity couple became new parents. Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra recently welcomed their baby via surrogacy. The celeb couple announced the news on Instagram, even though most comments were positive, a few trolls commented as well. Priyanka's celebrity friends stood up for her and spread the message of normalizing surrogacy.

4. More good news for Priyanka Chopra! She is about to star opposite Anthony Mackie, an actor well known for his presence in Marvel Cinematic Universe. Fans are extremely excited to see the unconventional duo on screen.

5. Julia Fox and Kanye West yet again create headlines for all the wrong reasons. Recently Julia and Kanye were spotted celebrating Julia's birthday where Kanye gifted all the guests Black Birkin Bags. Fans and media seemed to dislike Julia's bold makeup which they think was a strategic move by Kanye to hit the headlines.

6. Marvel fans cannot keep calm after learning that Dakota Johnson is about to star in a new marvel movie as "Madame Web". The initial information about her character, story and plot is yet to be revealed but fans have already started to get creative on social media apps.

7. The list of BAFTA 2022 nominees were released and it seems like Dune, a psychological thriller starring Zendaya and Timothee Chalamet, has created quite an impression because the movie has bagged 11 nominations. Other nominees include phenomenal stars like Leonardo Di Caprio and the sensational popstar Lady Gaga.

8. Michelle Morrone, the 365 days star, is all set to make a Bollywood debut with Karan Johar and is also about to star in one of India's lead music artist Tony Kakkar's videos. Fans are not happy about the star's presence in the music video since Kakkar is known for his meaningless and repetitive

Shreya Lenka: India's new K-pop idol



Tiyasa Neogy

A teenager from Odisha, who is making waves in the music world, is set to be a role model for a lot of people in future. She got a wonderful opportunity at the very young age of 18. Her name is Shreya Lenka. She belongs to a mid-

dle class family and is in high school. Shreya is a contender for a fifth member spot in the famous South Korean Black Swan girl group. This is a matter of great pride, not only for K-pop fans in India but worldwide. Among the famous K-pop girl bands in South Korea, Black Swan is very pop-

ular. They have five members but the fifth member left this group for personal reasons on November 10, 2020. And for this reason Dr Music entertainment company arranged a global audition to select a new fifth member.

Shreya, who has been training since childhood

in music, yoga and dance, cleared this audition, providing a very proud moment for Indians. She has joined the group as a trainee. She is just one step away from becoming the first K-pop star from this country.

Shreya has won a lot of trophies and medals. She found out about the Black

Swan audition from social media and decided to give it her best shot. Here's wishing Shreya a successful career in K-pop. May it mark the beginning of Indian talent in K-pop industry, although India's Priyanka Mazumdar is also a member of the South Korean pop group Z-Girls

Sports

Is this IPL auction the most unfair so far?

Rahul Mondal

In India, cricket is the most popular sport. Cricket attracts the most investments due to its popularity and large market base. For example, the Indian Premier League is India's most lucrative league. As a result, its auction budget has increased over the years.

Each emerging player wants to be part of the league. Consequently, the

league has become more of a business event than a sporting event. Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans are two new teams introduced by the board this year to increase the auction budget. However, this year's auction did not favour the players. Fans are not happy with the bids made by their teams. What are the reasons for this? What went wrong in this auction and why were the bids not in their

favour?

There are 590 players in the 2022 auction, of which 370 are Indian and 220 are from overseas. There are 10 franchisees bidding with the Rs 90 crore threshold. There are two faces to this total scene, one with the



Harsha Bhogle

Changing times. One of the greats of the IPL, Suresh Raina goes unsold.

highest winning bid and the other with unsold players.

Ishan Kishan, Deepak Chahar and Shreyas Iyer were sold at the highest winning bids, i.e. Rs 15 crore, Rs 14 crore, Rs 12 crore and Rs 25 crore respectively. Some players, however, were not sold. That might be the biggest concern for this season.

Although being called Mr. IPL, Suresh Raina remained unsold. The IPL is a 20-over league. According to the ICC T20 ranking, David Malan sits at number 5 and Aaron Finch at 7, but they remained unsold. Additionally, Steven Smith, Shakib Al Hasan, Adil Rasheed, Mujeeb Zadran, Imran Tahir, Adam Zampa, Amit Mishra, Rajat Patidar, Mohammed Azharuddeen, M. Sidharth, M. Labuschagne, Saurabh Tiwari, Eoin Morgan, Sheldon Cottrell, Ish Sodhi, Martin Guptill and others were not sold.

There are some big names and some smaller ones on this list. Because most of the players have the best record in international cricket, it is disappointing. It cannot be denied that IPL offers opportunities to young players as well as to domestic players.

In any case, the Indian Premier League is a competitive game, and everyone wants their statistics to remain high. Despite having a great perzAzharuddeen went unsold. The question was raised by the netizens that if the budget increased this year (two new teams were introduced) why is this happening? However, neither the boards nor the authorities have answered this query. Money and branding are important aspects of the league, but they must not be the dominant factor. There is also speculation as to whether internal politics played a role here.



2021 IPL AUCTION

UNSOLD PLAYER

SURESH RAINA	MISHU SOLANKI	BEN CUTTING	SAURABH KUMAR
STEVE SMITH	M. SIDHARTH	ROSTON CHASE	DHROV PATEL
SHAKIB AL HASAN	M LABUSCHANGE	PAWAN NEGI	ATTI SMETH
ADIL RASHEED	DAVID MALAN	DHAWAL KULKARNI	DAVID WIESE
MUJEEB ZADRAN	SAURABH TIWARY	KANE RICHARDSON	SUSHANT MISHRA
IMRAN TAHIR	EOIN MORGAN	LAURIE EVANS	BLESSING MUZARABANI
ADAM ZAMPA	AARON FINCH	KENNAR LEWIS	KAUSHAL TAMBE
AMIT MISHRA	SHELDON GOTRELL	BR SHARATH	NINAD RATHVA
RAJAT PATIDAR	ISH SODHI	HAYDEN KERR	AMIT ALI
MOHAMMED AZHARUDDEN	MARTIN GUPTILL	SHAMS MULANI	ASHUTOSH SHARMA