



NEWS DIGEST

FLOOD CRISIS

Severe flooding in southern West Bengal, caused by heavy rainfall and dam releases from the DVC, has displaced over 250,000 people, claimed three lives, and destroyed crops. The worst-affected areas include Ghatal and Udaynarayanpur, where the devastation has played significantly. It impacted local communities and agriculture as well.

DELHI TRANSITION

Arvind Kejriwal has resigned as Delhi's Chief Minister, with Delhi Education Minister Atishi succeeding him. In her new role, Atishi plans to prioritize education, healthcare, and also sustainable development.

INSPIRING MENTORS

The Department of Higher Education has selected 16 educators for the National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024, recognizing their contributions to education in higher institutions as well as in polytechnics.

HOCKEY TRIUMPH

India clinched its fifth Asian Champions Trophy hockey title by defeating hosts China 1-0, showcasing strong performance in their teamwork.

PARIS AGREEMENT

India is committed to its Paris Agreement targets, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2070, while also focusing on sustainable development practices.

Justice for Tilotoma protests demand accountability

Suhani Shaw, 3rd Year

The tragic rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital has sparked widespread protests, demanding justice and safety for women in the workplace. The victim, known for her dedication and dreams, was found with severe injuries in the hospital's seminar hall. Widespread outrage grew over the initial investigation, particularly the two-day delay in seizing key evidences, including the clothes of the prime accused, Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer linked to Kolkata Police. CCTV footage revealed Roy entering the seminar hall at 4:03 am on the day of the crime.

On August 13, the case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after the Calcutta High Court intervened amid



Photo source: Internet

accusations of a cover-up. The CBI is now probing possible collusion between Roy, hospital officials like former principal Dr. Sandip Ghosh, and local police, who allegedly mishandled evidence and rushed the cremation without a second autopsy as requested by the victim's family.

Public protests have erupted across Kolkata. On

Independence Day night, women's groups held a "Night Is Ours" midnight protest, reclaiming security in public spaces and highlighting workplace safety for women. Not only Kolkata, the protests reached from Kashmir to Kanyakumari from Kachchh to Kohima.

On 8th of September in 26 countries across

130 cities people from cross society protested simultaneously seeking justice for Tilotoma.

The Nabanna Abhijan Rally in Kolkata and Howrah followed, with demonstrators marching to the state secretariat, condemning the government's failure to ensure justice. Junior doctors, protesting for over 42 days near Swasthya Bhawan, continued to demand action until their protest ended on September 21, though their calls for safety and justice resonated throughout Kolkata's medical community.

Opposition parties have criticized the state government for mishandling the case, intensifying pressure on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. As the CBI investigation unfolds, reviewing phone records and CCTV footage, the public remains eager for justice and accountability.

Void after loss of Icons

Aritri Roychowdhury, 2nd Year

The recent demise of two stalwarts of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya and General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, leaves a profound void in the party's leadership. Both were committed Marxists, renowned for their intellectual depth and dedication to the people. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, not only a political leader but a cultural icon, enriched Bengal's literary scene with his translations and writings on China, promoting progressive values. His influence extended beyond politics, shaping the intellectual and



cultural fabric of Bengal. Sitaram Yechury, known for balancing ideological purity with political pragmatism, guided the CPI(M) through challenging times. His ability to engage opponents while upholding the party's values made him a unique leader. Under his leadership, the party sought relevance, with policies benefiting the middle class. At a time when communist movements are facing unprecedented electoral defeats, their deaths deepen the leadership crisis in the CPI(M). The party now confronts the daunting task of filling this vacuum while staying connected to its ideological roots and adapting to evolving political realities

Fake News, the new globe trotter

Prof. Debanjan Banerjee
Dean, Department of Media Science

In today's fast-paced digital world, the phrase "Comment is free, but facts are sacred," attributed to C.P. Scott, editor of the British newspaper The Guardian, resonates more than ever. Coupled with Garry Kasparov's assertion that "The point of modern propaganda isn't only to misinform or push an agenda; it is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth," these quotes highlight the pressing issue of fake news—a phenomenon that distorts our perception of reality.

Fake news, often referred to as junk news or pseudo-news, is intentional misinformation spread through various media platforms, including traditional outlets like print and broadcast, as well as social media. The rise of digital news has exacerbated the prevalence of fake news, sometimes leading to unethical practices like checkbook journalism, where reporters pay sources for stories. This not only undermines journalistic integrity but also erodes public trust in credible news sources. Defining fake news is crucial to understanding its implications. It encompasses fabricated stories presented as factual, leading to widespread misinformation. Michael Radutzky, producer for CBS's 60 Minutes, describes fake news as "stories that are probably false, have enormous traction in the culture, and are consumed by millions." This phenomenon extends beyond politics; it influences public perceptions in health, finance, and various sectors.

Understanding the types of fake news can further illuminate the issue. Claire Wardle of First Draft News identifies seven distinct categories: satire or parody (content created without the intention to harm but which can mislead), false connection (where headlines or visuals do not support the content), misleading content (information used to frame an issue or individual misleadingly), false context (genuine content shared with misleading contextual information), impostor content (genuine sources impersonated with false information), manipulated content

(genuine information altered to deceive), and fabricated content (entirely false information designed to mislead).

In response to the inadequacy of the term "fake news," Wardle advocates for "information pollution," categorizing misinformation into three types: misinformation (false information shared without harmful intent), disinformation (created and shared with harmful intent), and mal-information (genuine information shared with the intent to cause harm).

checking publication dates for relevance, determining if the content is satire, reviewing personal biases that may cloud judgment, and consulting experts for confirmation. Online detection of fake news is increasingly challenging, especially with the proliferation of misleading articles during significant events like elections. Articles often stem from satirical sites or those designed to misinform for clicks or political motives, and the inflammatory language commonly found in fake news can serve as a red flag.

Researchers employ linguistic techniques and visual cues to differentiate legitimate news from falsehoods, and platforms like Snopes, along with various universities, are actively working on automated models to detect fake news.

The internet's evolution since the 1990s has allowed fake news to flourish, creating an environment where discerning fact from fiction is increasingly difficult. A study revealed that 58% of people trust social media news stories less than traditional media after encountering fake news. This issue has become a global epidemic, affecting societies from the U.S. to Australia, India to Latin America, undermining the credibility of journalism and the very concept of informed public discourse. Although official agencies exist to combat fake news, they often operate ineffectively, succumbing to external pressures and failing to enforce regulations. If this trend continues, the media—often referred to as the "fourth pillar of democracy"—risks crumbling under the weight of misinformation.

In conclusion, as we navigate this complex landscape, it is vital to remember that "Prevention is better than cure" and that "Justice delayed is justice denied." The fight against fake news is not just about safeguarding facts; it is about preserving the very foundation of informed democracy and communal harmony. By remaining vigilant and proactive, we can work toward a society where truth prevails and public discourse thrives.



Identifying and combating fake news requires a critical eye and strategic approaches. Key strategies include considering the source of the information to understand the mission and purpose of the outlet, reading beyond the headline to grasp the full context, checking the credibility of the authors, assessing supporting sources to ensure claims are backed by reliable information,

The power of women in today's world

যা দেবী সর্বভূতেশু শক্তিরূপে সংস্থিতা....

Prof. Smt. Manoshi Roychowdhury
Co-Chairperson, Techno India Group

As we approach the festive season of Durga Puja, a time when we honour the Goddess Durga and her embodiment of strength, resilience, and protection, it is the perfect moment to reflect on the empowerment of women in today's world. Just as Maa Durga stands as a symbol of power, courage, and justice, women today are asserting their presence in every sphere, breaking barriers and redefining what it means to lead and inspire.

The concept of Tilottoma—a woman of unparalleled beauty and grace—goes far beyond physical attributes. True beauty lies in strength, confidence, and the ability to rise above challenges. Across the globe, we see women pushing boundaries, challenging stereotypes, and fighting for equality. Whether in education, business, science, or the arts, women are carving paths where there once were none, not only for themselves but for future generations.



But the journey towards empowerment is not without obstacles. In many places, women still face societal expectations and cultural norms that limit their potential. It is crucial for us, as a society, to support and nurture the talents, ambitions, and dreams of women, providing them with

equal opportunities to thrive. Empowerment is not just about individual success but about creating systems and communities where women feel safe, respected, and heard. At the heart of empowerment is education. It is the most powerful tool we have to unlock a woman's potential. An educated woman can change the trajectory of her family, her community, and even her nation. We must, therefore, continue to champion the cause of education for girls and women, ensuring that they have the resources and opportunities to pursue their dreams. As we celebrate Durga Puja and the spirit of Shakti, let us also celebrate the everyday power of women—our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends—who inspire, lead, and uplift. Empowered women create empowered societies and together, we can build a future where every woman has the freedom to shine.



Women empowerment, the need of the hour

Prof. Rupa Majumdar
Advisor - Intellectual Content, Techno India Group

Women empowerment is increasingly recognized as a critical societal objective, particularly against the backdrop of rising incidents of abuse and violence against women. The tragic murder and assault of a young doctor in Kolkata has ignited outrage and essential discussions about women's safety, workplace security, and societal attitudes toward women. This horrific incident serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for systemic changes to protect women's rights and well-being.

The victim symbolizes the aspirations many women hold as they strive for excellence in male-dominated fields. Her tragedy underscores the importance of advocating for gender equality and raising awareness about women's safety. To effectively address these pressing issues, several key strategies can be implemented.

First, increasing awareness about women's rights and the severe implications of gender-based violence is essential. Educational institutions and workplaces must implement programs that directly address these issues, promoting respect and equality.

Public campaigns engaging communities in discussions about gender stereotypes and the impacts of violence can foster a more informed society.

Advocating for stricter laws and penalties for perpetrators of gender-based violence is another critical strategy. Legal frameworks must be rigorous and enforceable, ensuring that victims feel supported and empowered to report incidents. When communities recognize that harmful behaviors will lead to serious consequences, it creates a safer environment for women.

Creating safe workplaces is essential for empowering women. Organizations should implement zero-tolerance policies for harassment and discrimination, providing support resources. Involving men as allies in discussions fosters a culture of respect and accountability, enhancing support for women's rights.

Local collective action is also powerful in challenging the status quo. Supporting women's organizations and NGOs amplifies their voices and advocates for their rights. Empowering women involves dismantling barriers to progress and ensuring equal rights across social, political, economic, and

educational dimensions.

Education is a powerful tool for women's empowerment, enabling them to contribute economically and make informed decisions for their families. Research shows that higher female education correlates with lower poverty rates and better health outcomes, benefiting both individuals and national development. Economic empowerment is equally crucial; access to financial resources allows women to enhance their well-being. Workplaces that promote gender equality foster innovation, benefiting businesses and economies. Empowered women also participate actively in policymaking, leading to improved advocacy for women's rights. Countries that implement quotas for female political representation see more inclusive governance and better social outcomes.

In conclusion, women empowerment is vital for building an equitable and just society. As we continue this crucial journey, it is essential to remember that empowering women ultimately empowers humanity as a whole. By promoting education, economic independence, and representation in decision-making processes, we can pave the way for a future where every woman can thrive.

Born into bondage - the life of a woman

Rupa Biswas

Assistant Professor, Media Science

Society has only demanded from women without even considering giving anything back in return. The moment a girl child is born, she is entangled in a web of rules and is made to realize from her very first breath that she is a "girl child," and thus must live by the harsh standards set by society. There is no escape from this fate in her lifetime.

When a child is born, even today in an unfortunate country like ours, if a mother gives birth to a girl, she is subjected to endless insults and taunts. From the moment a girl begins to understand her surroundings, she is taught society's message—that because she is a girl, she must live accordingly, bound by the web of rules from which she can never escape, not even until death. In this patriarchal society, women are still seen as someone's property—first belonging to their fathers because they are growing up in their parental home. In the second phase, they belong to their husbands because,

according to social customs, they are now a servant of their husband's will. In the final phase, the woman becomes an old, helpless dependent on her son. It is very rare for a woman to break free from this societal shackle. And yet, a few people still proclaim the idea of women's liberation! How ridiculous. Independence means liberty and freedom—it is the ability to exercise one's free will. However, some heads of society claim that liberty is something granted to women, implying that their freedom is conditional rather than a fundamental right. Even in the 21st century, we hear that women are "granted" freedom! It's akin to the fabled "philosopher's stone."

In a country as unfortunate as ours, where the number of female feticides is the highest, where a woman is raped every minute, where human trafficking of women is a highly profitable business, in such a condition the idea of women's progress is as elusive as finding water in a mirage. In a civilization as ancient as ours, where every person of the country is invited to worship the figure of the mother, where the womb of

the mother goddess has been revered since ancient times, in that very India, women are humiliated, degraded, and oppressed. This is a shameful stain on our supposedly civilized society. So, instead of rejoicing over the so-called freedom granted to women, it is essential to change the perspective of the society.

Only when society will begin to recognize women, not merely as women but as complete human beings, then only societal changes and the perspective towards women will be possible to change. The end of this corrupted chapter can only occur then. Otherwise, the downfall of human civilization is inevitable.

That is why the lines from Rabindranath Tagore's poem Sabal in his collection Mahua are highly relevant here:

Why do you not give the right to women to conquer their own fate, O Creator?

Why must she bow her head and stand at the edge of the path, waiting in exhausted patience for her wishes to be fulfilled by divine decree?

Why can she not, with her own hand, discern the path to her destiny?.....

From struggles to strength - a journey of self-realization

Ahona Dey

**Alumni, Media Science, Entrepreneur, Founder of Artbee
 Content Creator & Photographer**

All of us face many battles. Some personal, others societal, but they have all led me to a place of self-realisation and empowerment.

Growing up, I felt the pressure to conform to cultural expectations. I was encouraged to excel in traditional activities like music, dance, and art. Not out of passion, but because it was expected of me as a girl. Despite excelling in these areas, my achievements felt hollow, driven by the need for societal approval rather than personal fulfilment.

Even my academic accomplishments felt empty. In school, I was a top student but my success didn't bring the sense of pride or recognition I longed for. It became clear that being a girl meant constantly proving myself. Activities like Western dance and sports such as basketball brought me joy, but they were considered unsuitable pursuits for a girl, so I had to give them up.

These early experiences taught

me that no matter how much I achieved, it was never truly for me. It was for others approval. As a young girl, that realisation was difficult to accept. I fought the internal battle of wanting to be seen for who I really was, not just what I represented as a girl.

College was a turning point. During those three years, I began to reclaim my voice. I stopped caring about the superficial markers of success and started focusing on what truly mattered to me. No longer was I working for society's approval!

I started learning for the sake of knowledge and self-growth. I realized that the only person I needed to impress was myself. This shift in mind set was liberating and for the first time, I felt a sense of empowerment.

By the time I graduated from high school, I had made the decision to take control of my own destiny. In 2021 I launched Artbee, a business I started from

scratch. It wasn't just about making a living; it was about proving to myself that I could create something of my own. Starting a business as a woman in a male-dominated market was far from easy. I faced doubt, scepticism, and even judgement from customers who saw my gender before they saw my capabilities. But each of these challenges only fuelled my determination.

Women are often judged more harshly, especially when they step outside traditional roles. But the beauty of entrepreneurship is that it has allowed me to break free from those constraints. It's not just about having a seat at the table, it's about creating your own table if necessary.

Today at 22 years old, I'm proud of how far I've come, but my journey is far from over. The battles I've fought, from societal expectations in my childhood to market discrimination as a

female entrepreneur, have made me stronger and confident. They've taught me that women's empowerment doesn't come from external validation but from internal strength. We must create our own opportunities, speak up for ourselves, and break the rules that were never meant to bind us in the first place.

Looking back, I realize that the challenges I've faced aren't unique to me. Women all over the world are fighting similar battles, whether it's for recognition, equality, or simply the freedom to choose their own paths. But the landscape is changing. The road ahead is still long, but we're no longer walking on it alone.

Today, I carry with me the lessons of my past and believe that women's empowerment is about more than achieving equality, it's about rewriting the narrative altogether.

And that to me, is the essence of true empowerment.



Interview with a renowned healthcare professional

Dr. Mandira Banerjee, Additional Chief Health Director, B.R Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway

Interview taken by Aritri Roychowdhury, 2nd Year

What do you think are the key pillars of women empowerment in today's socio-political context, and how can society better support women's autonomy?

Ans: Key pillars of women's empowerment today include equal educational opportunities from primary to post-doctoral levels, equal job prospects in both private and government sectors, women's reservations in local governance and future legislative representation, and special government loans for women entrepreneurs.

Society can support women's autonomy by promoting respect and equality through parental guidance, ensuring a safe environment for women to assert themselves, and discouraging early marriages while encouraging education until they achieve financial independence.

In light of the recent R.G Kar incident, what policy measures or legal reforms should the government prioritize to effectively curb violence against women and create a safer environment?

Ans: To be honest, I feel we do have laws and elaborate mechanisms to prevent sexual violence and harassment of women at the workplace. What is lacking is the effective implementation of these laws. Constitution of Internal Complaints Committees in all institutions- both government and private, periodic gender sensitization of employees, and time bound inquiry and redressed of sexual violence complaints are some of the policies that ought to be on the priority of the government. Implementation of a Central Protection Act for all Healthcare workers is also a long standing demand of resident doctors that should be looked into, for these are most vulnerable to violent mobs at the workplace, being the first point of contact for patient attendants.

Despite the cultural reverence for goddesses, crimes against women remain prevalent in India. Do you believe this paradox is fuelled by deeply ingrained patriarchal beliefs and societal expectations regarding women's roles and behaviour?

Ans: Yes, the paradox of revering

goddesses while crimes against women persist is driven by deeply ingrained patriarchal beliefs and rigid societal expectations, which undermine women's autonomy and reinforce gender inequality.

How crucial is it to incorporate comprehensive education on women's safety, self-defence, and sex education into the curriculum during the formative academic years for both boys and girls?

Ans: Instilling confidence in women and respect in boys, proper sex education dispels myths, fostering rational thinking.

with enhanced lighting across the hospital and mandatory identity cards for all employees, ensuring easier identification by RPF personnel also has enhanced safety measures, installing 30 new CCTVs with 132 more underway, introducing dedicated helplines, barbed wire fencing, sensor-operated gates, panic buttons at sensitive locations, and increasing Railway Protection Force personnel for greater security.

What steps can be taken to address gender-based disparities in access to healthcare resources,

for women within the healthcare sector?

Ans: The Indian Railways as an organisation has always been at the forefront of providing leadership opportunities to women sans any discrimination. The Prinsep Ghat station is the first all-women operated railway station in Sealdah division, since March 2020. Likewise, in the healthcare sector too, lady doctors, nurses and staff have been at the helm of administrative affairs, holding responsible posts such as Chief Medical Director, Additional Chief Health Director, Chief Nursing Superintendent and others from time to time. The gender ratio in the administrative hierarchy of the Railways may seem skewed, but I must say the allocation of leadership opportunities is pretty gender neutral. In my 25 years of service, I have hardly felt the presence of the proverbial glass ceiling here.

As a parent what advice would you give to help boys understand the importance of respecting and valuing their female counterparts, and how can parents actively teach these values in everyday life?

Ans: As they say, charity begins at home. A boy would learn to respect women and treat them equally if he says the women at home being given the same respect and being treated at par with the men- neither being put on a pedestal, nor being subjected to casual sexism or violence. As a parent, I feel it is important to teach young boys that there are no "gender roles" per se. Life skills such as cooking, cleaning and driving ought to be learnt by everyone irrespective of gender and domestic responsibilities should be shared equally. While the children should be taught about the physical differences between the two sexes, the importance of cerebral equality of all genders should be emphasized. While we are too busy teaching our girls to be educated, empowered women, let us not forget to teach our boys to be independent, supporting and secure men who can be ideal partners to these empowered, educated women.



While we are too busy teaching our girls to be educated, empowered women, let us not forget to teach our boys to be independent, supporting and secure men who can be ideal partners to these empowered, educated women.

Government-supported martial art classes like karate classes for women empower them to handle adverse situations effectively.

Can a more progressive approach to gender equality and women's rights in education, workplace, and media representation help break down orthodox and stereotypical notions of women's role in society? If so, how?

Ans: Yes, a progressive approach to gender equality in education, workplace, and media representation can challenge orthodox stereotypes by promoting women's capabilities and leadership, encouraging diverse role models, and fostering an inclusive mindset that redefines societal expectations and norms.

Given the ongoing challenges at RG Kar, how can the healthcare system within the Indian Railway network ensure a safer and more supportive environment for female healthcare workers?

Ans: The security of women, including doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, and patients in Sealdah Division, has improved

particularly in terms of female patients and workers receiving the necessary support and services?

Ans: Often it is women themselves who lack awareness regarding their healthcare needs, and culturally it is ingrained in them to prioritise the health of their families and children before their own, which leads to a gender disparity in the health seeking behavior. Domestic responsibilities also often hinder women from accessing healthcare. We need to educate women, especially the younger generation, about the importance of maintaining good health and seeking timely interventions, especially with regards to issues of women's sexual, reproductive and maternal health. Emphasis should be laid on more autonomy of women regarding their healthcare decisions on matters such as contraception and childbirth. Village health clinics and periodic medical camps in rural areas can make primary healthcare more accessible to women.

How does the administration plan to promote leadership opportunities

From the lens of a landscape photographer Jhuma Datta speaks with THE TMSL POST

An interview taken by Sampriti Sen, 2nd Year



Jhuma Datta is a nature and landscape photographer, A globe-trotter, an author of "Boundaries Left Behind", she has been hosting exhibitions and conducting workshops at several occasions.

What inspired you to pursue photography, and how did you get started in the field?

Ans: I've always been captivated by the serenity and majesty of the natural world. Growing up, I spent countless hours exploring the outdoors and my love for nature only deepened. Photography allowed me to combine my passion for nature with my creative expression.

Can you tell us about a specific nature related project or photo series that holds special meaning for you and why?

Ans: One of my most meaningful projects is Nature Conservation, a visual journey through endangered landscapes, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of preserving nature and highlighting the impact of human activities on the environment.

What challenges have you faced in the photography industry as a female artist, and how have you overcome them?

Ans: As a female photographer, I've faced gender bias and safety concerns. To overcome these, I honed my craft, led workshops, and mentored others. My advice: stay focused, seek support, and empower fellow women while fostering respect for all, regardless of differences.

How do you balance your artistic vision with the demands of commercial photography or client work?

Ans: Balancing artistic vision with commercial demands requires clear communication, creative



compromise and flexibility. I prioritize personal projects, set boundaries and collaborate with like-minded people. Continuous learning, marketing and self-promotion also help me maintain artistic integrity while delivering commercial success.

As a female photographer, how do you ensure your personal safety while working in unfamiliar remote locations?

Ans: As a female photographer, I ensure safety in remote locations through research, planning, and awareness. Stay connected with family, locals, fellow photographers and local police stations.

What advice would you give to other female photographers about maintaining safety and boundaries in potentially risky situations?

Ans: Maintaining safety as a female photographer involves researching locations, clients, and risks, developing a safety plan, staying informed on local customs, staying

connected with family, setting boundaries, and always trusting your instincts.

Are there any female photographers, past or present, who have inspired your work or your journey?

Ans: Yes, I admire many female

with confidence, creativity, and resilience, while staying true to your artistic voice.

Can you share any upcoming photography projects or exhibitions that you're excited about?

Ans: I focus on night and aerial photography, visiting Ladakh annually for astrophotography, especially Hanle, India's first dark sky reserve. Its clear skies offer peaceful stargazing. For drone photography, I choose locations free from no-flying zones and strict regulations.

We often perceive nature as a nurturing force, symbolizing motherhood. From a photographer's perspective, how do you interpret the essence of nature, and how do you capture that sentiment through your lens?

Ans: Nature provides for all living beings, from the food we eat to the



photographers who have shaped the art of photography with their unique vision. Pioneers like Dorothea Lange, Vivian Maier, Annie Leibovitz, Homai Vyarawalla, Dayanita Singh, Ami Vitale, and others from Magnum and National Geographic inspire me.

What advice would you give to young women aspiring to enter the world of photography?

Ans: For young women entering photography, embrace these principles: follow your vision, experiment with genres, and develop a unique perspective. Master editing skills and practice consistently. By doing so, you'll navigate the industry

homes we live in, nurturing us like a mother. Beyond its visual beauty, nature offers an emotional and spiritual experience. Through my photography, I aim to capture its serenity and resilience, inspiring deep connection.

What are some of the latest innovations in photographic technology that you incorporate into your work?

1. Experimenting with new equipment and techniques
2. Staying updated on present trends and developments.
3. Integrating innovations into my creative workflow
4. High-resolution drone cameras for aerial photography.

A chit chat with Debrani Das

Moments from frame to frame

An interview taken by Rajma Koley, 3rd Year



Debrani Das, a Kolkata street photographer and Fujifilm X-ambassador, won the Bakustreet Photo Festival 2021. Her work is internationally published and exhibited in New York and Paris.

What inspired you to pursue photography, and how did you get started in the field?

I started photography during my six years in Milwaukee, USA, after leaving my IT job in Electrical Engineering. Life felt quiet after moving, and photography emerged as a means to connect with my surroundings, particularly street photography. This genre allows me to observe the world differently, serving as a meditative process where I express my emotions.

Can you tell us about a specific project or photo series that holds special meaning for you and why?

In April 2024, I participated in an artist residency in New York City organized by Women Street Photographers. After waiting four years due to COVID and visa delays, this experience was transformative. Producing work in such a renowned city was challenging, but the opening of my first solo exhibition brought immense joy. Seeing my work engage the audience taught me to embrace new environments and uncertainties.

What challenges have you faced in the photography industry as a female artist, and how have you overcome them?

Initially, I struggled to gain recognition in a male-dominated field. However, as my work started receiving appreciation, my confidence grew. I'm grateful for the support from the Unexposed Collective and the recognition my work has received globally. Despite progress in some areas, challenges persist in India, where male photographers are often favored. Nonetheless, I believe women photographers are vital to the art world.

How do you balance your artistic vision with the demands of commercial photography or client work?

As a street photographer, my artistic vision aligns well with client work. The spontaneity of street photography allows me to maintain my perspective, fulfilling client demands while staying true to my artistry.

As a female photographer, how



do you ensure your personal safety while working in unfamiliar or remote locations?

Safety is essential. I research thoroughly and familiarize myself with new locations, dressing conservatively to blend in. Trusting my instincts is crucial; if I feel unsafe, I leave. Collaborating with other photographers also enhances safety.

What advice would you give to other female photographers about maintaining safety and boundaries in potentially risky situations?

Conduct research before exploring new places and consider joining workshops or tours. Having a support system can be invaluable.

October 2024

Upcoming

TECHNO INDIA
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The Department of Media Science
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LUMIÈRE
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Myths and Symbols - unveiling the essence of Goddess Durga

Abhishek K. Srivastava, 1st year

The essence of Durga puja is deeply rooted in the myth of goddess Durga, a symbol of power, strength, and protection for the righteous. This central narrative, derived from the "Markandeya Purana," tells the story of the demon Mahishasura, who received a boon from Lord Brahma that made him nearly invincible. Emboldened by this gift, he unleashed chaos, defeating gods and enslaving mortals.

To counter his tyranny, the gods—led by Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva—combined their divine energies to create Goddess Durga, a being of unmatched beauty and strength. Armed with celestial weapons, Durga engaged Mahishasura in a fierce battle and ultimately beheaded him, restoring peace to the cosmos. This victory is celebrated during Durga Puja, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.

Durga's iconography is rich

with symbolism: she is depicted with ten arms, each holding a weapon from the gods and riding a lion, embodying power and courage. Her serene expression amidst battle reflects wisdom and calm in conflict.

Durga puja is not just



a celebration of victory; it encompasses profound rituals and customs observed over five days, deepening the connection between devotees and the divine, and creating a vibrant tapestry of devotion and cultural heritage.

From holy dips to vibrant processions - the essence of Chhath Puja

Kripa Chowrasia, 1st Year

Chhath puja is a deeply spiritual festival celebrated primarily in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and parts of Nepal. While the exact origins of the festival are shrouded in mystery, some legends link it to Lord Rama, who, along with Sita, is said to have observed a fast in honor of the Sun God after returning to Ayodhya from exile. This significant festival spans four days, beginning with Nahay Khay, followed by Kharna, Sandhya Arghya, and culminating in Usha Arghya. It is dedicated to honoring the Sun God and seeking his blessings for the well-being of families through holy dips in the Ganges and dedicated fasting.

The festivities are marked by vibrant

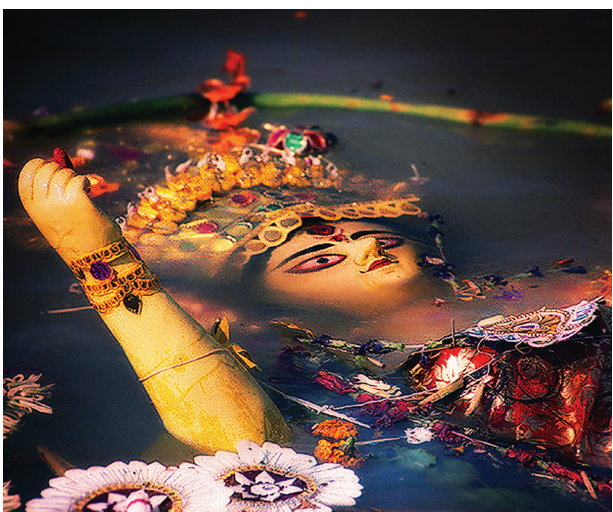
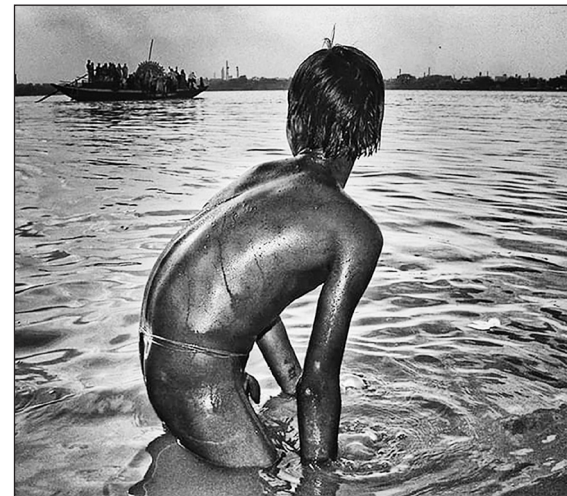
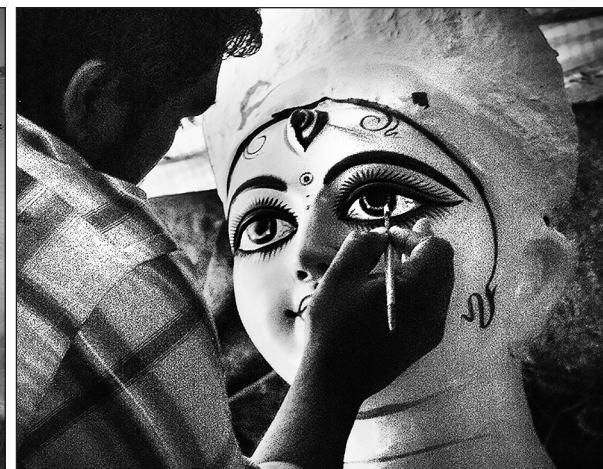


processions, fasting, and the ritual of standing in water to seek blessings. This celebration not only enriches spiritual lives but also boosts local economies, supporting small businesses that provide bamboo baskets, flowers, sugar cane, food, and decorations.

More than just a personal observance, Chhath puja fosters community spirit and social bonding through collective worship, shared meals, and cultural events. Families and neighbors come together to exchange gifts, organize traditional offerings, and participate in holy dips, reinforcing social ties and promoting unity. Ultimately, Chhath puja's radiant spirit illuminates the path to harmony, gratitude, and a deeper sense of community.

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Prof. Prithwiraj Pal, Head, Department of Media Science



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Grace, Power, and Culture – The Chhou - Ahana Nandy, 1st Year



From Idols to Illuminations - Biswarup Batyabal, 1st Year



Breaking Barriers - Mrinal Sengupta, 3rd Year

◀ An Ode to Tradition - Rankita Talukdar, 1st Year

Empowering Citizens: Ayushman Bharat's impact on healthcare access in India

Ashmita Chatterjee, 3rd Year

Ayushman Bharat provides health insurance coverage of up to 5 lakhs per household per year for secondary and tertiary healthcare to over 10 crore impoverished and vulnerable families, which is approximately 50 crore beneficiaries.

Under the flagship program Ayushman Bharat, the government also provides health insurance coverage for all individuals aged 70 and above, regardless of income. The program is known for its cashless and paperless service delivery, which means participants can receive treatment without paying out of pocket.

By connecting rural and urban areas and providing access to high-quality care in both public and private institutions, PMJAY promotes healthcare equity. Through the program's network of affiliated hospitals across India, participants can receive



care for various ailments. Additionally, Ayushman Bharat focuses on wellness through its Health and Wellness Centres, which offers top-notch primary healthcare, preventive treatments, and community-based health promotion.

By providing financial protection and access to quality healthcare for millions of underprivileged families, this initiative significantly reduces

out-of-pocket expenditures. It promotes equitable healthcare, ensuring that even the most vulnerable populations can receive necessary treatments, thereby improving overall public health and well-being across the country. Through reducing healthcare costs, increasing hospital utilization rates among the impoverished, and improving access to high-quality treatment for the

underprivileged, Ayushman Bharat has completely transformed the healthcare landscape in India. Its long term effects are expected to have a significant positive impact on India's advancement towards better public health and universal health coverage.

Besides the above mentioned, another significant and milestone decision taken by central government, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday (September 11, 2024) further approved health coverage to all the senior citizens aged 70 and above irrespective of income under the flagship scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). This will benefit approximately 4.5 crore families, and six crore senior citizens, with 5 lakhs free health insurance cover on a family basis. Indeed, both the schemes will usher a new era of free health insurance for common Indians.

Adani Power pressures Bangladesh to settle \$800 million debt for electricity supply

Ranu Kumari, 3rd Year

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, has urged the Bangladeshi government to promptly resolve an outstanding \$800 million debt owed by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for electricity supplied by Adani's Godda power plant. In a letter dated August 27, addressed to chief advisor Muhammad Yunus, Adani highlighted the unsustainable nature of the accumulating dues, which have reached \$492 million, contributing to Bangladesh's total power liabilities of \$3.7 billion.

Despite the financial strain, Adani Power remains committed to providing reliable and competitively

priced electricity from its 1,600-megawatt coal-fired facility in India, which became fully operational last year. The deal, signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in 2015, has faced criticism from activists who argue that importing electricity from the Godda plant is financially unviable. Nevertheless, Adani maintains that its pricing remains competitive with other coal-based power sources.

As the situation unfolds, continuous discussions are ongoing between Adani Power and the Bangladeshi government to address these financial challenges while ensuring a stable power supply for the country's growing energy needs.





Photo source: Internet

India wins historic double team gold at Chess Olympiad 2024

THE TISL POST – Press Bureau

India's chess geniuses have created history by winning team gold medals in both men's and women's competitions at the 45th International Chess Federation (FIDE) Chess Olympiad in Budapest.

In addition to winning the team championships, India also walked away with four individual gold medals as the tournament wrapped up in the Hungarian capital on 22nd September.

Wins for Gukesh Dommaraju (more commonly known as Gukesh D), Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi sealed gold in the men's event, known as the Open event, while Harika Dronavalli, Vaishali Rameshbabu, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal, and Tania Sachdev won their respective games to secure gold in the women's competition.

Gukesh, Erigaisi, Deshmukh and Agrawal bagged individual gold medals on their respective boards.

The feat was termed an

"unbelievable" achievement by India's chess great Viswanathan Anand.

"It feels like a magical time for India," the former five-time world champion said on the International FIDE YouTube channel in the lead-up to the final day.

Anand, who also won the Chess World Cup twice, said the result was a few years in the making but for India to walk away with team and individual honours exceeded his expectations.

The men's team won 27 of their 44 games, losing just once and drawing six. Their final round of matches was against Slovenia, whom they defeated 3.5-0.5, while the women's team beat Azerbaijan with the same score.

Gukesh, who has also qualified for the final of the World Chess Championship in November, said he was delighted that his team got over the line in a dominant fashion after having some close misses in the past.

Paralympics 2024

Incredible India redefining limits, inspiring the world

Sounak Chakraborty, 3rd Year

The 2024 Paralympic Games took place in Paris from August 28 to September 8, marking the first time the Summer Paralympics were held in France. Around 4,400 athletes from 180 countries participated, competing in 549 events across 22 sports, including popular ones like para athletics and para swimming.

India had its most successful Paralympics ever at Paris 2024, winning 29 medals (7 gold, 9 silver, 13 bronze) and competing in 12 disciplines. Standout performances included Avani Lekhara, who defended her title in the 10m air rifle SH1 event, making her the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic golds.

Javelin thrower Sumit Antil also defended his title, setting a new Paralympic record. In athletics, Dharambir Nain secured gold in the club throw F51, breaking the Asian record. Teammate Pranav Soorma took silver in the same event. Preethi Pal became India's first track medalist, winning two bronze medals in the women's 100m and 200m T35 events.

In archery, Sheetal Devi, India's youngest



Paralympic medalist at 17, won bronze in the mixed team event, while Harvinder



Singh became India's first Paralympic gold medalist in archery. This remarkable haul highlights India's

growing prominence in the Paralympic movement. This edition also saw a heightened focus on accessibility, with improvements to public transport and widespread disability awareness training for volunteers. The event underscored the spirit of inclusion and athletic excellence, leaving a lasting impact on the global stage.

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