



## St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

A Newsletter by  
Department of Mass Communication



**future is now.**



## 1950 vs 2025

# How did the 1900s nearly predict our future?

*“The best way to predict your future is to create it” – Abraham Lincoln*

**Sneha Sur Ray, Sem 4**

The 1900s was a time of rapid industrialization, technological advancements, and societal shifts. While it may seem like a bygone era, the 1900s surprisingly predicted many aspects of our modern world. In the 1950s, the world was still reeling from the aftermath of World War II. It was a time of great social change, technological advancement, and economic growth. From technological innovations to social trends, the early 20th century laid the groundwork for the world we live in today. Fast forward to 2025, and we see a world that is both familiar and yet, vastly different. But what's remarkable is how the visions of the future, imagined in the 1950s, have become a reality today.

One of the most striking predictions of the 1900s is the rise of technological advancements. In 1909, renowned inventor, Nikola Tesla, predicted that one day, people would be able to transmit information wirelessly over long distances. 1950s futurism is the predicted rise of technological advancements. In the 1950s, science fiction writers like Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke envisioned a future with robots, artificial intelligence, and interstellar travel. While we may not have reached the stars yet, we do have robots and AI that are increasingly integrated into our daily lives. Fast forward to the present, and we have Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cellular networks that

enable global communication amidst the international connections. Another example is the concept of television. In the early 1900s, scientists like Paul Nipkow and John Logie Baird were



experimenting with early television systems. While the technology was still in its infancy, it paved the way for the modern televisions we have today.

Another area where the 1950s predictions were remarkably prescient is in communication and information. In the 1950s, the concept of a “global village” was first proposed, where people from all over the world could communicate and share information instantly. Today, with the internet and social media, that vision has become a reality. The 1950s also predicted significant social and cultural changes. In the 1950s, the Civil Rights Movement was just beginning to gain momentum, and the feminist movement was still in its infancy. Today, we see a world where diversity and inclusion are increasingly valued, and where women and minorities have made

significant strides in achieving equality. During the early 20th century, women like Emmeline Pankhurst and Susan B. Anthony were fighting for women's suffrage and equality. Their



efforts laid the groundwork for the feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s, and continue to inspire feminist activism today.

Another social trend predicted by the 1900s is the rise of urbanization. As people moved from rural areas to cities in search of work and better living conditions, cities began to grow and expand. This trend continues today, with more and more people living in urban areas. The 1900s also predicted many of the environmental concerns we face today. One notable example is climate change. In 1896, the Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius predicted that human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, could lead to an increase in global temperatures. His predictions were largely ignored at the time, but have since been proven correct. Another environmental concern predicted by the 1900s is the importance

of conservation. In the early 20th century, conservationists like Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir were advocating for the protection of America's natural resources. Their efforts led to the establishment of national parks and wildlife reserves, and continue to inspire environmental activism today. The 1950s predictions also highlighted the importance of environmental concerns. In the 1950s, scientists like Rachel Carson were warning about the dangers of pollution and the importance of conservation. Today, we see a world where climate change and sustainability are increasingly recognized as major global challenges. The 1950s predictions of the future were remarkably prescient. From technological advancements to social and cultural changes, many of the visions of the future imagined in the 1950s have become a reality today. As we look up to the future, it's clear that the lessons of the past will continue to shape our world in profound ways. By understanding the predictions of the past, we can navigate the challenges and opportunities of the present in a better manner, and create a brighter future for all. While some of these predictions may have seemed like science fiction at the time, they have become a reality in the contemporary scenario. As we look up to the future, it is clear that the early 20th century laid the groundwork for the world we live in today.

# Butch-Suni against all odds

An expedition nothing short of George Melies' 'A Trip to the Moon' (1902) except this time it was led by a woman.

## Sreerupa Das, Sem 4

Astronauts Sunita Lyn 'Suni' Williams and Barry Eugene 'Butch' Wilmore, post an unexpected stay at the International Space Station (ISS) for more than nine months, their Crew Dragon spacecraft carrying the two astronauts, alongside American Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, streaked through time and space before deploying parachutes for a gentle splashdown upon the Florida coast at 5:57 p.m. EDT (3:27 am IST), concluding their mission on Wednesday. Owing to things turning awry for the fact that their original spacecraft became plagued with afflictions of helium leaks amidst

other malfunctions, uncertainty crept in as the miniscule tenure of eight days stretched up to nine months. NASA keeps records of astronauts who have spent the most time in space, (single time or through their careers) which is held by NASA astronaut Frank Rubio, who spent 371 days aboard the ISS.

The two astronauts flew to the orbital lab in June last year, on what was supposed to be a days-long roundtrip

to test Boeing's Starliner on its first crewed flight. The spaceship, however, developed propulsion problems and was deemed unfit to fly back and later returned emp-

the landing during the return trip by reducing its velocity and relying on Earth's gravity to pull it back. The capsule penetrated Earth's atmosphere at speeds of up

U.S. Navy or Coast Guard, came forward to retrieve the spacecraft and assist the astronauts.

When their capsule was finally opened, the astronauts

were carried out of the spacecraft and loaded onto stretchers. The astronauts were not sick or injured; the reason for this procedure has nothing to do with Williams and Wilmore's specific mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), but is simply a matter of protocol that all astronauts must follow, experts said, as quoted by Live Science. When astronauts return to Earth from space, they can't immediately walk upon landing. This is due to temporary

physiological changes that occur in space — a fact that NASA addresses with strict safety procedures. Spending an extended period in microgravity can be damaging to the human body. As such, both Williams and Wilmore will undergo a 45-day rehabilitation programme to readjust to Earth's gravity. During this period, medical experts will closely monitor them for potential health issues.



SUNITA WILLIAMS AND BUTCH WILLMORE

SOURCE : E! NEWS

ty. Previously Indian astronaut Kalpana Chawla, had died during the process of return, due to some technical failures. So, this time, NASA was very cautious and deft in ensuring the safety and security of the astronauts, thereby, taking no risks for which the return of the astronauts was so delayed and so prolonged that an expedition of only 8 days was converted into 9 long months of stay in space. SpaceX Crew Dragon seamlessly directed

to 28,800 km/h, generating intense friction and temperatures. Heat shields protected the crew, and astronauts tend to experience G-forces up to five times Earth's gravity during that phase. As the capsule decelerated, small stabilising drogue chutes were deployed at first, followed by larger parachutes to minimise descent speed. The capsule landed in the ocean, where water acted a cushioned impact. Recovery teams, o from the

# Holi : A journey of colour and culture

**Srija Mukherjee, Sem 2**

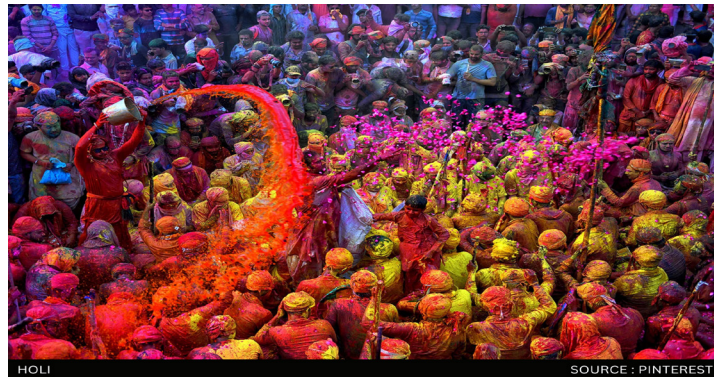
Holi is more than simply a celebration; it's more than just a festival—it's a vibrant explosion of colour, joy, and boundless energy. It's that special time of year when people set aside their differences to come together in celebration. The streets come alive with hues of every shade, and the air echoes with laughter and happiness. For the natives of India, Holi has always been a celebration of harmony, love, and the victory of good over



evil rather than merely experimenting with colours. It reminds me of the story of Prahlad and Holika, in which righteousness and faith triumphed over conceit and immorality. The festival encourages us to let go of the past grudges, embrace forgiveness, and start afresh with a heart full of optimism. As a child, Holi meant waking up early, rushing to prepare water balloons, and impatiently waiting for the arrival of pals.

Indians still get a smile from the excitement of smearing gulal over each other's faces while dancing their hearts out to upbeat music. Ordinary streets were magically transformed into paintings of laughter and splatters during Holi. Even adults are still drawn to the festive vibe of this holiday, which serves as a reminder to relax and savour the small things in life.

Beyond the joy and cele-



bration, Holi has profound cultural relevance. It marks the arrival of spring, which brings hope and a sense of rejuvenation among all individuals.

The bonfire on Holika Dahan's night symbolizes the burning away of negativity, encouraging us to embrace light, warmth, and happiness. As families and communities gather to celebrate, the festival also acts as a reminder of our rich traditions and the value of community. The beauty of Holi lies in its joy

But it's important to rejoice

wisely as we partake in the celebrations. The beauty of Holi lies in its joy, and it shouldn't be sacrificed for the sake of the environment or other people. Holi may be made even more meaningful by choosing natural colors, using less water, and making sure that everyone is safe and participating in the festivities.

As we surpass the celebratory spirit of Holi, it is expected to rejoice in it with righteousness and responsibility, entangled with great pomp and enthusiasm.

## Summer Fashion Trends 2025: What's hot this season?

**Rooprekha Ghosh, Sem 2**

As summer 2025 approaches, fashion is embracing a mix of sustainability, bold aesthetics, and nostalgic revivals. Here's a glimpse into the trends that set to define the season.

**Sustainable Fashion: The New Norm**

Eco-conscious clothing continues to take centre stage, with brands prioritizing ethical production and biodegradable materials. Shoppers are opting for stylish yet sustainable pieces that reduce environmental impact while making a statement. Be it upcycling with the checked Ghamcha trend, vegan fashion or even circular fashion, everything comes under this arena.



**Vibrant Colors and Eye-Catching Prints:** Summer 2025 is all about bold expressions. Neon

greens, electric blues, and fiery reds dominate wardrobes, bringing a dynamic energy to everyday looks. Eye-catching prints, from tropical florals to geometric patterns, encourage creative styling.

**Lightweight Fabrics for Comfort:**

With rising temperatures, breathable materials like linen and cotton remain essential. Flowy silhouettes and airy textures ensure effortless summer

dressing while keeping fashion both comfortable and stylish.

**'90s Nostalgia Returns:**

The '90s are making a major comeback this season. High-waisted jeans, crop tops, and chunky sneakers are back, along with accessories like choker necklaces and bucket hats. This revival blends vintage charm with modern flair.

**Athleisure- Merging Comfort with Style:**

Athleisure continues to dominate, merging sportswear with casual fashion. Leggings styled as pants, essential active t-shirts, and statement sneakers make it easy to transition from workouts to impromptu outings.

# Multifaceted spring in India

Saranya Ghosh, Sem 4

Spring is often associated with a vivid transformation in nature—it's the time when the snow melts, flowers bloom, and the air is filled with a sense of revival. In many western countries, this season is strikingly visible, marking a clear transition from the freezing winter to the warmth of summer. But how does spring manifest in India? Given the country's diverse geography and climate, the visibility of spring varies significantly across regions and states, making its experience rather different from the western states.

**Spring in North India: A Blossoming Landscape**

In North India, especially in the plains of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, spring (February–April) is distinct. The harsh winter recedes gradually, making way for pleasant, moderate temperatures. Trees regain their lush green skin, and flowers such as marigolds, daisies, and tulips bloom in abundance. In Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, spring is particularly breath-taking, but it comes later than the other states in India. The mustard fields of Punjab and Haryana also turn vibrant golden-yellow, creating picturesque landscapes that symbolize the arrival of the new season.

**Spring in Central and South India: A Subtle Transition**

Unlike in temperate countries, where spring is a dramatic shift from winter, the change in Central and South India is more gradual. Since these regions experience milder winters, the transition to summer is less pronounced. However, signs

of spring are visible in the flowering of trees such as Gulmohar, Amaltas, and Bougainvillea, which burst into brilliant shades of red, yellow, and pink. The weather remains warm but pleasant, and agricultural fields flourish, preparing for the upcoming harvest season.

**Spring in the East and North-east: A Time of Vibrance**

In states like West Bengal, Odisha, and the North-east, spring is a time of great natural beauty. The famous Palash tree, also

India.

Festivals like Vasant Panchami celebrate the arrival of spring with devotees worshipping Goddess Saraswati, the symbol of wisdom and learning. Holi, the festival of colours, is another vibrant celebration marking the end of winter and the onset of warmer days. These festivals not only highlight the changing season but also reinforce the connection between nature and Indian traditions.

**How Spring in India Differs from Other Countries**

While spring in Western countries brings a significant rise in temperature and melting snow, India's version is a shorter, more subtle transition that blends into summer. In many regions, especially the southern and coastal areas, temperatures start rising early, making spring feel like a prelude to summer rather than a distinct season. However, India's diverse flora and varied climate ensure that, despite these differences, the essence of spring is still very much alive, through in its own unique way.

Spring in India may not be as dramatically visible as in other parts of the world, but its beauty lies in its subtleties. From the mustard fields of Punjab to the rhododendron-covered hills of the Northeast, the season paints the country in vibrant hues, leaving behind a trail of festivities and cultural richness. Though different from the Western concept of spring, India's version of the season is no less mesmerizing, offering a blend of natural charm and deep-rooted traditions.



**Gender-Neutral Fashion:** Breaking away from traditional norms, gender-fluid styles are on the rise. Oversized tees, relaxed-fit trousers, and minimalistic shirts create an effortlessly chic look that defies boundaries.

**Cottagecore Resurgence:** Romantic countryside aesthetics make a return with floral dresses, lace details, and straw accessories. This dreamy, nature-inspired trend evokes simplicity and nostalgia.

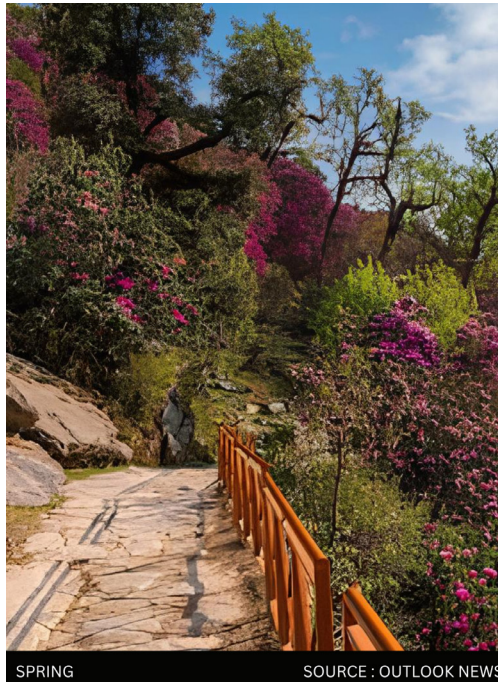
**Futuristic Fashion Takes Over:**

The fusion of technology and fashion is gaining traction with smart fabrics, LED accents, and 3D-printed designs. These innovative pieces push the limits of creativity while offering functionality.

**Statement Accessories Steal the Show:**

Bold accessories are the ultimate game-changer this season. Chunky necklaces, oversized earrings, and standout handbags add personality to any look, proving that details make all the difference with a Bohemian outlook.

From sustainability to nostalgia and futuristic elements, summer 2025 fashion is all about individuality and self-expression. Whether embracing bold colors or timeless vintage pieces, this season promises something for everyone.



# The elephant in the room

**Dhriti Majumdar, Sem 4**

“There has been an elephant in the room with me for the past 40 years. It is time to show this elephant the door.” - Zeenat Aman  
If one asks what is the epitome of success? The answers that usually flood the mind are Money, Fame, Respect and Independence, but what if some instances of human life question them all? Isn't that what all human beings value and turn to at the end of the day?

Veteran actor and yesteryear superstar Zeenat Aman took to her social media, one fine morning in 2023 and addressed an injury as an “Elephant in the room” that she had suffered and not opened up about for almost 40 years. The muscles around her right eye were damaged for life and it caused her eyelid to droop and also obstructed her vision. Although recent medical advancements have made it possible for her to regain her vision, this will be something she has to live with till the end.

The post by itself, very sorrowful but nothing very out of the blue, till we dig deeper and see the more sinister things at play here.

Sanjay Khan, an eminent actor, producer, director and Zeenat Aman's first husband allegedly used to hit her on a regular basis in public gatherings and the confinement of their house until one day it went above and beyond to a point where she was

brutally beaten on the floor inside a hotel room which caused this injury which will haunt her for the rest of her life.

the brief times she opened up about the issue. The concerning thing about domestic abuse still remains as how does one

approves this theory and rather substantiates that the most consequential factor remains the mental state of the person. De-



ZEENAT AMAN

SOURCE : VOGUE INDIA

spite her status as being the dream woman and having all sorts of resources available to her, still lived a personal life full of turbulence, uncertainty and upheaval. Such issues cuts through all barriers of class, caste, religion and even status. A househelp working for mere wages is as prone to domestic abuse, as a well to do successful actress in her fancy apartment. It's still heartbreaking that even today, uncountable women can't speak up and stand against abuse for the fear of being misunderstood, trivialized or sometimes merely out of love. Eventually with a lot of courage, Zeenat Aman

“For many years, in my mind, it's been obliterated because I think that's what the human mind does. When there is something distinctly unpleasant, you just close your mind to it and pretend that it never happened and you promise yourself that it will never happen again. And that's how you cope.” She stated this during one of

escape the cycle and actually get out of it? People may argue that education and financial independence is key to escape a partner that abuses you either physically or emotionally, but does this remain true in all scenarios? Zeenat Aman being one of the most celebrated stars and highest paid actresses of her era completely dis-

got herself out of the situation and the marriage for that matter, but still remains millions of suffering women who does not have the privilege to just leave or start afresh. This is where all slogans of feminism take a backseat and just having the liberty to lead a normal life for such women becomes a dream.

# Summer unlocked:

**Conglomerated season of sunshine, adventure, and endless possibilities!**

**Umika Neogy, Sem 2**

Does this take you on a nostalgic trip to your cherished childhood days?

The Magic of Summer

In accordance with F. Scott Fitzgerald's remark, he once stated "And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

There's something special about this season—the way everything seems to slow down yet feel more alive at the same time. The trees are greener, the skies are bluer, and the world feels like it's glowing under the golden sunlight. Whether it's the refreshing feeling of cool water on a hot day, the joy of ice cream melting too fast in your hands, or the simple pleasure of a warm evening breeze, summer is full of little moments that make life beautiful.

It's also a season of adventure. It could be something big like a trip to the mountains or some-

thing small like trying out a new café in your town, starting a creative project, or learning to cook your favorite dish. There's no objective way to enjoy summer—it's all about making the most of it in your own way.

Summer's Divide: A Season of Privilege for Some, a Battle for Survival for others.

When summer arrives, it

in comfortable households, others battle the scorching sun daily, their struggles often overlooked. People laying on the streets with throats drier than the desert, people working on the roads and labourers struggling to make minimum wage showcase a different attribute of summer.

The cab chauffeurs, the taxi drivers, the rickshaw

pullers of Kolkata are prone to skin diseases or discolouration, sunburns, heat strokes and so many other illnesses that come along with being compelled to work just to be able to afford food on one's platter. Meals twice a day appear at the cost of such hardships that sometimes lead to atrocities in their lives. The border warriors, fearless and unwavering in battle, the farmers working tirelessly on the fields are the unsung heroes who contribute in making life a little bit or a lot better for us. Insufficient funds, lack of management often cost these people a lot more than what they put in efforts for. As we enjoy the privileges that shield us from the heat, let's spare a thought for those who can't afford the same. With sweat tracing every effort, they battle the scorching sun—not just for a day's wage, but for their family's tomorrow, struggling to somehow meet the ends.

A bottle of cold water for a delivery worker, a shaded place for a rickshaw puller to rest, or even basic awareness about heat stroke prevention can make a difference because while summer may be a season for vacations for some, for many, it is a season of silent suffering and persisting endurance.



SUMMER

SOURCE : EURO NEWS

brings with it the promise of vacations, chilled drinks, and air-conditioned comfort for many, but for a large section of society, summer is not a season of leisure—it is a test of endurance. The relentless heat does not affect everyone equally. While some seek refuge

pullers of Kolkata are prone to skin diseases or discolouration, sunburns, heat strokes and so many other illnesses that come along with being compelled to work just to be able to afford food on one's platter. Meals twice a day appear at the cost of such hardships that some-

## “ঋতুরাজ remains, but so does the summer heat”

**Arkapriya Das, Sem 4**

In recent years, the transition from winter to spring has become increasingly difficult to notice, as the scorching heat of summer seems to arrive almost immediately. The gentle, pleasant days of spring, once marked by blooming flowers and mild breezes,

now feel like a fleeting moment before the oppressive heat of summer takes over. This phenomenon, often referred to as “season creep,” is a direct consequence of global climate change, which is altering the length and intensity of seasons. Traditionally, spring has

provided a necessary buffer between the harsh cold of winter and the intense heat of summer. However, due to rising global temperatures, spring is getting shorter, and summers are becoming longer and hotter. Scientific studies have found that over the past few decades, spring

has shortened by nearly nine days, while summer has extended by about 13 days. This shift means that as soon as winter fades away, temperatures rise drastically, leaving little room for the mild and refreshing weather that spring once brought. One of the main reasons

behind this rapid transition is the alarming rate of global warming. The Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.46°C above pre-industrial levels, with 2024 being the warmest year on record, surpassing 2023 by 0.1°C. This continuous rise in temperature is accelerating the seasonal shifts, making summers more intense and prolonged. For instance, the summer of 2023 saw record-breaking heat waves in many parts of the world, with temperatures soaring beyond 45°C in some regions. Such extreme heat conditions are now occurring earlier in the year, further reducing the duration of spring. The consequences of this seasonal imbalance are far-reaching. Ecologically, many plant and animal species rely on a stable seasonal cycle to survive. With

spring shortening, many species that depend on mild temperatures for breeding and blooming are struggling to adapt. Birds, for instance, are migrating earlier than usual, often finding that their food sources are not yet available. Similarly, early blooming



flowers are exposed to unexpected late frosts, leading to reduced crop yields and disruptions in ecosystems. For humans, the sudden transition from winter to summer brings several challenges. The intense heat waves that come sooner than ex-

pected increase health risks, especially for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions. The heat also places enormous stress on power grids as air conditioners and cooling systems work over-

time, leading to energy shortages and higher electricity bills. India, in particular, has been witnessing extreme weather shifts in the torrid zone, with many cities recording high temperatures as early as March. Kolkata, for example, ex-

perienced an unusually warm February in 2024, with temperatures reaching 35°C—something that was once uncommon during the early spring months. This shift not only affects daily life but also has severe economic impacts, especially for sectors like agriculture, where farmers are struggling to cope up with the unpredictable weather patterns. If this trend continues, the concept of spring as a distinct season may soon lose its existence. Immediate steps, such as reducing carbon emissions, increasing green cover, and investing in sustainable energy, are necessary to slow down these changes. Without intervention, the already fragile balance of seasons will continue to collapse, making summers harsher and more unbearable in the coming years.

## Women who broke confinement after 10 years in captivity

**Suhani Kapoor, Sem 4**

On May 6, 2013, the city of Cleveland witnessed a miracle when Amanda Berry called 911 from a neighbor's phone. She said, "I've been kidnapped and been missing for 10 years. I'm here. I'm free now," to the 911 operator. Berry, along with Gina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight, had been held captive for more than 9 years by Ariel Castro.

Just a day before her 17th birthday, Amanda Berry got up and got ready for work. She almost called off of work that day because the next day was her birthday. While walking home from work, a vehicle started to follow Berry down the street, and the man inside asked her if she needed a ride home. The man, Ariel Castro, was an elementary school bus driver

and the father of Berry's friend and classmate from middle school. He managed to get Berry to come over to his place. Castro took Berry upstairs and showed her something strange, a mystery woman sleeping in a bedroom in front of a television set. She later learned that the woman was Michelle Knight, who was abducted by Castro at 21 and had been held by him for

almost a year. As news of her abduction made headlines, Berry watched her mother and sister on the TV in the basement. In 2003, the FBI was just starting to develop technology that could track a cell phone's location if it was turned on. With that information, they were able to narrow down that her phone had been used within a thirty to forty block area. In her diary,







Berry used a code to record how many times he raped her each day.

In 2006, Berry realized she might be pregnant on her 20th birthday. She gave birth to Jocelyn on Christmas in 2006. As Jocelyn grew older, Castro allowed her freedoms that Berry, DeJesus and Knight were not given. Though she was locked in with the three of them whenever Castro left the house, Jocelyn occasionally was allowed to go outside in the backyard, to the park or to Sunday services with her father. Castro's love for Jocelyn seemed to turn him into a different man with her. The women finally made

their escape after more than nine years in captivity. For the first time in 10 years, Berry said she found her bedroom door unlocked without Castro around. Downstairs, the front door was open but wired with an alarm. Beyond it, the storm door was padlocked shut, but Berry was still able to squeeze out an arm. Once Berry was out, she called for Jocelyn to crawl through the door. The two of them found a neighbor with a phone to call 911. Police arrived and rescued DeJesus and Knight. On Aug. 1, 2013, Castro was sentenced to life after he pleaded guilty to 937 counts of kidnapping and rape. On Sept. 3, 2013, he was found dead in his prison cell. He had killed himself. Berry now works with a local news station covering missing children and adults in the Cleveland area. The three women never gave up hope, and since their escape they have worked to help and heal others.

weak yet trying her best to survive from the vulture as long she is able to. This striking moment reflects more than just a conventional vignette of a black and white dynamic between the predator and prey. It tells a story of a girl, perhaps from a desolate hamlet, who has fallen prey to the cruel symphony of death and survival.

Rather than putting an entire moment into an interregnum, Carter's polemical photograph serves as an introspection upon the implications of the perilous politics of penury, devastation and displacement faced by many who live in poverty-stricken, war-torn, or areas battling the throes of climate devastation. It speaks to the challenges that often go unnoticed by the dominant narratives of the outside world.

In the girl's eyes, one can see the story of countless individuals, struggling not just to survive, but to retain their dignity and will to endure. Quite harrowingly yet vividly it depicts a frail Sudanese girl curled up in exhaustion, while the vulture ominously waiting nearby and rearing its fangs. The picture became one of the most powerful symbols of famine and human suffering in photojournalism, thereby shaping the moral responsibility and sociology of photography. In her acclaimed book of essays on the aesthetic, cultural and moral predicaments posed by photography - "On Photography" - the USA based

public intellectual Susan Sontag writes, while tracing the roots of photography as a vocation and a mode of artistic expression, that as photography is a widely practiced amusement, it has segued from an art to a social rite; a defense against anxiety and a tool to consolidate power. Further with her gifted pen she elaborates that gradually photography has attained an act of "non-intervention" which is witnessed in the horrors of situations when the photographer is obligated to make a choice between the camera's snap and the snap which can claim the subject's heartbeat such as the Vietnamese buddhist Thich Quang Duc who self-immolated himself on 11 June, 1963, by grabbing a gasoline can or the Bengali guerilla who bayoneted a trussed-up collaborator during the infamous 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. An illuminating instance of the idea of photography being non-intervening in nature may be observed in Dziga Vertov's 1929 avant-garde masterpiece "Man with a Movie Camera", a film where the photographer is in perpetual state of movement to encompass an array of happenings whilst any form of intervention remains out of the question or even in the master of macabre Alfred Hitchcock's acclaimed "Rear Window (1954)", James Stewart's flawless performance as the wheelchair-bound photographer who is hellbent on clicking the camera as he is confined to a state of

## The gaze of survival

A humble and rational inquiry into the multifaceted photojournalist

Kevin Carter's polemical "The Vulture and the little girl"

Shubhi Mishra, Sem 4

Kevin Carter's "The Vulture and the little girl" was a depiction of the saddening humanitarian crisis that had befallen South Africa, a country which still today remains in conflict with the onslaught of genocide and apartheid unleashed by the fangs of settler colonialism.

This image which is given below speaks about the raw and unspoken struggles of survival, the young

girl locking her eyes with a vulture, her gaze unflinching and resolute. The aforementioned picture depicts that the vulture is a symbol of death and scavenging, hovers in the background, its presence as chilling as it is powerful. The position of innocence pitted against danger in this haunting photograph captures the parable called 'Life in the Harshes Conditions'. Yet it is the girl who is





KEVIN CARTER - VULTURE

SOURCE : ABOUTPHOTOGRAPHY.BLOG

inactivity. Thus, according to Sontag's analogy, photography like voyeurism is a way to be complicit in allowing a phenomena to perpetuate itself explicitly or tacitly and thereby, keep the status-quo unscathed sans any blemish. The same was the case with Carter when his photo was published in "The New York Times" on March 26, 1993 as the readers flooded the newspaper with skeptical inquiries and concerns over the child's fate. Kevin Carter was accused by many people of being a passive observer rather than an active helper. "Why didn't you help the child?" was a question

that haunted him.

In July 27, 1994, when Kevin Carter claimed his life at the tender age of 33 when he left behind a suicide note expressing a deep sorrow over the horrors he witnessed and the emotional toll of his work.

Even Today, Carter's photograph remains one of the most powerful and resonating pieces in photojournalism for it is a stark reminder that famine, poverty, and suffering are not just products of a bygone epoch but ongoing crises that require urgent action via effective political discourse by governments and policy makers across the globe.

## Cinema in the spotlight: The biggest hits of early 2025

Sharmistha Yadav, Sem 2

As we enter the second quarter of 2025, it's the time to rewind back to the movies that ruled the box office during the first quarter. The beginning of the year witnessed a healthy mix of adrenaline-pumping action, spine-tingling thrillers, and romantic stories, once again showcasing the sheer power of films as modes of storytelling and craftsmanship. From heart-pumping aerial warfare scenes to ghostly thrillers and sci-fi romance, these films

have tickled the fancies of crores of viewers in India. Here's a closer examination of three of the biggest box office hits of the first quarter of 2025:

Ne Zha 2 is a 2025 Chinese animated fantasy film and a sequel to the highly successful Ne Zha (2019). It is directed by Yang Yu. The film continues the story of Ne Zha, a rebellious deity from Chinese mythology, as he embarks on a new journey alongside Ao Bing, the dragon prince. The sequel expands on the themes

of fate, redemption, and self-determination. Ne Zha, once feared and misunderstood, now seeks to carve out his own destiny beyond the expectations of the gods and demons. In Ne Zha 2, he is faced with new cosmic threats and must confront his inner struggles while forming unlikely alliances. Ao Bing, who was once his rival, joins him in a quest that tests their loyalty, strength, and the very fabric of their existence. Ne Zha 2 pushes the boundaries of Chinese animation with stunning CGI, fluid action sequences, and deeply expressive character designs. The film blends traditional Chinese mythology with modern storytelling, creating an experience that appeals to both domestic and international audiences. Since its release, Ne Zha 2 has shattered box office records, becoming the highest-grossing animated film of all time, surpassing \$2 billion globally. Its success highlights the growing influence of Chinese animation on the global platform, proving that locally rooted stories can achieve worldwide recognition. The film's compelling narrative, breathtaking animation, and emotional depth have solidified it as a landmark in the genre.

"Captain America: Brave New World" marks Anthony Mackie's inaugural feature film as Sam Wilson, the new Captain America. Directed by Julius Onah, the film attempts to blend political intrigue with superhero

action but delivers mixed results. Critics have lauded Mackie's performance, noting his earnest portrayal of a hero balancing personal doubts with public expectations. However, the film's screenplay has been criticized for its convoluted plot and underdeveloped subplots, which detract from character development. Ross's character arc, culminating in his transformation into the Red Hulk, is a focal point. The film's political commentary, aiming to reflect contemporary issues, has been perceived as superficial. While it touches on themes of power and responsibility, the execution lacks depth, rendering the social commentary ineffective. "Captain America: Brave New World" benefits from strong performances, particularly by Mackie and Ford, it struggles with a disjointed plot and lackluster political commentary. The film underscores the challenges Marvel faces in evolving its storytelling to meet audience expectations in a saturated superhero market.

Mickey 17, directed by Bong Joon Ho, is a 2025 sci-fi black comedy that delves into themes of identity, capitalism, and human expendability. The film stars Robert Pattinson as Mickey Barnes, an "expendable" crew member on a mission to colonize the icy planet Niflheim. Mickey's role involves undertaking hazardous tasks, with the understanding that his consciousness can be transferred to a new body



upon death. Complications arise when Mickey 17 is presumed dead, and a new clone, Mickey 18, is created, leading to existential dilemmas and ethical quandaries. Critics have offered mixed reviews. The Australian criticized the performances of Mark Ruffalo and Toni Collette, describing them as “cheesy and unconvincing,” and noted that the film struggles to cohesively address its themes, ultimately falling short compared to Bong Joon Ho’s previous works like “Parasite.” Conversely, Polygon praised the film as a “wry, satirical sci-fi saga” that combines elements of Bong’s previous movies, highlighting his unique visual style and thematic obsessions. Robert Pattinson’s portrayal of both Mickey 17 and Mickey 18 has been widely acclaimed, with Rotten Tomatoes noting his performance as one of the film’s highlights. The film’s satirical examination of corporate exploitation and class disparity is evident, with The Atlantic highlighting how it amplifies themes of capitalism and class struggles present in Bong’s past work.

# “Into the history books”:

**Mohun Bagan Super Giants become the first team to grab two consecutive ISL shield titles.**

**Dimi Petratos cements himself as a legend of Kolkata football.**

**Irfan Molla, Sem 2**

Mohun Bagan Super Giants on 23rd February, Sunday became the first team in Indian Super league (ISL) history to defend the league shield title with a 1-0 win as they edged past Odisha FC. Australian forward Dimi

ing three matches.

“Defence wins you titles”: Mohun Bagan Super Giant defenders proved it. Mohun Bagan Super Giant started their season with a heavy defeat against Bengaluru FC. Following that, something has seemed to have

are demanding the club to renew every defender’s contract after their spectacular performance in this season. Astonishing records achieved by the Mariners’ this season. Mohun Bagan Super Giants are comfortably the



MOHUNBAGAN SUPER GIANTS

SOURCE : THE HINDU

Petratos struck in the third minute of the added time in front of ecstatic home supporters at the Salt Lake Stadium. By virtue of clinching the ISL Shield, Bagan also booked a berth in the AFC Champions League 2, the continent’s second-tier club competition. After the win in their 22nd league game, Bagan secured 52 points and emerged Shield winners with two matches to spare. Runners-up FC Goa have collected 42 points from 21 matches, and they cannot catch Bagan even if they win all their remain-

sparked motivation in the team, which reignited the team’s mentality. The Mariners’ have scored the most goals in the league this season, but their main strength has been their solid defence. Molina has transformed Subhasish Bose, Tom Aldred, Alberto, Dippendu Biswas, and Ashish Rai into being the “Great Walls of India.” The coach has developed players like Dippendu and Ashish into being amongst the most versatile defenders in the league with Apuia being the best midfielder. Fans

best team in India right now, and they have dominated in every aspect. The Mariners’ have the best attack in the league, scoring two goals per game, which is the most by any team this season. Molina’s side are also defensively rock solid, having conceded only 16 goals in 24 games, conceding 0.7 goals per 90. India’s wall Vishal Kaith has kept a whopping 14 clean sheets, the most in the league this season. These astonishing statistics are the reason why MBSG are the deserving shield winners.



# Winter transfer window in football

**Debayan Sarkar, Sem 4**

The curtain has fallen on the 2024-25 January transfer window, slamming shut the door on any further squad reinforcements for the remainder of the season. Teams are now locked in with their current rosters, and the stage is set for a thrilling conclusion to the campaign. Let's dissect the landscape of some of Europe's top leagues and assess the potential fortunes of the leading contenders. Premier League (England): A Tale of Contrasting Fortunes

In the heart of England, the Premier League narrative is one of stark contrasts. Liverpool, currently perched atop the table, have opted for a policy of stability, retaining their squad intact. Their impressive form and fully fit players suggest a strong push for the title. However, the Premier League is notoriously unforgiving, and maintaining peak performance throughout the gruelling second half of the season will be their biggest challenge. Complacency could prove costly.

Meanwhile, Arsenal, perennial bridesmaids in recent seasons, face a familiar struggle. Despite consistently finishing second to Manchester City, their inability to overcome the reigning champions continues to haunt them. This season, their woes have deepened with a spate of crucial injuries. Key players like Saka, Martinelli, Havertz, and

Jesus have all been sidelined, exposing a worrying lack of depth in their forward line. The Gunners' failure to address these deficiencies during the January window could prove fatal to their title aspirations. Barring a miraculous recovery from their injured stars, another second-place finish seems the most likely outcome. Across London, the mood is markedly different at Aston Villa. A flurry of activity in the transfer

race is shaping up to be a classic three-way battle between Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Atletico Madrid. Interestingly, all three giants have been remarkably restrained in the January transfer window. This cautious approach is a common trend among Spanish clubs mid-season, often preferring to conduct major business in the summer. With no significant additions to any of the squads, the title race is expected to be

er, Kvaratskhelia. The young Georgian, dubbed "Kwaradona" for his mesmerizing dribbling skills, is expected to add another dimension to PSG's attack. This high-profile signing underscores PSG's unwavering ambition to conquer Europe. Whether Kvaratskhelia can be the catalyst that finally delivers the coveted Champions League trophy remains to be seen, but his arrival has undoubtedly injected fresh hope into the Parisian camp.

Serie A (Italy) & Bundesliga (Germany): Conservative Spending

Further east in Germany and Italy, the January transfer window was characterized by more conservative spending. Both the Bundesliga and Serie A saw relatively few major moves. AC Milan, however, made a notable acquisition, securing the services of Kyle Walker from Manchester City on loan, with a view to making the transfer permanent in the summer. This shrewd piece of business could bolster Milan's defence and provide valuable experience to their squad.

A Season of High Stakes  
The 2024-25 January transfer window has painted a diverse picture across Europe's top leagues. From Liverpool's steadfastness to Aston Villa's bold investments and PSG's pursuit of a game-changer, each league has its own unique narrative. The coming



MIKEL ARTETA AND EDU GASPER

SOURCE - ARSENAL.COM

market, headlined by the acquisitions of Marco Asensio and Marcus Rashford, signals their intent to challenge on multiple fronts. Following the departure of John Duran, Villa have reinvested heavily, aiming to solidify their position in the Premier League's top four and make a significant impact in the Champions League knockout stages. These signings represent a significant statement of ambition and could propel Villa to new heights.

La Liga (Spain): A Waiting Game

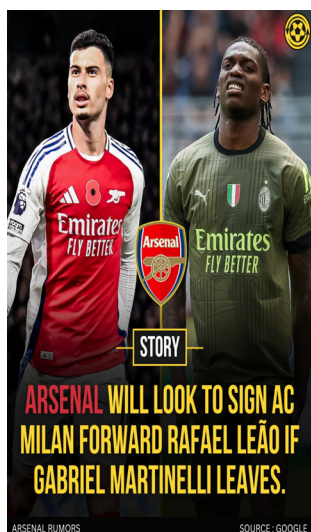
In Spain, La Liga's title

a nail-biting affair, likely to go down to the wire on the final day of the season. Tactical nuances, individual brilliance, and perhaps a touch of luck will ultimately determine the champion.

Ligue 1 (France): PSG's Pursuit of European Glory

Moving east to France, Ligue 1 witnessed one of the most significant transfers of the window. Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), driven by their relentless pursuit of Champions League glory, secured the signature of Napoli's electrifying wing-





months will reveal the true impact of these decisions. Will Liverpool's faith in their existing squad pay off? Can Arsenal overcome their injury crisis? Will Aston Villa's ambitious signings propel them to new heights? And can Kvaratskhelia inspire PSG to Champions League glory? The answers to these questions will unfold in the dramatic climax of the season, promising a captivating spectacle for football.

## Mortality

**Swastika Roy, Sem 4**

The constructive labyrinth Of the echoing thoughts:

Profusely bleeding Through the knots, Of artists who dare to create. Who create by joining the dots, The dots of destiny, of fortune, of undaunted philosophy.

From Byron's power to Shelley's love, From Coleridge's occult to Wordsworth's doves-The movers and the shakers: Act as pace-makers, Not only for the beating hearts

Scriptures remain immortal, Gambling with death To stay alive, and free. Artists lose, But art strengthens to stay immortal, and free.

They thrive through art, And curb like ivy. To inspire, To caress, to Live.

## A soireé of laughter and learning

**Oishika Nandy, Sem 4**

April 4th, 2025, saw a day full of laughter, info-tainment and learning for the Department of Mass Communication (UG). The Annual Info-Cultural Departmental Gathering, was organised for all the undergraduate students

lights and laughter as the event began with an informational quiz — open to the panel of students of the senior batch, who meticulously competed against one another to win their teams the first position. Next came a series of dance and musical perfor-

ment students of the media field, but also taught us a tonne of practical knowledge regarding unity and all the hard work that is put into managing and putting up such an event. With the sheer guidance and blessings of our respected Father Vice Chan-



of the department, to accumulate in one place and have an enriching exchange of ideas and careeristic knowledge. Along with a myriad of cultural performances, prepared especially by the students themselves, this event became a unique and successful method of inducing interpersonal or public relations amidst all the UG students of the department. This initiative was taken in order to endorse and encourage transfusion of traditional and career-minded ideas among all the students, in the presence of our esteemed faculty members. Room No. 323 lit up with

mances put up by the semester 2 and 4 students to endorse cultural mingling of the various performing arts. In between, we have had our dearest faculty members recite their words of wisdom and expertise, followed by a few students sharing their experiences in the university and their future plans. Concluding the event, a felicitation ceremony, to acknowledge all students' efforts, was heralded by the professors and semester 4 students of the department, adding a sweet end to it all. It did not just enrich us all as social beings of our diverse culture as well as compe-

cellor and our beloved Dean Ma'am, the Annual Info-Cultural Departmental Gathering thrived as a successful event. This event would have been incomplete without the support of the HOD, the faculty of Mass Communication and the unified efforts of the students of the Department of Mass Communication. We certainly look forward to initiating and practicing organisation of similar events for the upcoming batches in order to cultivate and promote cultural harmony and informative learning through such unconventional yet competitive means.



# PHOTO GALLERY



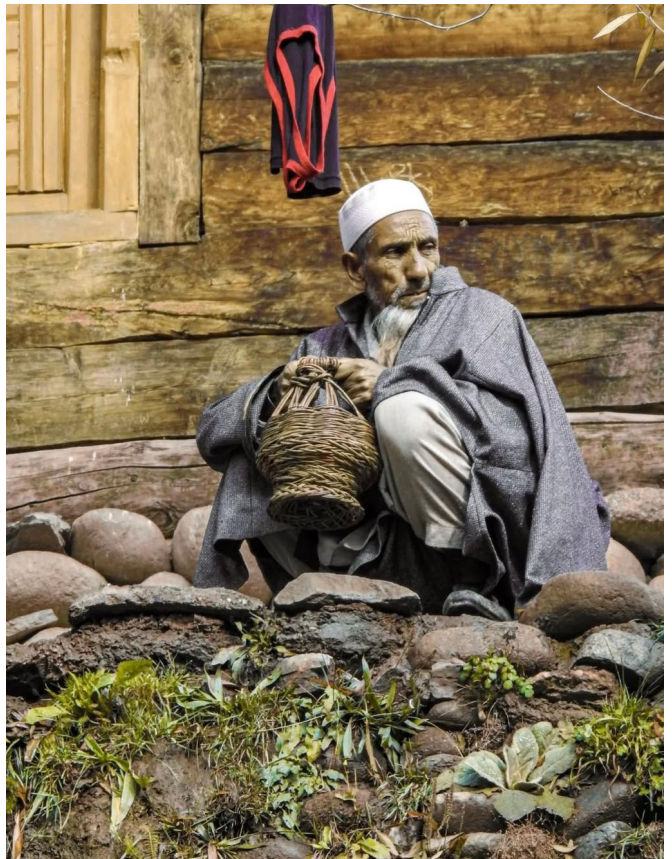
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