



SXUK hosts national conference on media, literature and culture

Upasana Dey (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: Faculty of Arts and Social Studies of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) hosted a two-day national conference titled "Narratives of the Mind: Media, Literature and Culture in the Indian Context" on 10th and 11th September 2026, at the university campus, bringing together students, scholars and educators across the country.

The conference explored how literature, media and culture shape society's understanding of the human mind, with sessions spanning literature, psychology, media and cultural studies. It was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj S.J., Vice-Chancellor SXUK along with Rev. Dr. Xavier Jeyaraj S.J. Registrar Sxuk and other dignitaries. Dr Arka Chattopadhyay of IIT Gandhinagar delivered the keynote address, while Fr. Felix Raj, Dr Nilanjana Bagchi of Bethune College, and

Dr Snehasis Sur, journalist and Press Club Kolkata President, delivered the plenary addresses. The conference received 325 abstracts, of which 88 papers were presented offline and 106 online across multiple sessions. Participants included faculty members, Ph.D scholars and students from institutions such as BHU, Jadavpur University, NIT Srinagar, University of Hyderabad, IISER Bhopal, Christ University, IIT Madras and St Xavier's College, Mumbai. Discussions covered trauma narratives, mental health in film and digital media, selfhood on social media, disability studies, neurodiversity, and indigenous understandings of the mind. The valedictory address was delivered by Prof Debashis Bandyopadhyay, Pro Vice-Chancellor of KIIT, Bhubaneswar. The conference concluded with a call for continued interdisciplinary research and academic collaboration. It encouraged further dialogue among scholars, students, educators, and researchers across disciplines nationwide.



Fr. Vice-Chancellor with the dignitaries of the event (Source: Xposure)

Xenith 2026: Where shutter shapes stories and creativity finds a voice



Students having a glance at the exhibition (Source: Xposure)

Srija Mukherjee
(BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK), through its Photography Society, Xposure, organized Xenith 2026, a photography festival on 17th and 19th September 2026 at the university campus. Under the theme "Where Shutter Shapes Stories," the festival brought together photography lovers and young artists across the country. With more than 550 participants, Xenith 2026 celebrated photography as a powerful medium of storytelling while providing participants with diverse opportunities to express their creativity.

Xenith 2026 began with an opening ceremony that welcomed Shatarup Ghosh as the Chief Guest and Ravi Shankar, a representative from Shyam Metalics, the sponsor of Xenith 2026. Their arrival marked the beginning of a celebration focused on stories, creativity and visual exploration.

On the second day, Xenith 2026 highlighted a special performance by Gunjan Saini, a storyteller. Her performance added a narrative touch to the festival and aligned with Xenith 2026's focus on exploring the connection be-

tween storytelling and visual art. Xenith 2026 offered a variety of contests. Voice the Frame asked participants to tell stories through writing. One More Take centred on creating reels and exploring modern digital storytelling. Mise-en-Scène provided participants with an opportunity to explore filmmaking and share stories through cinema. Beyond the Pixel, a design contest, further widened the range of creative expression.

The photography exhibition remained at the core of Xenith 2026. The exhibition showcased photographs that captured different viewpoints, emotions and moments. These images demonstrated how a single frame can tell stories that words sometimes cannot. With participants from all over the country, Xenith 2026 created a space for new creators to meet, compete and share their work.

The festival reflected Xposure's continued efforts to support photography, visual storytelling and creative expression both within and outside the university community. The event also encouraged emerging photographers to explore new perspectives, experiment with visual narratives and build connections with fellow creators across the country.

HUMAN INTEREST

Ganesh chaturthi brings Mumbai to life



Anushko Chakraborty
(BA, Sem 3)

Kolkata: Long before any calendar reminds you, a sound tells you Ganeshotsav is near: a dhol-tasha troupe rehearsing in a lane at dusk. Soon marigolds pile up at Dadar, idols travel home on handcarts and tempos, and neighbours who barely nod in the lift start debating whose decoration theme is better. From 14 to 25 September this year, Mumbai stops being a city in a hurry and turns into one big family function.

It did not always look like this. Ganesh Chaturthi was once a quiet, private ritual, until Lokmanya Tilak's call in

Tradition since 1893: Ganeshotsav at Keshavji Naik Chawl, Girgaon (Source: Google)

1893 pushed it out of homes and into the streets. Girgaum's Keshavji Naik Chawl was among the first to answer. More than a century later, that instinct survives. Bappa still belongs to the street as much as the shrine. Ask Mumbai-kaars what the festival means and the answer is rarely about ritual alone. For a chawl family, it is the fortnight when cousins from distant suburbs show up.

For those from the Konkan, it is the journey home, which is why the state has waived tolls for Konkan-bound vehicles and Indian Railways is running 390 special trains. For an idol maker's family, it is a year of work handed over in a single afternoon.

Ganesha is treated less like a distant god and more like a beloved family member who has come home. The city itself is the real spectacle. With roughly 12,000 public mandals, every corner has a story. Where Lalbaugcha Raja stands in a Mahadev-themed set with a giant trishul, Chinchpokli's Chintamani takes a Venkateswara-inspired form in its 107th year, and Gowd Saraswat Brahman Seva Mandal's eco-friendly idol wears over 66 kg of gold.

Last year, about 1.97 lakh idols were immersed, and this year 61,640 had gone within one-and-a-half days. Behind the glitter runs a quieter story.

Florists, decorators, caterers, artisans and drivers all earn from these days, and CAIT (Confederation of All India Traders) estimates nationwide festival business could cross ₹50,000 crore. For the lord of prosperity and new beginnings, that is a justified celebration. And then comes the goodbye. On the last evening, families walk to the sea with tired feet, hoarse voices and full hearts, chanting "Pudhchya varshi lavkar ya," asking Bappa to return early next year. In Mumbai, that is never a farewell. It is a promise. The drums may fall silent, but the memories, friendships and festive spirit remain, waiting patiently for Bappa's return again the following year.

Nepal's rescuers push on, ten days after floods

Smit Roy (BA, Sem 3)

Kolkata: The deadly disaster happened on the morning of August 26, when something gave way in a glacial lake near the Nepal-Tibet border, and within minutes the water was through Nuwakot, taking roads, bridges, and entire rows of houses with it. Early instruments actually logged the impact as an earthquake before anyone on the ground had even worked out it was a flood. It took hours to sort out what had actually happened. The official death count has now gone past 1,300 and rescue teams are still trying to account for over 5,000 people who haven't turned up. Most of what's kept that number from climbing further has come down to people whose names rarely show up in any of this.

Helicopter pilots keep going up in weather they'd normally sit out, plucking families off rooftops and riverbanks that look like they could crumble any second. Down below, the army's been slogging through mud up to their knees, sometimes their waists, checking every

collapsed wall in case someone's still breathing under it. Even now, ten days in, they're still pulling people out alive. A man came out of a flooded hydro-power tunnel just this week. A 60-year-old woman turned up on the top floor of a half-collapsed building in Betrawati, alive, after days trapped there. None of that makes it into a headline the way the death toll does, but it's most of what these teams have actually been doing.

It isn't only the army out there. It isn't just soldiers and pilots either. With the bridges gone, some of the local volunteers, kids not much older than college freshmen, have been hauling supplies across the Trishuli River on ropes and pulleys rigged up on the spot. In a school turned shelter, a doctor from a small NGO has been stitching up injuries by torchlight during frequent power outages. With roads completely gone, the majority of villages can now be reached only by air; every sack of rice and roll of bandages relies on someone willing to journey where paths no longer exist.

The odd thing, once you actually sit down and talk to people who've been



Rescuers wade through wreckage, searching for survivors (Source: Google)

out there, is how quickly the conversation moves away from them. Ask someone about a sixteen-hour shift, and they won't really answer the question; they'll just start telling you about a woman they managed to pull out or the family they're still out looking for. Nepal's government has now asked India and China for further help, a sign of how much ground is still left to cover. The floodwaters have gone down in most places. The people who waded into them haven't stopped working since.

Their efforts continue through difficult conditions, helping families receive food, medical care, shelter, and other essential supplies while damaged communities slowly begin the long process of recovery. For many survivors, the presence of rescuers and volunteers has provided reassurance during an uncertain time. Their work remains focused on reaching isolated areas, locating missing people, supporting displaced families, and helping communities rebuild their lives after the disaster.

POLITICAL

Inter-university transfers to follow new rules and guidelines

Trisha Dutta Choudhury
(BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: A Bill called the West Bengal Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, providing for the transfer of teaching and non-teaching staff between state universities has been enacted by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

The Bill provides for the transfer of university staff from one state university to another for administrative reasons. As per the government, this will help make optimum use of experienced faculty and staff and will help in developing newer universities in the state.

There has been a debate among scholars with regard to the proposal. Teachers and university employees have expressed their worries with respect to the possible effects of transfers on the research work and scholarship of the concerned individuals. Additionally, issues have been raised pertaining to the procedures of the transfer of staff mem-



West Bengal Legislative Assembly (Source: Google)

bers from one institution to another.

The Bill underscores the need to strike a balance between administrative considerations and the academic culture of universities. While the government views the Bill as a way of improving

resource sharing, members of the academic community have sought clarification with respect to the implementation of the Bill.

The development is particularly important for the students and teachers as it is the university administration

that determines the academic atmosphere of universities. The Bill will go to the next stage of the approval process, and the ultimate implementation of the Bill will define the extent of its influence on state universities in West Bengal.

The proposed changes could also have a direct impact on the functioning of state universities and their administrative processes. They may influence how key decisions are taken and how academic institutions are managed. Students and teachers will therefore be closely watching the next stages of the Bill. Its implementation could bring changes to the existing system of university governance.

The coming months will clarify how the proposed provisions are put into practice. The changes may also affect the relationship between university authorities and the state government. This makes the Bill an important development for higher education in West Bengal.

BRICS 2026: India hosts a landmark summit for a changing global order

Diyasha Das (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: The 18th BRICS Summit took place in New Delhi from 12th to 13th September 2026, with the leaders of the enlarged BRICS group gathering there to talk about economic cooperation, global governance, technology, sustainability and the problems facing the Global South. The summit was held at Bharat Mandapam as the final event of India's year-long term as BRICS Chair.

The 2026 summit took place under India's theme, 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. This theme showed India's focus on strengthening cooperation among emerging economies as well as on promoting sustainable development, technological innovation and resilience with regard to global challenges. The year also coincided with 20 years since BRICS was established. The BRICS group currently has 11 member countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. The members as a whole account for about 49.5 percent of the world's population, 40 percent of global GDP and 26 percent of global trade, which shows the bloc's increasing eco-



The BRICS Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam in India (Source: DD India)

nomie and demographic importance.

The summit concentrated on enhancing cooperation in the fields of politics and security, economic and financial matters, and culture and people-to-people interactions. The topics dealt with food and energy security, trade and investment, digital technology, artificial intelligence, climate action, healthcare and sustainable development. The leaders also talked about how to strengthen multilateral institutions and boost cooperation among developing countries.

Global conflicts and geopolitical tensions also served as an important background to the meeting. The summit offered a chance for the members to discuss international and regional issues and at the same time look for areas of agreement among countries having different interests and foreign-policy positions. The summit ended with the adoption of the BRICS New Delhi Declaration, in which the members reasserted their commitment to cooperation, sovereign equality, inclusiveness and consensus. The declaration

advocated for greater collaboration in the areas of sustainable development, inclusive growth and a more representative multilateral system.

Since the conclusion of India's term as Chair in 2026, the summit has underlined the ongoing expansion of BRICS and its function as a platform for cooperation among the major emerging economies. The talks held in New Delhi are likely to determine the group's priorities as it enters the next stage of cooperation.

The discussions are expected to cover key areas such as trade, investment, technology, and sustainable development. Member countries may also explore ways to strengthen economic cooperation and address common challenges. The expanded membership could bring new perspectives and opportunities for collaboration. These discussions may further shape the group's role in global economic affairs. The summit could also encourage greater coordination among developing economies. It may help strengthen BRICS' role in international cooperation.

SPORTS

VAR ruled derby: City edge United at Old Trafford

Arko Ghosh (BA, Sem 3)

Kolkata: Manchester derbies do not need an introduction and as the latest Manchester derby unfolded at Old Trafford, it produced a game that had it all. Manchester City secured a dramatic 1-0 victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford in the 199th Manchester derby, with Erling Haaland scoring the winner. Enzo Maresca's side spent over an hour down to ten men after Phil Foden was sent off after being found guilty of kicking Man United skipper Bruno Fernandes. The home side dominated the game and hit the woodwork twice, yet when the final whistle came, it was City who were celebrating.

The winning goal arrived in the 59th minute when Josko Gvardiol's cross found Erling Haaland, who finished from close range to give City the lead scoring his 9th league goal of the season. However, it turned out to be the most controversial moment of the game. The pitch side referee initially ruled Haaland offside, but VAR overturned the decision after a lengthy review. It was found that Enzo Fernández was in an offside position during the move, raising questions about whether his positioning had interfered with United's defence. The controversy reached new heights after Pro Ref chief refereeing officer Howard Webb later admitted that the VAR officials had made an error in allowing



Erling Haaland battles for possession as City face United at Old Trafford (Source: Manchester United)

the goal, confirming that Fernández had indeed interfered with the goalkeeper and United's defence during the move.

The derby had already seen a controversial moment earlier in the game when Phil Foden was sent off for kicking Fernandes, but later replays showed that it was the Portuguese who had kicked first. Man City were forced back into their own half after the red card and the numerical advantage gave a huge advantage to the home side to take control of the game.

United created multiple opportunities and hit the woodwork twice. Manchester City defended with incredible resilience and discipline, while Gianluigi Donnarumma produced a massive save in stoppage time denying Bryan Mbeumo, as his shot looked destined to hit the back of the net. Maresca's side survived the late onslaught from Manchester United and snatched all three points from the 199th Manchester derby as they kept their unbeaten streak in the Premier League alive. For Manchester United, it was

an opportunity missed and it exposed their familiar problem of bottling in big games. This highly Manchester derby will be talked about for years to come, beginning with the controversial red card followed by the lengthy VAR check that allowed City's goal to stand.

The derby's dramatic ending added another memorable chapter to the rivalry, leaving supporters debating the key decisions, missed opportunities, and moments that ultimately shaped the result at Old Trafford that night.

Antonelli seals dramatic Monza win after starting 19th



Antonelli kisses the trophy as he celebrates his win (Source: Formula 1)

Aditya Sehgal (BA, Sem 5)

Kolkata: Formula 1 saw a moment at Monza on September 6, 2026 when Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli claimed victory in the Italian Grand Prix. He started from nineteenth on the grid making his win all the more remarkable. At 19 years old Antonelli became the first Italian to win at Monza since Ludovico Scarfiotti in 1966 ending a sixty-year drought for the home fans. His poor starting position came after a heavy power unit penalty. Despite that setback Antonelli moved forward with determination.

He completed 26 overtakes in a climb through the field. A Virtual Safety Car period played a role. Mercedes took the opportunity to pit him for medium tyres giving him the grip and speed needed to challenge teammate George Russell, who had led much of the race. The final act unfolded late in the race. With five laps to go Antonelli caught up to Russell. He ran wide at the chicane as the track surface broke down but

he didn't lose control. He recovered quickly. Made the winning move, with only three laps left. He stayed strong. Crossed the finish line 3.857 seconds ahead of Russell. Max Verstappen finished third driving for Red Bull.

The result matters a lot for the championship. Antonelli won his race of the season and he made his points lead over Russell grow from 59 to 66. A big cushion as the season moves into its part. One champion in Formula 1 history ever started lower than P19 showing how big this win is. After the runners Lando Norris came in fourth ahead of teammate Oscar Piastri. Lewis Hamilton kept Ferrari in place after teammate Charles Leclerc crashed out early. For Mercedes the one-two finish showed how strong the team is this season. Russell will feel the sting of missing a chance from second on the grid. Next stop: the circuit, in Madrid. This victory adds another remarkable chapter to Antonelli's young career and gives Mercedes valuable momentum heading into the next phase of the championship battle.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sabyasachi draws the line on Bollywood custom wear



Sabyasachi Mukherjee in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India (Source : The Hollywood Reporter India YouTube)

Aishiki Dutta (BA, Sem 3)

Kolkata: Renowned Indian designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee has said that he will no longer tailor his creations to meet the needs of Bollywood superstars. Sabyasachi is famous for his bridal couture and Indian traditional dress, believes celebrities should wear his existing pieces rather than custom pieces.

In a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, Sabyasachi stated that he generally avoids red-carpet dressing and custom work. Constantly creating pieces according to

the requests of the star and their stylists is said to affect a designer's creative freedom. Sabyasachi also questioned the notion of luxury being linked solely with exclusivity and celebrity culture. Sabyasachi has worked extensively for Bollywood and has been seen dressing A-list stars Deepika Padukone, Anushka Sharma, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt. The designer has also used his creations on the stars at weddings, awards and overseas.

The designer has claimed that confident celebrities can style ready-to-wear pieces and personalise them. Sabyasachi has also criticized the tendency of a star to wear a

designer's entire creation, saying that individual style should not be overshadowed by the designer label.

This has stirred in the industry with custom made clothing central to a celebrity's wardrobe, especially for red-carpet events. Designers will often tailor their work to suit the actor, or work in conjunction with the actor's stylists, to create an image according to a specific theme, occasion or personality. Sabyasachi's declaration means a bigger debate on luxury and the relationship between celebrity and the designer world. While Bollywood has helped propel the careers of many emerging Indian designers, the newest

comments from Sabyasachi show a desire to distance his label from the concept of celebrity dressing and focus on building his own creative legacy.

Ultimately, Sabyasachi's stance feels like a gentle reminder about what the real meaning of style is. In the era of red carpet trends, his emphasis on individualization allows viewers to wear the clothes rather than letting the clothes wear them. By rejecting custom celebrity dressing, Sabyasachi not only preserves his creative freedom but also invites the audience to perceive luxury clothing and accessories as an act of self-expression rather than a symbol of social status.

Playground Season 5: A new champion takes the crown

Bidipto Guha (BA, Sem 3)

Kolkata: In India's fast-evolving OTT entertainment scene, traditional reality shows are now sharing the spotlight with a new titan. Playground, hailed as the country's premier gaming and entertainment reality series, recently concluded its high-stakes grand finale, capping weeks of tense gaming duels, shifting house alliances, and nail-biting fan votes. For the uninitiated, the show locks rising digital creators and gamers inside an arcade-style house to battle in both virtual gaming arenas and adrenaline-fueled physical trials. For this explosive fifth season, the series expanded its reach significantly, streaming daily for free on Amazon MX Player and Prime Video.

The Season 5 finale shattered expectations and crowned a champion whose victory sparked heated, celebratory debates across online gaming communities. Madhuja Ghoshal from the Raging Centaurs secured the championship trophy through calm execution under pressure.

Mentored by actress Tejaswi Prakash, Madhuja dominated the grand final challenge in an astonishing 15 minutes and 9 seconds to claim the ultimate title. Her historic win marks a major milestone for the franchise, making her the very first female contestant to lift the trophy. She walked away with a ₹10 lakh cash prize and the coveted title of the season's 'Asli Mastermind,' leaving fierce finalists Simar Sethi (runner-up) and Prateik Jain in her wake after a relentless multi-week grind.

This tactical climax stands in sharp contrast to the early eras of the franchise. While Season 1 saw Ayan Ali (8Bit_Rebel) scale the individual leaderboard for CarryMinati's Dare Dragons, this latest chapter completely raised the competitive stakes. The Playground finale proves that competitive web culture is no longer just a niche subgenre. By blending the dramatic house dynamics of legacy reality TV with the fast-paced nature of modern esports, the series has tapped directly into Gen-Z viewing preferences. Featuring a star-studded



Madhuja Ghoshal bags Rs.10 lakh, celebrates with Tejaswi (Source: Google)

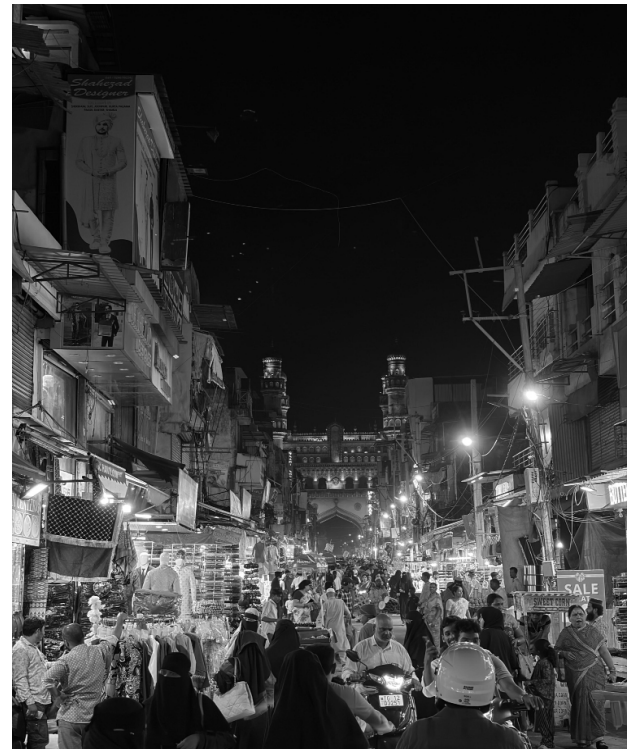
finale appearance from actor Karan Kundrra as the "Agent of Chaos," who brought emotional resolution by easing tensions between rival mentors Tejaswi Prakash and Elvish Yadav, the event was less of a traditional gaming

tournament and more of a celebration of modern youth culture. As the curtain falls on this chapter, one thing is clear: the era of the gaming-reality superstar is officially here to stay, reshaping entertainment, captivating audiences.

PHOTO GALLERY



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Samraggee Biswas (BA, Sem 3)



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