

The Sydenhamite

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From the Editorial Team

Dear Readers,

We bring forth the April Edition of "The Sydenhamite".

For this edition, expect to get a bit teary-eyed, for we have notes of gratitude by our graduating seniors, who have given a strong foundation to our Alumni Cell as well as immensely helped it grow over the past years.

Adding to that, we have a visual heavy section on the Annual Fest held in Sydenham on 15th, 16th and 17th of March. Do try and spot yourselves in the pictures!

That's not all though. We also have an article written by our much respected alumni, Mr Amit Kumar Bhowmik on Cheque Bouncing in India, articles by the Editorial Team on hot topics like: The Kashmir Files, the Indian Premier League, and the HDFC merger; And Informative articles on important days of the April calendar: Hanuman Jayanti, World Health Day and World Heritage Day.

With that being said, we hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we did while composing it.

Happy Reading!



Encounter our April Edition for the year 22'

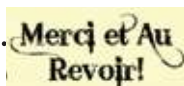
1. Annual Fest of Sydenham....



Finally, students celebrated their fest after 2 years of pandemic... Sydenham is best known for its fests, adding to its honour, this annual fest marked its significance and colours in everyone's hearts.

2. Thank you Notes...

Heartfelt messages from the graduating core team of 20-21 year....Bidding Adieu one of the bittersweet memories of one's life.



3. The Cheque Bouncing-Fiasco.....



This article provides light over the masked matters of business, dishonoured payments...only to protect the privileged few, whose liabilities vis-a-vis the dishonoured cheques fiasco runs into thousands of crores of rupees. They will then have succeeded in aborting and sabotaging our floundering markets!

4. Union of the Two...

The talk of the town, the merger of HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd has taken over the markets...The merger has changed the way of working inside and outside the bank. It has brought onto a new infrastructural face for India as a whole.



5. Kashmir Files :

The Battle of Narratives...

The most talked about movie in Bollywood, the hit in the theatres and shocks of real life Kashmiri Pandits have been talked about.... This showcases the slow favourable reception of hard to swallow and bitter truths as hoped to be seen in the case of the recent Bollywood movie.



6. IPL : Modern India's Festival...

The buzz talk of every cricket fan is here yet again.... It has been a leading platform for young and talented cricketers to earn a place in the National Team as well as become financially stable.



7. World Health Day: India's Mexico: Punjab...

In this article, we dive into the real scares of India's youth specifically in the Northeast of India...Uda Punjab only displays the tip of the Iceberg, the rest is under the water, far away from the human eyes.

8. World Heritage Day...

India has beautiful structures and these are soon to be forgotten if not highlighted...this article highlights the hidden gems of India and more.



9. Hanuman Jayanti...

Jai Shri Ram Bole...

This year, this prominent festival will be celebrated on the 16th of April 2022.



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The Annual Fest of Sydenham College of Commerce.



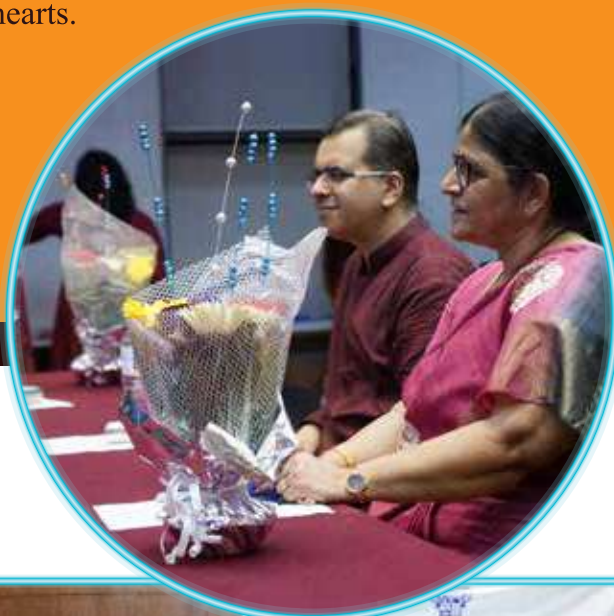
The Annual fest of Sydenham College of Commerce was a three day event that was conducted on campus after a two-year gap owing to the pandemic. The fest was an Intra college celebration, participation ranging from BCOM, BMS, BBI department and junior college was noted. The Fest went on from 15th March to 17th March, 2022. Being a cultural annual fest, there were many competitions held. The highlight of this event was the massive number of participation seen from the students. These were the most awaited days by the students of the college.

The Inauguration ceremony was initiated by Principal Madam, Mrs. Madhuri Kagalkar. The College Professors from all the departments, gave in their best of words and blessings to enlighten the event. After the diya lighting ceremony, the students began with the preparation and participation. There were in total 15 events held which captured a mass amount of participation from the students. The students volunteered to be on the management team as well. There were Chess, Carrom, Table Tennis, Rangoli, Painting, Mehndi, Quiz, Elocution, Essay Writing, Singing, Street Play on the first day of the fest. Students massively brought in their enthusiasm and excitement along with the cheerful demeanours to fill in the joys of the two missed annual fests of College.

The second day witnessed Dance, Treasure Hunt, Kaun Banega Highest Trader, Box cricket, again numbers of students participated in all these interesting and fun events.

On the Third day of the fest, the prize distribution ceremony awarded the winners of all the competitions in the auditorium and finally brought an end to a glorious fest.

The event noted remarkable and enthralling responses from the professors and the students alongside. One of a kind as we all claim it, reminiscing the old memories of the very firsts of the annual event. Sydenham is best known for its fests, adding to its honour, this annual fest marked its significance and colours in everyone's hearts.





Merci et Au Revoir!



A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. That one effort followed by many others is the rudiment of the experience awaiting you! So very often we hear, "It's the destination that we look forward to, but it's the journey that's the most enlightening" and I started mine as a team member of the Cell back in 2020, oblivious of where it would lead. Fast forward to today, as we overlook the onboarding of the new committee I find myself reminiscing the amazing two years that I've had developing and exploring myself. I now look back and realize that from a passionate and fledged girl, I now stand at this pedestal all ready for the next phase of my life.

When the baton was passed to me in 2021 and I officially commenced my journey as the Chairperson of Sydenham Alumni Cell, it was my team that was the crux of my leadership ideology. I looked around myself and found that each person on the team had something I could learn from and it was my focus to give them value back in terms of skills and experience. From inculcating corporate professionalism to networking and teaming up to thrive together, we are

leaving a legacy of fervent members.

We turned all our sleepless nights into zealous moments of planning and preparing, to turn them into examples to set standards for the future. We had a gala time during the committee bonding meets and this truly has been an unforgettable journey that will be a core memory for life.

I would like to extend my sincere heartfelt Gratitude towards our Principal Ma'am - Dr. Madhuri Kagalkar, My heartfelt thanks to Our Prof Incharge - Dr. Ritesh Singhal and all the professors of Sydenham who have been a source of counsel, and special thanks to our beloved Alumni for their constant guidance and encouragement.

My love and support to the Team of Sydenham Alumni Cell who have been irreplaceable fuel to the fire of growth, both mine and the Cell's.

I hope to see the Cell reach even greater heights with the newly elected team of enthusiasts who envision nothing but betterment of our college and students. Wishing you all an astounding journey ahead.

All the very best!

- Freya Fayyaz Shaikh

Chairperson, Sydenham Alumni Cell, 2021 - 2022.

I was always active in college in my first year and wanted to try my hands at everything possible. Being new to the city, and new to the college everything seemed so fascinating to me. I wanted to learn, grow and build friendships for a lifetime.

This urge to be an all-rounder led me to Alumni Cell! I joined the cell to support with Systems not knowing that one day I would be leading the cell as the Vice Chairperson. With time, I went on from exploring systems, to marketing to designs to content to everything that I could be in the leadership team in my Second year.

The next year, when I stood for the core team selections, I was confident that I could lead my juniors and help them gain what I did from organizing events, interacting with the Alumni and leading a team.

I would like to thank our Principal, Professor In-charge- Dr. Ritesh Singhal, and all the members of Alumni cell for all the experiences, learnings and support throughout my journey in the cell.

This indeed is a journey I would cherish for a lifetime! Thank you so much.

Saurabh Anusane

Vice Chairperson, Sydenham Alumni Cell, 2021 - 2022.





"Are we live?" ~ A statement which keeps reminding me of all the wonderful virtual events we've pulled off as a team! There are some unexpected and unplanned decisions we make that become the most memorable parts of our life! One such was joining Sydenham Alumni Cell.

I vividly remember reading the message of openings in the cell being circulated on all the college groups. It was during the initial days of the pandemic that I wanted to do something different and so I filled that form. Fast forward to today, I am so glad that I decided to become a part of college societies.

Being a part of Alumni Cell was one of the most memorable parts of the pandemic. For it was a journey of growth, good times, meeting new people (virtually) and most importantly building friendships for a lifetime!

The cell has given me and every member an opportunity to expand their horizon, try their hands at different things, learn, make mistakes and give the best they can. Being a part of the core team and the editor of the newsletter was one such opportunity I was bestowed with.

Every single newsletter, every single meeting and every wonderful event has so many memories that I fondly remember. And now when it's time for me to bid farewell to my pals I am confident that my juniors shall take the cell and the newsletter to even greater heights. The way the cell has helped me transform myself, I wish the same for my juniors.

I'd like to wholeheartedly thank our college Principal Dr. Madhuri Kagalkar, Alumni Cell Professor In-charge Dr. Ritesh Singhal, all the Alumni who have been our source of inspiration, my wonderful seniors, amazing batchmates and my talented juniors.

Here's to the Sydenham Alumni Cell!

~Sakshi Chavan

Student Representative, Sydenham Alumni Cell, 2021 - 2022.



With the bells of graduation ringing, the time has come to part our ways with this ebullient society and, of course, the Editorial team of 'The Sydenhamite'. As I pass the baton of fiery will to our successors, I would like to thank the

team for endowing the role Editor for this ostentatious newsletter. The values promulgated by being part of the Editorial team has been immense! Bonds established during our tenure were reinforced by the unwavering faith in each other's ability to produce. Friends become family, cell becomes home, giving us memories to cherish and treasure forever.

So I bid adieu, wishing juniors the best, to surpass the milestones set by us and my colleagues luck, for their endeavors ahead.

Signing off

Paras Dhuliya

Head Of Department - Content Writing, Sydenham Alumni Cell, 2021 - 2022.





THE CHEQUE-BOUNCING FLASCO: **Complainants held to ransom by the accused and courts!**

By: Amit Kumar Bhowmik

The (mal) functioning of Courts has truly further deteriorated, particularly, in the last two decades. The hope of securing justice is now, as matters stand, truly, very slender. Perhaps, that is why people resort to 'alternative remedies', by placing their grievances for 'arbitration' before Mafia dons and their lackeys. Strong arm tactics yield quicker results. To many, this form of 'settlement' is preferable to waiting in frustration in Courts; pampering costly lawyers; whole-sale bribery on all levels, only for the case to be adjourned repeatedly, over decades. It is, thus, of little wonder that the public's faith in the judiciary has rapidly eroded over time. The clogs in the already rusted and dysfunctional wheels of the justice system, are often the judicial officers themselves, who, once ensconced comfortably in the seat of authority; holding power literally over life and death, laze through crowded dockets, confident that once selected, the worst that can happen to them is a transfer, which, in any event, can be easily 'stayed' or even stopped, for reasons that cannot be expounded here!

Since the last eight years, I have been representing the Complainant before the District Courts in Pune, in a complaint made under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act (NIA). My client has had cheques totaling Rs 2.50 crores issued to him in a land transaction, dishonored. The Accused are land developers, who wield fearful influence, including with the Courts, which seems apparent. Last week, it was for the seventh time that Non- Bailable Warrants (NBWs) have been issued to ensure their presence before the Court. The trick for the Accused is to get the NBWs canceled by appearing on the day before the date of the hearing and having them canceled. The clerks and staff of the Courts are in collusion with them, for a consideration, of course! On the date of the hearing, the advocate representing the accused will seek adjournment, with the plea that they are unable to attend as they are unwell or out of station. The disinterested judicial officer, oblivious to the suffering of the Complainant, will automatically adjourn the matter by six to eight weeks. Sometimes, much longer, depending on the amount of grease money spread. The Complainant in a cheque bouncing matter, is always

at the receiving end. He has to pay the Court fees before lodging the Complaint, which is quite substantial. He has to reimburse his lawyers with endless sums, only to have the matter adjourned on some pretext or other even though these are Summary proceedings which, at least on paper, must be heard finally and decided within six months! The Complainant has to spend for service of the NBWs upon the police station to be, in turn, served on the Accused, where he has to mandatorily fork out 'baksheesh'. Or else, the Service Report will be returned with the remark that the accused was out of station! Hence, another NBW will be issued and yet another adjournment.

Section 138 of the NIA pertains to dishonor of cheques for insufficiency of funds in the account when issued. The punishment prescribed is imprisonment for a term which may be extended to two years or with fine which may extend to twice the amount of the cheque, or with both.

To put the Complaints to even greater prejudice, the Ministry of Finance vide its 'Statement of Reason' dated June 8, 2020 has announced various steps to provide relief from the economic stress caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. One such proposal was the amendment of 19 Acts to decriminalize multiple minor economic offenses, including that under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. While inviting these comments, the Finance Ministry has made it clear that these actions to be taken for decriminalization of minor offenses are expected to go a long way in improving the ease of doing business and helping unclog the Court system and prisons. But amounts defrauded by issuing dud cheques are very often, of leviathan amounts. I say that this horse-blinkered proposal is in order to shield the accused. Decriminalization will remove fear of doing wrong.

Currently, the Drawer of the Negotiable Instrument, like cheques, still has a fear of facing criminal punishment apart from the penalty of repayment of twice the amount. The proposed change in law will absolve such fear. The instrument of the cheque will lose its good faith and trust in the market, thereby, lowering the number of transactions through them.

The provision under Section 138 NIA itself has a safeguard for an honest drawer of the cheque. It is only after receiving the Notice of demand from the payee or holder in due course of time and upon expiration of 15 days from such receipt, that the offense is deemed to



have been committed. In this regard, the Drawer of such cheque(s) has an opportunity to make payment within 15 days and not face criminal action. Further,

under Section 147 of NIA, these offenses are compoundable. That is, both parties can amicably settle at any stage of the proceedings and the Drawer can, thus, escape further prosecution.

Proceedings under Section 138 NIA attract lesser Court fee, as compared with Civil proceedings. Upon decriminalizing Section 138 NIA, the holders of such cheques would then be required to turn to the Civil Courts to get respite. All matters pertaining to Section 138 NIA will then add to the work-load of Civil Courts. I am quite distressed to find that the staff of Courts, in any event, largely shirk off their responsibilities unless they are given ex-gratia payment in cash. Complaints to the higher echelon in the judiciary are tossed into dust-bins and are akin to pouring water on a duck's back! The proof is the continuing lethargy, indifference and insensitivity. This would also take away the right of the holders to recover up to 20 per cent interim compensation of the total cheque amount. This sum can be recovered right at the beginning of the Trial u/s 143A of the NI Act.

The proposed amendment is hopelessly chaotic and will adversely affect the country's economy. If the protective umbrella of prosecution for dishonored cheques is taken away, future cheques may not remain any more a preferred mode of payment for business and personal transactions, further breaking down an already collapsing economy. The Pathway to Hell is paved with good intentions! Therefore, the element of criminal prosecution that stands formed as part of the NIA, as ends of justice, must not be altered. To the best of my knowledge, the Supreme Court has not taken any steps. But, it is more than likely, that politicians, in order to protect their favored defaulters, may pass a Bill which will be akin to cutting off the branch on which one is perched!

The Apex Court has, in fact, in 'Suo motu Writ Petition (Cri) No: 2 of 2021', on April 16 2021 in its 27 pages order and directions, in which Senior Counsel, Siddharth Luthra was appointed as Amicus Curiae has, inter- alia, set out:

“This gargantuan pendency of complaints filed under Section 138 of the Act has had an adverse effect in disposal of other criminal cases. There was an imminent need for remedying the situation which was addressed by the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2002. Sections 143 to 147 were inserted in the Act, which came into force on 06.02.2003. Section 143 of the Act empowers the Court to try complaints filed under Section 138 of the Act summarily, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (hereinafter, ‘the Code’).

Sub-section (3) of Section 143 stipulates that an endeavor must be made to conclude the trial within six months from the date of filing of the complaint. Section 144 deals with the mode of service of



summons. Section 145 postulates that the evidence of the complainant given by him on affidavit may be read as evidence in any inquiry, trial or other proceeding under the Code. Bank's slip or memo denoting that the cheque has been dishonored is presumed to be prima facie evidence of the fact of dishonor of the cheque, according to Section 146. Section 147 makes offenses punishable under the Act compoundable.’

The Supreme Court further noted:

‘The situation has not improved as Courts continue to struggle with the humongous pendency of complaints under Section 138 of the Act. The preliminary report submitted by the learned Amicus Curiae shows that as on 31.12.2019, the total number of criminal cases pending was 2.31 crores, out of which 35.16 lakh pertained to Section 138 of the Act. The reasons for the backlog of cases, according to the learned Amici Curiae, is that while there is a steady increase in the institution of complaints every year, the rate of disposal does not match the rate of institutions of complaints. Delay in disposal of



the complaints under Section 138 of the Act has been due to reasons which we shall deal with in this order.’

The Amici Curiae identified several major issues for the stack-up of Cases under Section 138 NIA from the responses filed by the State Governments and the Union Territories, foremost of which was that Summary Trials are routinely converted to Summons Trials in a mechanical manner. His suggestion in his preliminary note that the High Courts should issue directions to the Trial Courts for recording cogent and sufficient reasons before converting a Summary Trial to Summons Trial, have been accepted by the High Courts and was recorded in the order.

But, although the intentions of the Full Bench of the Supreme Court are indeed lofty and noble, there has been many a slip between the cup and the lip. A year has since passed, but the spirit of this land-mark order and observations have, I find, unfortunately, not filtered down to the Trial Courts! I sincerely doubt if any of the judicial officers; even the Principal Judges, are aware of

it. Otherwise, why would my client, who is a senior citizen afflicted with several health issues, have to continue to wait for the last eight years when the Trial ought to have been concluded within six months? The Principal Judges of the District Courts, seem to be least concerned to the anguish and plight of litigants and such monstrous injustice. In the first instance, they and other judicial officers must become aware of these facts enshrined in this Suo motu order, and even more, they ought to be made to abide by the directions contained therein. Stern disciplinary action must be taken, without fear or favor, against those who flout these directions. I concede, however, that that might be wishful thinking!

Meanwhile, my client and I wait with bated breath for the next public debacle which will be brought about by the Finance Ministry, apparently, only to protect the privileged few, whose liabilities vis-a-vis the dishonored cheques fiasco runs into thousands of crores of rupees. They will then have succeeded in aborting and sabotaging our floundering markets!



Union of The Two



The Announcement of the Merger of HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd on Monday, 4th April 2022, led to a rise in the stock prices of both the entities in the stock market at early hours. HDFC's scrip rose 14% to a high of Rs 2,804 on the BSE while that of HDFC Bank climbed 10 per cent to a high of Rs 1,660. The Merger will create an entity twice the size of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank's fiercest competitor, the interesting part is that there wasn't much effort put into this immense step towards a brighter future, just a merger. It is very beneficial to HDFC as it will now score better funding than ever before. The successful merger of these Two, will create a balance sheet of an astounding figure of Rs. 17.87 lakh crores! It is not only a better future for the

institution, HDFC but it is for the better good of the whole nation, collectively.

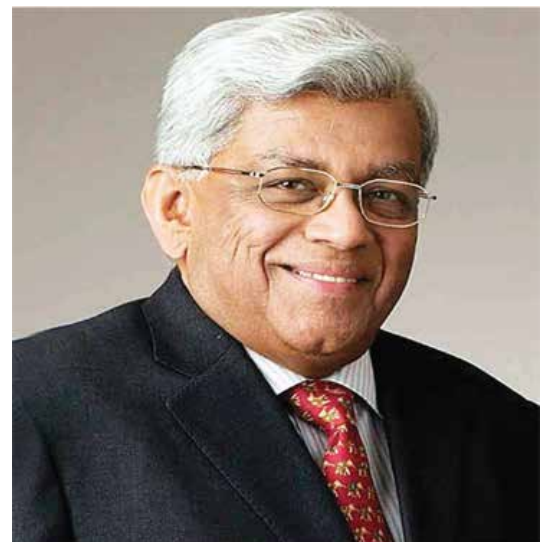
After the market conditions in 2019-20, 20-21, India will see a rise due to the recent economic developments. Considering the global impact on our economy, India should expect a slow and steady rise. The upsurge in the financial sector is expected to rise to 9% in FY22 which was scaled down to 9.5% in October 2021. The Merger's impacts go beyond banking. HDFC Bank has a customer base of over 6.8 crore and counting. The merger has changed the way of working inside and outside the bank. It has brought onto a new infrastructural face for India as a whole.

“A FRIENDLY MERGER NOT A HOSTILE ONE.”

– HDFC CHAIRPERSON DEEPAK PAREKH.

On the grounds following the merger, the interest rates regime of the bank has come down gravely from a range of 6-7% to 3-4%. The further drag on Standard Liquidity Ratio and the Cash Reserve Ratio is no more a drag. The Government security yields are around 6 % and the cost of funds is 3-4%, still making it in the positive inclinations.

Currently, HDFC Ltd holds 21% stake in the HDFC Bank after the merger the new entity will be having no promoter's stake. Existing shareholders of HDFC Bank Ltd will own 41% of HDFC Bank. Completion



of the Merger of the process is expected to be by Q2/Q3 FY24, subject to approval from RBI, IRDAI, CCI, SEBI, Shareholders, creditors and stock exchanges.

According to Atanu Chakraborty, Chairman of HDFC Bank, the combined entity, which will now have loans across mortgages, retail, large corporates and small businesses, will be able to withstand economic cycles.

POST MERGER IN POINTERS:-

1. Ratio 25 HDFC shares for 42 HDFC bank shares. Shareholders of HDFC limited as on the record date will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank for 25 shares of HDFC Ltd.
2. HDFC bank will be 100% owned by shareholders.
3. The Merged entity could have a 14.1% weightage on Nifty 50 and a whopping 38.2% weight on Nifty Bank.
4. After the successful merger with the approval of the regulatory bodies, all the subsidiary companies of HDFC Ltd will be then owned by HDFC bank.
HDFC Life, HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Ergo, HDFC Credila, HDFC Capital, HDFC Property Fund, HDFC Sales.
5. The Merged entity will turn into the biggest stock in Nifty combined entity.
6. HDFC's merger with HDFC Bank could overtake TCS and become Second Largest Market Cap.
7. FIIS will be able to buy 78% more in the new entity.

HOW WILL THE MERGER AFFECT THE HDFC BANK?

Merger will give HDFC bank the ability to better cross sell with a full suite of financial products. The combined customer base of HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd will be:-

1. Life insurance.
2. General insurance.
3. Health insurance.
4. Investment products.
5. Credit Cards.
6. Personal Loans.



“Post merger, HDFC bank will become the largest bank in the world. With the leadership that we have built in housing finance and the deep understanding of the housing market across various economic cycles, this transaction helps in realizing the potential of what HDFC's housing finance business can achieve by leveraging the distribution and customer base of HDFC bank. It is a step in the right direction, taken at the right time, for value creation for all the stakeholders.”

-CEO/Vice Chairperson of HDFC Keki Mistry.

Dealmakers should continue to carefully analyze the risks and benefits of potential M&A transactions, taking into account the financial and strategic grounds for the deal, and thoughtfully structure transactions to maximize the potential for successful outcomes.

Kashmir Files: The Battle of Narratives.

“It’s no longer a film, it’s a movement”

Kashmir— once called paradise on earth, has now been curtailed to its current state of being a war-ravaged, blood-shedding territory. With its roots dug deep in violence, communalism and funded terrorist arms, it has perpetually become a feuding and sensitive issue, making it an out of bounds beauty of sorts.

When one, daringly, does approach this topic, as The Kashmir Files Director, Mr Vivek Agnihotri did, it is followed by praises and lashes in abundance.

Many are of the thought that this movie has exhumed a well-hidden truth of the atrocities committed against Kashmiri Pandits on their land, and some question the intent behind this film, whether it was to educate or to incite.

There are also speculations regarding misinformation surrounding the events that took place. Some believe the wrong political party is being blamed, and doubt the number of deaths and the faiths of the dead in the incident, while some stand affirmed in their trust toward the Censor Board for fact-checking. Adding to that, the lift of the motion picture’s ban in the UAE with no changes or cuts being made, assures people the same.

This movie has become a benchmark in the Indian Film Industry by giving its audience an outspoken visual of something that has been taboo to speak of, for decades. A similar instance is the silent Hollywood movie *Within Our Gates* (1920), a movie based on the sufferings of African-Americans in the hands of fairer skinned people, which was earlier condemned, is being given its due acknowledgement in much recent times. This showcases the slow favorable reception of hard to swallow and bitter truths as hoped to be seen in the case of the recent Bollywood movie.

Unlike other historical genocide based movies such as *The Holocaust*, *The Kashmir Files* had a small budget. Despite that, the film was well articulated and depicted, and the magnitude of the impact it had was no less than previous similar films.

Though the battles fought among the different narratives may be endless, the nuance between forgiving and forgetting that this movie made way for, is mention-worthy.



IPL: MODERN INDIA'S FESTIVAL



IPL has been a hot topic not only in India but across the world as it has been the most successful cricket league in the world. The cash-rich league started in the year 2008 and from that year we all have seen that it has played a very big role in not only shaping the Indian cricket team but also in building the other national cricket teams. It has been a leading platform for young and talented cricketers to earn a place in the National Team as well as become financially stable.

The tournament has given us many exceptional stars who have displayed their skills to the world against the best players. IPL has made a significant impact in the cricketing world. The current IPL season will feature two additional teams which will take the overall tally to 10 franchises. This will create more opportunities and spots for the youngsters to get a chance and ply their trade alongside the world's best. On that note, we take a look at some of the rising stars and unknown talents who are expected to make a big impact in IPL 2022.

UNMASKED PLAYERS TO WATCH OUT FOR:-



DEWALD BREVIS

Brevis recently burst onto the scene after captaining the U19 South African side in the T20 World Cup. His class consistently shone as he produced some dazzling knocks. After being compared to AB, surely it is just a matter of time until he gets his opportunity for the Proteas or Mumbai Indians.

RAJVARDHAN HANGARGEKAR

Another talent who burst onto the scene in the U19 T20 World Cup, the young seamer was picked up by CSK for INR 1.5 crore. He offers searing pace and lower order muscle, an invaluable asset for any team. With a long season ahead, we're patiently awaiting his IPL debut.



RAHUL TEWATIA

A man in-demand at the 2022 IPL mega-auction. The all-rounder has plenty of experience in the competition, after a string of standout performances for Royals in years gone by, but he'll face pressure to live up to his hefty price tag of 9 crore.

SHAHRUKH KHAN

An extreme talent who hasn't been able to fulfill his full potential in previous IPL campaigns, could this be the season Khan finally flourishes? Hopefully, it is second time Lucky at the Punjab Kings, and he can unleash the talent he has shown on the domestic circuit.



TIM DAVID

Despite having yet to don Australia's famous green and gold, Tim David's impressive performances on the domestic circuit have caught plenty of attention. Captured by MI in the auction for 8.25 crore, plenty will be expected of the big-hitting Aussie in his maiden campaign.

India's Mexico : Punjab.

DRUG MENACE IN PUNJAB



Health of the nation is driven by the youth and it is the youth that leads us to a better future.

To a better future, a leap of faith in the right hands is hope.

Time has always proven, prevention is better than cure. To a better and safer future.

On the anniversary of World Health Day on the 14th of April, we bring to you an article on the relation of today's youth and health. WHO defines 'Adolescents' as individuals in the 10-19 years age group and 'Youth' as the 15-24 year age group. Adolescence is such a critical and impressionable stage of one's life. It's a period of constant change and development, physically and mentally. During the stage of youth being stressed, pulled and pushed in different directions, the mind seeks solace in escape. The exile is provided through a lot of incompatible mediums, one of them being drugs. In India, the usage of drugs may be accounted for in part by lack of enough education and awareness of consumption of drugs, peer pressure, experimentation, dysfunctional families, abuse of any kind, etc.



In this article, we'll be diving into the realms of battling drugs in Punjab. Statistics from 2019 say Over 75% of the Punjab youth are hooked to drugs and going by estimates every third family has 1 addict and at least 30% of the jail inmates have been booked and arrested for illegal possession of drugs under the NDPS Act. Among them, suspected HIV prevalence continues to be high. The most worrying category of drugs in India are opioids, with the prevalence of opioid use in India being three times the global average (0.7% Vs 2.1%). Punjab has been a national

high in usage of drugs. The percentage of people using drugs in Punjab is much higher than the national average. Alcohol usage in Punjab is 28.5%, while the national average(India) is 14.6%. For cannabis, it is 12.5% and 2.8%; for opioids, the usage in Punjab is 9.7% vs the national average of 2.1%.

The Former Chief Minister of Punjab, Capt Amarinder Singh had claimed that most of the drugs, especially heroin, are smuggled into Punjab from Afghanistan via Pakistan bordering States like Haryana, Jammu-Kashmir, Rajasthan, Delhi and even Nepal. CADA (comprehension action against drug abuse,) EDP (enforcement, de-addiction and prevention.) and anti narcotic cells in 22 districts of Punjab were set up by the former Punjab Government.

Current Punjab government has got warnings issued to drug peddlers through public address systems installed at gurdwaras in Patti. As many as 52,656 FIRs were registered for drug smuggling and peddling since January 2017. Police have arrested 68,575 persons in the cases. As a majority of these were addicts, the government faces an uphill task of de-addiction and rehabilitation. The state jails too are under pressure. At present, more than half of the 24,000 inmates in Punjab jails are addicts or peddlers.

**UDTA PUNJAB
ONLY DISPLAYS
THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG,
THE REST IS UNDER**

THE WATER, FAR AWAY FROM THE HUMAN EYES.





“Clear off the rubble”, say many, but for the occasion of World Heritage Day, let us take our time and clear out some misconceptions around the topic of ancestral heritage.

Our heritage is a mirror of our traditions, which have been ingrained in by ancestors years before when times were much different. It isn’t about just the bricks and mortar used, it’s the years of history that we could lose once they are demolished.

Heritage sites act like symbols of the history that we Indians, take much pride in. The remains of the Indus Valley civilization and Chidambaram Natraja temple amaze even today’s modern scientists for the level of intricacy. We reached such heights in the fields of architecture and art, which we wouldn’t know of if it wasn’t for the preservation of these sites.

These structures are what unite people of an area. They show us that we all, no matter color or caste, all have the similar culture and history that we come from and share. Studies show that areas where the heritage is understood and valued tend to be better looked



after than those where heritage items have no link with the community. Such links help to foster civic responsibility and citizenship and contribute to everyone’s quality of life.

These sites could also produce revenue to suffice the maintenance and repairs required, as well as mature into another stream of revenue for the government. The adaptive use of older buildings as houses, shops etc. could also turn out to be cost effective.



As per the 2018 UN statistics, around 461 million lives reside in India’s cities, and by 2050, as cities expand, this number is expected to almost double to 877 million. This calls for more resources and land area to provide an acceptable standard of living to inhabitants. Meaning that the fight to preserve heritage structures will go on to get tougher.

Some may still say that the past is dead, however getting rid of our ancestral heritage would tantamount to forcibly killing it. Be it monuments or culture, they have had a widespread impact on society, then and now too. Remember, these ruins are not just Legos, breaking them down is a one-way street, once destroyed, they cannot be put back.

Celebrating the Spirit of Pavanputra.



Hanuman Jayanti is a popular birth anniversary of the deity, Lord Hanuman. It is celebrated throughout the country with great enthusiasm and energy. According to the Hindu calendar, Hanuman Jayanti falls on a full moon day, during the Chaitra month and according to the Gregorian calendar, it occurs in the month of March-April. Many sources say that Lord Hanuman was born during the Chaitra Purnima, right after sunrise on Mangalwar (Tuesday). The festival is celebrated for 41 days in states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. This year, this prominent festival will be celebrated on the 16th of April 2022.

Many Hindus from Nepal and India celebrate the festival in many ways. They follow multiple practices and traditions to celebrate the deity's birth anniversary. Some devotees observe a full day fast. The fast begins at sunrise and concludes at the end of the day, usually with a purely vegetarian feast. Many people visit the local temples dedicated to Lord Hanuman in order to celebrate the holiday surrounded by like minded and enthusiastic devotees. The temples also offer and host special ceremonies, rituals and prayers to the general public. They conduct group recitation of the sacred Hanuman Chalisa, which has 40 verses and is sung as many as 108 times in many ceremonies. Group recitations of poetic shlokas, singing of bhajans, kirtans and other religious and spiritual songs are also done. Many bhakts (followers) practice other methods of celebrating this festival too. Some spend hours reading the epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana, some offer bananas to local monkeys (It is believed that Lord Hanuman often appears in the disguise and form of monkeys), pray at home, conduct poojas and recite mantras. Most pujas conclude with the practice of putting a red coloured Tika on the forehead. This act commemorates the time Lord Hanuman smeared himself in paste to ensure the immortality of Lord Rama, his most admired hero to whom he was devoted to at an unimaginable level.

Commonly considered as the Hindu God of wisdom, strength, courage, devotion and self discipline, Lord Hanuman goes by many names like Pavanputra, Sankatmochan, Bajrangbali, Mahabali, Mahavira, Panchavaktra, etc and is truly a very heroic and noble figure according to all the legends and tales in Hindu Mythology, including epics like the Ramayana. As several celebrate his birth anniversary this year, I believe that if each of us start adopting his virtues, dedication and devotion towards multiple aspects of our lives, we would be able to see ourselves improve eventually and become better individuals.





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