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AMITY SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION



# Expressions

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## VARANASI

# Land of living & the dead

Photo: Snamya Chandran



Snamya Chandran & Supriya Singh

In Hinduism, death is considered a gateway to another life marked by the results of one's karma. It is believed that the soul of the dead person attains salvation and the

cycle of rebirth is broken if the last rites of the deceased are performed in Varanasi. The festival of death is celebrated at Manikarnika Ghat. Regret chants are sung at every hour of the day and smoke spreads throughout the area, day and night

as bodies are cremated 24x7. The Ghat is also known as gateway to heaven as a plethora of positive vibes is experienced from this place. Here, one really gets to know the relation between life and death.

-Spiritual Capital of India: P6

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# Editor's Desk

## Students need to be 'Jack of all trades'

Come April- May, it's examination time for the students in particular batch 2020. While teaching was held in physical mode since July 2021,



students are certainly better prepared and focused to take their semester end examination in physical mode albeit pressure is as usual. Results of the last semester clearly indicated that students performed much better in their grades than being in the online mode.

As students finish their end semester examinations around May 20, they move for internship in different verticals of media industry and a competition has already begun among students whether they get the opportunity to move into their area of choice.

My advice to students is that they should not bother much to pick up a particular industry at this stage but grab any opportunity that comes their way. "You all need to learn the nuances of the industry norms, see the environment and while learning be ready to be scolded. Working as a professional in the industry is very tough and unless you get adjusted, you will not attain maturity to look forward for a placement next year", I have already told them. What is taught theoretically is different when it comes to practical working. So be ready to face the challenges. Remember one who is the best and articulate in adjustment will fit the slot.

April was a month full of activities like 3-day long workshop with PHIA Foundation, Photography workshop by Canon, National Students Annual Conference besides the Alumni Interaction, and each of these events, I am sure gave a new learning to students.

First year students currently in last month of their teaching need to tighten their belt as they would be appearing for the examination early June.

Wishing good luck to one & all !

**Prof (Dr) Sanjay M Johri**

## 'ASCO gave me confidence to venture into the unknown'

"It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings."- Wendell Berry, American writer, poet, environmental activist and farmer



Speaking about my career journey, the confusion started in my senior secondary days. All of my friends were applying to various colleges, whereas I was clueless about my next step! The only career options that most students would pick were medicine, engineering, teaching and government services. This, however, did not stop me from exploring other career opportunities.

Media and communications was something that fascinated and excited me, ever since I was a child. I started looking for mass media institutes in Lucknow and stumbled upon the

### ALUMNI CORNER

courses that were being offered by Amity University. I explored and found that I would be getting the appropriate education and know-how related to the craft, very close to home and felt staying in the city and studying media would be more immersive and engaging.

It was only after I joined Amity for my bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication that I discovered public relation and corporate communication, something which I enjoyed and found most creatively satisfying. Hence, I took it up as my specialization, honed my craft and started working.

ASCO created a solid foundation of fundamental skills set that has helped me to switch hats as and when needed. I loved my faculty who put in extra efforts to ensure we succeed and made us practical about our expectations when we stepped out. The courage and the support from Johri sir allowed to experiment and explore many possibilities to achieve a successful portfolio. For me, the biggest takeaway from him was to never take anyone or any job for granted. Since then, it has become my responsibility to deliver a project, which is a balance of creativity and commerce.

Amity is a cultural melting pot and I got to learn so much every day without even realising it. I also met passionate individuals who shared the same aesthetics and sensibilities. I remain close friends and work with them, to this day.

I moved to Mumbai for my post-grads from Whistling Woods International. My career started off as an Assistant Manager Corporate communications at WCRC Mumbai. I had to relocate to Lucknow for personal commitments and joined Hindustan Times. Presently, I am working as an Offshore Account Manager in HCL Technologies.

ASCO is an experience that I will cherish forever. I would love to go back in time and relive those days.

*-Arpan Jennifer, Offshore Account Manager, HCL Technologies  
BJMC- 2009-2012*

# Beat the heat with desi delectables

Shreya

Beating sweltering heat the cool way specially with delicious swirls of ice cream or for that matter other icy delectable like Pandit raja ki mashoor thandai, Prakash ki mashoor kulfi, and lassi from Shri lassi corner in the city of nawabs are some of the favourite hangouts of older and younger generation alike.

While ice cream vendors can be seen everywhere across the city but if you want to taste desi thanda delight, which is also one of the oldest and well-known outlets then a visit to Aminabad is must where Prakash ji ki mashoor kulfi is situated. "This shop is here since 1956. It is quite busy these days due to extreme hot weather and people generally like kesar pista kulfi" says owner of Prakash ji ki mashoor kulfi. "They have other flavours like mango, rose, strawberry, chocolate, etc but I personally like kesar pista because I think this taste is what comes to my mind when it comes to kulfi

and this is the original taste of a kulfi", said Damini, a 42 year old homemaker.

Thandai, a traditional and refreshing Indian drink recipe created with a blend of dried fruits, seeds, and spices is typically associated with Maha shivaratri and Holi. Owner of Pandit raja ki mashoor thandai said, "This shop was started by my great grandfather in 1936 and I'm the 4th generation running it. I offer different sharbats and thandai with or without bhang. People do order bhang ke ladoos from

places like Bangalore and Delhi because thandai, besides

being a tasty refreshing drink, can become addictive on the other hand. Excess of anything is not good." The shop has a big fan following and devoted

regular customers; Mukul Srivastava is one of them. He said "I have been coming to this place regularly since last year. I drink it without bhang and sometimes with bhang also. I love it as this is a traditional healthy cold drink with least or no adverse effects."

Meanwhile, another cool

drink comprising frothy yogurt blended with water, various fruits, seasonings like salt or sugar, popularly sold in 'kulhads' with extra thick layer of 'rabdi' on top of that is our favourite 'Lassi'. Having originated from Punjab, this is a traditional chilled beverage liked by the majority of Indians. A staff at Shri lassi and Sons said, "We have other items as well, but our lassi is what we are famous for. We have sweet lassi and masala lassi as well. Especially in the summer, our sales increase manyfolds." People can have lassi even when they are on fast. Riddhi, a student, said, "My father is diabetic, so whenever he feels like he wants to have something sweet, I bring him a sugar-free lassi from Shri lassi which he can enjoy without compromising his health."

So, what are you waiting for? Go and grab some of these desi, cool delectable items to beat the scorching summer sun.

**Kulfi has been around since the 16th century and finds its origins way back during the Mughal period**

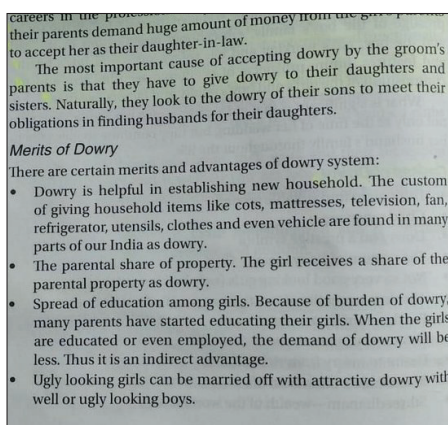
**Lassi, besides being a pure delicacy, also aids digestion, prevents stomach bloating, is a good source of probiotics, improves bone health, and boosts immunity**



*Matter of thought: Socially cultivated evil practice has become a norm. Is removing controversial quote or talking about it only when such incidents happen is enough to eradicate it?*

Vaishali Gautam

“Ugly looking girls can be married off with attractive dowry with well or ugly looking boys” are the lines of a Sociology textbook. The snapshot of this excerpt from a book in the B.Sc. Nursing curriculum, authored by TK Indrani and published by Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers Private Limited, went viral on various social media platforms recently which reignited the discourse over one of the much-discussed issues of all times—dowry.



The internet went in a state of flurry over the text and the matter reached the education ministry. The National Commission for Women (NCW) asked education minister, Dharmendra Pradhan to take remedial

# Text ‘booked’ on dowry but is it enough?

**19 women were killed for dowry every day in 2020: NCRB**

**Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code made dowry death a punishable offence with a minimum sentence of imprisonment for 7 years and maximum imprisonment for life**

**The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (Act No. 28 of 1961) prohibits the giving or taking of dowry**

dial action over the book. On receiving such disapprobation from the masses, the publishers took action to withdraw the book from the market immediately.

The incident made us realize that the social evil of dowry is still prevailing in the society, we’ve just stopped talking about it. But the question is, despite strict laws being imposed against the practice, why is it still prevalent and not eradicated?

Manju Singh, a housewife, while discussing the issue said, “The richer sections of the society give away dowry in the name of gifts. They probably don’t realize that by doing so they are encouraging and contributing to the continuation of this practice. The consequences then have to be borne by the poor for whom it becomes a compulsion. In the text that went viral it was also written that because of the burden of dowry, parents start educating their girls. But the ground reality is such parents think of saving money for dowry instead of investing it on their daughter’s studies.”

Deepshikha, a college student added, “We think that we are be-

coming more modern and educated so the problem is gradually vanishing. Even I’d love to believe so but the reality seems different. I’ve seen cases where more educated and well-off people, ask for more dowry. It seems that the amount of dowry gets decided based on how well-off the groom is. When I hear about such cases, all the arguments of our development as a society start seeming irrational.”

Dowry has been a root cause of several other evil practices including female foeticides, low female education, domestic violence, etc. It is so deeply rooted in the minds of people, that it has become a normal standard instead of something of concern. To eradicate this practice, the laws need to be more stringent and we as people need to take a stand against it. Not all sections of society accept things equally. In that case, theories like innovation diffusion can be put into execution. More intellectual people need to come forward and lead the movement. Society isn’t suffering because the weaker sections have a voice; it’s suffering because the stronger, educated people choose to be silent.

# E-cards - The future of wedding cards?

Drishti Vanaik

The outbreak of Covid-19 has induced a lot of changes in the society. With everything becoming digital and technology-based, real-time human interactions have decreased and preference of digital mode over traditional mode has become the norm. Nonetheless, there hasn't been a single industry which has not been affected with the digital being the conqueror, and one such industry is of the traditional card making for marriages.

Where pre-covid covering distances to old and antique shops just to select the shaadi card design was normal, post-covid selecting a design on the internet and handing it over to a designer became the popularly known new normal. But with this new normal the traditional card making & selling shops and stores had to face a lot of hardships and challenges.

During a visit to Card waali Gali in Aminabad, Lucknow, Expressions reporter spoke to these card shop owners and found the struggles they faced, and still face on daily basis. "Cards for marriage is the base of this market. Without customers the base is deteriorating", mentioned Rabi Ahmad, owner of Mona Shops, one of the many shops in the Gali. He also added, "There is almost a 50% reduction in sales of these cards. On a daily basis, only 15-20 customers come, out of which few proceed with giving orders and others don't. If we had customers, I would not be speaking to you and would have been engaged".

Amidst the steady decline in the purchase of these cards, there is a decline in the earnings of these people as well. "Initially, we used to have 5 labourers but after Covid, the number came down to 1, as we could not afford their salaries",



mentioned Mayank Jain, owner of Shawasti Cards, another local shop in the market operating for more than 10 years.

Although people still continue to visit these shops, there is a reduction in the number of cards they order. "Curtailed in the guests due to Covid restrictions, have resulted in less orders we get now. Primarily we used to get orders for 500-600 cards whereas now we get orders for just 100 cards or sometimes even 50. This has caused us to go into the stage of retrenchment and personally great economic loss", he further added.

On the one hand where these shop owners are facing troubles, the trend of E-cards is blossoming on the other hand. Amar Fax Services in Hazratganj, Lucknow, deliver E-cards to the customer at a price of Rs 1000-5000 or even above. Shri Nath, owner Amar Fax Services said, "E-cards have gained more popularity now. People prefer to get an E-card designed and share the same on WhatsApp groups. No one wants to take the pain of visiting hundreds of people and giving them cards for the wedding. As a consequence, our sales have escalated like nothing".

While this view of E-cards is

what majority of people hold, Shahid, owner of Chaudhary Cards in the Gali, added, "This is true that the card market is overpowered by E-cards and we are finding out ways to get accustomed to this trend but the actual impact of a wedding is when you take the card to individual homes and establish a connect with the people".

However, in sync with surging demand for E-cards, many shops have started their websites and have hired graphic designers, thereby operating both physically and digitally. Neha Singh, owner of Shri Cards, one of the oldest card shops in the market mentioned, "We have started our services on digital platforms as well. We have our accounts on social media platforms through which people reach us, those who don't even live in the same city. We get an order; we design the card according to the needs of the customer. Though Covid has given us a lot of problem, but it has also taught us to expand our horizons".

Meanwhile, alongside the trend of E-cards there is still some hope left for the shop owners. Though most of them had slow sales, some claimed that it has picked up recently. Mihir Gupta, owner of Gupta Cards in the Gali added, "The real sales are from the months of October-December, and last year sales were decent. Of course it was not exactly what it used to be before Covid, but was enough to survive and sustain. For this year we look forward to more purchases".

E-cards can be used for the time being, but the actual feel of marriage is when you receive a box of goodies with a beautifully designed card. E-cards might be more attractive in terms of various factors including cost and convenience, but traditional cards will always hold a special place and will be a reminder of the gaieties associated with a marriage.

# KASHI

# Spiritual Capital of India

*Varanasi or Kashi is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities of the world with evidence of settlements dating back to around 1100 BC. But age isn't the only reason behind Varanasi's cultural status. The city is considered the spiritual capital of India, a symbolic place for both Hindus and Buddhists. It has seen Vedic culture flourish with its own eyes.*



Snamya Chandran & Supriya Singh

Many references to Kashi are present in ancient Hindu scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads and Puranas. The city is a major site for pilgrimage, as Hindus believe that dying in Varanasi brings salvation. The Buddha is believed to have given his first sermon here in about 528 BCE, leading to the founding of Buddhism.

According to Hindu mythology, Varanasi was founded by Lord Shiva and hence it is called the 'City of Shiva'. Devotion to Lord Shiva can be seen in abundance in the city. Varanasi holds a divine and important



position since the beginning of the Hinduism. It is referred to as the holiest city in the Upanishads.

The Ghats of Varanasi are situated on the banks of the holy River Ganges. Varanasi is home to about 87 Ghats where pujas and aartis are performed daily. Though all the Ghats have their own different stories and specialties, but some of them are very famous. Dasashwamedh Ghat, Assi Ghat, Chet Singh Ghat, Tulsi Ghat, Manmandir Ghat, Lalita Ghat are the most popular ones.

Dashashwamedh Ghat and its neighbouring river basins appear to be the main meeting place, as locals and tourists watch the night aarti ceremony and then descend on the markets. It is a magical spectacle and true juggernaut of humans can be seen.

Assi Ghat, situated at the confluence of the Ganges and Assi rivers, is the southernmost ghat of Varanasi. Like many other ghats, an aarti ceremony takes place at Assi Ghat, which is also a tourist attraction. It is here that the famous poet Tulsidas breathed his last.

More than its colours, flowers and diyas, Kashi is a city full of history, traditions and religion. The city that can't be missed visiting as it will live in your memory for a long time.



# From Nai's to digital salons- A barber for every Indian!

Bhargavi Singh

The haircut and salon industry might not come under the essential services list in India, yet its services are definitely an essential part of our lives and in our country, barber shops are unique institutions with their own history and culture. From roadside barbers sitting under trees to posh hair salons, India has it all.

The average middle-class Indian generally prefers going to the friendly neighborhood barber who gives a decent haircut and a nice clean shave at affordable prices. Posters of celebrities on the walls, a TV slotted into a corner near the ceiling and discussions on a variety of topics are things synonymous with such barbershops.

Similar yet different in their own way, the style of roadside barbers, popularly called as 'Nai' or 'Naua' in local dialect, haven't changed much over the years. They are still found perched under trees with a wooden chair and table, minimum tools and a mirror for the customers to check out their fresh cuts. Saleem, one such roadside barber, while sharing about his experience, mentioned, "My family has been doing this work for generations. Ever since I was a kid, I knew I would do this when I grow up. The business is good, I am able to put food on the table for my family and I am satisfied with what I get." Talking about the ambitions he has for his children, he added, "I send them both to school, but I want them to join this line only. It's better to have something of your own than work under other people. Anyway, there are no jobs these days."



going to the same barber for almost 10 years now, he knows my style and over time we have also formed a good bond where we have a good laugh and occasional banter whenever I go to his shop." Vouching for the quality and service, Shailendra, a vegetable vendor who usually gets his shave done from Saleem, said, "I get a haircut and full shave in Rs 50 at this shop so why would I want to go anywhere else. I can guarantee that his work is as good as any big saloon in the city".

While such Nais and small barbers' daily earnings did not have a great impact, due to Covid-19 except, for the strict lockdown days, the posh hair salons in the urban localities faced a lot more difficulty as their clientele was more scared and hesitant in visiting their shops. Many even tried following online tutorials but the experience and end result was not the same.

Saleem's customers seem to be satisfied with his work. Pradeep, a customer, said, "I have been

This is when at home services picked up pace and companies like Urban Clap started growing. "Thousands of people signed up for the waitlist, and the number kept growing every day. People won't step out to go to a salon, as they found it better to get the service at home with the right safety protocols. Home is your safe space, Abhiraj Singh Bhal, Co-founder of Urban Company said in an interview to magazine 'Business Insider'.

Not just customers, even workers benefitted from this shift. "I could manage my household expenses only for a month after the salon stopped giving me salary but then I joined Urban Clap and contacted my regular customers for home visits, and that's how I was able to manage my living" said Aziz, a worker, who

witnessed and became a part of the shift of traditional salons to the digital one's.

Be it, the traditional Nai, or the digital salon services, with whatever your preference or financial status might be, India has a barber for everyone.

India has over  
**61,000**  
beauty salons in  
towns that have a  
population of over one  
million

Source: Value Notes Database, a Pune-based research firm

# Woman juice seller raises the bar

Ankita Bhatt

**W**omen are becoming equivalent to men in every walk of life. The story of Madhavi depicts the resilient efforts of a woman who was determined to support her husband and household. Madhavi Devi, a middle-aged, hardworking and affable lady has been selling fruit juice for the last 10 years in Lucknow.

Sharing her story Madhavi said, "From childhood I wanted to be independent but unfortunately wasn't able to complete my education due to financial constraints and got married in my 20's. After marriage the terrain was not easy. My husband is a vegetable vendor and while initially his income was enough, after the birth of our two children we started struggling financially."

Stepping up to face the challenge, Madhavi decided that it was the right time to take a call and do something. This is when she thought of opening a juice shop as it was something she could do close to

home while also taking care of her small children. Her husband added "When she shared her plan to work to support the family, I was a bit hesitant whether she will be able to manage household and work together but her zeal, enthusiasm and passion for work prevailed."

After receiving her husband's support and encouragement, she started her journey. Initially, when she commenced her work, she faced some hiccups but gradually her juice center received good response. Customers started buying juice from her because of its good quality and reasonable prices. One of her usual buyer Reetu Dahiya shared, "My children and I always purchase juice from her because she never compromises with the quality and never cheats her customers." Madhavi's strong grit and tireless efforts paid off as her juice counter started generating good revenue, which helped her in meeting basic needs and support

her children's education.

During Covid-19 Madhavi and her husband's work was drastically impacted. They had to manage with the help of government welfare schemes, which provided money and ration. The ease in restrictions and lockdown provided a ray of light in the darkness all around her. She said, "We had to set up again from scratch, but we hope to increase the business in future."

No work is big or small, it just depends on the outlook we have. Supporting her husband and family while also managing her children and household chores is something Madhavi is

extremely proud of. Her story serves as an inspiration to women all around and is a great example of women empowerment. This tale emphasizes that men and women are two sides of a coin and fruitful results can be achieved when both are given equal opportunities without discrimination.

*Photo courtesy: Ankita Bhatt*

**Over 40%  
of all mothers are  
either the sole  
or the primary  
breadwinner for  
their families**



# These women 'stitch' their lives from scratch

Aishwarya Chandra

Good days and bad days become a part of one's life. While good days, bring us pleasure and satisfaction, bad days often seem dispiriting and one feels like putting off. But the irony is that bad days or tough life situations consistently teach us life lessons and encourages us to be at our best. Such is the story of Vimala Yadav, who without any strong or powerful financial background, still managed to feed her children after her husband's demise.

Left with three hungry mouths to feed and bereft of a proper education Vimla, who was also being treated badly by her in-laws after her husband's death, decided to rake charge of her life. "I did not have any idea that I would be facing such a situation, but fate had this is store for me. Therefore, I decided to take up my skills of stitching and embroidering patterns to creating and designing outfits", recalled Vimala.

Although, she was able to put her skills to use, but initially it did not provide her much economic stability. "In the beginning, I did not earn much to even provide the basic necessities to my kids. But, prolonged hours of working and improvising my skills helped a lot in getting more customers and thus earning more money".

Now, Vimala not only works by

herself but also takes training sessions for other women to work on their skills and come out adept. "If conditions remain conducive, I will open a small training centre, where all the aspiring women can come and work", she says with confidence. Acting as a cherry on the top, is her

Photo courtesy: Aishwarya Chandra



idea to start selling her self-made designs under the name of 'Vimala Crafts.' What keeps Vimala going is the willpower and dedication. "I will do whatever it takes to keep my children safe, happy and secure and motivate them to become independent and self-sufficient women".

Like Vimala, one can find many women tailors sitting on the roadside, working hard to eke out a liv-

ing. Mahima, a 32-year-old, who has a shop in the Jankipuram area, Lucknow, mentioned, "Tailoring was never my cup of tea. What enforced me was the sudden demise of my father who was a tailor. I used to watch him and that's how I learned this craft." This work does

not bring them much money, but they toil on. "Though I stitch, because I love creating designs, but working as a tailor was something I never thought. I was in class 8, when I had to leave my studies and start with this work, because my family wasn't willing to continue my education", added Ritu, a tailor in the same area.

Another such example is that of Nidhi, who trained under Vimala and now works as a tailor. She quips, "I have a very small shop. People come, tell me what needs to be

done, and I earn some money. Then in the evening, the girls from my area come to my home, and learn the art of stitching clothes".

Besides tailoring and teaching, these women also take care of their families, not only in terms of financial aspects but in other domain as well. With less earnings, still they are paving their way to an independent life.

# Lucknow Metro: Breaking Gender Notions!

Riddhima Srivastava

Photo courtesy: Riddhima Srivastava

Metro rail is the lifeline of many cities as travelling in a metro is not just convenient but also considered as a measure of safety for women, which has always been a primary concern for metro rails. Initially, the participation of women in the metro operations were quite low except in cities like Chennai. But, with the development and progress in the sector, LMRC or Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation, in order to give more visibility and prominence to women drivers, launched the first woman pilots to drive metro in the trial run, namely Pratibha Sharma and Prachi Sharma, following which Lucknow became the first Indian city to have women drivers in control, for its metro operations.

Lucknow metro since then, has broken many barriers and stereotypes that women often face on daily basis, when it comes to power and position. LMRC delegates day-to-day responsibilities to female train drivers, station managers, private security guards, and housekeeping staff to ensure the safety of female commuters at both subway stations and trains. Adding to the safety of women, Kumar Keshav, Managing Director, LMRC, said, "LMRC provides special transportation when female employees have to work at unusual times. Every effort has been made to ensure the safety of female employees of Lucknow Metro, and not just female passengers". Speaking on the opportunities and roles provided to the women employees, he further added, "By bridging the gap, we aim to put female and male employees on an equal footing. LMRC believes in empowering women in their organizations and motivates them to be empowered



**Pratibha and Prachi were honoured with the prestigious Rani Lakshmi Bai Bravery Award, 2016, by the UP government**

and liberated as much as possible".

Not only, women safety is what LMRC has given consideration to, but the shattering of hackneyed gender conventions, is also what LMRC has achieved and continues to achieve more and more. With, Pratibha and Prachi, working as station controllers, the pre-established notions in the society have cracked apart. Along with, having excellent educational qualifications, both of them strive to inspire and motivate more and more women, to come out of their comfort zones and do something uncommon and unheard-of. "We aspire to inspire more young women to follow their dreams despite of any restrictions and stereotypes", mentioned Prachi Sharma, station controller at LMRC.

Besides, creating the desired impact is the actual success of giving out a strong message of women empowerment, as Shivangi, a second-year student at IT College, said, "It is a proud moment for all of us to watch women break gender barriers

and stereotypes specially the part where the government and LMRC itself is supporting them so much, and we look forward to such women".

The present scenario, clearly portrays the outcome which is favourable and commending, as "Currently, 30% of trains are being operated and driven by women operators and 40% of all the station controllers/train operators are women, with LMRC ending up, hiring 21 women, in line with the UP government's 20% reservation policy for women in government jobs, after the applications received for the opening positions of train operators", according to an article by the Hindustan Times.

Working towards the equality of women has been the foremost priority of many sectors. However, it has been difficult because the idea that women cannot do a specific job is rooted. Contrary to all possibilities, women are breaking stereotypes in male-dominated professions, and emerging out victorious.

# Warne: Baller of the century's demise leaves a gaping hole

Garima Dobhal

**S**hane Warne, a legendary cricketer, revivalist of the infamous leg-spin and a member of the ICC Hall of fame left a gaping hole in the heart of cricket fans when he passed away at the age of 52, on March 4, 2022. It is a stark reminder of how fleeting life is, that Warne in a tweet, paid respects to the Australian cricketing star, Rod Marsh, who had died only hours before his untimely cardiac arrest.

Slow bowling was a sports courtesy elevated to Warne, who drew the comb so deftly over 145 Tests that the top result was a slew of befuddled batsmen, unforgettable memories, and a generation of inspired players. Warne possessed all the characteristics of a leg-spin bowler, including a ripping leg break, an amazing wrongful, and a widely known flipper. Many other leg spinners have graced Test cricket with comparable qualities, but Warne stands head and shoulders above all.

"I was devastated by the news of Warne's death, my all-time favourite cricketer, and a leg spinner like no other. The cricketing fraternity and its supporters throughout the globe have suffered a big loss and have been heartbroken by the loss of this legend.", said Shubham Singh, a university student.

As a firm believer in risking a defeat to realize victory, Warne made a generation believe that a win from almost any position was possible. Warne inflamed South African nerves with a game-changing stint within the legendary 1999 tourney Semi-Final, which is remembered largely for one moment of craziness. In One Day, history when Warne got onto the pitch, he never said no. If the opposition were to win, they

might need to play at a high level against an Australian team led by Warne who will battle to the bitter finish. In 2005, England won the Ashes, but only after Warne took 40 wickets and batted brilliantly against an assault at the top of its capabilities.

"As a kid, he was a hero and someone you aspired to be like, a legend who raised the cricketing standards and inspired a slew of people, both young and old", said Mohit Singh, a professional and fan of Shane Warne.

On March 29, 2022, during their season opener against SunRisers Hyderabad at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune, the Rajasthan Royals paid an emotional homage to their first skipper and spin icon, Shane Warne. Nobody expected a semi-retired 37-year-old Shane Warne to steer the Rajasthan Royals team, created on a shoe-string budget to win one of the foremost lucrative cricketing championships in the world during the 2008 IPL.

"Forever the first royal," the Rajasthan Royals said in an ode to their first captain.

Warne was an incredible athlete, who created a place for himself in the cricketing world by reviving the declining art of leg-spinning and revolutionised cricket. He was named one of the five Wisden cricketers of the century in 2000 and was the second-highest wicket scorer of all time with a score of 708.

Shane Warne has left an indelible mark on the globe in his tragically little time here, transcending sport and establishing himself as a worldwide inspiration.

All who knew him will miss him greatly.



Illustration: Shishu Sharma