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# MEDIATING MEDIA

Param Nonghmaithem, School Captain of AVS

Rhea Chakraborty and Sushant Singh Rajput have become synonymous to each other not of their own making, but because they happen to be propped up as props of diversion that the media created, manipulated and encashed on. The main stream media has long since sold itself at the alter of power and money and has been used as a political weapon to sugar coat real, demanding issues that the country is facing and divert the public attention to what they are paid for. The #JusticeforSSR is slowly losing steam with most government agencies vetoing the suicide card. The media has used every possible game plan ethics aside, to add fuel to a possible drug angle in Bollywood using every detail minor or irrelevant to garner TRP's. Amidst the lockdown they most certainly have brought much more entertainment to television screens than the ongoing outlandish saas-bahu sagas, which even the Saas and the Bahu no longer watch. All this during a time the country faces the biggest crises of human rights, social justice, healthcare, education, and economic welfare. At a time when the country's GDP growth rate, the farmers protest, the perpetual rise in the Covid 19 graph, the huge scale unemployment, the problems concerning education and the threat to the country's sovereignty ought to have been the utmost concern. The media, instead of shouldering its responsibilities as the fourth pillar of democracy, is busy conducting media trails.

The point of contest about the untimely death of an aspirational actor, the question of mental health in a country where most still do not understand the gravity of the ailment, the loss of a family, the tumultuous waters a young woman is thrown into, the reality here is indeed stranger than fiction. The prototype built seems

to compulsively aim to keep from popular consumption the inaptitude of a government which has collapsed into an abyss failing its citizens at a critical juncture during a lamentable period. It seems like nothing but a crafty distraction masqueraded as a quest for justice.

As a democracy we are nothing if not driven by politics which seem to churn out more bestsellers than literature possibly could. The #JusticeforSSR is a clarion call for Bihari asmita (pride) in the upcoming Bihar Elections. It is a beautifully crafted PR scheme to draw away from the questions of the Nitish governments dismal failures in the field of development, Covid19 management and even the massive migrant issue. Hence, the people are drawn away from real issues to look westwards instead into a story of a death, that no longer has any life left in it to sell. Political Party's in Bihar are now peddling their agenda's on posters that have the late actors face, splattered all over it. As a society we have long lost our soul in the corridors of human greed, but to have them now raise their head in such abandon, is a sign that the rotten pegs holding us is now ready to crumble.

It seems almost opportune to worry about climate change and the angry clouds that draw tighter over our borders. It seems almost an afterthought to worry about the countless unemployed waiting restlessly for a better day. It seems pointless to question the death of a woman and underline here the gender despite the caste for that too is now being churned relentlessly in a political machinery. It seems faith and everything else related to normalcy, new or old must wait. For the only aversion is today our obsession, the plight of human dereliction and misery, crafted by a media that undoubtedly is the Master of the Game.

# TIME

-Jeremy Jahau, Editor-in-Chief

Illustration: Sourav Khodal

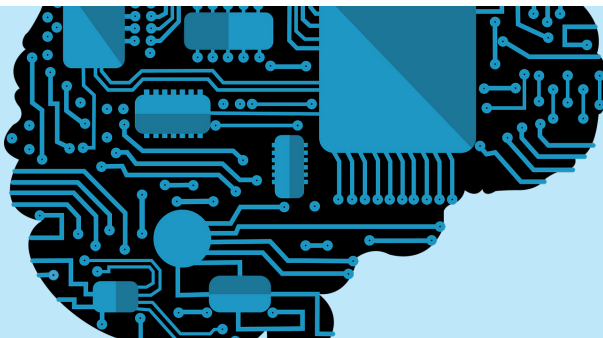


A desolate storm blowing nearer  
A chaos of magnitudes always seen  
But what is false and what is dearer  
Hides in the shadows of this scene

It begins to creep into your home  
One by one taking its prey  
As if the end of an ancient tome  
As if the night is meeting day

Formless, moving, never not known  
You fail to see it in full  
For not only eyes see if shown  
The aftermath of its constant pull

Time's up so prepare the cost  
Just like how these words may bend  
Is time spent thinking of time lost  
Time worth spending in the end?



# wired

-Mrs. Nabanita Jassal, Department of Biology

The iconic imagery of an online teacher is dynamic in the minds and hearts of the society we live in. Needless to say, that the teacher needs to be student-centric, empathetic and well-equipped with sound knowledge of cognitive behaviour, encapsulated in a superior grasp of the core domain of one's subject. I am intrigued to find that my journey in AVS is metaphorically that of a metamorphosing individual, responding almost with a conditioned reflex to the dynamic culture of the various facets of teaching and learning. The pertinent agent of change has been the need to upskill oneself comprehending with foresight, the challenges posed by the current pandemic crisis. Never before have I felt the twists and turns of transformation in the cognitive behaviour of my students at such a rapid pace. Human beings are unique living in a world of flux where each individual takes pride in his or her uniqueness. I am penning down my own unique experience and honestly, my story in itself is not important. What really matters

is what you take away from it and if that leads you into your own reflection.

Each challenge a student has undergone has been one of swimming upstream and combating monotony and isolation at home, with the constant monitoring of their parents and forced separation from their friends. The fact that human beings are social creatures has surfaced from the subconscious to the conscious mind. As the school community marched along the path of online classes, activities and events, savouring the flavour of small victories, each one of us gradually aligned ourselves to the culture of the virtual world realising the indispensable power of the internet over our lives. The new talk of the classroom became squeaks for acceptance of phrases like 'network issues', 'no internet', 'cannot hear your voice', 'unable to see the video' and the saga of the 'New Normal' continues.....

As a teacher, the looming challenge was to engage the students, activate the energy in the students using tools

in technology and ensure a smooth transition from talking to audio-visual snippets. Time and again, this struggle rocked me back and forth to arrive at a point where there was no turning back. The students, as usual being the smarter generation, figured out how to ace the online classes. Therefore, armed with technical know-how and bridging the gaps in learning for the students, the new normal began trending in style and gusto!

As my ship, with so many souls aboard, sails for many months with might and direction, the shore is in sight! We are yet unable to fathom the accurate distance between us and the shore. The snippets of news or perhaps rumours, about the schools reopening soon and the students returning brings a much-awaited smile on my tired face. I sit quietly and introspect how deep I have delved into the interim culture of online education in schools. Every nook and corner seems familiar on the different platforms of online delivery of knowledge, transition between contrasting applications on the internet has become seamless, planning the class by the minute and controlling body movements both are effortless now. This pandemic urged me to shift power inward to transform myself into someone better than before. All of this as if it were to be a permanent fixture, a timeless system, a giant leap into the future for us.

Toiling for months into becoming an effective online teacher, I will soon be expected to retrace my steps

from the maze of the virtual world. I will be required to physically enter into the classrooms and welcome with open arms the new challenge of transitioning from an immersed online teacher into an efficient teacher in a vibrant classroom once again! Would it be painful? Will I be able to bring back my previous personality into the class again? I think the right question to ask should be “Do I need to revisit my pre-pandemic era persona?” In my view, there should be no necessity to turn back! We have struggled and learnt and that learning has made us creative and mentally robust. No matter what we have had to work on - releasing anger, being more productive, or learning new tech tools, none of us has ever given up! The entire school community will continue raging the ‘New Normal’ saga and blaze along the path as harbingers of change. Every minuscule drop of what we have learnt in this era will keep us afloat in any adversity in our lives. The power and impact of transformation is often tested by time, specifically by adverse circumstances. I am confident that at every turning point, each one of us will rise to the occasion to rebound with courage and compassion.

The circumstances may have plunged us into an interim culture of education, but the impact will last for generations. My experience of consistently preparing to face the unknown boldly can be summed up in mere two words - “No Regrets”!

# So We've Herd

Indrani Nandy, Head Girl of AVS

The fourth pillar of democracy in India that has the social responsibility to offer information free of biases now fosters hyper partisan attitudes of the media houses. Not only is this highly problematic for the nation but also detrimental to the essence of journalism. As much as I would like to believe that in the recent times a lot of feministic perspectives have come to the table we still very much live in a patriarchal society. What I mean by this is that patriarchy is manifested and institutionalised in every aspect and the media is not an exception. In the 1950s and 60s the media portrayed men as the ‘breadwinners’ and the ‘decision makers’. While lately the world has come to the revelation that women too can make ‘decisions’ and ‘win’ bread, the constant stereotyping in a country that is obsessed with patronising women, is a battle. Society says that behind every successful man is a woman which is ironic because then again, they call her a femme fatale. It goes without saying that society is fickle

and hypocritical but if the media too becomes an agent to carry forward this trend it can be tricky and this is why; the media is significant in shaping the values, attitudes, norms, perception and behaviour of the people. Now, what does the media portray today? Taking from recent news, I think the media is convinced that to retain viewership they need to print entertainment rather than news. We have been seeing floating

“Society is fickle and hypocritical but if the media too becomes an agent to carry forward this trend it can be tricky....”

headlines of drug scandals, alleged murders, and the age-old header nepotism win relevancy over pressing issues in the countries. However, the common link between these headlines is a woman. Is it just another coincidence? Or is it just catering to the blatant misogyny seeped in

our subconscious, which sells? Does the answer lie in the fact the average Indian is still regressive and archaic or the fact that the media is feeding relentlessly to this culture?

Is finding a dubious female entertaining for the average Indian for it clashes well with the oft touted 'Sati-Savitri' persona? Or is my approach to the situation just too 'feministic'? If a woman in authority shows strength in character, people jump to the conclusion that she is cold blooded and ruthless; if she is straight forward and vulnerable, people categorise her as 'manipulative'. This pattern amplifies the conformation bias that many hold of women in power being 'conniving' or 'opportunists'.

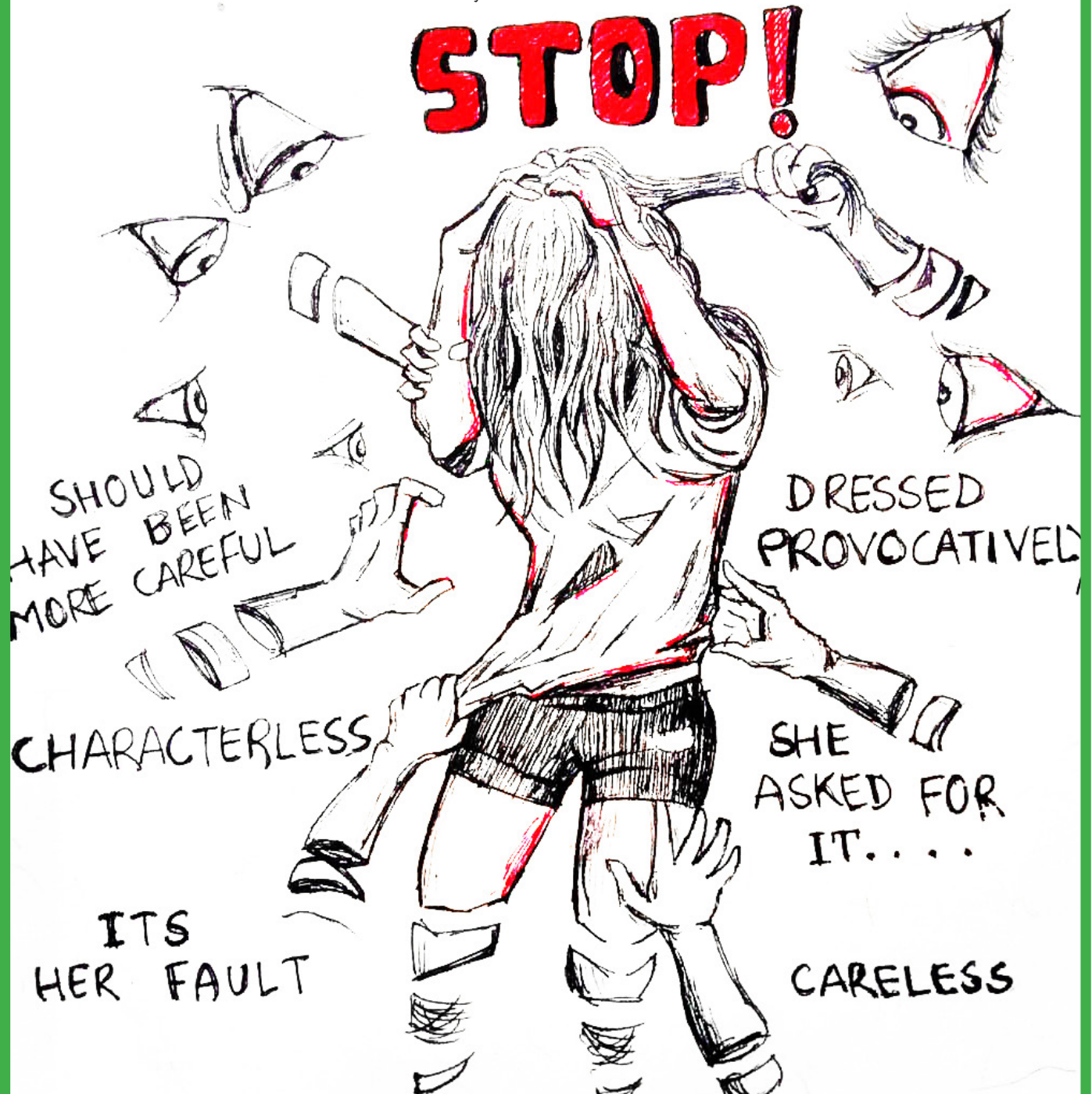
Many will argue and say that 'gender' has got nothing to do with this, but a question in this recurring algorithm deigns how is it that a 'Mata Hari' like projection of women is 'entertainment'?

If this in the media is not a 'gender' play I wonder what is. I believe it is about time we start to ponder our set narratives and seek answers that allow a change our mind-set and the fabric of society. Perhaps the famous quote by Swami Vivekananda can trigger in the much necessary change of thought and thereby, purpose; There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of woman is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.

# the middle page #8

By Sourav Khodal

## STOP!



# The Man Himself

Sahil More, X

In today's world, trending search words are often used to gauge an individual's popularity. On the 14th of June, the death of a young actor propelled India to know more about the man who took his own life. Three months after his sudden demise; he still remains the topic of great interest to the Indian millennial(s) and the boomers too, not because of his vast fan-following and popularity but the mysteries and circumstances that led to his death. Yet, little do we know about the talented and hardworking actor who rose to fame after years of struggle. The old adage rings with the wisdom, to lay to rest and perhaps that is what the young actor, ought to be permitted.

The SSR in the #JusticeForSSR was born on January 21, 1986, in Patna. The actor's mother's death had a far-reaching impact on his life. It was apparent that the love of his family could not fill the gaping hole left behind by his mother's demise in 2002 and he continued to struggle to come to terms with her loss. Rajput had been pursuing Bachelors in Engineering in the Delhi College of Engineering before dropping out to chase a career in the city of dreams.

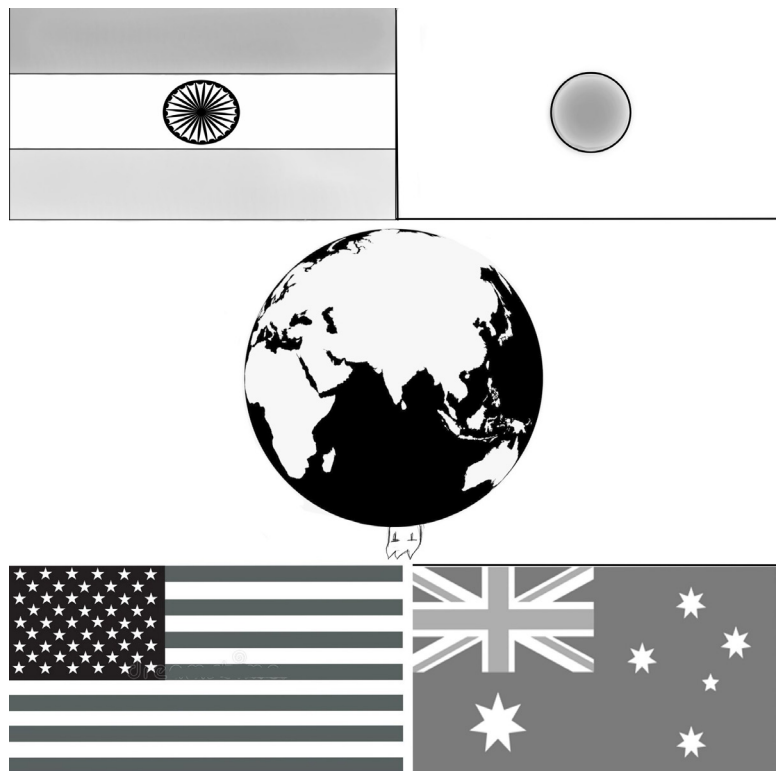
Even while pursuing engineering, his affinity for the arts was apparent. Rajput trained under the famed choreographer Shiamak Dawar during this period. Later he took acting classes at Barry John's Drama Institute. Sushant began his acting career as a television actor in 2008, playing the role of the lovable Preet Juneja in the Balaji Telefilm's Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil. In 2009, he shone while playing the lead role in Zee TV's popular daily soap Pavitra Rishtha, where his performance won him several awards.

His success in the television world paved the way for his appearance on the silver screen. Kai Po Chei, alongside Amit Sadh and Rajkumar Rao, saw Sushant Singh Rajput debut as Ishaan Bhatt, an ex-District level cricketer. The critical and commercial success of this film further opened doors for him in the cut-throat industry with movies such as Sonchirya, Raabta, Chichore, and so on coming his way. The world of the tinsel town remained for the young actor his place of glory even as it's cess pools drove him to his death. Dreams they say are built of stardust, for SSR, they took him to it. May the young life find the peace in death that was lost to him, in life.

## THE OUTPOST

President Trump returns to the White House after having tested positive along with many in his inner circle sans masks or measures. While the litany of Nobel Prizes is announced Einstein's theory on Black Holes stands proven. Turkey's involvement in the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh tightens the noose around Armenia even as Pakistan promises fighter-jets to Azerbaijan. The Hathras case takes on a new turn as the cause of the dead girl is lost in cast-conflict. India, Japan, Australia and the US set up a Quad to challenge the might of China. It shows signs however of staying caught in apprehensions.

Illustration: Eloziini Senachena



## Ripple #143

-Jeremy Jahau, Editor-in-Chief

Stay awhile  
longer  
I'll show you a  
life you will never  
again see  
Who knew you'd  
be the one staying  
And the one gone  
was me.

## The Quarantine Watchlist

Feeling sick and tired of the same four walls at home? Well grab your popcorn and immerse yourself in the world of media, here is a list of some of our suggestions:

**ENOLA HOLMES:** A treat for the fans of the Strangers Thing star Milly Bobby Brown, here she is a teenager with sleuth skills that rival that of her famous brothers, Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes. The movie revolves around Enola trying to find her mysterious mother, who wasn't anything they assumed her to be.

**TENET:** Tenet is a brashly beautiful action or sci-fi that will be grandiosely enjoyable for the fans starving for an escapist spectacle.

**THE DEVIL ALL THE TIME:** Bracketed by World War II and the Vietnam War, with an excellent array of gospel and country music, it is a fascinating portrait of the cost of conflict.

**TIME TO HUNT:** The dystopian world in this Korean thriller doesn't steer too far from our own lockdown-hit present, except for the fact the characters don't wear masks. Empty streets and worthless economy along with the overwhelming desperation for an easy way out.

## Keep It Reel!

SKYWARD BOUND

-Joya Abedin, XI

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