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100 years of Satyajit Ray: A tribute to the legend

Manmeet Kaur

May 02, 2021 marked the 100th birth anniversary of legendary filmmaker - Satyajit Ray. Any conversation about Indian cinema remains partial without a mention of his name. A true auteur, his iconic films put the Indian cinema on the world map and left an impact on generations of filmmakers to come.

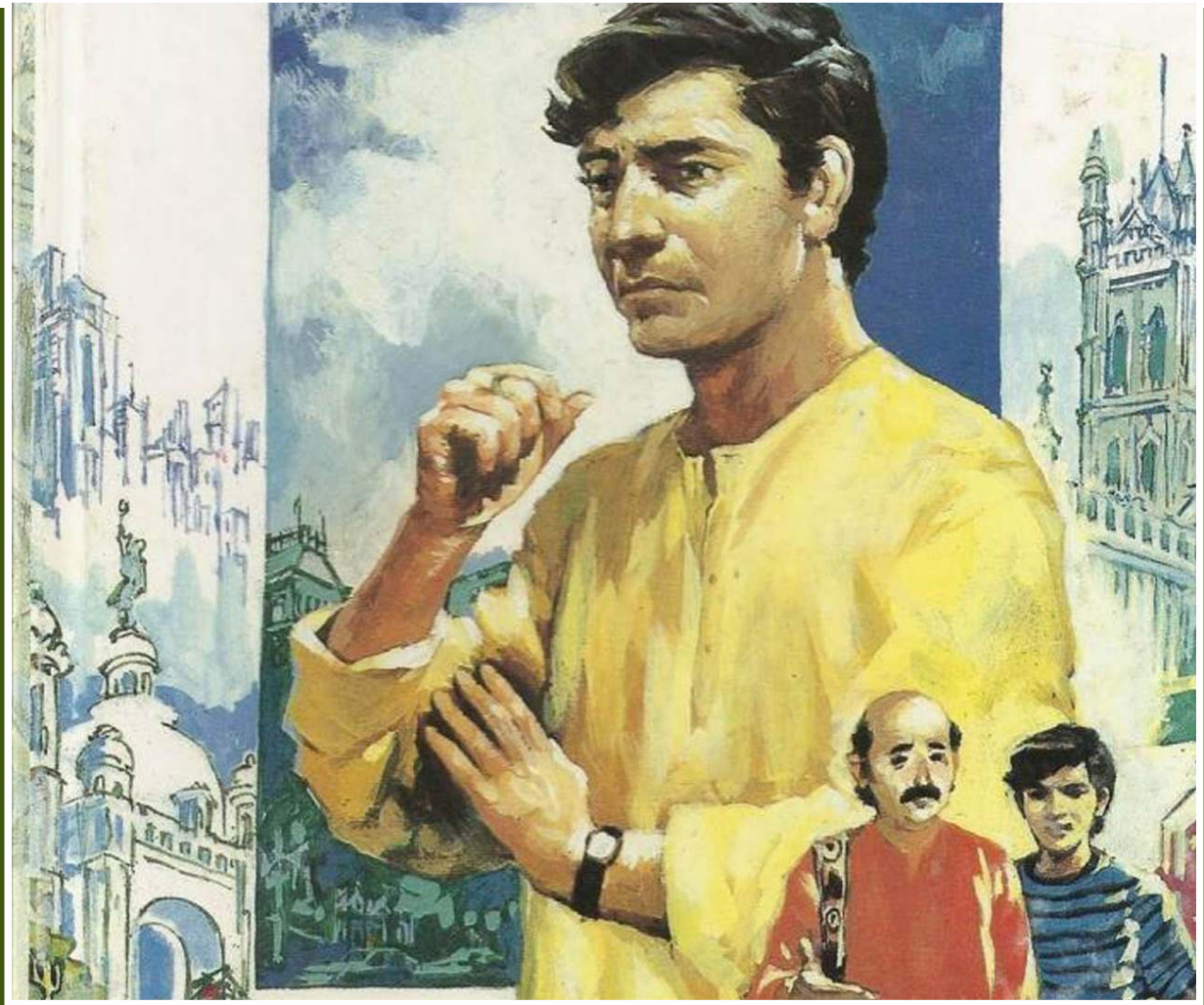
Inspired by Vittorio De Sica's neo-realism in 'The Bicycle Thieves', Ray worked with limited budgets but with a broad vision. His films depicted the prevalent social structures and talked not about a dreamy glamorous world but one with all its shades of black, white and grey. Before the Indian society could accept women-centric cinema unreservedly, he gave a balanced screen-time to the men and women of his stories. His protagonists were neither damsels in distress, nor lusty vamps. Both males and females were painted in a myriad of colours and rooted in reality. Ray could look into human affairs with compassion and to make the ordinary special. This is the type of content that most audiences demand today — realistic and relatable. Satyajit Ray delivered it ahead of its time.

In 1992, he became the first Indian to win an Honorary Academy Award and in the same year he was also conferred with the highest civilian honour of India - Bharat Ratna. He won the National Award for the Best Director six times, which is the highest by any filmmaker so far and a total of 32 National Awards in various other categories. The list of honours and awards, both national and international, conferred on is endless.

Satyajit Ray was a tall man, literally and figuratively. He was 6ft. 4in. leading the Japanese film curator, Kashiko Kawakita, compare him to a tree. The analogy is not an exaggeration for he was a tree under whose shadow several filmmakers have found their inspiration and grown and will continue to do so for ages to come.

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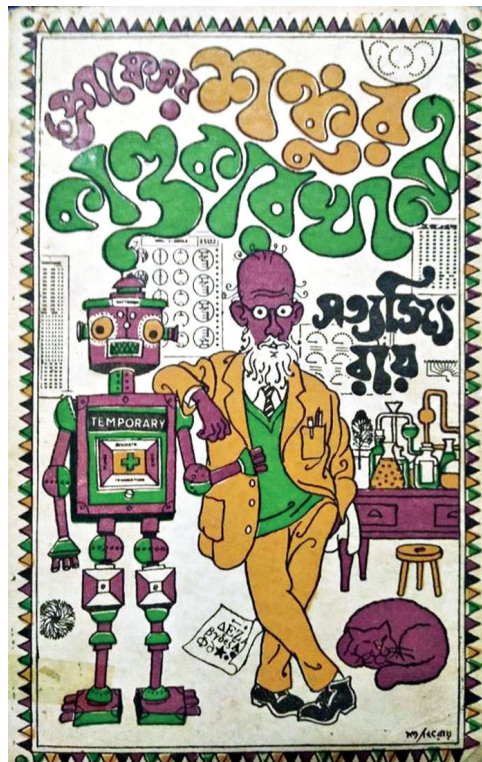


100 years of Satyajit Ray: Iconic characters of the literary genius

Dr Tinam Borah

The name Satyajit Ray generally rings a bell to remind us of his immense contribution to Indian Cinema. However, his contributions to Indian, particularly to Bengali literature have been no less. Besides perfecting the art of storytelling through several short novels and stories in children's magazines, Ray has introduced us to the two most brilliant characters of Bengali literature - Feluda, the sleuth and Professor Shonku, the scientist.

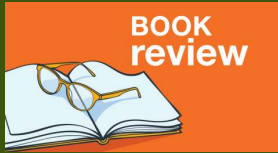
While many might argue that the character of private investigator Prodosh C Mitter, popularly known as Feluda is an adaptation of Doyle's Sherlock (which is true, by the way), Ray adds to the character as well as to his adventures a magical touch, which is unforgettable for his innumerable readers. Those who have once read the stories of how Felu Mitter along with his young cousin Topshe (the narrator of the stories) and hilarious sidekick Mr Lalmohan Ganguli (alias



Jatayu) solves mystery after mystery across the country will vouch for the sheer delight and amusement that his stories can provide. From Feludar Goendagiri and Sonar Kella to Robertsoner Ruby and Indrajal Rahasya, Ray wrote a total of 36 stories of Feluda over the years, only to leave his readers craving for more. Some of his Feluda stories have also been made into films.

Professor Shonku on the other hand is a scientist and a polyglot speaking 69 languages, lives with a 24 year old cat named Newton and features in science fiction adventures set all around the world. Ray had once admitted that this character, too, has been inspired by yet another famous character of Arthur Conan Doyle - Professor Challenger.

Ray's literary genius is not limited to these characters, but these two iconic characters definitely made him stand out and have kept him alive in the readers' memories for years.



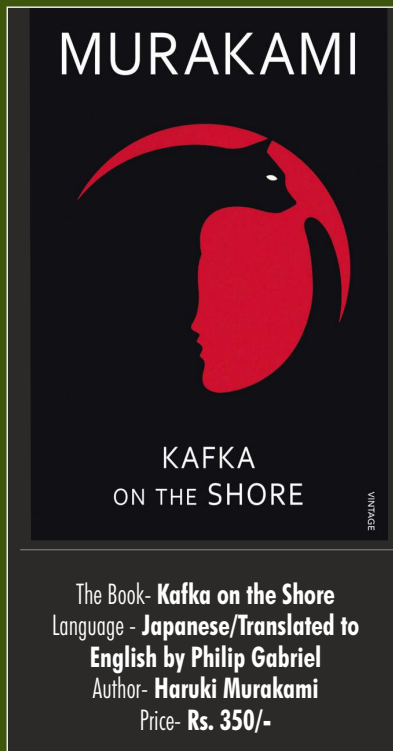
Narrative left on a shore of consciousness

Nikita Taneja

When Murakami intertwines surrealism with instances of a parallel universe, it takes one to a world that seems too detached for one's imagination, yet is glamorously within reach. *Kafka on the Shore* is one such masterpiece that grips your attention, takes you on an enthralling journey and leaves you craving for an adventure worth remembering. It has two beautifully written narratives that run parallel to each other and the reader is expected to keep their common sense aside and just go with the flow of the book to love it.

The odd numbered chapters of the book narrate the story of 15-year-old Kafka Tamura, who runs away from home on his birthday to escape an oedipal curse while the even numbered chapters tell the story of an elderly man Nakata, who develops an uncanny ability of speaking to cats.

At the centre is Kafka's relationship with Oshima, a learned haemophiliac and a transgender man who helps him wheel his fate. Another character-Miss Saeki, who is stuck in an existential crisis is the author's device to taunt the human condition of doubting one's own self at various walks of life. Kafka also has an alter ego named Crow,



whom he imagines as a person who gives encouragement and advices in times of danger and plays a crucial role in the story.

Nakata, on the other hand, spends his days locating and returning lost cats to their respective owners. Due to his ineptitude in reading and writing, he's constantly avoided by family and society, but his gift of being able to communicate with cats takes him on an unusual adventure involving murder.

Initially it seems as if the two characters are on their individual journeys but their paths eventually connect in an unlikely way. The author has created delusive scenes at many points in the story and the reader is never sure where the dreams end and reality begins. The novel is a constant reminder of the fact that nobody's life is perfect, but perhaps, as Murakami has said- "Happiness is an allegory, unhappiness a story".

Ratings:
Good reads: **4.1/5**
Flipkart: **4.5/5**



The Great Indian Kitchen: Stripping greatness off the kitchen

Priyanka Naitihani

The traditional patriarch, who rests on the armchair and yells at his wife for a toothbrush with the paste on, is slowly fading away. The new 'man' praises his wife's cooking, sugar-coats the imposing of unnecessary work to make it look normal, and sweetly says "saravilla, namalsheriaakaam" (don't worry; we will do something about it) while successfully shutting down her genuine needs.

Times changed, disguises changed, but patriarchy still thrives.

Jeo Baby's *The Great Indian Kitchen*, on Amazon Prime, is a film that takes this cliched subject and manages to revolutionize it. The bride (Nimisha Sajayan) moves into her husband's (Suraj Venjaramoodu) house after marriage and tries to make it her home. Problems soon arise when the kind mother-in-law has to be away.

The title of the film is an irony - the supposed greatness of the Indian kitchen is but a façade to hide its hostile realities. There are no lavish kitchen counters here, no moving camaraderie and no romantic interludes on the banks of Alleppey



Directors: **Jeo Baby**
Cast: **Nimisha Sajayan, Suraj Venjaramoodu, T. Suresh Babu**

newspaper-reading men as they satiate their minds, bodies and souls.

What separates *The Great Indian Kitchen* from its preceding 'women-centric' films is that it pays more than a lip service to the cause. Its ground-breaking portrayal of an everyday patriarchal household is accompanied by another aspect - the deep-rooted internalized misogyny carried on by women against women that has allowed this system to thrive in their connivance.

There appears to be a conscious intention to make the viewers uncomfortable, to raise difficult questions, and make the culprits squirm in their seats. Joe Baby unapologetically strips away the greatness of the kitchen thrust upon by those who want to elude their share of work and delivers a simple yet scathing narrative worth every dime.

backwaters. Instead, one sees the close-up shots of leftover food, of a leaking sink, of garbage cans, and of everyday chores done by women in a household; cleverly juxtaposed against the yoga-doing and

Know Your Seniors

Priyanka Naithani: Achiever on all grounds

Soft-spoken and persevering, Priyanka Naithani is an aspiring screenwriter from the final year of DME Media School. She is the coordinator for the student council – SPARC (Students with Positive Attitude and Resonating Communication). She is also the Student Convener for Cine-Treasures, the film society of DME and is part of the Media School newsletter editorial team. With all these responsibilities, Priyanka manages to be an academic achiever.

Let's get to know her more . . .

How would you summarize your years at DME?

If I have to use one word, I'd say - introspective. Strange choice of word, I know but it's true. The more I met different people here, the more I met myself. There are a million things I didn't know I could do, which I did and well. There are also a million things I thought I could do but actually couldn't. So yeah, I found myself in this little short-lived journey.

What do you consider is your biggest takeaway from the BA(JMC) course?

The diverse nature of the course gave me an opportunity to explore different verticals of media, which I wouldn't have tried otherwise. For instance, I knew I could write but I never knew I could present it out loud. Eventually one of the projects compelled me to do so and I found out I could be a good enough orator if I worked on it. The holistic nature of the course makes you learn multiple things.

Aside from all the knowledge gained here, what is the difference between Priyanka then and Priyanka now?

I had a dramatic change in my personality, overall. A lot of it was because I started taking more chances. I have gone from a self-effacing person to being a core member of majority of the events. I took a chance, which I wouldn't have, if I was not backed by encouraging faculty. I am going out of DME as a more confident



Priyanka Naithani

person and I believe that's the biggest difference in me.



Your most cherished student-teacher memory

When Ms Yashavika remembered my love for reading and sent a picture of this new book she'd gotten. She said, "I will give it to you when we meet." I was touched.

The lamest excuse you made to get out of class or college work

"I have spent all my pocket money in the previous assignment; I can't afford to print the new photo-book anytime soon" Though I submitted it later.

Favourite subject and favourite teacher

Advertising and Film Appreciation. And my favourite teacher was Ms Yashavika Yadav. I shared the strongest bond with her.

Any one thing you regret doing or not doing

Not taking an aesthetic picture in front of the red wall.

Favourite place in the campus

Library. Climbing 5 storeys to sit and longingly stare at all the beautiful novels in the reference section that I couldn't borrow.

Your advice for the juniors

If you want to do something, do it today. Tomorrow never comes. I learned it the hard way. Now I am left with 3 blurred pictures with my friends and a million what ifs.

Interview by Shreya Jha

SAY IT IN!

Sentence - I am going to buy a new phone today



Spanish

Hoy voy a comprar un teléfono nuevo



Bengali

আমি আজ একটি নতুন ফোন কিনতে যাচ্ছি।

Pronunciation

Āmi āaj ēkṭi natun phōn kintē jācchi.



Nurses: the unsung heroes of our healthcare system

Drishya Madhur

To nurse is to care. And when it comes to the profession of nursing, care is given in many forms - administering medicines, checking the vitals, providing physical support and much more. A patient's well-being is just as dependent on the nurses as it is on the doctors. However, due to its subtle nature, a nurse's job often goes unnoticed. They pass through a patient's life for a minute but leave an impact for an eternity. At a time when the world is dependent on its healthcare systems for survival, it is an absolute moral necessity to acknowledge, applaud and award the nurses who are relentlessly working on the front lines.



International Nurses Day on May 12 commemorates the pioneer of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale and millions of others around the globe like her. Born on this day, Nightingale was in charge of tending to the wounded British and allied soldiers during the Crimean War. Later, her staunch advocacy for better hygiene practices in patient care and specialized education for nurses brought about a revolution in this profession. Nurses across the world take what is known as the Nightingale Pledge at the beginning of their careers. In the face of horrors like the corona virus, they have held fast to their oaths and continue to provide the best of care selflessly. We hear from some of them . . .



"Everyone should respect the work of doctors, nurses and other medical staff. People shall come out of the prejudice that all those working in the field are minting money. Even in such a deadly time of Covid Pandemic, the medical fraternity is dedicatedly working, not meeting their family members for weeks and months, risking their lives, and still serving humanity relentlessly".

Ms Radhamani (Retired Nurse)

Nazar Kanwar Surana Hospital,
New Delhi



"It's not easy, my pitaji wanted me to quit. He doesn't understand that it's not just a job, it's my life and livelihood. The patients need us. If we back off at this point, how would people ever trust us? If I give up, I not only lose my job but a part of my self-respect too. We risk our lives and never complain; yet there are some people who consider us beneath them. Patients often shout at us while administering the injects. An old lady even slapped a fellow nurse. It's disheartening but we try to carry on regardless."

Ms Sonal

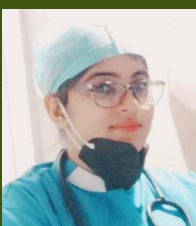
Sain Nursing Home,
Agra, Uttar Pradesh



"A nurse's profession is not an easy one, but a thankless one. Even within the medical community, nurses are often discriminated against. We are looked down upon as people who can only give injections and saline. What people don't realize is that we go through intensive training for years to become qualified nurses. But compared to the amount of work or services we provide, nurses in India are very much underpaid. Even during this pandemic, apart from fighting on the front lines, nurses are also overloaded with several duties other than attending to covid patients."

Ms Priyanka Kakati

Former Nurse, Tezpur, Assam



"Today when the entire world is reeling under the heat of the corona pandemic, health workers have a larger role to play. And I can proudly say that we are giving our 100% to serve our people. On this special occasion, I salute all the people associated with the healthcare system and urge everyone to follow the health advisories. It is a tough time and together we can fight with it".

Ms Neelam Yadav

Navjeevan Hospital, Jhansi

“ IN CONVERSATION WITH ”

Sanchita Chakraborty

Righteousness Personified



Ms Sanchita Chakraborty is an Assistant Professor at the Media School of Delhi Metropolitan Education since 2015. Her areas of specialization include Development Communication, Health Communication and Event Management. She is NET qualified and currently pursuing PhD in Journalism and Mass Communication from Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida. Ms Chakraborty actively participates and presents research papers at national

and international conferences. At DME, she is involved in organising various events and also manages the music society, Enigma, as the faculty convener.

You have been at DME Media School longer than any other faculty member. How have things changed around here in the last five years?

DME Media School, five years ago, was a completely different place than it is today. We started with 17 students and now we have more than 500. State of the art infrastructure, digital classes, surge in curricular and co-curricular events are just a few examples of the improvements here. The architecture of this whole place has also changed for the better.

Since 2020, the teaching profession went completely virtual. How have you adapted to this new scenario?

I started using completely different skillsets compared to those I used in traditional classrooms. Initially, it was difficult to establish a connection with students online. So, I have tried to set aside a space for general discussion with students about their life and challenges. Personal communication also helped me and the students to be more attentive and active in online classes.

We understand that every teacher has their own teaching philosophy. Please share yours with us.

My first job as a teacher is to make my students feel valued in the classroom, so that there is no discrimination even on the basis of grades. Secondly, I believe that while teaching, technique is more important than content. Nobody will pay attention to your content if your technique is not good. It is also important to design lessons as per the specific needs

of students. These simple techniques help increase participation, motivation and create a culture of warmth and belongingness.

Is there any difference between Ms Sanchita Chakraborty as a person and as a teacher?

Yes, I am more observant, serious and prepared when I'm in class. More composed and organized, one could say. Outside the classroom, I think and act in an uninhibited way without worrying about social norms.

And how do you keep the two versions separate?

Over time, I learnt to set boundaries based on my obligations and priorities, so I've started to feel far more in control. This also allow me to lead a more productive and happy life.



Your best day as a teacher was

My first day in DME.

And your worst?

I don't reserve a place for them in my memory.

One thing that keeps you motivated

The joy of learning and teaching

A quality that you wish every student had

Persistence

One thing that distinguishes DME from other media colleges

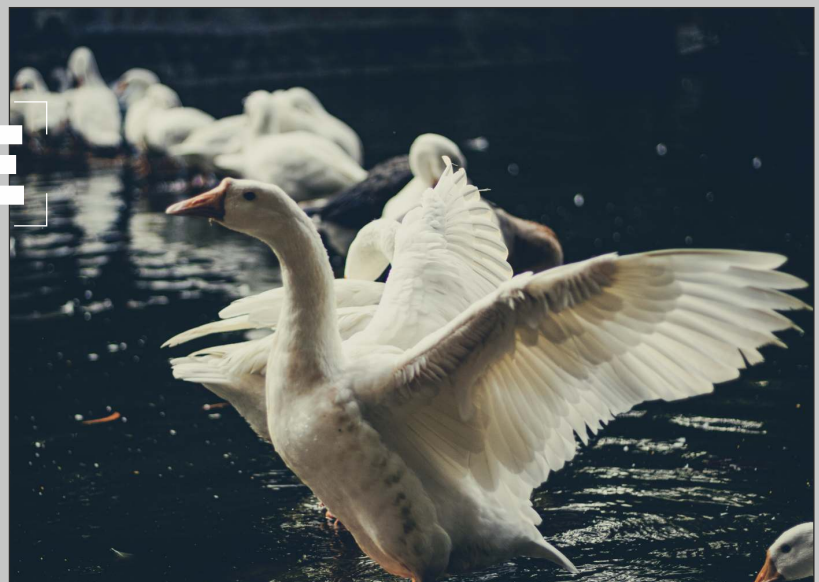
Studio62

Interview by Kausik Das

LENSCAPE

Called by the sirens and followed by an albatross

Photo by **Shivansh Kapoor**
4th Semester, Sec C



Gearing up for Goodbyes



”

Every journey comes to an end and so did this one. I still remember my first college visit and just like that it's been three years already. DME transformed me from a timid, introvert girl to a confident one. Looking back on the last three years, all I can think of are the memories I've made with my friends and the encouragement I've received from my faculty. I will miss sitting on the stairs with my classmates, the videography sessions in Studio 62 and much more. Thank you, DME for providing so many learning opportunities with an extremely proficient faculty. I will always cherish the moments spent here and will be forever grateful for the values you have inculcated in me. It's hard to say goodbye without tears in my eyes. I hope we can all meet again someday in the same corridors, the same stairs and the all too familiar classrooms.

Ishita Karwal



”

Three years ago, I was excited as one chapter of my life became a fond memory and a new one awaited with umpteen friends and a whole institute as my motivator. A similar feeling is overwhelming me now. It's time to say goodbye to DME, which will be painful indeed. I have made countless memories here, from academics to extra-curriculars, from faculty to friends, and from library to the canteen. The faculty members have supported us not only with lessons in mass communication but also with life lessons. To think that now I have to be on my own, without that support, is a scary thought. And to top it off, it doesn't seem like that we would get to say our goodbyes face to face. But I will take a part of DME with me when I leave. The experiences will stay with me and I hope to excel in the next chapter of life too.

Aastha Sharma



”

My three-year journey at DME was just amazing. I was really apprehensive at the beginning, very tensed and confused about navigating through this phase. The thought of stepping into the industry was a little intimidating. But the college provided me so much knowledge, so many opportunities, and even industrial visits that my confidence increased. I was able to improve my skills and groom my personality in a positive way. Here I learnt what professionalism is. The faculty at DME has always been motivating helped me to do better. I am grateful to this institute for helping me find my potential. I would like to suggest to my juniors that they should grab every opportunity of learning, whether it's theory or practical. It will definitely help you somewhere or the other in your professional life.

Ayush Goyal



”

In the first two years, I was a little laid back about attending college. My attendance was average. And just when I planned that during the final year, I will be more regular and spend some more time in the campus, this pandemic wreaked havoc all around and ate up the third and last year of my college. Maybe this is what it takes for us to value something. I wish I could have mingled some more with my friends, learnt some more from the teachers but that time is not going to come back. Nevertheless, the two years spent in college were quite fruitful. Apart from a bag of great memories, there is a lot that I acquired here. The skills and professionalism and knowledge I imbibed in myself will be definitely utilized in the future. It has been a great journey and I look forward to making a great career ahead.

Aamaan Alam Khan



Information and Artificial Networks **ICAN⁴** 2021

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1st - 10th July, 2021

Deadlines for Submission

Opening Notification of ICAN⁴	December 21, 2020
Deadline for submission of Abstracts	April 30, 2021
Notification of Abstract	May 10, 2021
Deadline for Registration	May 15, 2021
Deadline for Submission of Full Paper	May 17, 2021
Deadline for publication of Conference Proceedings with Abstracts	May 30, 2021
Deadline for publication of books with Conference Papers	June 10, 2021

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