

EDITORIAL

I think the concept of beginning a new year according to the Gregorian calendar doesn't really hit me until the novelty has passed. Almost every year, the realisation that it is no longer 2010 hits me on an inconsequential Tuesday in the middle of June, which is not really an ideal time for belated festivities coupled with existential crises.

I think it's because I always expect SOMETHING to happen as soon as the clock strikes 12. A big revelation, revolution, spiritual awakening, a chiropractic realignment, what have you. Apart from loud celebrations and irritating fireworks, it feels the same as it always does.

I used to find this feeling a bit troubling when I was younger, but my perspective has definitely changed over the years. I now realise that a bunch of little somethings sprinkled throughout the year end up building that big SOMETHING. It's a slow and arduous process, but maybe an inconsequential Tuesday in summer is the perfect time for the year to begin.

On that note, Happy New Year!

– Fatima Jahan Ena, Sub-editor, SHOUT



PLAYWATCH

GAMES



The new CoD MW 2 offers one of the best first-person shooter campaigns till date

ABHOY HRIDDO

Call of Duty has been one of the leading first-person shooter game series since the 2000s. The series is well known for its astoundingly good and revolutionary multiplayer campaign as they were the first to bring the "create a class" system.

However, *Modern Warfare 2 (MW2)* 2022 not only excels in multiplayer but also has one of the best campaigns in a first-person shooter game to date.

The prologue sets you in the shoes of Task Force 141's Simon "Ghost" Riley. He had been tracking a man named General Ghorbrani who had been supplying weapons to Iran. That is bad news for the West, so they decided to drop a missile on him.

This CIA and SAS joint assassination later sparks a chain reaction leading to rising terror attacks. Iran elects a new revolutionary, Hassan, and so the CIA sends our favourite Scottish lad, Soap MacTavish, and pairs him up with Ghost, to assassinate him.

However, Hassan escapes and it turns out that he had been supplied ballistic missiles from the USA. The game follows Task Force 141 as they track down the supplied ballistic missiles to destroy them.

The campaign has some of the most well-crafted missions in *Call of Duty* history. Infinity Ward ditches the generic "take a gun, go inside the room, and shoot people" formula and adds depth.

Say we are doing a stealth mission at the docks. Instead of following a scripted cutscene and an ally until the mission ends, the game drops you in

the docks and lets you act and clear it in any way you see fit. Will you find an armoury and arm up, or will you look around for knives to do it silently? All up to you.

There are also some missions which leave you completely alone with no weapons and introduce a crafting system.

Another massive highlight of the game is its presentation. The cutscene-to-game transitions are seamless, and the gameplay is insanely cinematic.

Say a helicopter is crashing. Instead of just transitioning in to a cutscene, as we walk towards our target building in night vision goggles, the helicopter operator drops flares and yells, "Mayday" with some of the best voice acting and drops down in the field ahead.

The best things about this game's campaign are the characters. They are rich and well-developed. They have some of the best voice acting imaginable with the newer highlight being Alejandro, the leader of the Mexican Special Forces. His voice actor gave him everything while voicing him, and it shows. Definitely one of the best additions to the game.

The campaign has quite an anticlimactic end but sets up the new *Modern Warfare 3* in the best way imaginable.

MW2 has a spectacular campaign, decent multiplayer, and grindy gameplay. So, is the game worth the USD 80 price tag? I would say so.

Abhoy Hriddo is leveling up the Battle Rifles to unlock a scope for the ARs while playing on Shipment. Send him thoughts and prayers at abhoyhriddo@gmail.com



TITLE OF YOUR MIXTAPE

A

White Snow
Eve

Mehrama
Darshan Raval & Antara
Mitra

Shomorpon
Owned

Oh No
Bring Me The Horizon

B

On The Floor
Jennifer Lopez ft. Pitbull

New Person, Same Old
Mistakes
Tame Impala

Funny Thing
Thundercat

You Wanted A Hit
LCD Soundsystem

Email us at shoutds@gmail.com with feedback, comments, and reader submissions within 500 words.