



National:
"Jai Jawaan, Jai Kisaan." Words by The Forgotten Legend



Sports:
Fans Can Now Volunteer For The UEFA Women's Euro 2022



International:
Nicolas Sarkozy: Ex-French President Guilty over Illegal Campaign Financing



Local:
Books to be freely distributed through the 'Akshara Joi-lege' Scheme

Madhava Kripa school Hosts Covid Awareness Programme

Jonathan William

Udupi: On October 5, a Covid-19 awareness programme, and a vaccination drive were conducted in the Madhava Kripa school auditorium in Manipal as a part of their 75th Independence Day celebration.

The District Legal Services Authority, The District Administration Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, District Attorneys Association, Department of Probationary and Governmental Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Transport, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Labour, Police Department, Forest Department, were few of the several agencies and departments that attended and inaugurated the



Dignitaries lighting the lamp (Source: Udupi District Information Department)

programme.

A member of the District Legal Service Authority, Judge Sharmila S, spoke about the importance of law and how every man from birth to death must follow, be knowledgeable, aware, and do everything within the boundaries of the law. The government has helped control the spread of

Covid-19 by taking vital measures, providing good medical facilities, and helping people affected by the virus. She encouraged the people to make use of these facilities implemented by the government.

A 45-day campaign is being launched in order to raise awareness and educate people about their rights and laws;

Judge Sharmila S also motivated others to take part and be involved.

The services that are provided by the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) include free legal aid and consultation to the underprivileged, disabled, mentally ill, and families with an annual income of less than three lakhs per annum.

Chief Civil Judge Deepa said that the government should make use of the knowledge and assistance provided by the Legal Services Authority and encouraged people to make use of the services and facilities provided by the DLSA.

Speaking about how many countries have tried and failed to obtain or find a drug for the cure of covid so far, Dr Ashwini Kumar, urged people to take good care of their health and get the vaccine to boost immunity.

Sadashiva Prabhu, the Additional District Collector; Dr Charmin, the Medical Officer of the Urban Primary Health Centre; and other dignitaries were present for the event.

This was a great initiative done for the people of Udupi district.

Udupi Launches Hygiene Survey

Ananya Ananth

Udupi: On October 2, the Udupi District Administration launched a door-to-door sanitation survey to study the situation of sanitation and cleanliness in the district. The survey is the first of its kind in Karnataka and will provide a means to improve the district's hygiene.

Scheduled between October 2 and October 12, the survey covered around 2.41 lakh households from 155 villages. At a ratio of four census enumerators per 1000 inhabitants, 800 trained people have been assigned to assess the situation. Information regarding the cleanliness status includes how many houses have private toilets, toilet usage, liquid waste management, sanitary waste disposal practices, segregation of waste, and its overall management. The District Administration wants to spread awareness and infor-



Representational image of public toilets (Source: daijiworld)

mation to help people adopt more suitable cleanliness and sanitary standards. Along with teaching the families about the importance of twin toilets, they will educate them about the manual scavenging act, and help them practice better waste segregation and disposal methods. Households will

be provided with information about the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme, the need for greywater management, composting wet waste (nutrient gardens), constructing soak pits, earthworm pits and manure ponds for waste management-

The survey will also provide insights on houses that do not have a water pipeline connection or have access to clean drinking water. The people of the district will be notified on how to avail the 'Jal Jeevan' Mission and 'Ganga Yojana' schemes under which every home should have access to

clean drinking water throughout the year. According to the Chief Executive Officer of Zila Panchayat, Dr Naveen Bhatt, the data collection will enable them to improve sanitation and drinking water facilities and identify and solve any problems the district faces. Based on this information, they also plan to organise cleanliness programs and educate people about sanitary measures for the entire district.

The pamphlets and information brochures to be handed out during the census will have a QR code for the first time. Once scanned, residents can view informational videos on the importance of toilets, advantages of twin toilet construction, solid waste segregation and management, information on pipe composting, and the 'Jal Jeevan' Mission.

Yaksha Education Trust Preserving Local Culture



The art at its finest form (Source: ibtimes)

Lipika Shetty

Udupi: On October 2, 2021, the Yaksha Education Trust said that over 1200 children are learning and disciplining. 'Yakshagana' is a traditional theatre developed in Udupi, Karnataka. It is not recognised as an academic curriculum; thus, the Yaksha Education Trust established the monument to preserve our culture, and the trust has taken the initiative to teach youngsters the art of 'Yakshagana' with the support of present MLA Raghupathi Bhat.

The art of 'Yakshagana' originated in 2006. The trust is responsible for recruiting students, who have attained the 'Yakshagana' gurus position and encouraging them to train in about 46 high schools. A record has been set in the state of theatre, wherein over the last 12 years approximately,

15,000 students have learnt the art of 'Yakshagana' in the Udupi Assembly Constituency.

The 'Yakshagana' art form portrays mythological stories. Initially, only boys were allowed to perform. But that has changed over time since 60% boys and 40% girls make for the learning crowd.. The theatre is not just limited to Hindus playing the roles of deities, students also put up performances for other religions such as Christianity and Islam. This indicates the slow fixation in the gap between different religions.

Statistics showcase that students who took time to learn this art have excelled academically and have found a livelihood that allows them to enhance their talent. However, not everyone who has learnt the art is

looking for a livelihood, but they remain great lovers of the same.

The performance of this art is not just limited to the coast of Karnataka but has also spread to five other districts — Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Kasaragod, Shimoga and Chikmagalur District. The desire to learn this technique is not restricted to Karnataka's districts, but has also expanded internationally. The most relished art in Karnataka gives rise to one question, whether the public representatives are committed to making it state-of-art art by spreading it around the country?

Sources: Suvarnanews, Deccan Herald

Books to be Distributed for Free Under 'Akshara Jolige' Scheme



Bringing a new light through 'Akshara Jolige'. (Source: Suvarna)

Lipika Shetty

Udupi: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2021, V Sunil Kumar and the education department in the Udupi district took a step forward in educational innovation. The education

department encouraged the schools to participate in the drive by collecting books from students, parents and the general public.

The Minister's proposal boosted morale and allowed the public works depart-

ment the opportunity to work on this fresh idea to assist positive change to the region. The 'Akshara Jolige' plan will be used to collect books. The books gathered under this programme would then be handed to school libraries and gram panchayat libraries, according to N H Nagur, Deputy Director of Public Instruction.

"The objective of this initiative is to bring all the old books in circulation and put them in use for the students

Clean India: Udupi Beach Cleaning Program



Udupi Beach Cleaning Program (Source: Udupi News)

Aditi Barman

On the event of Gandhi Jayanti and the commemoration of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on October 2, Bharatiya Janata Party Udupi Nagar Municipal Council, with the support of MLA K. Raghupati Bhatt, worked with BJP Worker on sea shore cleanups.

Chairman of Coastal Development Authority-Mataru Ratnakara Hegde, BJP District President Kuladi Suresh Nayak, Udupi Urban Development Authority Chairman Raghavendra Kini, Udupi Municipal Council President Sumitra R Nayak, Vice President Venkataraman Kidiyoor, Local Council Member Edlin Karkada, named individuals Vijay Kunder, City Council standing Committee Chairman Girish Anchan, City BJP General Secretary Manjunath Manipal and others were present.

On October 2, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dispatched an eager neatness program – the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.' It is perhaps the most significant and famous mission to have occurred in India. 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' means Clean India Mission. This drive was defined to cover all the Indian urban areas and towns and make them clean. This mission was controlled by the Indian government and was presented by the Prime Minister. The neatness mission of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'

was run on a public level and incorporated every one of the towns, rustic and metropolitan. It filled in as an extraordinary drive in making individuals mindful of the significance of tidiness.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) are accepted a mass tidiness cum-care drive in 50 recognised coastlines under the 'Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan,' from November 11 17, 2019, to try to make our beaches clean and make care among inhabitants about the meaning of natural waterfront frameworks. The perceived coastlines are in ten beachfront States/Union Territories (UTs): Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. The coastlines have been perceived after the gathering with the States/UTs.

The cleaning drives in all beaches is an endeavour, including school students of Eco-clubs, district associations, foundations, volunteers, neighbourhood organisations, and various accomplishments.

Sources: Udupinews, Civildaily

and most importantly the ones in the village," commented Udupi Zilla panchayat, CEO Naveen Bhat, who has helped implement the scheme on ground level. Furthermore, he also directed the block education officers to follow up and coordinate on it.

The campaign is being held at the Handattu vil-

lage in Kotathattu GP near Kundapur on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. This campaign previously held in the other part of the district attracted over 3,500 books worth Rs 6 lakhs. The books collected were distributed to numerous libraries in Karkala and its surrounding areas.

Sources: Suvarna, The Times Of India

KMC Introduces Mobile Blood Centre

Aarushi Verma

Manipal: On October 1, The Medical College of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal launched a blood centre van to celebrate National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. The prime objective of this initiative was to encourage people to donate their blood, which could save many lives in the unforeseen circumstances of misfortune. The hospital honoured the BJP Yuva Morcha's Udupi City unit, Mogaveera Yuva Sanghatane, and others. Sharath Kumar Rao, the Dean of College, said "donating blood without any desire is an important part of humanity in the process of



Kasturba Medical College (Source: Enroll Academy)

saving lives." Col. B. Prakash Chandra, MAHE Director (General Services), urged all organisations to encourage their employees to donate blood.

Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic took the world by storm, there has been a decrease in the number of people donating blood due to health problems. The

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day was first observed by the Indian Society of Blood Transfusion and Immunohematology in the year 1975. Every year,

safe blood donation saves the lives of many people of all ages and walks of life. Tripura, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Maharashtra are among the states with the highest number of volunteer blood donors at the national level.

Every year, our country requires roughly 120 lakh units of blood; however, only 90 lakh units are available. Therefore, it becomes crucial to help save the life of someone who is in a grave and urgent need of love.

Source: The Hindu

MIC and VSO Celebrate Daan Utsav 2021

Ananya Ananth

MIC: Daan Utsav, a remarkable chapter of Manipal campus, is celebrated between October 2 and October 8. Organised by the Voluntary Service Organisation, this week celebrates the 'joy of giving.' This 100% volunteer-driven tradition was conceived in 2009.

In the words of the Director of Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC), Padma Rani, "Daan Utsav is a week when we undertake some special initiative for the underprivileged section of our society." It is not just restricted to money because



Faculty of Manipal and volunteers at the food distribution drive (Source: Praseed Nair (MIC Coordinator VSO))

skills, supplies, or kindness are just as welcome. Even the MIC Coordinator for VSO, Praseed Nair, said: "it is a platform that directly serves the community through teaching or any mode where you can make a difference."

On October 6, the faculty of MIC, along with the

volunteers, cooked an extra meal and fed a total of 100 people. They are also planning a stationary distribution drive. Therefore, Daan Utsav is, indeed, an incredible and unique festival that offers a connection between service and society.

Source: Praseed Nair (MIC Coordinator VSO)

'Kshamaa' Bags Second Position in IIIT Lucknow

Anjali Seshadri

Manipal: On September 27, Aaina Dramatics secured the second position in an inter-college event 'Navras,' organised by 'Goonj,' the drama society of IIIT Lucknow. The club had sent four of their short films, including 'Kshamaa', Mother, 'Dark' and 'Respectfully Yours' of which, 'Kshamaa' bagged the prize.

This film, 'Kshamaa,' dives into the greatest tor-

ment a mother could face and draws a parallel between the ages to understand the concepts of 'revenge and forgiveness.'

Once again, Aaina proved that they are the official dramatics club of MIT for a good reason. Be it online or offline, Aaina has always proven to come out with flying colours.

Source: Shaunak Date (Director and Actor of Kshamaa)

MIC and DGIR Collaborate to Celebrate Air Force Day

Aarushi Verma

Manipal: On October 8, India celebrates Air Force Day, and pays gratitude to the men in blue while remembering the proud martyrs of the country. Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC) in collaboration with the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations (DGIR) organised a distinguished guest lecture to honour the 89th Air Force Day. The topic of oration was on the 'Role of Air Force in Nation Building and India's National

Security.'

The guest speaker was Air Marshal (Retd) Dr M Matheswaran, AVSM, VM, PhD, who was accompanied by Vice-Chancellor, MAHE Manipal, Lt Gen (Dr) MD Venkatesh, MIC Director, Padma Rani, and DGIR Head, Dr Nanda Kishor M S.

The Air Marshal (Retd) spoke about the importance of the Indian Air Force, India's relations with its combatant countries China and Pakistan, the technicalities that come along with

this profession, and about his personal experience from his days in the forces. As proud as Air Marshal (Retd) Dr M Matheswaran, a similar wave of emotion could be seen in the students attending his lecture as many asked him questions and spoke about their own experience hailing from a defence background.

The guest lecture with a duration of two hours was very insightful to the students as well as the faculty members.



Students at Manipal University (Source: MAHE)

FREEDOM AT LAST!

COVID and online education took away the most crucial period of the college experience from us. After being shut for almost a year, MAHE finally opened its gates on October 7. After one and a half years of MS Teams, we can finally see hopes of a good college experience.

Indian Media is Withering? Well, so is the West

Aarushi Verma

Many fingers have been pointed towards the ever so degrading status of Indian media in the past decade. However, is India the only country with its journalism hitting rock bottom, as several citizens and international media exaggerate? Indeed, contrary to the prime objective of providing information to its viewers, the majority of the Indian news channels have gravitated towards influencing their viewers' opinions. For the largest democracy in the world, the additional responsibility of media is to be a watchdog instead of violating the freedom of speech to suit their channel's political bias.

The Code of Ethics laid down by the National Broadcasters Association (N.B.A) demands news channels to ensure neutrality, abhor sex and nudity, ensure privacy, and refrain from advocating or encouraging superstition. Unfortunately, the Indian media outlets follow none of these, and no punitive action is ta-



Representation of different media platforms (Source: Shutterstock)

ken against the news agencies or journalists. The recent and hapless demise of the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput showed an abashing face of media coverage. Journalists became judges, crucial happenings across the country and abroad were ignored in the light of unravelling his death conspiracy, and the personal space of his bereaved loved ones was breached in every way possible. It is safe to say that the backlash received by Indians does not stand unsubstantiated.

Although is it fair to have

all shots fired at the functionality of Indian media by the citizens as well as foreign media outlets while turning a blind eye to the international media? According to Statista, around 52% of Americans believed that online news websites regularly reported fake stories in the United States in March 2018. Another 34% believed that news websites occasionally reported counterfeit stories. The western press has been held accountable for double standards on the grounds of wrong statistics, homophobia, anti-India

bias, leaking evidence, etc.

Global media's development is a relatively new phenomenon. Owing to the reach and access and a loyal customer base, those with a history and established credentials have tremendous areas of influence. As a result, they survive off a large monetary basis. The reach and monetary aspect of the English language compliment the presence of various international media outlets in foreign countries, which eventually manipulate the consumers in their favour and propagate their

bias. When it comes to issues that do not concern them, the media elite is glad to take sides.

Foreign media outlets' support or opposition towards political parties is custom-designed to serve their own selfish interests. Positive images are projected for countries that serve vested business interests, while others are earmarked for criticism.

It is debatable whether media stands firm as the fourth pillar of democracy ever since the industry became more business-oriented and less purpose-driven in its execution and approach. The dismal story lying at the belly of this media analysis only hints towards the collapsing credibility and loss of faith in daily media consumers. While there is no debate on which national or international media body is competing for the worst position, the media industry, referred to as the mirror of society, needs to look at its own reflection.

Criminalisation of Non-Consensual Pornography

Anjali Seshadri

The wide and vibrant Indian society has a lot of closed doors hidden behind colourful drapes of perceived morality and often even controversies. 'Sex' is one of those topics that has the biggest lock of societal scorn under its latch. With surveillance so tight that topics carrying a hint of its flavour are locked being the same doors, never to see the light of day again. The description of said term is one of those few topics that even the Indian Constitution refuses to define under its ever-expanding umbrella.

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is a legal document pertaining to all things considered criminal and the punishments to be meted out to said crimes as per definition. Although having multiple additions and ratifications over the years, this document dates back to 1860 and it is safe to say that the primary skeleton of this

legal structure is still very much in the years of yore. Thus, the lack of evolvement of the document leads to the IPC still having no specific laws regarding 'pornography,' which in turn leads it to have no punishments for those perpetrating the crime of shooting of 'non-consensual pornography' and the dissemination of the same. So, the legal system, though ill-equipped, legally so, still has to deal with the issues of the modern-day and that it sure does.

The IPC deals with pornography under the pretence of 'aggravated obscenity,' further laying down the circumstance of said obscenity and defines its nature. The issue with the definition stated above is that the words 'consent' and 'pornography' do not even make an appearance in the laws. More so, the terms used by the constitution, such as 'obscene,' 'corrupt'

and 'deprave' are not defined at all. The Women's Act 1986 barely prohibits 'selling' any material representing women in an indecent or derogatory manner. Albeit expecting an Act from the 1980s to talk about Cybercrime is a foolish endeavour, so we turn to the IT act of 2000.

The IT act made it illegal to publish or transmit 'obscene material or material containing sexually explicit acts in electronic form.' Yet it fails to define pornography legally and still follows the same old definition of obscenity which is added in legal vagueness itself, ultimately lending a cover of vagueness to everything the act should define. The act does not consider the concept of consenting adults indulging in sharing their intimate images.

Besides sectional amendments to the IT Act of 2008, there is no specific provision that speaks of non-consen-

sual pornographic offences. There are no provisions that help victims takedown obscene material posted on the internet as an act of revenge. As far as Non-Consensual dissemination of Intimate Imagery (NCII) is concerned, it does not provide any solid remedy to the victim.

Even the Cyberbullying Laws only go into so much detail about cyberstalking, the term 'disseminate' is, once again, not defined well. There is no law to define punishments regarding 'doxxing,' and gender neutrality is almost non-existent.

India needs some very necessary Legislative updates to keep up with the times and it needs to begin with a better definition of terms like 'obscenity' and 'pornography' along with much-needed gender neutrality.

NEWS DESK

EDITORS

AARUSHI VERMA
ANJALI SESHADRI

SUB-EDITORS

JOY RATHI
SMARNITA MENON
MOHAMED IMAD
ADITI BARMAN

REPORTERS

MANMEET SINGH
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JONATHAN WIL-
LIAM
LIPIKA SHETTY
BHRUGU SACHINDRA
WARTY

Ethiopia Expels UN Staff

Manmeet Singh

Ethiopia: In a recent affair between the Ethiopian Government and some UN agencies; the government issued a statement saying they have asked seven senior UN officials to leave the country, accusing them of “meddling in internal affairs” despite the humanitarian response of the UN in the war-torn and famine-threatened Tigray region. Officials from the United Nations humanitarian agency, the United Nations Human Rights Office, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) were identified in the statement.

The northernmost Tigray region in Ethiopia has been under a de-facto blockade since November last year. A ‘looming catastrophe’ due to the fight between PM Abiy Ahmed’s forces and the

Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) has spread to neighbouring areas. The dispute between the two parties has led to plenty of speculation by International organizations. The UN has previously supposed that 400,000 people face famine-like conditions in Tigray, with a growing concern of deaths from starvation.

Shocked by these instigations the UN secretary-general, António Guterres, said “in Ethiopia, the UN is delivering life-saving aid – including food, medicine, water and sanitation supplies to people in desperate need. I have full confidence in the UN staff who are in Ethiopia doing this work.” The Ethiopian authorities and the TPLF have been accusing one another for obstructing aid convoys taxing heavily

to reach Tigray. For over three months, Ethiopia’s government has stopped delivering basic necessities such as food, medication, and gasoline to Tigray in an effort to deter support for the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), which has been battling Ethiopian forces since November.

The Ethiopian government’s deportation prompted the United States to sharply criticise the action and demand for an immediate reversal of the decision. Ethiopia must immediately open the flow of aid to civilians, according to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, or risk a wave of penalties.

Sources: RFI, FRANCE24

The Middle East Hosts the World Fair for the First Time

Aditi Barman



Dubai World Expo 2020 (Source: Nova)

Dubai: The World Expo 2020 opened on October 1. It will proceed till March 31, 2022, making its way to exhibitors from 192 countries that have converged in Dubai for the global event. The event is being held for the first time in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region. It is being held a year later as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dubai’s region, travel industry, exchange, and business center point, aims to help its economy by drawing in 25 million in business and tourist visits to the world, which has been worked on 4.3 sq km of the

desert.

The Expo will be a celebration of human resourcefulness, acknowledging joint effort and organisation as the present motors of development, under the theme — ‘Connecting Minds, Creating the Future, and focusing on: Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability.’

Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan attended the opening ceremony of Dubai’s ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and other state authorities.

Sources: Reuters, The Indian Express

Venezuela’s Currency Revamps, Drops Six Zeros

Ananya Ananth

Venezuela: On Friday, October 1, the country launched a new currency with six zeros dropped, the third time the severe devaluation of the bolivar has prompted such action. Previously, the value of one million bolivars was less than \$0.25. Since Friday, however, the new currency has peaked out at 100 bolivars, valued at around \$25. The new currency would ease the burden on payment systems; the never-ending zeros make bookkeeping and cash transactions troublesome. Moreover, accounting and debit card processing systems are not suitable for a hyperinflated economy.

Under the previous system, banks permitted a maximum of 20 million bolivars in cash to be withdrawn. It proved to be highly insufficient, as a bottle of soda could cost 8 million bolivars. Citizens have mainly depended on transaction apps like PayPal and Zelle and use dollars widely. According to Economic Times, Venezuela’s Central Bank stated that the bolivar “will not be worth more or less; it is only to facilitate its



Venezuela’s currency, the Bolivar (Source: Al Jazeera)

use on a simpler monetary scale?”

However, there have been reports of rising dollar prices. On Friday, the price on the black market grew by 500,000 bolivars and stood at 5.2 bolivars per dollar as per the new currency.

Venezuela’s dependence on oil exports and lack of domestic investment has kept it under high inflation since 2008. The 2019 US sanctions only worsened the situation. The current President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, had eliminated five zeros in 2018, but the currency continued to devalue. Unless government policies change drastically, currency revamps are most likely to continue. We need to wait and watch to see whether the currency continues to devalue or the economy takes a turn with policy changes.

Sources: Livemint, Economic Times, trt world.

Nicolas Sarkozy: Ex-French President Guilty over Illegal Campaign Financing

Jonathan William



Ex-French President (Source: Morning Express)

Paris: Nicolas Sarkozy, the former French President, was found guilty by a court in Paris for illegally financing his 2012 re-election campaign.

Sarkozy was accused of spending nearly double the amount of 22.5 million euros which is the limit under the law on his unsuccessful re-election campaign in 2012.

The court sentenced Sarkozy to a year of house arrest; however, he denied the accusations and claimed that the ruling was an act of ‘injustice.’ He also said he would go ‘right to the end’ to seek ‘truth and justice.’

Sources: BBC, Independent TV

Pandora Papers: The most Colossal Financial Leak in History

Anjali Seshadri

Pandora Papers are the most extensive assimilation of leaked files in a series of several International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) leaks of financial documents that started with LuxLeaks, followed by the Panama Papers, Paradise Papers and FinCen. The investigation involved 600 journalists in 117 countries examining 12 million files and had been going on for two years.

The Papers have named Indians like cricketer Sachin Tendulkar along with his family, Congress leader and friend of Gandhi family Satish Kumar Sharma, Neerav Modi’s sister Purvi Modi (set up a trust fund a month before Neerav was caught). It also includes Anil Ambani, who had told a London Court that his net worth was zero, and was found to have 18 offshore companies. According to the ICIJ, heads of more than a dozen states

and governments, including the King of Jordan and the Czech Prime Minister, have millions of hidden offshore tax havens.

High-profile names include King Abdullah II’s (\$100 million), Azerbaijani President, Kenyan President, and indirectly Vladimir Putin. The ICIJ feature includes 35 present and former leaders. More than 600 journalists from 150 media houses belonging to more than 117 countries participated in this research, including 2.94 terabytes of information. Transferring money offshore is not illegal, and there are several legitimate reasons why some people do so. However, the offshore industry has seen exponential growth in the last few decades, driven by wealthy individuals and corporations searching for sophisticated mechanisms to avoid tax.

Sources: The Guardian, Indian Express, ICIJ

CJI to Form a Committee to Probe Police Atrocities

Manmeet Singh

New Delhi: After a series of speculations, Chief Justice of India (CJI), N.V. Ramana, stands in favour of forming special panels headed by the Chief Justices of the High Courts to probe into complaints gathered from regular people of 'atrocities' committed by the bureaucracy, especially by law enforcing agencies like the police within our nation.

The issue of custodial deaths and other severe transgressions committed by the police became the limelight of the supreme bench yet again. Recently, the local law enforcement authorities in Gorakhpur were charged to cause the death of a businessman during a police raid in a hotel. In Tamil Nadu, CBI filed a charge sheet against nine policemen for the horrendous custodial killings of P. Jayaraj and J. Benicks, for allegedly violating Covid-19 guidelines



CJI N.V. Ramana (Source: PTI/Kamal Kishore)

The bench made some oral observations stating, "when a political party is in power, police officers side with a particular party. Then when a new party comes into power, the government initiates action against those officials." This trend of giving into the political agendas of different regimes needed to be kept in track, the CJI noted.

Sources: Swarajyamag, The Hindu

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Wins By-Poll

Jonathan William

West Bengal: On Sunday, The CM of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, won the Bhabanipur seat by a massive majority of 58,832 votes.

"I have won the Bhabanipur Assembly by-polls with a margin of 58,832 votes and have registered victory in every ward of the constituency, it is a victory against the conspiracy that was hatched to defeat me from Nandigram. I thank the people of Bhabanipur for giving me such a huge mandate," said the Chief Minister.

After her loss, BJP's candidate, Priyanka Tibrewal, claimed they lost due to 'fake voters' by saying, "if people were allowed to vote, the result would have been different. Even I got hold of fake voters on the polling day. In several booths, polls were rigged. But I will admit that our organisation was weak in Bhabanipur. We have to improve this." She further went on to call herself the 'Man of the Match' because she acquired more than 25,000 votes in the

CM's home turf.

The Trinamool congress secured victories in Jangipur and Samsanganj. Jakir Hossain, the candidate of Jangipur obtained a massive 1,36,444 votes while his opposition Sujit Das, (BJP's candidate) secured 43,964 votes, with Jakir winning by a margin of 92,480 votes.

The Trinamool candidate of Samsanganj, Amirul Islam secured 96,417 votes, while his opposition Zaidur Rahaman secured 70,038, resulting in Islam's win by a margin of 26,379 votes.

Sources: The Indian Express, NDTV



Mamata Banerjee (Source: Mint)

A Political Seesaw: Synopsis of the Crisis in Punjab

Manmeet Singh

New Delhi: The state of affairs worsened within the Congress Party's Punjab Unit after the recent power shift, pointing to 'conflicting numbers' under the Congress leadership in Punjab. The appointment of Charanjit Singh Channi as the new Punjab CM; Navjot Singh Sidhu's move to resign as Punjab Congress Chief left the party high command in disdain about further escalations in the state.

The timeline dates back to 2019 when tourism minister Navjot Singh Sidhu accused ex-CM Amarinder Singh of picking him out for the Congress' poor performance in the Lok Sabha election. However, Congress won by a majority that year. Capt. Amarinder Singh claimed that a 'younger' fraction of the party wants him re-

placed as the CM. This quarrel led to a division of electoral prospects amongst the ministers and legislators in the state unit.

The two ministers' rift persisted until 2021 until Sidhu was appointed as Punjab Congress Chief in July. Capt. Amrinder Singh stated that Congress severely undermined his authority as a CM. "I called the president of Congress (Sonia Gandhi) this morning and told her I was going to resign. This is the third time that Members have been called to a meeting; my leadership is being questioned," said the ex-CM. Soon enough, Capt. Amarinder stepped down as the CM in September 2021.

Amrinder Singh has been heavily sceptical of Sidhu's relation with Pakistan's PM Imran Khan. Regarding the question of appointing Sid-

hu as the new CM. Capt. said, "I will never allow that man [Sidhu] to come. He is an anti-national element. I will not allow him. He is too mixed up with Pakistan."

However, Charanjit Singh Channi took oath on September 20 to become the first-ever Dalit-Sikh CM of the state, with a clean political record and a stellar academic credential with the law and an MBA degree.

Congress leader Harish Rawat congratulated Channi for the crucial post and tweeted, "it gives me immense pleasure to announce that Shri Charanjit Singh Channi has been unanimously elected as the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party of Punjab."

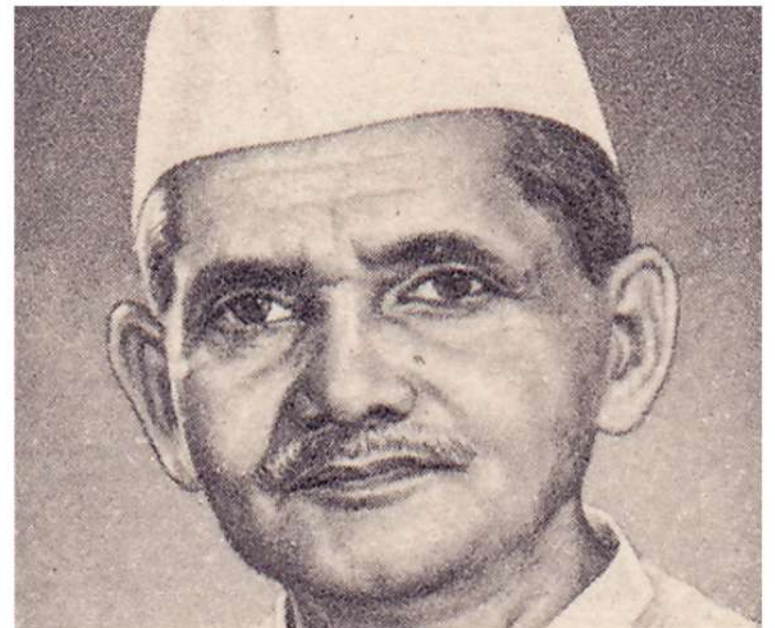
Sources: The Hindu, NDTV

"Jai Jawaan, Jai Kisaan:" Words by the Forgotten Legend

Aarushi Verma

Born on October 2, Lal Bahadur Shastri shares his birthday with the father of our nation — Mahatma Gandhi. The year 2021 marked the 117th birth anniversary of Shastri, who, unfortunately, has become a forgotten legend in the chapters of Indian history. While the day is majorly recognised as 'Gandhi Jayanti,' the heroic tales of Shastri barely seem to fit into the headspace of a commoner. His ascent to the top of politics was forgone by over 40 years of service in the Indian National Congress and independent governments' independence campaigns. Though the selfless sacrifice of the doughty Indian soldiers can never be expressed, it was under Shastri that India triumphed in the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

Paving the way for self-sufficiency in crop production, the successful green revolution followed by the world's biggest dairy development programme, Operation Flood, was India's second prime minister's brainchild. Proud of his Indian roots and culture, he laid the foundation of modern India post-independence. A plutonium reprocessing facility was established in India in



Lal Bahadur Shastri (Source: India Post)

1965. According to Dr Homi Jahangir Bhabha, Shastri approved the manufacturing of nuclear explosives, resulting in the establishment of the Nuclear Explosive Design Group and the Study of Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes (SNEPP). This action reflected solid political will, which had been uncommon for an extended period.

The nation knows too little about a personality as extraordinary as Shastri, who was a great prime minister and a phenomenal policymaker. The unfortunate and untimely demise of Shastri remains a mystery in the pages of Indian

politics to this day. He travelled to Tashkent to sign the Tashkent Memorandum of Understanding, which put an end to the 1965 conflict with Pakistan.

He appeared to be in good health at the time, but on the night of January 11, 1966, he died unexpectedly of a heart attack.

Deprived of the much-deserved honour, it lays in the hands of the coming generations to not allow a legend like Lal Bahadur Shastri to be erased from Indian history.

Sources: The Hindu, DNA India

Scotland Introduces LGBTQ+ Education

Ananya Ananth



Representation of the LGBTQ+ flag and letters (Source : Bweduction)

Scotland: The year 2021 marked the revolutionary change Scotland made, as it is now mandatory to make education Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) inclusive, which would be added to the academic curriculum. Subjects among all age groups will focus on promoting equality and awareness about their history and identity. Additionally, the anti-discrimination projects hope to reduce bullying as well.

The government provided

school staff with a toolkit of LGBTQ+ inclusive material along with various resources, and will also be undergoing an introductory awareness course.

The Scotland government first announced the move in 2018 after a women's group wrote to the then Education Minister of the Westminster government, Damian Hinds, stating that the government's policies on sex education must be revised extensively and be inclusive of all genders and sexualities.

It is undoubtedly a hopeful move because LGBTQ+ awareness is abysmally absent in the education curriculum across the world. Apart from informal sources, there are no other ways for children to learn about this vital part of society's identity. Hence, this progressive move shows that the world has the potential to start being more inclusive, aware and kind.

Sources : The Guardian, Scotsman

Iceland's Power Plant Converting CO₂ Permanently into Stone



The Orca carbon-capture plant (Source : Climeworks)

Joy Rathi

Iceland: In order to attain carbon neutrality by 2040, Iceland has created a carbon-negative power station that transforms CO₂ into rock.

Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant has successfully partnered with Climeworks, Carbfix, and ON Power for project Orca—the world's most significant air capture and CO₂ storage plant. Climeworks specialises in direct air capture technology, which, with the help of Carbfix, turns atmospheric CO₂ into a rock. ON Power, an Icelandic geothermal energy provider providing clean and renewable energy is powering the project.

The plant imbibes about 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year and permanently stores it by converting it to a rock.

The project is much more viable in Iceland due to its access to clean and renewable geothermal energy powering the plant. However, geologist Sandra Ósk Snæbjörnsdóttir said in a Motherboard documentary, "if we manage to build up this method around the globe, we can contribute to carbon neutrality and then even become carbon negative beyond 2050."

Source : Vice, Climeworks

End to Poaching and Smuggling in Assam as Hundreds

Mohamed Imad

Guwahati : On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, October 2, an estimated 550 poachers from the Manas and Raimona National Parks, as well as timber smugglers from Assam, surrendered.

On September 27, Chief Executive Member of the Bodoland Territorial Council, Pramod Boro, spoke about the development at the opening of Nature's Beckon NGO's Ganesh Mangal Yatra, a holistic conservation campaign for Asian elephants in Assam. Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, has appreciated the poachers' choice to surrender and will endeavour to help them reclaim their livelihood, as well as an ex-gratia payment of Rs.50,000 under the MGNREGA scheme will be made to the poachers.

Source : Time8 Guwahatipus

Do Women Misuse Laws Meant to Protect them?

Ananya Ananth

Bring up a conversation about rape and state its statistics, and often we find someone questioning whether all the claims are valid.

Men's rights activists have repeatedly questioned whether rape cases are 'genuine' or 'a ploy by women to extract money or revenge.' Most rape or dowry cases are believed to be 'false'. This trend arose in the aftermath of the #MeToo movement, and the infamous Delhi gang rape of 2012. The increasing reports were indeed heralded as a step in the positive direction but questioned by many.

The myth about 'false' cases has two origins. The first is a 2014 report from Delhi stating that over 50% of rape charges filed that year were false. Here, a false accusation refers to any case that did not make it to trial, including claims where the victim dropped charges halfway through. However, this report fails to grasp that a dropped charge is usually a consequence of intimidation or lack of substantial evidence for a solid claim.

Avoiding major investigations into personal matters is also one of the reasons.

Domestic violence has one of the lowest conviction rates. But these cases are challenging to prove, especially when the victim's family could be threatening her. A false or dropped claim doesn't provide a conclusion to its legitimacy.

On the contrary, data from the National Crimes Records Bureau states that the rate of false rape charges is only 8%. Moreover, compared to the many that go unreported, a few false claims do not correspond to the extent of the actual crimes men commit. So, why do women continue to be doubted and interrogated? The myth primarily results from a history of devaluing women's words and choices that go hand in hand with a patriarchal narrative.

Sources : The Swaddle, BBC

Bet You Didn't Know



Wild dolphins call each other by name "Oi flipper!"



A group of owls is called a parliament

Ducks can surf!



A snail can sleep for three years

Fans can now Volunteer for the UEFA Women's Euro 2022



Volunteers at the UEFA women's Euro 2022 (Source: UEFA)

Jonathan William

England: The Football Association (FA) and UEFA have announced that fans can now apply to volunteer for the UEFA Women's Euro tournament hosted in England next year.

The tournament begins on July 6, 2022, and it will be played in ten stadiums across nine cities in England, including Old Trafford.

The roles and duties of the

volunteers include 'Spectator Services' and 'Stadium Support,' which involves them being at the forefront on a matchday, ensuring the spectators have a memorable experience. Volunteers will help in assisting the logistics and delivery teams as well.

Senior Recruitment and Volunteer Manager at the FA, Susan Cooper, said "volunteering gives you

the chance to see the event from a completely different perspective whilst enhancing the major event experience for all guests. It is also the perfect opportunity to build friendship networks and maybe even provide a glimpse into a future career." Fans can visit the official website to apply for a volunteer role, applications will close on November 1.

Sources: UEFA, Manchester United

October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Jonathan William

The whole of October is regarded as the 'Breast Cancer Awareness month,' where millions of people show their support to everyone affected with breast cancer. It is a month dedicated to this disease and raising funds for various organisations and its research.

Breast cancer is the world's most prevalent cancer. As of the end of 2020, in the past 5 years, there were 7.8 million women alive diagnosed with breast cancer.

An increased awareness of the disease has undoubtedly led to a greater number of women being aware of its symptoms. Thus, early diagnosis paves way to better outcomes.

Source: WHO, National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Diamonds are Forever



Daniel Craig receiving his star (Source: London News)

Bhruhu Warty

After Roger Moore, David Niven and Pierce Brosnan, Daniel Craig is the fourth James Bond actor to receive the honour of a star on the prestigious pavement. The English actor who just ended his journey as James Bond with No Time to Die, is set to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In a statement quoted by People, delighted with the announcement, Ana Martinez,

producer of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, said: "Daniel Craig is a British cultural icon, as is James Bond, the man he has portrayed in five 007 films. We are thrilled to place his terrazzo Walk of Fame star next to the star of another famed actor who also portrayed James Bond, Roger Moore.

Source: India Today, BBC

Corona Throws Cycles Out of Gear

Smarnita Menon

A study published in the 'Journal of Women's Health' on September 30 revealed the irregularities in people's menstrual cycles. The study advanced after a prominent increase in stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic and concluded after surveying 200 women in the United States between the months of July and August 2020.

Out of the 200 women, 54% experienced changes in their menstrual cycle post-pandemic breakout. These ranged from excessive or no bleeding to longer durations of bleeding.

The epidemic had a significant influence on women's mental and reproductive health, according to study authors from Northwest-

ern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "We have already seen the ripple effects of what happens when we fail to consider the important facet of women's health. Many are now experiencing menstrual cycle irregularities as a result of the Covid-19 vaccines or Covid-19 infection," said Nicole Weitowich, a research assistant at the university.

Given the pandemic's unique character and considerable impact on mental health, this information is unsurprising and corroborates many anecdotal findings in the popular press and on social media.

Source: Republicworld, Journal of Women's Health

Who's Anupam Tripathi? The Indian actor from 'Squid Game' with whom viewers have fallen in love

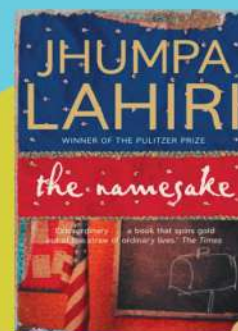
Bhruhu Warty

Squid Game, (released on 17 September 2021) the Netflix Series from South Korea, has been ranked No. 01 in 90 countries in the last ten days. The story revolves around adults who participate in games played by

children, and things quickly start to take a gory turn. Anupam Tripathi from New Delhi plays Player 199 from Pakistan. Before the series, he had also appeared in other K-Dramas performing minor roles.

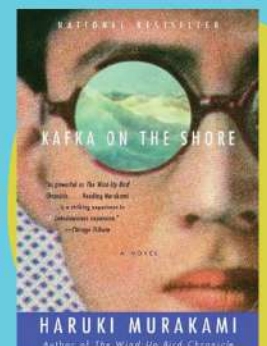
Sources: Hindustan Times, The Indian Express

Book Recommendation



An arranged wedding brings Ashoke and Ashima to settle in Massachusetts, giving birth to Gogol Ganguli. Forced to bear the vestiges of his roots, he stumbles along beside the ache of defining himself.

A boy on the run and the aged Nakata wander through their fates as cats and people converse, World War II soldiers inhabit a forest, and a murder reveals their intertwined destinies. An old, dusty classic for your trusty bookshelf.



Zachary traverses masquerade parties and secret clubs to a realm of lost seas and time bends. Caught between those who sacrifice to save it and those who intend to destroy, he travels the tunnels and ballrooms to find his purpose.