



**Local:**

Morgans Gate case: 16-year-old succumbs to injuries



**International:**

Texas reinstates ban on abortion

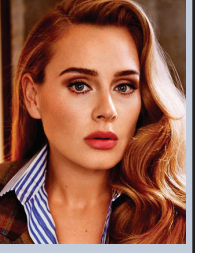


**Environment:**

Energy crisis, the sequel to Covid?

**Entertainment:**

Adele opens up about divorce through her latest album



# “International girl child day should not be limited to one day”

**Navya Anil**

**Udupi:** On October 11, the inaugural function for international girl child day was held in Indira Nagar Higher Primary School. The Mr JN Subramaniam, District advocate stated that International girl child day should not be limited to one day and girl child rescue should go on continuously.

The chief guest of the event, Mr Kurma Rao, District commissioner in his speech said, “Girl children are showcasing their talents in almost all the fields, we

just have to give them the right opportunities. If we give them equal opportunities in digital and other platforms, they will show extraordinary achievement”. He further said that equality should start from one’s home itself. Mr. Rao went on to mention the free helpline number, 1098, which provides free assistance to girls and children in distress.

The function honoured Ms Archana and Ms Tanushree Pithrodi, for their amazing achievements. Other guests present included Ms



Inaugural function at the school (Source: Info Dept. Udupi)

Sharmila, Senior civil advocate and member of district justice service, Dr Navin Bhat, District Panchayat Head, Dr Nagabushana District health and family wel-

fare department officer, Mr Kumar, District labour officer and Salins, Indra Nagar school supervisor.

The judicial department has planned awareness and

legal support programmes for the aggrieved victims of female infanticide from October 2 to November 14. Mr. JN Subramaniam has requested locals to avail these support programmes as and when required. Each village in the district will have access to these programmes. Support kits were also distributed among students at the event. International girl child day was declared by the UN in 2012, it falls on October 11, every year.

## Mattu Gulla sales re-start in Udupi



Workers processing through Mattu Gulla (Source : Mangalore Today)

**Akanksha Fiona Phillips**

**Udupi:** The season’s first harvest of *Mattu Gulla*, the region’s local brinjal, is getting more popular. Grown in Mattu, Kaipunjalu, Katapady, Pangala, Kote, Alinja, Ambadi, and Uliyargoli regions this year, they were late to the Navrathri Festival due to the floods. The brinjal is known to add the unique flavour to local dishes.

The President of the *Mattu Gulla* Growers Association, Sunil D Bangera, said that, as the association has been growing the brinjal in 250 acres of land; starting next week, they can supply around 500 kgs of the crop to the markets, per day. The association is also trying

to sell the brinjal to Dubai markets as it is popular there. Despite the demand for the *Mattu Gulla*, farmers weren’t compensated for their losses from last year’s floods. A *Mattu Gulla* farmer explained that a large portion of their crops were washed away and a group of officials from the district administration had visited them and promised a package of compensation, yet nothing was received.

The demand for this brinjal extends out of India too, making the crop worth more than 130 rupees per kg in the association, and up to 150 to 170 rupees in the market.

Source : [www.wipo.in](http://www.wipo.in)

## Coal import hit: Escoms owe Adani’s UPCL 2.6Kcr



Representational Image (Source : Bloomberg File Photo)

**Ross Joshua Alvares**

**Udupi:** Due to a lack of coal, Udupi Power Corporation Limited’s coal-based power facilities have been shut down for two months. The plant has a capacity of 600MW and has been running at half capacity for the past three days due to a technical issue with the generator in the second unit.

Four electricity distribution companies owe a total of Rs 2,671 crore in unpaid bills. The Escoms have already been compelled to pay by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. Escoms has a debt of around Rs1,385 crore, followed by Gescom with Rs.563 crore;

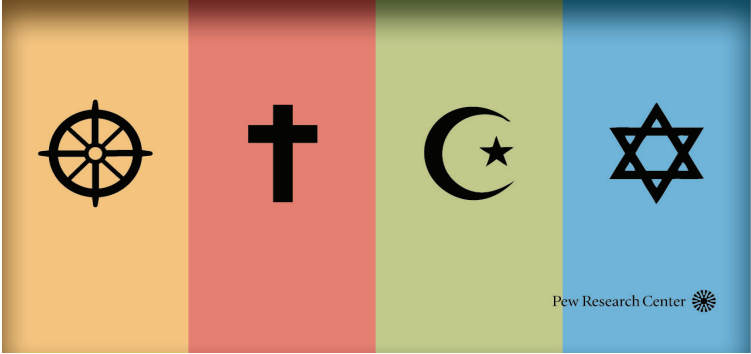
Bescom has dues of Rs 224 crore and Mescom with Rs 17 crore. Despite the outstanding debts, UPCL, a subsidiary of the Adani group, continues to generate and supply power to Escoms.

For roughly three days, the districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi have been without power. The cause is reported to be a power shortage in the state. UPCL is located in an environmentally sensitive zone and is required to use exclusively imported coal, despite the Union Government’s desire for ‘Atmanirbharta.’ This imported coal will cost around \$185 per tonne and will

come from Australia, Indonesia, or South Africa. If domestic coal is utilized, only 20% of it can be blended to guarantee that emissions do not exceed the limit.

Adani UPCL President, Kishore Alva, stated that coal will be imported soon and electricity generation will commence shortly. Meanwhile, campaigners in the coastal districts urge the state government to ensure that the power generated by UPCL is first supplied to the Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) for local use and then transmitted to Escoms for other locations.

## 4 arrested for attempting to forcibly convert man to Christianity



Symbolic representation of religions (Source : Pew Research Center)

**Prapti Khanna**

**Udupi:** Four individuals were arrested by Kota police on Sunday, October 10 for allegedly abusing a man's faith and forcing him to convert to Christianity. The accused have been identified as Prakash, Jyothi, Ravi, and Manohar. Prakash and Jyothi are a couple.

The victim, Anand, in his complaint stated that Ravi, his relative, called him on Sunday afternoon and asked him to visit Jyothi's residence to talk about religion. He visited Jyothi's residence with his friend Sharan where they were introduced to Prakash and Manohar. After a few conversations, Jyothi started targeting Anand's religion. She reportedly threw profanities at his (Anand) religion and tried to forcibly convert him

to Christianity. She told him that all his problems would be solved if he converted to Christian faith.

Following Anand's report, the case has been registered under various IPC sections including charges of promoting enmity and deliberate acts to hurt religious sentiments. Police have visited the house of the accused and recovered all necessary documents. The couple has been previously accused of trying to convert various other people. The news of 'religion abuse' spread to the public within a few hours of the arrest leading to protests outside the police station by the members of Hindu Jagarana Vedike, a Hindu activist group.

Source : TOI

## Morgans Gate shooting case: 16-year-old succumbs to injuries



A licensed 0.32 bore pistol was used (Source : Indian Express)

**Akanksha Fiona Phillips**

In a shocking incident on October 5, a man fired two bullets at his employees and one of the bullets accidentally hit his 16 year old son, Sudhindran. The boy succumbed to injuries in a private hospital at 5 am on Friday.

The shooting was instigated by a heated argument between two employees at the Vaishnavi Express Cargo Private Limited office and Sudhindran S mother. The workers supposedly demanded 4,000 rupees as payment from the boy's mother. At around 3:30 pm Sudhindra and his father, Rajesh, arrived on scene. Sudhindra allegedly slapped one of the workers which caused the situation to escalate. Rajesh

then took out his weapon and fired two rounds, missing the employees and hitting his son. A police officer stated that the bullet had pierced around 8 inches into the boy's skull. The weapon used has been identified as a licensed 0.32 bore pistol.

Later the same day, Rajesh complained about chest pains, and was admitted into the same hospital as his son. After being discharged, he was arrested and presented before court on October 7. His lawyer requested that Rajesh stay in the hospital to treat his injuries. The court granted the appeal and he was readmitted into a private hospital.

Source : The Hindu

## 1000 extra KSRTC buses to operate for Dussehra and Diwali

**Bhavya Joshi**

One thousand additional buses will set off from Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) for Dussehra and Diwali to cater to those traveling in and outside Karnataka. The administration will run special buses from October 13 to 21 and October 29 to November 7. Later, special buses will operate for interstate travelers. Due to the lack of an insufficient number of buses, students and daily travelers face inconvenience daily. During the festival season, this decision will make traveling easier for interstate passengers.

All the buses will function from Bengaluru to nearby states. Travelers can book their tickets before travel through an online website—an additional 5 % discount on booking if two or more travelers book on a single ticket. Passengers can log in to [www.ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in) or book their respective tickets from the reservation counter.

Source : Deccan Herald

## Malabar Group's heart of gold

**Ross Joshua Alvares**

**Mangalore:** Malabar Gold and Diamonds has provided funds to 14 households to help them build homes. The jewellers presented Housing Charity Cheques as part of their CSR program in the city. They have provided financial assistance to 14 families for the construction of their homes Abdul Raheem (MD of Shalimar), Ahmed Basheer (MD Group-4), Jacinta Alfred (Corporator of Falnir), and Mangalore Store Head Mr. Sarath are a few of the management team who were present during the event. The Malabar Housing Charitable Trust was



Source : Saudi Gazette

founded in 2004 to provide financial assistance for the development of shelters for the homeless. They assist people in the construction of their homes, either partially or totally. In certain cases, if a family is in need and are unable to obtain any means of constructing their homes, The Malabar Trust will provide full funding and support.

Over the last two decades, the company has made significant contributions to the society through CSR activities such as providing free life-saving medications, financial assistance for the construction of homes, women empowerment programs, student scholarships and environmental protection activities among others. "The group will lay more stress on areas like environmental conservation, medicine, and education sectors as part of the CSR in India." stated MP Ahmed, Chairman Malabar Group of Companies.

Sources : Udupi Times, VarthaBharati

## President visits Sringeri to offer prayers

**Bhavya Joshi**

President Ram Nath Kovind arrived at Mangalore on October 7. The administration made arrangements to welcome him by cleaning the stretch of road from Mangalore International Airport to the Circuit House. The President was given a warm welcome by all official Ministers of Mangalore. He reached the Circuit House for a night's stay and left for Sringeri with his wife to offer prayers at the Mutt on October 8. They visited Pravachana Mandira, where they took blessings and had lunch at the guest house.

He was offered a taste of the south at dinner with Karnataka governor Thawarchand Gehlot.

The district administration of Chikkamangaluru had positioned police officers across the city as a security protocol. For the President's visit, the Panchayat of Sringeri town had strict orders to close all commercial establishments. At the end of his visit, he left for Delhi from the Mangalore international airport.

Sources: Deccan Herald

## Returning to campus? Precautions to keep in mind

**Akanksha Fiona Phillips**

With the government of Karnataka issuing the order to reopen universities across the state, MAHE is finally going to start onsite classes in a phased manner. BSC Animation and BAMEdia and Communication students of second-year of will be reporting for onsite classes on November 8, 2021.

Manipal Institute of Communication will suspend online classes from the 2 to the 6 November in order to allow students to travel to the campus by November 8th. Students who wish to return to campus must have

completed at least one dose of the COVID19 vaccine and have a negative RT PCR test, done at most 72 hours prior to their arrival. Students are allowed to arrive a maximum of one week before the reopening date. All students are required to send their travel plans with their student information, mode of travel, city of departure, and date and time of arrival, to their chief wardens or MIC office.

Essential items that students have to carry to campus are as follows: One hundred triple-layered masks and six cloth masks, five

100ml of hand sanitiser, and two bottles of liquid soap. Take away options are available in the mess so that students can stay within the COVID guidelines.

Students travelling from different states are to report to their designated screening centres, on arrival, where they have to produce a negative RT PCR test and vaccination certificates. Those who have the above-mentioned documents do not require a quarantine period and will get a clearance card to move freely through the hostels and academic buildings.

## HOROSCOPE

(source: costarastrology)

**Aries**

You are ambitious and honest with a love to explore.

**Taurus**

You are patient, overcoming every obstacle in your way

**Gemini**

You are intelligent, and quick to adapt to the energy of a room

**Cancer**

You're a loyal and empathetic friend and observation is your forte

**Leo**

You are bold, warm and loving with a captivating personality

**Virgo**

You are smart and detail-oriented with a genuine desire to learn

**Libra**

You are empathetic and kind and sincere in everything you do

**Scorpio**

Your personal integrity ensures your actions match their words

**Sagittarius**

You are an analytical thinker with a huge and generous heart

**Capricorn**

You are hardworking and disciplined with a "can do" attitude

**Aquarius**

You are charming, unique and care about people

**Pisces**

You are compassionate, trusting and intuitive

Chyra Rose Luiz, Navya Anil, Ananya Shetty

## Kaleidoscope- Manipal's first LGBTQIA+ student club

**Navya Anil**

Kaleidoscope, Manipal University's first-ever student-run LGBTQIA+ club was officially launched on 2nd September 2021. The club aims to help every individual in the community feel safer and comfortable with their own identities.

Most students in India are aware of their identities from a very young age but proceed to conceal their true selves due to societal pressures and barriers. Institutions such as schools and colleges often fail to equip students with the necessary outlets and education concerned with the community. With its inception, Kaleidoscope has created within Manipal a safe haven where students part of the LGBTQIA+ can turn to for mental as well as physical support.

The management board is made up of seven students from Manipal Institute of Technology, founded and headed by Adhar Sharma, a third-year engineering student. Adhar explains how the LGBTQIA+ communi-

ty feels safer and protected with the creation of Kaleidoscope at Manipal. "Kaleidoscope is about inclusivity and beyond business as usual. We wish to make every student in Manipal feel safe and welcomed," he tells us in an exclusive chat with our sub-editor.

The club came into fruition after receiving approval from MIT's Head of Clubs, in addition to numerous talks with administration, faculty, and students. Many believe that an LGBTQIA+ club is both beneficial and essential to student welfare on campus. Kaleidoscope intends to ease students' challenges and burdens by creating an open and friendly community for all those involved. Their social media, (Instagram: @kaleidoscope.manipal) serves as a platform to provide accurate information and facts regarding LGBTQIA+ while also initiating talks and group sessions for members of the same. It is a platform free of social constraints.

Source : Times of India

## Destinations you have to visit around Manipal



Turtle Bay Beach (Source : Lifeisoutside.com)

**Smriti Bhaskaran**

One of the numerous perks of being part of Manipal University is the city's tourist destinations. From majestic mountains to shallow seashores, Manipal has it all! Although it's hard to pick and choose, a few destinations in and around the city are known to be student favorites.

The Hanging Bridge – The perfect spot for bicycle fanatics in Manipal, this bridge is situated a few kilometers from the city and is the ideal place for a weekend getaway! It rests above a small backwater channel and is surrounded by lush greenery on all sides. If you ever want to take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life, we recommend you try the Hanging Bridge.

Agumbe – Located forty-five kilometers from Manipal, the drive to Agumbe is an experience in itself. Filled with stunning vistas of Karnataka's wooded regions, you will find on the way, the Sunset Point, a temple, and several beautiful waterfalls (Onaki Abbi, Barkana falls, and Jogigundi falls). At Agumbe there are various kinds of hikes you can pick and choose from and given the fact that it rains every hour or so, the hike is filled with all of nature's goodness. If you're planning to be there during sunset (which we recommend you do), you'll witness one of the most breathtaking views in the country! And here's a fun fact about Agumbe for all the movie-buffs- the TV

series Malgudi Days was shot here!

Turtle Bay – A spot right out of the movies, Turtle Bay is a perfect valentines' starter kit. Lengthy walks along the seashore, breathtaking scenery, snorkeling, scuba diving, and many more fun activities await you at this destination. In case you're wondering why it's called 'Turtle Bay': the beach is a nesting ground for turtles all through October and December!. Although it's quite interesting to be at the beach during this time, please keep in mind that the nesting ground is not to be disturbed at any cost. Such actions, if reported, can attract heavy fines.

Jog Falls – Located one hundred and eighty kilometers away from the city, this waterfall brings to you breathtaking scenery, fresh air and an expanse of greenery all at once. It is the fifth highest waterfall in Asia and is quite popular with tourists. You can either hike to the waterfall or simply enjoy the view. Either way Jog Falls is one destination you do not want to miss!

Source : www.stanzaliving.com

## 6-hour blackout, Facebook proves to be a puppeteer for millions

**Shrayan Ghosh**

Social media controls us, and the 6-hour blackout is proof of that. Do you remember the blackout of three of the most popular social media apps, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp? #internet-shutdown is trending with millions of meme posts by netizens apologizing for blaming their WIFI for the 6-hour blackout. This clearly shows us the extent of the psychological impact a simple app can have on us. We almost entirely refused to see it as a man-made software capable of crashing and instead proceeded to blame our environment or situation for the blackout.

Hidden behind the friendly disguise of networking and connecting with people, Facebook is infamous for its high-profile scandals, from the Russian election



Facebook logo (Source : kaspersky.com)

interference to the more recent US elections in 2020. Their algorithm is explicitly designed to bring people of similar interests, political opinions, or even kinks together and confine them. This creates an environment known as an 'echo chamber' wherein a person only receives information that enforces and reflects their own confirmation bias and prevents them from learning new perspectives.

Analysis of data from Columbia University's Emergent rumor tracker suggests that misinformation is just

as likely to go viral as reliable information, and echo chambers have a vital role.

We may think of ourselves as being self-aware and not consider ourselves to be gullible. But what Facebook has achieved is much more complex- it is subconscious. The truth is, for the majority of us, Facebook knows more about us than we do about ourselves. They track our habits and behaviors and sell them to the highest bidder. This data includes more than the 'personal details' we provide them. Moreover, Facebook has built a system

that encourages us to sell our personal lives for virtual reactions and numbers on their site.

"Facebook can learn almost anything about you by using artificial intelligence to analyze your behavior," said Peter Eckersley, the chief computer scientist for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights non-profit. "That knowledge turns out to be perfect both for advertising and propaganda."

The trade-off we are doing here is not by conscious choice. Facebook's 2.1 billion users are unaware of Facebook's data about them and how the company uses it. There is a growing unease among regulators that tech giants are unfairly manipulating users.

While many other companies mine information about users for marketing purposes

in the form of cookies, Facebook is being singled out because data mining and stockpiling of user-personal data is at the core of its \$40.6 billion annual business.

Facebook employs a facial recognition technology that suggests names for people in users' photos. This threatens the ability of people to remain anonymous online, on the street, and at political protests.

Tracing back to the recent blackout of Facebook - Remember the confusion, if not the annoyance you felt at the prospect of not being able to control the space you thought was your own - the space you established or rather owned on social media. That is the reality check we needed to tell us that at the end of the day we may be the consumers, yet we are the ones that are being sold.

## Should marijuana really be illegal in 2021?

**Chyra Rose Luiz**

Dating back to the pre-neolithic period, marijuana (also called cannabis or pot) was cultivated all across the Asian continent. Our ancestors benefited from the plant's psychoactive properties and also made use of it to produce various essential items such as paper, clothing, etc. Native to the Indian subcontinent, it's safe to say that we were the original propagators of this substance to the West! Fast forward to 2021 and the use of cannabis has been criminalized in the country.

Interestingly the association of drugs (specifically cannabis), with crimes and socially unacceptable behavior was actually introduced to the country by the United States during the time of the Cold War. The Western world, at the time, known for its racial values and ideologies, used drugs such as cannabis to further cultivate social stigma around people

of color. People were made to believe that migrant workers were performing heinous crimes solely due to the influence of these substances and drugs belonging to non-European cultures were targeted and criminalized. In 1985, India enacted the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which criminalized the use of the seed and flower of cannabis but excluded the leaves. The leaves of the plant, having deep religious implications and a negligible THC (psychoactive or intoxicating compound present) are permissible under Indian law.

Over the years' multiple countries have successfully decriminalized the usage and possession of certain drugs. Decriminalization only calls for the removal of harsh penalties. The act however is still subject to minor penalties such as fines. Portugal is one coun-

try that has been lauded for its effective decriminalization of drugs, in 2001. Crime, drug usage rates, and HIV transmissions in the country have witnessed a significant decrease ever since. As per a report published by UNAIDS, "Decriminalization of drug use and possession for personal use reduces the stigma and discrimination that hampers access to health care, harm reduction, and legal services. In countries where drug use is decriminalized and comprehensive harm reduction is available, HIV prevalence and transmission tend to drop sharply among people who use drugs."

Drawing focus on the suitability of the Indian climate and land type for cannabis, many believe that the country is, in fact, losing out on the revenue that could be generated with it. "It estimated that around Rs. 725

crores could be raised in Delhi if cannabis is taxed", says a report by legal think tank Vidhi Legal on decriminalizing cannabis.

With enough evidence of a fully working decriminalization model, and resulting economic benefits, it comes as a great surprise that India has not yet followed suit. Despite claiming to be a developing nation, it is evident that we still function on laws structured on medieval societies and ideologies. This simply proves to the youth of today how selective and biased our country is in terms of development. For our citizens to fully comprehend the term 'development' the government should ideally start by modifying our legal system to better suit the 21st century. With the decriminalization of cannabis, proper education, and awareness, both citizens and the government stand to benefit.

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## Texas reinstates ban on abortion

**Akanksha Fiona Phillips**

The state of Texas, on October 9th, was allowed to reinstate their ban on abortion. This decision comes after Federal Judge Robert Pitman, through the Biden Administration, temporarily blocked the ban on abortion on October 6. Judge Pitman stated that the Texas abortion law is “an unprecedented and aggressive scheme to deprive its citizens of a significant and well-established constitutional right.” The Department of Justice has filed a suit against the state of Texas, and has given them until October 12th to submit a valid response. Until then the law will be active. The court is not determining whether the law is here to stay, only if it will be applicable for the rest of the court’s proceedings.

The Texas law states that abortions are only allowed up to six weeks, or as soon as there is a ‘fetus heartbeat’. If the law is broken anyone in Texas, except the person



Protests outside the court (Source : ABC)

who impregnated the person seeking abortion, is allowed to sue for damages of up to 10,000 dollars. The law similarly applies to anyone suspected of helping a person get an abortion; this could be the bus driver that drove them to the clinic, the receptionist that helped them sign off on the paper work, or even a co-worker that knew of the abortion. The bill does not make any exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

The Biden Administration claims that the bill is a violation of a person’s constitutional right to a medical procedure. At a Congressio-

nal hearing Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said, “Six weeks pregnant is two weeks late for one’s period...When you are raped, you don’t always know what happened to you. Sometimes it takes years to get over the trauma and realize what actually went on...The stress of a sexual assault, can make you two weeks late for your period. Whether you’re pregnant or not...It is unbelievable how the Republican side will call a witness irresponsible and be so hurtful to sexual assault survivors across the country.”

Sources: NPR, The Gaurdian

## WHO approves first ever malaria vaccine, Mosquirix

**Prapti Khanna**

In a historic moment on Wednesday, 6th October 2021, WHO advocated the rollout of the RTS, S/AS01 (RTS, S) malaria vaccine for children in affected suburbs of the continent. Nearly three lakh African children below the age of five succumb to the disease every year, making it one of Africa’s deadliest diseases. The deployment of the RTS, S vaccine along with existing therapeutics will be “a breakthrough for science, child health and malaria control,” said WHO Director-General Dr.Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Throughout the years, WHO and its partners have made little to no progress with this deadly disease. However, after nearly 30



Malaria infected baby (Source : BBC)

years of research and development, GSK’s RTS, S malaria vaccine has been fully approved by the organization. Pilot programs were conducted in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi, which tracked the vaccination of 800,000 children since 2019.

The decision for a mass roll-out was based on the counsel of two WHO global consultative bodies (one for inoculation and the other for malaria). The World Health Organization sug-

gested that the RTS, S malaria vaccine can be immediately made available in suburbs with moderate to high malaria transmission. The vaccine is to be administered in four doses, over a period of four months in children from five months of age. This vaccine prevents about 30% of the severe malaria cases that lead to death and will help in curbing the spread of this disease.

Sources : The Guardian. who.int

## Suicide bomb attack kills 55 inside Afghan Mosque

**Bhavya Joshi**

A suicide bombing attack on Friday, October 8, killed at least 55 people in a mosque in northern Afghanistan. The Islamic State group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. An ISIS suicide bomber with an explosive vest carried out this attack while worshippers gathered inside the mosque for prayers. Local security officials reported that more than 300 people were attending the prayers when the blast took place.

The Islamic State group has always been a rival to the Taliban and have repeatedly targeted Shiites (an Islamic denomination) to stir up the Sunni region in Afghanistan. Shiites constitute roughly 20% of the Af-

ghan population, and many of these groups have been heavily traumatized for decades. The UN in Afghanistan called Friday’s blast a “part of a disturbing pattern of violence” and said they were “deeply concerned by reports of very high casualties”.

Hundreds of people have crowded at the hospital’s main gate asking for medical assistance while Taliban officials are trying to prevent large gatherings in case of another attack. “We have received more than 100 wounded patients and over 55 dead bodies, but the number will change. We are still receiving more people,” said a Doctors Without Borders (MSF) hospital worker. Sources: WION, NDTV

## Journalists receive the Nobel Peace Prize 2021



Pictured Maria Ressa (L), Dmitry Muratov (R) (Source : BBC News)

**Bhavya Joshi**

The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov, on Friday, October 8. The journalists were awarded for their continuous efforts to uphold citizens’ freedom of speech and expression. Chairwoman Reiss-Andersen stated, “Freedom of expression is full of paradoxes”.

Maria Ressa, the co-founder of Rappler, a digital investigative journalism company, has always defended freedom of expression by exposing the violence, abuse, and rise of authoritarianism in the Philippines. Likewise, Dmitry Muratov, editor-in-chief of Novaya

Gazeta, an independent socio-political newspaper in Russia, has protected freedom of speech for decades and has consistently worked towards justice. His refusal to abandon the newspaper regardless of the death of six of his colleagues shows his courage to always stand for the truth.

“The freedom of expression and freedom of information help to ensure an informed public. These rights are crucial prerequisites for democracy and protection against war and conflict.” the Nobel Prize social media posted on their twitter following the announcement of the winners.

Source : CNN, NiemanLab

## Terror strikes Kashmir as third attack of the week kills two school teachers

Reydhm Garg

**Jammu:** Terror strikes Kashmir as third attack of the week kills two school teachers

Jammu: On October 7, an armed member of The Resistance Force (TRF), an effect of the Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group, gunned down a school principal and teacher in a targeted killing spree. The Kashmir Valley has witnessed a total of twenty-eight civilian killings this year. This week alone has seen the killings of nearly seven civilians.

Two Muslim men were killed in a similar fashion on October 2. This was followed by another set of killings that claimed the lives of four civilians, including a Kashmiri Pandit, on October 5. The shooting that took place on October 7 comes after this. The deceased, identified as Supinder Kaur,



Family of the deceased (Source : Press Trust of India)

a Sikh school principal, and Deepak Chand, a Hindu teacher, were shot dead inside a government school in Srinagar. Chand's cousin, Vicky Mehra, in an interview with Hindustan Times said, "What can I say... whatever has happened is due to system failure. The system is in deep slumber, they cannot do anything. Tomorrow again someone will be killed and there shall be mourning in that house. The entire family tends to die with that person,"

In the wake of these killings, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid out firm directives. Top counter-terror experts have been sent to the valley to help the local police neutralise the Pakistan-backed terror attacks. It is suspected that the weapons used in the recent killings are pistols that might have been dropped in the valley's upper reaches through drones from across the border.

Source: Hindustan Times, Al Jazeera

## Son of Union Minister arrested in Lakhimpur Violence case

Chirag Singh

Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs (Uttar Pradesh) was arrested on Saturday, October 9th following twelve hours of interrogation by the state's Crime Branch. The accused was suspected to be in one of the cars during the Lakhimpur Violence incident (October 3rd) which claimed the lives of 8 people, including 4 farmers.

The arrest was instigated by Mr. Ashish's failure to present himself for questioning on Friday, 8th October. The DIG in charge said that Ashish Mishra did not cooperate during the interrogation and refused to provide details regarding his whereabouts during the time of the incident. "For



Ashish Mishra (Source : India Today)

non-cooperation and evasive reply, on these grounds, we are taking him into custody and arresting him," the DIG explained in an interview with The Hindu.

The two other accused, Luv Kush and Ashish Pandey were arrested and jailed on Thursday, October 7th. Meanwhile, Union Minister Ajay Mishra declared that his son was nowhere near the site of the incident or in any of the cars that ran over

the farmers. He went on to say that Ashish was at their ancestral home in the village of Banveerpur attending an annual wrestling event their family organized.

The police are currently searching for Ankit Das, the nephew of former Union Minister Akhilesh Das, who was alleged to be with Ashish Mishra in his car. Following the incident, Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)- a body of farmers protesting the farm laws, demanded that the police arrest both the Union Minister and his son.

The leader of the body declared that they would conduct a protest called 'Rail Roko' on October 18th against the Lakhimpur violence case.

Sources: TOI, The Hindu, HT.

## Arunachal experiences fourth earthquake in a row

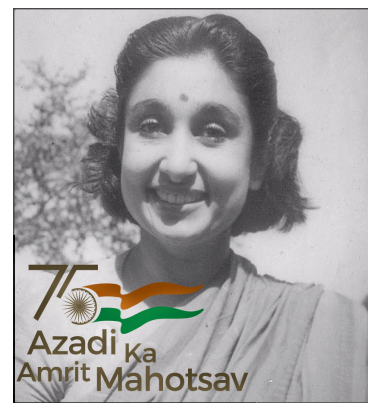
Prapti Khanna

**Itanagar:** An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 and 3.0 was reported in Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday, October 9th. This is the fourth time in a row that the state has experienced an unexpected earthquake. Basar and Pangin reported two

earthquakes earlier this week, with a magnitude of 4.5 and 4.4, respectively. According to reports the earthquakes in the North-west and Northwest-West area of the district (Itanagar) occurred at approximately 1:24 AM and 7:53 PM IST.

Sources: NDTV and Mint

## "The fight will continue", words from a doctor, captain, and social activist



Lakshmi Sahgal (Source : SheThePeople)

Smriti Bhaskaran  
Ross Joshua Alvares

Born on Oct 24, 1941, to a lawyer and a freedom fighter, Captain Lakshmi Sahgal was taught to be a powerful and independent girl from a young age. After her MBBS degree, Lakshmi Sahgal joined the Indian Independence League. The next few years drew her family towards the ongoing freedom struggle. She witnessed her mother's transition from a Madras socialite to an ardent Congress supporter, who one day walked into her room and removed all of her pretty garments to burn in a bonfire of imported goods. Sahgal is commonly referred to as Captain Lakshmi, a reference to her rank when taken prisoner in Burma during the Second World War. Lakshmi had heard that Subash Chandra Bose was interested in recruiting women into the organisation and had requested a meeting with him. There

was a tremendous response from across the country to join the all-women brigade. She grew to be a prominent figure during the freedom fights and became one of the most trustworthy members of the army during her time. She organised relief camps and medical aid in Calcutta for refugees who streamed into India from Bangladesh. In 1971, Lakshmi joined the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and represented the party in the Rajya Sabha. After the Bhopal gas incident in December 1984, she led a medical team to the city. Following the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, Sahgal fought to restore order in Kanpur. In 1998, Indian President K. R. Narayanan bestowed the Padma Vibhushan onto Sahgal. She was nominated as a presidential candidate in 2002 by four leftist parties and was A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's only opponent. Her life was inextricably linked to the struggles against colonialism, the accomplishment of independence, and nation-building in India during the 20th and early 21st centuries. Some people have done so much in their life that it's impossible to forget their contribution towards society. Sahgal was one of those individuals who never lost sight of her yearning for independence. Source: The Hindu

## Bretman Rock, first gay man to appear on a playboy cover!



Bretman posing for the magazine (Source : Playboy Magazine)

### Smriti Bhaskaran

Filipino beauty influencer and social media personality, Bretman Rock has become the first-ever, openly gay man to appear on the front cover of the Playboy magazine. The 23-year old internet sensation made headlines by featuring in the magazine in a pair of the iconic bunny ears, black lingerie, bowtie, and personalized heels by Versace.

Rising to fame with his make-up tutorials on YouTube, the media personality has had multiple achievements throughout his career, including his MTV show and an Instagram fan-base of more than 17 million followers.

The Playboy magazine, recognized for its exclusive photoshoots featuring nude women, stopped printing magazines in March 2020 amid the pandemic and has now completely transitioned to a digital version. Rock is the third male to appear solo on the cover of the magazine, following its founder, Hugh Hefner, and musician Bad Bunny. "For Playboy to have a male on the cover is a huge deal for the LGBT community, for my brown people community, and it's all so surreal" he stated in a tweet shared on Playboy's Instagram page.

Sources: CNN, NBC News

## What are NFTs and why should you be worried?

### Ananya Shetty

NFTs or Non-Fungible Tokens are unique digital assets that, when created or minted, are entered into a digital ledger called a blockchain; they facilitate the buying and selling of digital art, by granting ownership. The block chain, currently used through the cryptocurrency known as Ethereum, is essentially the buyer's proof of ownership. NFTs are non-fungible because each token, or piece of art is valued differently. It is unlike fungible currency, namely the rupee, where every rupee is of equal value.

India's acceptance of NFTs has been gradual. It was only recently that Indian cricketer Dinesh Karthik decided to immortalise his last-minute victory during the 2018 Nidahas Trophy, into an NFT. He is said to have been inspired by the \$6 million NFT art auction held by the musician Grimes, which lasted barely 20 minutes.

But what is the connection between NFTs and the environment? After all, compared to the racking up of



Source: Sashkin / BigStock Photo

physical art, isn't non-tangible art supposed to be less taxing on the environment? This isn't true for a few reasons.

NFTs, especially created using Ethereum, have a huge carbon footprint. Carbon footprint is an estimate of the carbon emissions that will be generated from making and consuming a product. Each time an NFT is minted, a new digital code is created and entered into the blockchain, which requires a lot of computing power. There have been approximations that a single Ethereum transaction can carry a carbon footprint of up to 48kg CO<sub>2</sub>, which is more than the carbon footprint of small countries like

Bahrain and Sudan. Not just minting, mining for an NFT also consumes a lot of power as it utilizes the Proof-Of-Work (POW) method, meaning the computer has to calculate intricate and elaborate equations to solve the unique digital code, creating a backlog of demand.

Alternative methods have been adopted, like investing in carbon offsets; a payment made to fund projects that balance out the output of carbon, for example, afforestation projects or investing in lower-carbon NFTs, those that don't require the POW method. But they barely create a dent in the damage that has already been caused.

Source: Quantilus

## Clean environment, a human right

### Prapti Khanna

The U.N. Human Rights Council, on October 9, acknowledged 'access to a clean and sustainable environment' as a fundamental human right. The council passed the clean environment proposal with 43-0 votes while four countries-India, Japan, China, and Russia abstained from voting. The proposal encourages the countries to uplift their potential to improve their environment. Lucy McKernan, deputy director, UN advocacy, stated that a clean and sustainable environment is the only way to avoid the 'global human crisis'.

Source : NBC News

### Reydhm Garg

The Covid-19 pandemic, without doubt, has wreaked havoc across the planet. It has caused a major disruption in the functioning of the world and has had a significant impact on global energy consumption.

While the demand for energy keeps increasing by the hour, the global energy crisis worsens every day. More light and heat are required to power cities as almost all citizens have been confined to their homes due to the pandemic. Governments all over the world are trying to reduce the impact it is having on the customers but are unable to stop the bills from hitting the roof.

## Energy crisis, the sequel to Covid?



Energy power plants (Source : Cafef)

Constant blackouts keep happening to the residents of China, while power stations in India are struggling to find coal. According to the data from Independent Commodity Intelligent Services, natural gas is now trading at the equivalent of \$230 per barrel. Oil usage is more than 130% since the beginning of September and over eight times higher than the previous year. The

natural gas cost has been up 85 % in East Asia hitting roughly \$204 in terms of oil. Prices which have always been lower in the United States, a net exporter of natural gas, have gone up to their highest levels in 13 years. The environmental pressures associated with the use of energy witnessed a strong decline in 2020 of 7-8 %, followed by a gradual recovery of 2-3% below the

projection of the pre-Covid baseline. It includes the emissions of GHGs, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and fossil fuel materials use.

A paper published in the journal 'Cardiovascular research' stated that chronic exposure to particulate matter, a type of matter that results from a mix of chemicals from sources like fires and smokestacks, is probably connected to 15 percent of global Covid-19 deaths. Authors of the study found that over 50% of air pollution-linked Covid-19 deaths are connected explicitly to the use of fossil fuels.

Sources: The Conversation, NBC news, CNN

## Anshu Malik, first Indian woman to secure silver in the world wrestling championship



Anshu Malik celebrating her win (Source : NDT Sports)

### Ross Joshua Alvares

Indian wrestler Anshu Malik became the first Indian woman to secure a silver in the world wrestling championship on (add date). 2016 Olympic champion Helen Marouli won first place with a final score of 4-1.

The 19-year-old from Haryana began the match on an aggressive note, scoring 1-0 in round one.

The fight shifted dramatically in the second round when Marouli grabbed Malik's arm pulling her down. She had Malik's arm in a vice-like hold and continued

twisting to get an 'exposure' point, this brought the final score to 4-1.

Anshu's lead was compromised when Marouli pinned her to the mat for a fall victory. Unfortunately, the teen required medical attention immediately after the fight, as she was in excruciating pain. This victory makes Anshu Malik the fifth Indian woman to win a medal at the world wrestling championship, and is surely a proud moment for the state of Haryana, given its long history of award-winning athletes.

Sources: NDTV, TOI

## She's back! Adele opens up about divorce through her latest album



Adele (Source : Will Heath/NBC via Getty Images)

### Chirag Singh

British pop-star Adele marks her musical comeback after five long years, with her upcoming album '30'. She speaks of her divorce and explains to fans how the album is a letter to her nine-year-old son.

"I just felt like I wanted to explain to him, through this record, when he's in his twenties or thirties, who I

am and why I voluntarily chose to dismantle his entire life in the pursuit of my own happiness," the 33-year-old singer told British Vogue, in an interview with them.

Her first single from the album, 'Easy on me' is set to release on October 15th, with the album rumored to release in mid-November.

Sources: The Guardian, Vogue

## Russia wins the space race, again!

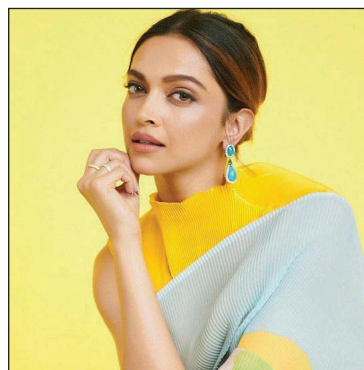
### Chirag Singh

'The Challenge', becomes the first film to be shot in space. Russian actor and director Yulia Peresild and Klim Shipenko joined Cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov on their journey to the International Space Station (ISS) on October 5th. The shoot is scheduled over a period of 12 days following which the team will return to Earth on October 17th.

Russia beat the US again with their space game since Tom Cruise's intent to do the same in collaboration with NASA and Elon Musk's SpaceX was announced last year.

Sources: The Guardian, HT, The Indian Express.

## Deepika Padukone all set to release new lifestyle brand



Deepika Padukone (Source: Whizbliz)

### Reydhm Garg

Deepika Padukone recently took to Instagram to announce the launch of her new lifestyle brand which will be rooted in India.

The brand is set to release in 2022 and will first launch its beauty and skin care products. In the press release, she said, "India is a country that is rich in values, culture and heritage; something we are extremely proud of.

Therefore, our endeavour is to build a brand that is rooted in India yet global in its reach and appeal."

Source: The Quint

## Once again, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are vying for the Ballon D'Or

### Ross Joshua Alvares

The 30 names announced for the Ballon d'Or award included Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. A few of the front runners who will be up against Messi and Ronaldo are Mbappe, Neymar and Jorginho.

Lewandowski, Europe's leading scorer with 41 goals, and Haaland, the Champions League's top scorer with 10 goals, are both in the race as well. Ronaldo is joined by former Real Madrid teammate, Karim Benzema amongst other nominees.

Messi's six-time Ballon d'Or wins is closely followed by Ronaldo's five wins. Due to the pandemic, the award was not given out in 2020, but will finally be given to



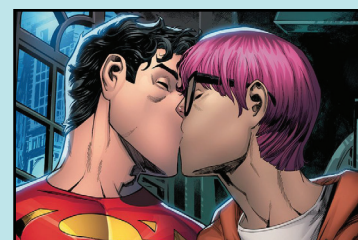
Pictured : Messi (L), Ronaldo (R) (Source : Indian Express)

the victor on November 29.

Megan Rapinoe, the 2019 winner, was not among the women nominees, despite the fact that her United States team had made it till the quarter-finals in the Olympics. There are also 20 women competing for their own award which will be announced in Paris on the 29th of November.

Sources: NDTV, topendsports.com

## WHAT'S NEW?



DC comic announced that their latest superhero, JON KENT, will be bisexual. Source : CNET



Memecoin is cryptocurrency associated with a meme. Dogecoin was the first ever memecoin, inspired by the Doge meme. Source : NDTV



Marvel has released the latest trailer to their new movie, Eternals. The film is yet to be released in the autumn of 2021. Source : The Direct



The Beatles are making a comeback with a new book, album and a documentary on the band's history titled, 'The Beatles: Get Back'. Source : Yahoo News

Shrayan Ghosh  
Bhavya Joshi