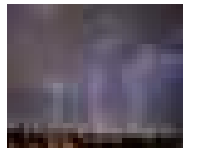




Heavy to very heavy rains predicted in coastal, central Maha from Friday till Sunday

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Scamster All India Mahila Empowerment Party

to try its luck in Mumbai

Brena Soni & Vivek Gaikwad

All India Mahila Empowerment Party called for a press conference to promote their party agenda. Shehnaaz Ramteke, Vice President of All India Mahila Empowerment Party stated that they are working for the elections and demands 50 per cent reservation for the woman from the government". When asked why they want to serve women only after winning the elections " She stated that party came into existence in 2014 but started working on woman empowerment project since last one year"

Sherly Fernandes Vice President of All India Mahila Empowerment Party said "The party came into existence in 2014 and states it came in Maharashtra for the first time and our president is Nowhera Shaikh is a businesswoman and she can generate employment in the country"

Sunita Tupasoundarya, President of All India Mahila Empowerment Party said that they are working in this party



for the justice of women and harassment towards women should be less in the country.

The party did not showcase any vision or aim for the empowerment of

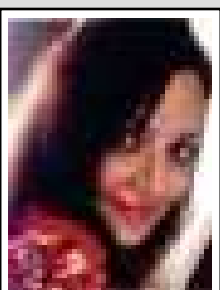
women when asked about their accomplishments so far. The woman vice president did not have concrete answers and stated that they were working for elections. After experimenting with Karnata

taka and Telangana, the party is trying to spread its wins in Maharashtra.

Nowhera Shaikh founded the All India Mahila Empowerment Party. The party contested the 2018 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election and fielded candidates for all 224 constituencies, garnering 0.3% vote share. The party contested from all the 119 constituencies in the 2018 Telangana Legislative Assembly election and aims to contest in the 2019 Indian general election. In 2018 Shaikh was arrested for running a Ponzi scheme assuring returns of 36% per annum for the investment under the disguise of Heera Group and the total amount involved was more than ₹5000 crore from 1.72 lakh investors. In 2016 also a complaint was filed against Heera Group by Asaduddin Owaisi for cheating number investors from his constituency Hyderabad. The Supreme Court of India released Shaikh on conditional bail with a direction to repay the investors. After the release Shaikh had alleged t , she was targeted as a part of political rivalry.

Who is sponsoring Aalima Nowhera Sheikh's political party?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Aalima Nowhera Shaikh is a businesswoman and less known politician. She is the executive chairperson and founder of Heera Group and founder and president of the All India Mahila Empowerment Party. This political party is trying its luck in Maharashtra. Nowhera Shaikh was arrested by the ED in 2019, along with others, over a case booked against her under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). That same year, the Telangana and Maharashtra police also arrested her in similar cases.

The ED suspects her for hatching a "well-planned conspiracy

and luring innocent people to deposit their savings with her for-profit sharing rather than interest." Authorities said that Nowhera Shaikh collected deposits to the tune of Rs 5,600 crore from around 1.72 lakh investors and made false promises of paying a high rate of returns like that of 3% per month or 36% to 40% per year. For this fraud, she had opened around 250 accounts in various banks across the country and they opened eight accounts in UAE and Saudi Arabia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Editoritis

Who is sponsoring Aalima Nowhera Sheikh's political party?

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

The turnaround in fortunes seems more dramatic when one considers all the stops in between: over the years, she managed to get a degree in business management, started a madrassa for girls, and even formed a party to contest polls in Karnataka.

By May 2018 Shaikh had begun defaulting on payments, eventually leading to mismanagement of funds, chaos and police complaints.

We know corruption and politics is not new but here is one more addition to it.

They diverted the depositors' amounts to their personal accounts for and amassed huge movable and immovable assets.

She started out as a hawker, selling vegetables alongside her mother in Tirupati when she was in her teens. Later on she somehow came in touch with a Dubai businessman and planned to pitch investors in India. She formed 17 companies which would boast of 2 lakh-plus investors across the southern and western states and have a combined turnover of over Rs 1,000 crore.

The turnaround in fortunes seems more dramatic when one considers all the stops in between: over the years, she managed to get a degree in business management, started a madrassa for girls, and even formed a party to contest polls in Karnataka. But Nowhera Shaikh's downfall was the outcome of the same expansion that brought her success. As the 45-year-old burqa-clad single mother spread her reach over seven years using a Ponzi scheme - offering returns of 36-42% - her offices and agents in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh drew in more and more investors; there was a whiff of a hawala scandal somewhere.

By May 2018 Shaikh had begun defaulting on payments, eventually leading to mismanagement of funds, chaos and police complaints. It was a Rs 500-crore cheating case. Shaikh was in the custody of Mumbai police after they apprehended her in Hyderabad. Mumbai police's economic offences wing (EOW) arrested her on October 25 on a complaint by an investor named Shane Elahi who faced a default. Over the past few days, national intelligence agencies have dropped in to discuss the case. Most of her investors are from the Muslim community, whom she promised an interest-free halal business.

From their paid campaigns to staged press conferences, Shaikh received an award by UAE Minister for Business Leadership Icon In 2018. When she realised that the controversy

may spoil her fate in politics, she announced that the customers who want to take their money back must be ready to bear the losses too as they had agreed to share both profit and loss. Citing the reason for the loss, she said that her entire business was on standstill due to a number of cases filed against her.

Giving the statistics of the amount returned to customers, she claimed that so far, Rs. 3.50 crore has been paid to those who had filed cases against her company. She said that the amount is being paid to customers who are approaching the company with genuine documents. Meanwhile, her political ambitions were shattered because of the cases filed against her and she wants to enter into politics. Gradually, the Supreme Court allowed her company to sell 87 properties for settling investors' claims. While passing orders, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said, "Make selling of property as First Task now." For several lakh investors allegedly duped by Nowhera Shaikh getting back their invested money was a tough task. The Supreme Court, while granting Nowhera bail in January, had laid down a condition that she should repay back her investors within six weeks. In attempts to comply with the Supreme Court's bail conditions, the Heera group had issued cheques amounting to Rs 8 to 9 crore in Telangana. But they issued these cheques in the name of those investors who had filed a complaint with the police. The names of others, who were mentioned in the FIR, were ignored. We know corruption and politics is not new but here is one more addition to it.

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Flat no. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, SV Road,
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Banning Swiggy and Zomato may cause inconvenience

This is in reference to the editorial Banning Swiggy and Zomato may cause inconvenience to working middle class. It is just an inhuman, horrifying and unfortunate decision to bring an end to such an esteemed and elite delivery concern for the middle class, who relied for their food delivery at important time when there is an emergency, shortage of manpower in home and any other domestic related issues.

Being a frequent customer, excellent feedback contributor for these delivery concern, I will miss the presence, recollect the sweet memories with the delivery persons and also a feature published in bengali daily newspaper on this delivery boy, who have supplied me my essentials in time.

Rathin Kumar Chanda

Cyrus Mistry's unfortunate deaths

Bad roads are not the only reason for the rise in accidents on highways & expressways. Some of the infrastructure is world class but the cause of accidents many a times could be vehicles that may not be serviced regularly or not roadworthy. Speeding on empty roads could be another reason as vehicles go out of control after breaching a certain speed limit on the speedometer. Cyrus Mistry's unfortunate deaths has opened an pandora's box & today every Tom, Dick & Harry have become an expert over road safety as suggestions pour in over the probable reason for the sad event.

Govt should come out with an stringent guideline that needs to be followed by all. Speeding beyond the allowed limit must be an serious offence & license of the driver needs to be confiscated so that it acts as a stringent lesson for others. Proper sign boards warning people of sharp curves & other dangers should be distinctively put up at appropriate places for drivers to follow safety norms. First aid facilities & ambulances must be made available on roads that are prone to accidents!

S.N.KABRA

Weapon of love jihad

Another incident of love-jihad has come to light in which a Muslim man named Faisal Ahmed married a Hindu female yoga teacher by posing to be a Hindu and later forced her to convert. Faisal Ahmed lured the victim girl into the trap of love by pretending to be 'Atharva'. He had physical relations with the victim and also filmed it. When the girl refused to convert, he tortured her. He also threatened to make her intimate video viral and burn her to death. Currently, a trend of deceiving Hindu girls into love-jihad by assuming fake Hindu names is going on. The lives of girls in many villages and cities have been ruined so far due to the victims of love jihad. Those who say 'love jihad does not exist' should answer this. Didn't the media, which is currently dealing with women's liberation or atrocities against women on a large scale, see this issue? The main question is, how

many more Hindu girls will be killed and action will be taken against Love Jihadis? When will Hindus in India become aware of this? Harsher measures must be undertaken so they will think twice before trapping any girl. Hindu girls need to be vigilant to prevent this !

Ketan Patil

'My teacher called me Pagan'

Assuming that, like in India, the best schools were 'Convent' schools, my parents put me in the nearest Catholic school, where I was one of the first minorities. One of the teachers called me a 'Pagan'. - Suketu Mehta, narrating his own experience in America in his book 'This Land is Our Land- An Immigrant's Manifesto' published in 2019. Being used in derision in Christianity, 'Pagan' is he who is idol-worshipper, polytheist and one worshipping the nature; or in short being uncivilized and abominable to God ! (Deuteronomy 12: 30-31). History is replete with the subterfuges, atrocities and mutual strife led by this myth all over the world.

Just take into account the scenario of India as a colony of Britain. When the responsibility of drafting new British-education policy here came upon Macaulay in 1813, he claimed in full confidence that- 'With the little western education Bengal will no longer have idol-worshippers.' And thus came into being the colleges like Bishop College and Dough College of Calcutta, and Wilson College and S.P.G. college of Trichinapalli . And how extent things had transformed within next 70-80 years could be seen from the statement that Vivekananda made- 'When child is sent to school, the first thing he learns that his father is fool; second, his grandfather crazy; third, his all religious masters fraud, and fourth that all of his scriptures are false and useless.'

Be it in the mind, in today's condition the religious education and prayer in accordance



to Christianity has been made compulsory for all the State-run schools in Britain as per the new education policy under the 'Education Reform Act -1988'. Notably on the other side 7,390 missionaries' run schools had already been operated by Roman Catholic, Jews and Methodist Church. These were the figures before 2010. What level of persuasion is there regarding incorporating religion into the education one can well imagine from this. Sensing the impending peril to their faith, the Sikh community living in Britain, Europe and America has also begun to take measures so that coming generation could be made to remain attach to their roots.

To imagine that how deep would this influence of Church have once been is not only difficult, but altogether impossible today. What happened with Galileo on saying that 'Earth rotates around sun'; with Giordano Bruno on rejecting 'Geocentrism' and with the mathematician, Hipshiya on teaching arithmetic to male students by

her is needn't to be repeated. In 1840 when for the first time anesthesia was to be used during the delivery of the baby, it faced Church's stern rejection. As the Eve (The mother of human being), according to Bible, defied the injunction of God, so as a punishment it was told that - 'Mother will deliver the baby only undergoing the pain!' It was only when in 1853 Queen Victoria had anesthesia apply on herself for child birth that the issue came to settle. For Church did not have that courage as to punish the queen.

In the root of what happened with Suketu Mehta in his student life in America is nothing but this outdated dogmas , from which Church and the institutions affiliated with it could not get themselves free yet.

- Er.Rajesh Pathak

Writer

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

Yakub Memon grave 'beautification' irks BJP; says attempts being made to convert grave into Mazar

A controversy has erupted over the burial place of 1993 Mumbai blasts convict Yakub Memon in Mumbai, with the ruling BJP claiming the grave was "beautified" and attempts made to turn it into a shrine of sorts.

Mumbai police swung into action on Thursday, removing the LED lights put around the grave of the terror convict, who was hanged at Nagpur jail in 2015 and buried at the Bada Qabrastan in south Mumbai.

A DCP level police officer will probe how the LED lights and marble tiles came to "adorn" the terror convict's grave, an official said.

While some Maharashtra BJP leaders claimed the grave was converted into a tomb while Uddhav Thackeray was the chief minister, the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena said the whole issue was an attempt to divert people's attention from more important issues

like inflation and unemployment.

State BJP chief Chandrashekar Bawankule said Thackeray should apologise to the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra for this "beautification" attempt of the grave of a person responsible for killing 250 people.

Another local BJP leader said NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should also apologise over the issue.

A police official said halogen lights were installed in the Bada Qabrastan on the occasion of Badi Raat (Shab-e-Barat) and have been removed by the Qabrastan trustees.

Shab-e-Barat is a major celebration for the Muslim community is also known as the night of fortune and forgiveness.

The marble tiles around Memon's grave were put up three years ago, he said. There are 13 other graves at the place, he added.

Heavy to very heavy rains predicted in coastal, central Maha from Friday till Sunday

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday asked authorities in several districts to be ready with rescue teams and relief mechanisms after the federal weather body predicted rain squalls.

The India Meteorological Department has predicted that some parts of the state may get rain squalls for the next four to five days, officials said. These are sudden, intense bouts of rain with gusts of wind for a few minutes.

Officials in districts in the Konkan, western Maharashtra, north Maharashtra and Vidarbha have been directed to be on full alert for such weather activities, according to a statement from the chief minister's office.

The forecast said isolated areas in coastal districts such as Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg will receive heavy to very heavy rains from Friday till Sun-



day.

Madhya Maharashtra will continue to receive light showers on Friday, though the spells might intensify through the weekend in districts such as Pune and Satara, the official said.

Parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha will continue to receive

showers till Sunday, the IMD forecast added.

As per the weather bureau's parameters, heavy rainfall is precipitation of 64.5 millimetres to 115.5 mm in a 24-hour period, while the term "very heavy" is for rainfall between 115.6 mm and 204.4 mm in 24 hours.

Mumbai Police orders probe amid row over Yakub Memon grave 'beautification'

The Mumbai Police on Thursday ordered a probe amid a row over beatification of 1993 Mumbai blasts convict Yakub Memon's grave in Mumbai. Halogen lights were installed in Bada Qabrastan on the occasion of Badi Raat (Shab-e-Barat).

However, they have been re-

moved by the Qabrastan trustees, said a police official. Yakub was hanged at Nagpur jail in 2015, and buried at the Bada Qabrastan in south Mumbai.

A DCP level police officer will probe how the LED lights and marble tiles came to "adorn" the terror convict's grave, PTI quoted an official as saying.

BMC geared up for last day of Ganesh fest, elaborate arrangements made; 10,000 civic staffers to be on duty

With the 10-day Ganesh festival coming to an end on Friday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has made elaborate arrangements for the immersion of idols of the deity at various locations in the city by setting up inspection towers and appointing lifeguards, among other things.

The festival dedicated to the elephant-headed god had begun on August 31.

In a release issued on Thursday evening, the civic body said that it is ready with all the facilities for the immersion of Lord Ganesh idols at 73 natural and 162 artificial water bodies across the city in view of Anant Chaturdashi, the last day of the festival.

Girgaon Chowpatty (beach) in south Mumbai is one of the major spots for immersion of popular idols like Lalbaugcha Raja.

Stating that about 10,000 civic personnel and officials will be on working in the city on Friday, the civic body said the Ganpati immersion processions from Girgaon chowpatty in south Mumbai will be live telecast.

The BMC has set up 188 control rooms in 24 civic wards across for the Ganesh festival, it said, adding that 786 lifeguards will be deputed at the various immersion points. Also, 188 first aid centres will be set up and 83 ambulances will be arranged at key locations.

The civic body has arranged 45 motor boats and 39 German barges for the immersion of Ganesh idols, while 48 inspection towers have been erected and barricades have been put some place for safety reasons, the release said.

For improved visibility at immersion points, 3,069 flood lights and 71 searchlights have been installed and 211 reception rooms created for better coordination, it added.

The BMC said it has arranged 357 'kalash' (large containers) for the collection of 'nirmalya' (offerings such as garlands, flowers, leaves) and 287 vehicles for ferrying this matter that will be used for making organic manure. For the convenience of the devotees, 134 temporary toilets will be set up at various locations.

At various chowpatties (beach-

es), 460 thick iron plates have been made available so that vehicles arriving for immersion of idols do not get stuck in the sand and the process is carried out smoothly.

The civic body also appealed to the citizens to take care of their children during the immersion process and cautiously venture into the sea considering the tides.

As the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rains on September 9 and 10, the BMC advised the citizens to take due precaution during the immersion.

A few years ago, several people suffered injuries during the procession on city beaches after were bitten by jellyfish and stingrays. In view of that, the civic body said that if bitten by these fish, people should clean the affected body part first and apply ice on it. Gently apply pressure on the bitten part using a clean cloth so that there won't be heavy bleeding, it said.

People should not panic in case of the fish bite and they should visit the first medical aid centres of the civic body at the chowpatties, the release said.



Photo Credit: Afternoon Voice / Akash Nirmal

Ganapati of the day

Girgaoncha Raja

A 25 feet Idol which has eco friendly approach as it is made up of shadu maati clay and grass and this has also set a green movement in the city on the festive celebration

Nation

Security increased outside DAV Amritsar after principal receives hoax bomb threat



The security has been tightened outside the DAV Public school in Amritsar, after the hoax bomb and firing threat was received by the school principal on Thursday. Amritsar DCP (Detective) MS Bhullar told agencies that the security has been increased after the complaint was received regarding the threat.

"Security has been tightened outside Amritsar's DAV Public School after the firing and bomb threats were received by the DAV Principal via Instagram on September 8. The DSP also visited and covered the area after the complaint," MS Bhullar said.

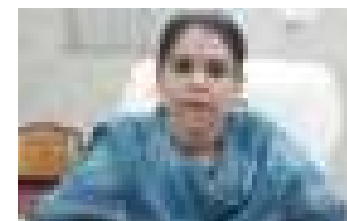
A hoax message was sent to the school principal, threatening

of bomb and firing an attack at the school. The police said that it was sent from a fake Instagram ID using Google Translate to write the text in English and Urdu.

The police also said that it was done by three students from the school only. Their parents have been called and informed about the incident. "The message turned out to be a hoax. It seems it was done from a fake Instagram ID made by 3 students of the school.

They used Google Translate to write the text in English & Urdu. The parents were called and informed of the same. We will take action as per the Principal's request," DCP Bhullar further said.

Principal accused of thrashing child in Shamli



A family in Uttar Pradesh has alleged that the principal of Jawan Jai Kisan Inter College thrashed their child who is a student of class eight. Following the complaint, the district administration has constituted a probe to look into the matter.

According to the District Magistrate of Shamli, the family has alleged that the principal thrashed the child in such a way that he received fractures.

"A family alleged that the principal of Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Inter College thrashed their child studying in Class 8th. The child has fractures and the medical reports also suggest the same," said Jasjit Kaur, Shamli DM.

The DM further announced

that she has constituted a team to probe into the matter within two days. "I'm constituting a team of SDM, CO and DRS to probe the matter within two days," Kaur added. She further announced that strict action will be taken against the principal if he was found guilty.

"The family also said that 2-3 such incidents have happened before. The probe committee will look into this as well," Kaur said.

Chhattisgarh CM announces provision for free education for students from economically weaker sections



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the provision of free education to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other backward classes for their competitive exam preparation. Around 400 students of scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and EWS are going to receive free education from reputed coaching institutes for CA, CLAT, Engineering, Medicals and others.

"Now the EWS students of Chhattisgarh will soon avail the facility of free coaching for All India Engineering and Medical entrance examinations, as well as other competitive examinations like CA and CS, CLAT, NDA," Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, said on Wednesday.

To secure the future of the

Economically weaker section, Baghel said, "This initiative is being commenced due to consideration of the aspirations and the financial difficulties of the family of the students who want to pursue different kinds of career options.

"The Concerned department is directed by CM to arrange the coaching for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and EWS students. There is already a provision of free coaching for all Indian engineering and medical entrance examinations etc for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as Other Backward Classes in the state.

But after this new initiative, students of the EWS category will also receive the facility of free coaching as well.

CM Jaganmohan Reddy led Andhra cabinet clears 57 key proposals

The Jaganmohan Reddy government in Andhra Pradesh has cleared investment proposals worth Rs 1,26,748 crore on Wednesday and these are expected to create 40,330 direct employment over the next seven years.

Chief Minister Reddy chaired the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet in which 57 important proposals were discussed and cleared. "The cabinet gave its nod to the investment proposals worth Rs 1,26,748 crore of the Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB).

The massive investments are expected to create 40,330 direct employment over the next seven



years," an official statement said. of the total, Rs 81,000 crore would be invested in green energy projects that would generate 17,930 MW of power, the statement added. The cabinet has also cleared the SIPB approval of a

proposal from Causis E-Mobility for an investment of Rs 386.23 crore on an electric bus-manufacturing unit at Kopparthi in the YSR district. The venture is expected to create over 1,200 jobs in Andhra Pradesh.

Firing over local dispute in Delhi's Johripur, case registered

A man was shot at over a local dispute in Johripur here on Wednesday following which a complaint was registered at Karawal Nagar police station, an official said. Immediately after receiving a call, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Karawal Nagar reached the spot along with staff for investigation.

"A man name Sonu, resident of Jagdamba colony, Johripur

claimed that when he was in his house, some persons came and shouted at the door. When he did not respond, the people outside fired upon him," an official said.

According to the police, during the interrogation, it came out that Sonu's cousin Kallu, resident of Ambedkar Colony, Johripur had some dispute with a local boy and Sonu had also intervened in that matter. Thereafter, that local boy had threatened to teach

him a lesson, the police said.

The accused person has been identified and a special wing has been employed to nab the alleged culprits, the police added. There was no injury occurred to anyone in the firing incident. The police have registered a complaint under sections 307 and 34 of the Indian Penal code (IPC) along with the 27 Arms Act. The investigation is underway, the police said.

World

US says Indo-Pacific Economic Framework beyond "traditional trade agreement"

The United States is focused on a new Indo-Pacific economic engagement initiative to establish rules that will bring regional prosperity and is beyond a "traditional trade agreement."

The initiative is expected to go "beyond a traditional trade agreement," US Trade Representative Katherine Tai emphasized in an online event organized by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a think tank in Washington, adding that trade is only "one component in a larger program."

"What we're really trying to do is -- in partnership with these other countries -- to establish rules



to create workstreams" that will allow members to promote "sustainability, resilience, and inclusive prosperity for our economies and for this region," Tai said. Official negotiations on the Indo-Pa-

cific Economic Framework are set to start on Thursday in Los Angeles, when Tai and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo sit down with their counterparts from 13 other participating countries, including Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

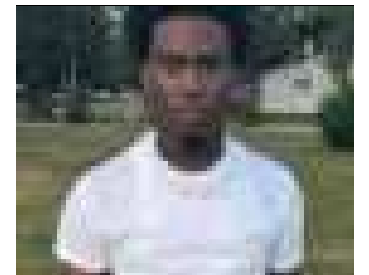
Responding to criticism on how the economic framework will not be a traditional free trade agreement involving tariff-cutting commitments and scepticism around the benefits of becoming part of the framework, Minister Goyal told agencies "Trade is being discussed for open trade for keeping supply chains open. But effectively, there's no market access that is out there on the table."

19-year old man taken into custody for gunning down people on Facebook live

A 19-year-old man allegedly involved in multiple shootings in Memphis city of US state of Tennessee has been taken into custody, said the Memphis Police Department in a statement on Wednesday (local time). "Suspect is in custody," Memphis Police Department said on Twitter. "Shelter in place has been lifted."

Ezekiel D. Kelly, the 19-year-old suspect wanted in relation to multiple shootings has been apprehended for gunning down people randomly on Facebook live, a local media report said adding that the incident triggered terror amongst citizens in Memphis on Wednesday afternoon.

According to local media, several people were shot in mul-



multiple locations and the suspect was streaming the violence on Facebook live, however, the exact number of victims is not known yet. In another incident, a 19-year-old man, Dontae Ramon Smith was charged with murder in a series of random shootings on September 1 over around two hours last weekend in Detroit that killed three people. The accused killed three people in a shooting spree.

US issues 82,000 student visas to Indians



The US Mission in India has issued a record-breaking 82,000 student visas in 2022, higher than any other country, comprising nearly 20 per cent of all international students studying in the United States, according to an official statement.

"We are happy to see so many students were able to receive visas and reach their universities after the delays caused in previous years by the COVID-19 pandemic. We issued over 82,000 student visas this summer alone, more than in any previous year," US Charge d'Affaires Patricia Lacina said on September 6.

The US Embassy in New Delhi and four Consulates in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai prioritized the processing of student visa applications from May to August to ensure that as many qualified students as possible made it to their programs of study in time

for scheduled start dates

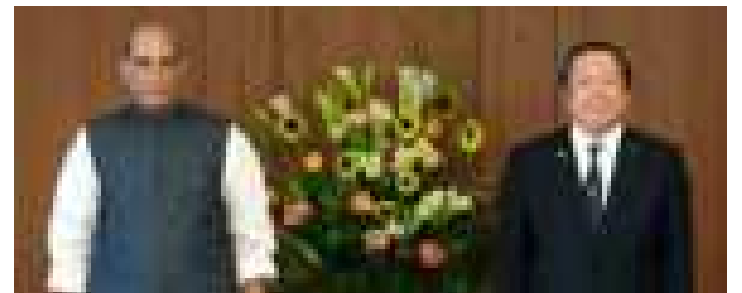
"This shows that the United States remains for most Indian families the most sought-after country for higher education. It also highlights the important contributions Indian students make to both our countries as they build life-long connections with American peers to maintain and grow international partnerships, working collectively to address current and future global challenges," Charge d'Affaires said further. According to the statement, Indian students comprise nearly 20 per cent of all international students studying in the United States, with the Open Doors report in 2021 showing there were 167,582 students from India in the 2020-2021 academic year.

"We are thrilled to have done our part to help Indian students pursue a top-notch education. Hopefully, there are a lot of happy students and parents out there.

Rajnath reviews bilateral defence cooperation with Yasukazu Hamada

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart Yasukazu Hamada in Tokyo and reviewed various aspects of cooperation including regional affairs. "Reviewed various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation and regional affairs during the bilateral meeting with Japan's Minister of Defence, Yasukazu Hamada in Tokyo today. This year marks 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries," Rajnath Singh said in a tweet.

"India and Japan pursue a Special Strategic and Global Partnership. India's defence partnership with Japan will play a crucial role in ensuring free, open and



rules-based Indo-Pacific region," he said further. Earlier in the day, he paid tribute to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. "My tributes to Japan's Self Defence Forces personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty," Rajnath Singh tweeted.

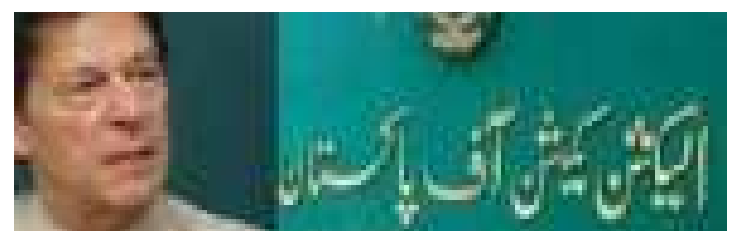
Defence Minister is in Tokyo for the 2+2 Ministerial meeting

between India and Japan. Rajnath Singh will also attend a community event organised by the Embassy of India in Tokyo and interact with the Indian diaspora in Japan. The economic relationship between India and Japan has steadily expanded and deepened in recent years as the volume of trade between the two countries has increased manifold.

Pak poll body issues notice to Imran Khan over violation of code of conduct

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday issued a notice to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan for violating the electoral watchdog's code of conduct.

According to ARY News, Khan violated the ECP norms by addressing a public rally in Peshawar where by-polls are scheduled in the NA-31 constituency on September 25 as the public officeholders including the president, prime minister, chairman/deputy chairman senate, speaker/deputy



speaker of an assembly, federal ministers, ministers of state, governors, chief ministers, provincial ministers cannot participate in the by-polls campaigns.

The ECP, in its notice, highlighted that the former prime minister violated para 42 of the elec-

toral code of conduct. "You are required to submit your written statement in person or through an authorised agent before the district monitoring officer on Sept 9 to explain as to why your case be not initiated under the law," the ECP notice.

Utilise Holidays most usefully

C.K. Subramaniam

Children of all ages and even elders prefer to have a scrap book to keep track records of their writings and achievements. As an ardent fan of cricket from the early 1960s I keep track record of all the write-ups published in my name from the year 1966 when I was a school boy. My first outing as a school cricketer gave me the Headlines in The Hindu, Madras with a caption 'C.K.SUBRAMANIAM DEADLY'. This was a tribute for my superlative performance with a bag of 6 wickets for 9 runs in the MCA Senior Level School match at the St.Bede's Ground. I never looked back. When I got 5 for 9 in a match winning performance, Indian

Express described the same as the best one and went down in my Scrap Book as the best one. That gave me the idea of maintaining a scrap book from the 1960s.

The main idea behind a scrapbook concept is to collect pictures and newspaper clippings on your topic of interest. Scrap Book saves memories of the past, the present and the future. So make sure your scrap Book has pictures of you having loads of fun. This includes a collection of letters received from VIPs, special cards of interest (viz) 25th year of your Wedding Anniversary etc. special notes or trinkets by sticking pockets on your scrapbook page. As a regular writer I collected the letters received from Vijay Merchant, Rajiv

Gandhi, Srinivas Venkatraghavan, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Gemini Ganesh, Madhav Rao Scindia to name a few of my collections in my Scrapbook. I collect test match tickets, one day matches and Twenty-20 matches tickets for posterity. I saw the 1986 tie test ticket and that is the pick of all the tickets collected by me so far. I preserve all the vacation brochures, ticket stubs and stick them next to your holiday pictures. It is quite imperative to write small notes under each picture. It is necessary to paste these write-ups in a chronological manner so that you can refer to them without much difficulty on a future date.

So be sure to date whatever you store in your scrapbook. To make

it more interesting do creative lettering. You can cut out letters from colourful magazines. To add colour, the write-up is about Cheerleaders then paste their photo by the side dancing. Like this you can write quotations, poetry and Sayings too. As far as possible keep your pages simple and neat and use an appropriate sticker to cover up any mistakes.

To make the scrap book more attractive, decorate the craft papers with pictures cut in basic shapes like Circle, Square, Rectangle, Triangle and Oval like shapes. Use your imagination and bring out the best colours that compliment your pictures and memorabilia. As a fan of Donald Bradman I have made a scrap Book exclusively on Sir after his death 5 years ago. It includes a letter received by me from Bradman Museum, Brawl (Adelaide) with regard to the Statistics compiled by me on the little master and that is preserved in the Museum. Do stamping to create patterns. Use coins, jewellery, buttons, ribbons, photos of archaeological importance for pomp and colour. Punch shapes like Polka dots, hearts, stars, flowers from coloured paper to decorate your scrapbook page. Cut coloured papers in relevant shapes and stick your pictures on them like a gardening picture struck on a vegetable shape. Make sure that the Scrap Book is for fun and frolic and help to keep memory of the past. Happy Scrapbooking.



Entertainment



American actor Tom Hanks states sequel of 'Forrest Gump' had been a serious possibility but for only 40 minutes

Hollywood star Tom Hanks has recently revealed that a sequel to his Oscar-winning movie 'Forrest Gump' had been a serious possibility but for only 40 minutes. According to Variety, Hanks made the revelation on the 'Happy Sad Confused' podcast. He said, "I will say that, with a long time in between, we did take a stab at talking about another 'Forrest Gump' that lasted all of 40 minutes. And then we never...we said, 'Guys, come on.' "A smart thing I did is I've never signed a contract that had a contractual obligation to a sequel. I've always said, 'Guys, if there's a reason to do it, let's do it. But you guys can't force me.' There is that natural inclination that is one of pure commerce that says, 'Hey, you just had a hit, so do it again and you'll have a hit,'" he added.

The Oscar-winning drama was based on the 1986 novel, which led to the 1995 book sequel 'Gump and Co'. The film adaptation of the first book was a box office powerhouse, earning USD 678 million worldwide and becoming the top-grossing film in the U.S. in 1994. Hanks won the Oscar for best actor, while the film won the prize for best picture and four more Academy Awards.



Actor Idris Elba talks about the speculations of playing iconic role of agent 007 James Bond

Hollywood star Idris Elba, during a recent podcast session talked about the speculations of him playing the iconic agent 007 James Bond. "I'm not gonna lie, every corner of the world I go and I'm talking about different cultures they always go: 'Bond!,' Elba said. According to Deadline, recently, speculations for the next James Bond started to spread around the corner about who will be the next James Bond after actor Daniel Craig? and actor Idris Elba came to the top to portray 007's role in the upcoming movie of the secret agent.

Talking about playing Bond on screen Idris further said, "It is not a goal for my career, I don't think that, you know, playing Bond will satisfy some of my personal goals. It will definitely satisfy the will of a nation," Elba said, referencing the legions of fans who would like to see him as 007. "And I feel it is beyond me at this junction. It's beyond me. You know, it's not a question of, 'Should I?,' 'Do I?,' 'Will I?,' it is what the will of the nation dictates sometimes," he added, before speculating that even just the discussion is a good thing, Deadline reported.

"I'm not that guy, but, in everyone's world I might be. And that job is done. Because the truth is, you know, a lot of people are really seeing Idris playing Bond as the 'alternative Bond.' And as long as that alternative is existing, that's great for the growth of casting," Elba added. As per Deadline, James Bond producer Barbara Broccoli earlier this year that the search for the next star who'll drive the franchise's iconic Aston Martin is still far off, nobody is in the running, and we are working out where to go with him. "There isn't a script and we can't come up with one until we decide how we're going to approach the next film because, really, it's a reinvention of Bond. We're reinventing who he is and that takes time. I'd say that filming is at least two years away," he said.



Oscar nominee actor Catherine Keener joins Joaquin Pheonix and American singer Lady Gaga in 'Joker: Folie a Deux'

Oscar nominee actor Catherine Keener is all set to join the academy award winner Joaquin Pheonix and American singer Lady Gaga in 'Joker: Folie a Deux'. The official confirmation of Keener joining the star cast of the upcoming sequel from Warner Bros. is still awaited.

'Joker: Folie a Deux', is all set to hit the theatres on October 4, 2024, and the production is expected to get underway this December, as per Deadline.

The follow-up to 2019's blockbuster "Joker" will be a musical, with Lady Gaga expected to play the Clown Prince of Crime's co-conspirator Harley Quinn. Helmed by Todd Phillips, the plot details of 'Joker: Folie a Deux.' are under tight wraps, the title 'Folie a Deux' which means shared delusional disorder, hints at how Arthur's villainy might be embraced by the residents of the fictional Gotham City. Joker's partner in crime, the famous and crazy Harley Quinn might feature in the sequel.