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Univ Voice



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Srilanka Under Economic Crisis

- Arun Mahadev

Colombo: Sri Lanka is experiencing an economic disaster on a scale that hasn't been seen since the country's financial crisis in 1948, just after gaining independence from the British Empire. The government ordered the forces to prevent violence from erupting at gas stations on Tuesday, March 22nd, when sudden protests arose among motorists queuing for gasoline. In a frightening event over the weekend, two men tragically died while waiting in different lines to buy petrol, according to the police. The country's disintegrating economy is primarily due to a lack of foreign money, which has resulted in a large decline in imports of necessary goods.

ORIGIN OF THE CRISIS

Sri Lanka is significantly reliant on imported goods. Among other necessities, it imports fuel, food, paper, sugar, lentils, medications and transportation equipment. Due to the lack of foreign cash, the country is unable to purchase (import) certain goods. Sri Lanka has cancelled school exams due to lack of printing paper. The term tests, scheduled for a week have been postponed indefinitely,

according to education officials, due to an extreme paper shortage and a lack of funds to finance imports. The current economic instability in Sri Lanka is caused by a foreign currency shortage or a balance of payments (BOP) crisis. Simply said, BOP is the difference between all of the money that has entered the country and all of the money that has left the country over a given period of time.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa revealed that the country will have a trade deficit of \$10 billion. This means that Sri Lanka imported more than it exported last year. As a result, the outflow of money exceeds the inflow, resulting in a foreign currency shortage over time. One cause for



Hundreds of people protesting violently against the ongoing economic crisis in the capital

this is the collapse of the country's tourism industry, which accounts for roughly 10% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The recent failure of the tourism sector, the failure to attract adequate FDI and the refusal to take an IMF loan are all factors contributing to the current crisis.

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Budget focuses women-centric projects

- Gokul Krishna P S

Thiruvananthapuram: Deputy Mayor P.K. Raju presented the city Corporation's 1,356.27-crore Budget for the financial year 2022-23 with a projected surplus of 272.61 crore. The budget makes a significant allocation for women-oriented projects while focusing on reducing carbon emissions in the city. Mr. Raju had an unusual amount of 181 projects to read out during his Budget presentation, which lasted over three hours.

The Deputy Mayor highlighted the Low Carbon Ananthapuri project, which combines solar power projects, social forestry, an electric vehicle push, sustainable waste management practices, the use of alternative products instead of plastic and the promotion

of public transportation to address pollution issues. Furthermore, the 6-crore solar city project will continue with the construction of solar panels to meet the energy needs of other government buildings. To give more public transport options in the suburbs, the local government unit will run 'Gramavandi' services in collaboration with the KSRTC. With a budget of Rs. 25 lakh, the rent-an-electric-bike project will give an environmentally responsible means of getting around the city. A further 2 crore has been set aside for the procurement of electric autorickshaws and scooters.

The significant budgetary allocation for gender budgeting includes programmes for women's safety, revenue production,

entrepreneurship, housing, rest homes, and anti-dowry awareness campaigns. Gender spaces, named after Dakshayani Velayudhan, a member of India's Constituent Assembly, will be established around the city. The 'She-hub' project, which costs 50 lakhs, offers co-working environments for women in the IT sector. A she-fitness center and a she-lodge have also been designated. The Sreejwala project is aimed at showcasing women with sporting talents.

A total of 50 lakh has been set aside as part of the She-cart programme to acquire cars for women self-help groups to deliver their wares. Women who have finished BSc nursing, general nursing courses or paramedical courses will be trained

apprentice under a 30-lakh initiative.

The budget allocates 50 lakh to the establishment of 300 new neighbourhood groups and the revitalization of 250 groups that have become inactive. Another scheme promises free transportation for women and children arriving in the city late at night when public transportation is unavailable.

A budget of Rs. 1.5 crore has been set out to provide laptops to children of fishermen and SC/ST families. Ananthapuri medical shops in coastal communities and Ananthapuri mobile medicals are also promised in the budget. Wayside cafes and chicken meat sellers will be branded with the Ananthapuri logo.

INDIA'S EXPORTS HITS \$400 BILLION

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th March said that India has achieved an ambitious target of \$400 billion worth of goods exports for the first time ever, nine days ahead of schedule. "I congratulate our farmers, weavers, MSMEs, manufacturers, exporters for this success," he tweeted. "This is a key milestone in our Aatmanirbhar Bharat journey," the PM added.

INDIA TESTS BRAHMOS MISSILE

New Delhi : India on 23rd march successfully tested nuclear-capable surface-to-surface BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in Andaman and Nicobar and it hit its target with pinpoint accuracy, officials said. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari congratulated on the successful test-firing. Earlier this month, the Indian Navy successfully test-fired BrahMos cruise missile from INS Chennai.



Image of BRAHMOS supersonic missile

The Burning Desire

- Adarsh K



Pradeep Mehra

New Delhi: "My accomplishment, not my hard effort, should be the centre of attention." A dedicated 19-year-old boy made headlines when he revealed his deep-seated ambition to join the Indian army. Now that his video has gotten so much attention from all over the world, he admits

it's "overwhelming" and asks everyone to kindly just let him focus on his objective.

Vinod Kapri, a filmmaker, was the one who first caught the youngster on tape late at night racing through Noida. He became an overnight online star as a result of the video. Many individuals approached the young lad, offering assistance. Kapri met up with the youngster once more to see how he was doing after receiving so much attention, especially from the media. *"Itna bhi woh nahi hona hai ki main zyada upar char gaya hoon* (I don't want it to appear that I am flying too high)," Pradeep Mehra stated. *"Agar mujhe zyada*

hi upar chhada denge toh jo mera aim hai na main uspe focus nahi kar payunga," he added, fearful of becoming distracted from his purpose. It wasn't just the general public, politicians and business leaders who stepped forward to aid him when his video went viral.

Retired Army Lieutenant Satish Dua was impressed by his video. Mehra, who lives in Delhi with his brother Pankaj (21) and had failed the test once, had been actively trying for two years. *"I have no choice but to practise at night in order to improve my stamina. My brother ordered books for me to study for the recruiting tests last month,"* the young man explained.

GAMES BEHIND GAMER

- Nivya U

Thiruvananthapuram:

Gamer a Malayalam short documentary directed by Akhil Vijayan delineating the multitudes of psycho-social aspects of people associated with gaming is now a well liked one. He is a Director, Cinematographer and Fashion Photographer from Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram.

The documentary has been Screened on 13th IDSFFK (International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala). Its an undeniable fact

that this experimental docu-fiction with its narrative style of depiction and beguiling frames is really a feast for the eyes of audience. The documentary travels through professional gamers, students and mental health professionals to have a deep understanding regarding the conflicting concerns of gaming in the present generation.

Akhil Vijayan is a former Communication and Journalism student of University of Kerala, Kariavattom campus.

The short documentary was part of his PG Projects. He is a film enthusiast. *"I have faced several criticism for choosing cinema as a career"* he said. Cinema is his dream since childhood so that he went through many hardships and his thirst for newness is his succeeding key. The IDSFFK was a major turning point in his career. He got enough support from his college teachers and friends for Gamer. Editor of the documentary, Amal Dev plays a key role in this documentary.

His debut work, 'The Distance', a one minute short fiction won the best 3rd film award in the competition conducted by PRSI (Public Relation Society of India). He is eagerly anticipating for many cinemas in the future.



Poster of the short film "GAMER"

Demise of a Brave Heart

- Ajai Raj L



Crash site image, Source; PTI

New Delhi: The untimely death of General Bipin Rawat in a Mi-17 Helicopter crash on 08 Dec 2021 in Conoor taluk of Nilgiri district in Tamilnadu had truly shaken the nation. He was travelling from the Sullur Air Force Base to the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington when the unfortunate accident took place.

The mourning across the country highlighted his popularity among the masses. A gentleman and true soldier, the first

Chief of Defence Staff of our country earned everlasting respect of the nation for dedicating his life to service before self.

General Bipin Rawat was born in Pauri town of Garhwal district of Uttarakhand state, on 16 March 1958 in a family known for its rich traditions for serving the nation. His father retired as Deputy Chief of Army Staff in 1988. He had his initial schooling from Cambrian Hall School in Dehradun and St. Edward's School in Shimla from where

he qualified for the prestigious tri service training academy, National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.

He graduated first in the order of merit and was awarded the 'Sword of Honour' at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, from where he was commissioned into the same unit of his father, 5th battalion, The 11 Gorkha Rifles (5/11 GR) as a young Sub Lieutenant on 16 December 1978. In his early career he was exposed to high-altitude

warfare and counter insurgency operations. During the 1987 Sino-Indian standoff along Mc Mohan line in the Sumdorong Chu valley in Arunachal Pradesh, his battalion was deployed in the area which stood their ground against Chinese incursions. These early understandings were to give him a strong professional outlook in days to come. As a Major he commanded a company along the line of control in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir. General Bipin Rawat as a Major General commanded an active division deployed along Line of Control in Uri sector of J&K.

The outstanding credentials of a true soldier with professional brilliance earned him the position of Army commander of Southern Command in Sep 2016. The journey was not to stop here as he went to become the Vice Chief of Army Staff before being appointed as the

27th Chief of Army Staff on 31 Dec 2016. The key reform in organisational hierarchy of Armed forces became a reality when the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff was sanctioned by the government in 2019.

General Bipin Rawat assumed the appointment as the first Chief of Defence Staff in Jan 2020, a truly challenging and meritorious appointment, in the backdrop of aspirations and hierarchical resoluteness existing among the three services of Army, Air Force and Navy. He with his straightforward nature never withheld himself from commenting on any issue. He called a spade, a spade considered to be abnormal in modern times of diplomacy and often regarded as controversial statements.

The General Officer took his last breath at the age of 63 on the fateful day of 8th December 2021 along with his wife and 11 service

personnel when the Mi-17 helicopter of Air Force crashed onto the mountains of Nilgiris. The accident shook the nation and ended the life of a true soldier and leader known for honesty and simplicity.

The General Officer will remain in the heart of every Indian for his personality, reforms and unflinching leadership during various security threats posed by our country. The service of the inspiring soldier decorated with many gallantry and distinguished awards during his lifetime like Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, the COAS Commendation and the Army Commander's Commendation will always be remembered by countrymen. The nation honoured the General with Padma Vibhushan posthumously on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day.

The War Torn Future

- Arun Mahadev

Kyiv: The unfortunate murder of Indian student Naveen Shekharappa G in Kharkiv, Ukraine, has highlighted the grave threats that Indian citizens face in Ukraine. Naveen, a fourth-year student at Kharkiv National Medical University, was from Haveri in Karnataka. As the Russian bombing of Kharkiv escalated, he sought refuge in the bunker beneath his flat. He was said to have gone out to get groceries when he was killed by bombing.

This is really a problematic issue, with thousands of Indian students currently stranded in various parts of Ukraine. True, the government of India has increased its efforts to repatriate Indian citizens from the war-torn country. However, with the Russian invasion in full swing and allegations that Moscow is sending increasingly more powerful weapons in its military operations, scenario is likely to deteriorate. Currently, the government of India's goal is to transport trapped Indians to countries bordering Ukraine, such as Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia and Hungary and then fly them back home. With the crisis in Ukraine growing, transportation choices have become severely limited and the country's western borders are clogged with refugees.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has given a double blow to Indian students who left their nation at a young age, just after graduating from school, to study in a foreign land. The biggest challenge is to negotiate a perilous escape from combat zone, complete with enormous uncertainty about food, shelter, and transportation. Many of these ordeals have entailed students making their way to countries in the Ukraine's region (Romania, Poland, Hungary) in order to board flights organized by Indian government as part of "Operation Ganga" evacuation plans.



Indian students stuck in a bunker in Ukraine

Though union government has praised itself for its evacuation efforts, several evacuees have complained that the Indian embassy did not do enough and was slow to respond to the severity of the situation. According to several stories, embassy staff even took partial credit for other people's help in arranging meals and transportation to the border.

The entire incident reveals some heartbreaking facts. The first is the harsh reality that our youth do not have enough academic opportunities. By teaching and then retaining young people who want to be doctors, we are simply unable to foster the huge "demographic dividend." Roughly 600 medical institutions (around 300 of which are government-run) in the country provide around 90,000 seats (about 45,000 of which are government seats) for a Bachelor's degree in medicine (MBBS) and about 16 lakh aspirants battle for these seats. In government universities, the cost of studies ranges from 40,000 rupees to 6 lakhs, whereas in private colleges, the cost can range from 80 lakhs to 1.5 crores. Only a few public medical colleges can boast of good faculty and resources. However, even these hospitals face faculty shortage and

infrastructural overload. A substantial majority of private colleges lack adequate resources and infrastructure.

"Private medical colleges here charge between Rs 40 lakh and Rs 50 lakh, while in Ukraine it is only between Rs 14 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, so naturally we opt for countries like Ukraine"

Says Al Ameen Pathanamthitta native currently in Ukraine.

The immediate task is to figure out what can

be done for the students who have returned to India. The most straightforward option is to wait for the war to end. For the current semester, certain Ukrainian institutions have started delivering online classes, but it is unclear how long these will continue. Tamilnadu, Odisha, Kerala and Karnataka have pleaded with the Union government to allow returning students to enrol in Indian medical schools. This might get sticky as it

will demand choosing which universities will accept these students and at what expense. Furthermore, those who did not receive admission to Indian institutions through the NEET exam and did not go abroad may challenge these regulations in court. Another possibility is to apply for non-medical but healthcare-related courses in India. The best chance may still be to hunt for transfers to other European countries. Countries

like UAE have also offered such transfers. Universities in Ukraine have agreed to assist by supplying all needed documentation and education consultancy firms are already negotiating suitable solutions. As a relief measure, the government may be able to cover the cost of the transfer using special loans. Credit transfers will work in this scenario, and the research that has already been done will not be wasted. In the long run, PM Modi's concern about why students choose to study in such tiny nations despite linguistic hurdles must be addressed. Even though the Prime Minister himself asked why the private sector couldn't step in to enhance capacity, the same could be asked of the public sector.

After all, the private sector's track record of opening low-quality teaching establishments is well-known. The number of institutions in India has increased steadily since 2004, the trend is likely to continue, however the improvement is minimal. Low investment and lack of teachers have stifled the creation of new government universities.

The Fatal Flaw



Ukrainian servicemen sit atop armored personnel carriers driving on a road in the Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine

Belgium: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg declared that Putin had made a "huge mistake." "While the leaders were meeting to review the alliance's eastern defences, Russia attacked and invaded Ukraine. "President Putin has made a grave error by declaring war on an independent sovereign

nation. He has grossly underestimated the Ukrainian people's power, bravery and armed forces "Jens Stoltenberg made the following remarks ahead of a NATO summit in Brussels. Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of employing phosphorus weapons in Ukraine and requested rapid military assistance from NATO.

SILVER - LINE

A crucial test for Pinarayi's managerial abilities

Silver - line, the Kerala government's new project has sparked a slew of demonstrations across the state. The protests have attracted the attention of both local and national news organisations. The silver-line is a semi-high-speed railway project that connects Kerala's northern and southern ends. It is an electric, completely gated rail doorway that would connect from Kasargod to Kochuveli in Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram). The project, which is expected to cost over 64,000 crores, is a dream project for the communist administration in power. Kerala is a developing/developing state, and most people still rely on regular rail services because they are far less expensive than road transportation. High-speed trains would be more expensive and luxurious, making them unaffordable for ordinary citizens in and When we examine the state's unemployment situation, we can see that it is steadily increasing. True, an elected administration would have a motto and would strive to develop the state regardless of the repercussions, but that does not give anyone the freedom to act without regard for the effects of a particular development project. The proposed K-rail project would pass across Kerala's fragile ecosystems, causing irreversible damage. Tall concrete embankments would be constructed for this silver line project and this would directly block the natural flow of water. The land use pattern 500 m to the east and west of the embankment would be altered. We already know how bad the state is being affected by the adverse and wild climatical changes, the implication of this project would be like adding fuel to fire. Chief Minister himself informed that around 1,400 hectares of land would be acquired for the project and around 9000 buildings would be severely affected.

A question was recently posed in the Lok Sabha, "if it has come to the notice of the government that protests against K-rail are taking place in Kerala and, if so, what action is being taken to stop this particular project," and the Kerala government's response is as follows. "Yes, sir, the Kerala government has also issued a notification for the conduct of a social impact study report, which would reveal the extent of the influence on the general population." The project has not yet been sanctioned, and its viability in terms of technology and economics is unknown. A proper environmental study report as well as a proper technical report are missing from the Kerala government's report. and the following are causing a lot of concern among people.

K-rail and Environmental Concerns

- B S Sidhartha



Many NGOs including Kerala Shastra Sahithya Parishat is protesting against the silver line project of the Kerala government as it is going to negatively affect the states ecosystem. T.V.Rajan who is the state secretary of the "river protection committee" stated that the silver line project would lead to a large scale destruction of the forest and would cause water shortage in different regions of the state. The madayipara biodiversity park which is a hub for different living organism would be taken out for the construction of K-Rail. this would lead indirectly lead to the destruction of 637 identified plant species, 142 species of butterfly, 186 species of birds, 60 species of dragonflies, 186 species of birds, 24 species of reptiles and 19 species of mammals. There is a high chance for Kavvayi lake to be dried up if the project is to be implemented. Destruction of hills would directly end the flow of water to rivers and the lake. In an article published in THE HINDU it is clearly stated that the implementation of the K-rail project would severely affect the Kadalundi bird sanctuary, the lotus plantation in Thirunavaya and the wetlands of Thrissur.

All together this would be more than 160 water sources and would cause water scarcity in north Kerala. Western ghats river protection committee, Sarvodaya Mandalam, Lohya vicharya vedi, Shastra sahithya parishat and many other nature protection organisations are raising their voices against the silver line project. The Kerala government is still not ready to give a proper report of the ecological impact which K-rail is going to create and this is raising a lot of concerns among different organisation working towards the welfare of our nature. Kerala is a state which had been and is facing a lot of ecological threats and the fragile coastline of the state is an add on to this list. Heavy rains in the year 2018 created several landslides in western ghats at the same time the impact of large scale quarrying which is going to be done for this project must be studied in depth. Joseph K.J who is the general manager of K-rail stated that "Culverts would

be provided for smooth flow of water beneath the rail corridor and underpasses would be provided every 500 mtres for people to cross to the otherside. Overbridges too will be built"

Kerala government has claimed that the K-rail project would be a green project but the government has not yet explained where it is going to get the 500 million units of green electricity from. When most of the nations around the world are trying to implement developmental projects without harming the nature, we on the other hand are totally going against our nature. Many governments including the Indian government failed to incorporate climate goals in their developmental strategies before but we are trying to change and rectify those mistakes in our new developmental projects. When a project like this is going to be implemented the health of our environment should be our major priority and this is not something which must be acted blind upon.

Igniting the Dream Project

- B S Sidhartha

Let us keep aside every single negative impact that the silverline project is going to create and let's talk about the financial drama that is going to take place in our state if this particular project is being taken up in full swing. The estimated cost of the silver line project is around 64k crores but NITI ayog has advised the Kerala state government that the cost of the project would be double that of the present estimated cost by the state which means it would be around 1,20,000 crores.

The central government reduced the equity contribution for the project when K-rail approached the Railways ministry. Kerala govt is already facing several financial

stress and is currently planning to take up loans from foreign agencies for powering this particular project for which the central government said an absolute 'NO'. At present the public debt of the state is estimated to reach upto 3 lakh crores for the fiscal year 2021-22 which is a tremendously high amount. According to financial experts taking up more loans at present would be a terrible decision by the state government. Even though many party members of the communist government are standing against this particular project, the government is taking up this project in full swing. According to the website of K-rail, the fare for the standard class would be around Rs 2.75 per km and

the business classes would be charged with a higher price than that of the standard one. The train would be carrying a maximum of 675 passengers at a time. Surveys suggests that the Ahmedabad - Mumbai bullet train would need around 100 trips daily to recover financially, keeping that in mind we can say that the K-rail project would require several dozen trips to repay the huge loan and to pay off the interest over these loans. Kochi metro was another dream project of the previous Kerala government but when we take a look at the present scenario we are able to see that the train is running with bags of financial losses on top of it. The annual loss of the Kochi metro is rising to around Rs 334 crores in 2020-21

from Rs 310 crore an year ago. The K-rail website mentions that this particular project would be creating 50,000 direct and indirect employment doorways to the people.

On february 16, 2022 when the government employees visited Chirayinkeezhu (Thiruvananthapuram) in order to lay stones for the construction of K-rail, people protested so violently preventing officers from entering their plots and by blocking their vehicles. The stones which were already laid were taken off by the people of that locality. Several people are protesting against this project as their homes are going to be abolished soon by the government for implementing this project.

VIDEO GAMES: The Insidious Pleasure

- Lakshmi M



New image of pub-g released by Tencent games

Thiruvananthapuram: 'He went to his room after returning from tuition, joyous that he got to wear his new uniform. Later he was found hanging in his room.' Sabith Muhammad was a 14 year old boy from Chirayinkeezhu, Thiruvananthapuram, who took his own life on 8th November 2021. It was discovered that he was addicted to online games, Malayala Manorama online reported. An ideal world of colours, boundless fun, excitement and freedom, where one could be the hero of his dreams or be an idol that is admired by many, tempting, isn't it? The virtual world of video games offers you all of that. The pandemic shut down the whole world, which resulted in lives of people being centered around their smartphones.

The internet made it possible to have online education thus saving the educational system from stagnation. However, that provided school children with unlimited access over the internet, which resulted in them spending all their free time on their phones and computers mainly for enjoyment. Video game addiction is generally defined as the problematic, compulsive use of video games that would ultimately lead to impairment in an individual's ability to function in their life. However the virtual game is way different from the outdoor games that we play. There the players have control over the game, they decide the rules. But in video games the players have only minimal control as it is a pre-recorded platform with numerous levels that the players need to complete in order to win the game.

Some engage in these games to escape from depression, family issues and other problems in life. But gradually the game turns into the only thing they find pleasure in. Hence reaching a state of video game dependency" says Dr. Tissy Mariam Thomas, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology of University of Kerala. The same pattern of addiction is the same as that of alcoholism and substance abuse. It's a habit that the players taught themselves.

The games range from simple puzzle games to killing games. Players that are exposed to this graphic violence continuously would begin to exhibit such behaviour in real life as well. That is because such games can't be played in calmness and tranquility, it requires this aggression from the players. The players become highly competent, aggressive and frustrated during the game and tend to be trapped in that state even after the game. Eventually this aggression starts to manifest in their behaviour towards others and become unbothered by violence and normalise it. Slowly they lose their humanity and the emotional traits of compassion, kindness, empathy and gratitude. Their only motive would be to continue the game and win it, she emphasized.

REAL SELF AND THE IDEAL SELF

Real self is the person one really is and the ideal self is the person one aspires to be. For instance, a person who has poor social skills or who might be an introvert would see the virtual world as an opportunity for them to express themselves, something they couldn't do in the real world. If it's a multiplayer game they can interact with players from all around the world without any inhibition. In most games the player takes upon a character which becomes their avatar. Here they are able to communicate with people from behind a screen, some become popular with their high scores and

gaming skills. They become internally satisfied with this ideal self who is perfect, popular and respected among the players and believe this is what they deserve which in turn boost their self image and self respect.

INSOMNIA

The players become hooked on the game and begin to play throughout the night and even into the morning. It's because the players are physiologically aroused when playing games, especially the ones that involve killings, shooting and other violence. So when they are shooting in a virtual world it feels real, just like they are engaged in a real life shootout. Their adrenaline secretion will be at a high level that will make them immensely alert throughout the game which ultimately will result in fatigue. Consequently, they start to detach themselves from the real world and their responsibilities. Poor academic performance, lack of interest in friendships and in creating real life experiences. As this turns into an addiction or gaming disorder in other words, they will succumb to severe depression, suicidal ideation and even suicide planning. There have been multiple cases of such suicides in the past two years among children. The real world has become strange to them, they find it imperfect compared to the flawless virtual world.

Just like any other addiction they find it difficult to withdraw from this habit. Hence when they are unable to play, they experience the same withdrawal symptoms. In the recent suicides such children took their own lives over trivial incidents. Here the children have the tendency to think that their parents or whoever reprimands them over the games are against their happiness and are their enemies so they confront them the same way they fight their rivals in the game. In the case of children peer pressure is a prominent factor. Children can have a huge influence on one another. A child would be desirous to be like other children and would do anything to fit in with them hence they could be pressured to play the game to fit in. Ironically a misfit or the socially unsanctioned would also resort to playing games as a safe haven.

The Parents and the teachers have an indispensable role to play here, as they are ones that should guide the children to explore a world beyond entertainment, that is the world of knowledge. With the latest technology any information is attainable.

#metoo statement: Vinayakan gets slammed

- Varsha



Vinayakan

Kochi: Vinayakan, a Malayalam actor and song composer, has once again been cast in a negative light as a result of his controversial statement.

His comments during a promotional programme for the film "Oruthee" have created a lot of discussion on social media platforms. He claimed he had no idea what the "Me Too" movement was all about and wondered if approaching women for sex was part of it. Even if it is, he will keep doing so.

"What is Me Too?" Vinayakan asked. I'm not sure. Is the girl in charge? What if I want to have sex with a woman,

for example? I've had physical relationships with over 10 women throughout my life. I asked each of these ten women personally if they were interested in having a physical relationship with him. He inquired if this is what the "Me Too" movement is all about. He went on to say that no woman has ever approached him and that he has always requested sex. Vinayakan went so far as to criticise followers who blindly follow celebrities. He

claimed that moviegoers were idiots who had no authority over whether a film is successful or not. Nothing was going to happen over here, he added. Oruthee, which was earlier known as Thee, is a film that marks actress Navya Nair's comeback. The film Oruthee is the narrative of a woman who works as a boat conductor. Oruthee also has Drishya Dinesh, K.P.A.C. Lalitha, who recently passed away, and Vinayakan in key parts.

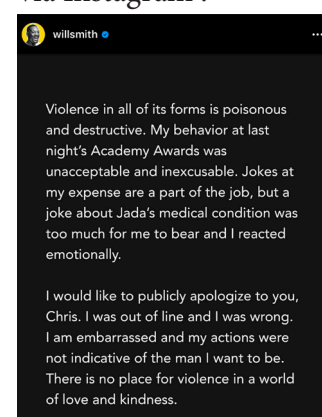
Oscar Slap Goes Viral on Social Media

- Arun Mahadev

California: The Oscars ceremony was marred this year by a contentious incident in which actor Will Smith slapped emcee Chris Rock. Will Smith came to the stage and slapped Chris Rock for making a joke about his wife Jada Pinkett Smith.

Chris, visibly shaken, said "Wow, Will Smith just smacked the s**t out of me," to that "Keep my wife's name out of your

f***ing mouth", was Will's reply. Will Smith has since shared a public apology to Chris Rock via Instagram.

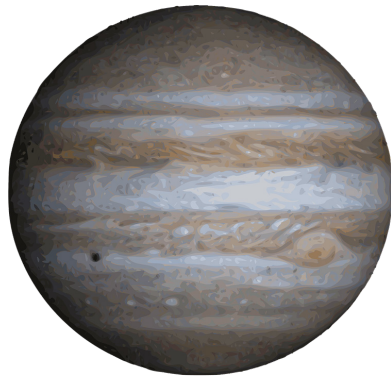


Will's instagram post

Jove Gets Hit

-Anuja P S

The spacecraft Juno which orbits the planet Jupiter has observed an asteroid crashing into the planets upper atmosphere. Scientists said that being big and mighty comes up with its own perks. The enormous gravitational pull of the planet is said to be the reason for these asteroids to be pulled towards it. Previously on April 2020 the space craft had witness ed a similar event when an asteroid crashed on the planet. The meteors which were hitting the planet were carefully observed by amateur space observers on Earth. Each new observations by these amateurs and pioneers in the field of space studies would help to understand the overall impact rate along with the composition of the planet.



Endurance Found

-Anuja P S

Endurance was a legend for around 107 years ,Sir Ernest Shackletons ship Endurance was aimed at making the first land crossing of Antarctica. The ship sank during the expedition and thus the mission too. Over a century after the mighty ship sank its wreckage is being found at a depth of three kilometres in the Weddell Sea. The ship sank after it got hit on a dense ice in early 1915. The wreck of endurance is being protected as a historic site under the antartic treaty so that the wreck would not be damaged by the public or by the media. The expedition of Endurance was started during the beginning years of the first world war. Even though there were many obstacles to not make the ship go for this expedition rather be at the disposal of the British government, however Winston Churchill did let Shackleton to go ahead with this expedition.



Hut Found in Moon

- B S Sidhartha

China's rover Yutu 2 recently beamed back images from the far side of the Moon depicting the harsh and violent airless environment. The images which were sent by the rover was panoramic views of the lunar surface which remained hidden from the Earth. The hidden side over here is referred to the part of the Moon or its region which is not visible from our planet as the Earth's natural satellite is tidally locked with the planet. For years researchers had been trying to learn about the far side of the moon with the intention of sending human beings to that particular region in the near future as countries push missions to reconquer the Moon. The new images of these hut like structure were released by a Chinese language science outreach channel known as "OURSPACE" that is affiliated with China National Space Administration.



Dominators of Ocean

-Ajai Raj L

Scientists and researchers have recently discovered a 330 million year old fossil of an ancestor of octopus in Montana. Researchers have come out with evidences to prove their claim that the creature lived over millions of years earlier stating that these creatures were walking over the surface of this planet even before the era of Dinosaurs. The fossil was later donated to the Royal Ontario museum in Canada in 1988. The size of the discovered fossil is around 4.7 inches, when compared with the modern octopuses its size is around eight inches with two rows of suckers. These octopuses are believed to have lived in shallow/tropical waterbodies.



Image of octopus fossil

A Boon to Russian Private Players

- Lakshmi M

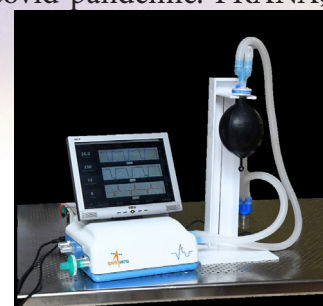
Even during the times of harsh-sanctions imposed over Russia by the west for its invasion of Ukraine, Russia is opening up to the private sectors (space companies) in order to push its space exploration which is likely to take a shot in the following months. Roscosmos which is the Russian space agency said that it would be providing enormous helping hand to its indigenous private players in space instrumentation. The Russian authorities made it clear that these indigenous private companies would be given enormous access to new domestic developments in the field of space instrumentation. The Russian space agency chief said in a statement that "Roscosmos would provide enormous support to private Russian space companies and a free delivery into orbit of spacecraft created by private design bureaus".



VSSC's Battle against Covid

-Nivya U

VSSC (Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre) a major space research centre of ISRO has developed a low - cost and portable and critical care ventilator to transfer the technology to clinical usage in the battle of covid pandemic. PRANA, the low-cost and portable critical care ventilator is based on the automated compression of an Artificial Manual Breathing Unit (AMBU) bag. The system has a sophisticated control system that includes airway pressure sensor, flow sensor, oxygen sensor, servo actuator as well as expiration and Positive End Expiratory Pressure (PEEP) control valves. The system is capable of Pressure Control Ventilation (PCV) in its basic mode of operation with provision for setting different tidal volumes. ISRO is planning to transfer the technology to various manufacturing industries.



The Kashmir Files

-Abdusalam M

The Vivek Agnihotri's Kashmir files have sparked a roaring inferno in the entertainment sector of the country. Kashmir has long been regarded as a failed state, with its foundations firmly rooted in India's caste system. Kashmir has seen an enormous amount of violence, faces of separatism, attacks from Pakistan-funded terror organisations, and the people's rage towards all of this over the past decades.

Kashmir was always a playground for journalists, and many tried to dig deep into the issues faced by people, the human rights violations that were taking place there, and so on, but none of the findings



poster of the film Kashmir Files

did much good. People have always been determined to exploiting this unfortunate scenario for their own selfish objectives throughout history. It isn't the first time that Bollywood has brought up the plight of Kashmir's pandits. Vidhu Vinod's film "Shikara", released in 2020, depicted the

pandits' difficult lives. From the start of the film, the audience can tell whose side the director sympathises with.

The director portrays what happened in Kashmir as a clear-cut genocide, in which Hindu women were brutally raped, Pandits were slain, Hindu homes were besieged

by Muslim mobs, children were shot at point blank, and so on. Hindu families are still seen as refugees in their own country.

Kashmir Files does not go at how people are still being slain in Kashmir after Article 370 was repealed; instead, it focuses on the wounds that people from a tiny community have inflicted on Kashmiri pandits' minds. A terrorist compels a wife to lick the blood of her husband who is being shot, a Hindu woman being cut down, and many other horrible incidents are shown in the film. The film does not represent the state's overall state of affairs; rather, we can see it taking strong sides.

The Unsung Kargil-Woman

-Devika R

Kochi: Flight Lieutenant Sreevidya Rajan, a name that we should have never forgotten, India's first woman combat aviator who went all guns blazing into the heart of the war zone.

Sreevidya shares her story Sreevidya Rajan, born and raised in green village of Thathamangalam. She comes from a family of four siblings and her father served in the army as Subedar, while her mother was a school teacher.

She recalls her school days, Unlike other parents of that time her parents wanted her to be independent and there wasn't any discrimination in the family for her siblings. She wished to be a mechanical engineer, always rewiring and repairing the TV and radio in her teen days. Being near to the Palakad and Coimbatore border, near Air Force Base, every evening she would watch the planes taking off and landing in the runway. She decided "I want to fly". "I wanted to become a pilot! In those days, we had only civil

aviation and flying classes were very expensive. Now also it is! At that time the IAF started inducting ladies and I had the right opportunity. I applied and joined."

On her third attempt Sreevidya cleared all her hurdles and came closer to her dream. At that time resources were limited but she built her ways with whatever knowledge she had. Newspapers and TV news was her greatest source. She was confident in her General knowledge

"Only problem I had was I couldn't converse in English"

says Sreevidya. She has overcome all her difficulties through sheer determination and strong will. She was dedicated to her goal. She cleared her Pilot Aptitude Battery Test (PABT) on her first attempt which you could write only once. Her parents were really proud of her

"My parents did have their share of tension, with me joining Defence and that too going to fly. It's a very risky job. But both of them were very supportive

and very proud of me going from Palakkad. I had to work very hard to get through and it was very tough..." "There is no limitation for dreaming, dream whatever you want, but to achieve that dream you have to work hard"

During the training days she was transforming from a village girl to a fighter pilot. Her transition took time but Sreevidya was adaptive to the change and she had it in her. The training was common for all there was no discrimination at all, you must get the work done.

"After completion of training, we were posted to Udhampur. That was in '96 and Kargil happened in '99. We had been operating in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh...we were quite experienced by then"

Sreevidya shares her first posting experiences. When questions about sexism were raised she said "In any work area, there is sexism. Especially in Defence and in that unit, there were no lady

officers at all. So they were skeptical. They wondered if we would be able to perform the way the male officers performed. It is a high risk job. But we had to fight our way through and we had to prove ourselves. We proved our worth and we were accepted eventually. In fact, only initial few weeks this was there. When we started flying, people realised that we are also competent. There was no problem after that. There were a few people who did feel that

"Oh girls have come and they're flying, especially in a volatile place, will they be able to cope?".

But we did and everything was fine. The memory of war still remains afresh, the stench of blood and pain of wounded disfigured soldiers was terrifying. Lieutenant Sreevidya Rajan is a great source of inspiration to many young people of India. Her stories of valour and courage could inspire the young generation of women to achieve greater goals.

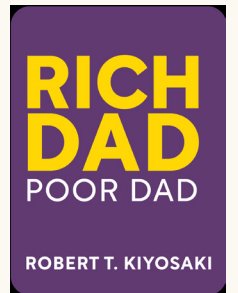
BOOK INSIGHT

- B S Sidhartha

Rich Dad, Poor Dad

- Robert Kiyosaki, Sharon Lechter

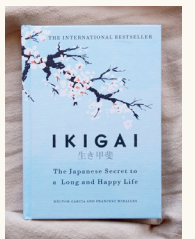
Rich Dad Poor Dad is a 1997 master piece by Kiyosaki and Lechter. The book is about the author's Dad and father of his best friend and how they cultivated thoughts about money and investing in him. This book gives you financial literacy and it changes the way you use your money. It also teaches you about how to make your money work for you rather than you work for the money. This book is a great investment of both your time and money.



Ikigai : The Japanese secret to a long and happy life

- Francesc Miralles and Hector Garcia

Japan is a country with the Highest life expectancy. This book shows you the lifestyle of the people of Japanese regions of Okinawa and Ogimi, where the average life expectancy is above 90. This book was published in 2016 by Random House publications. The central theme of this book is to Do what makes you happy. This simple rule of life will transform your inner world. Avoiding exaggeration, this book is truly an evidence based, practical guide for leading a happy & fulfilling life.



Shoe Dog : A memoir by the creator of Nike

- Phil Knight

Shoe Dog can be considered as the holy grail if you are into business or if you want to make your business grow. It is about Phil Knight and how he established his multibillion dollars Nike empire and all the struggles and disappointments along the way. This book has simple vocabulary and is well written. Shoe Dog motivates you to keep striving and remain committed while you are struggling with their dreams and is facing disappointment.



Becoming

- Michelle Obama

Becoming is a memoir by Michelle Obama, former First Lady of United States. This book inspires you by showing you how much hard work and struggle is necessary to become successful. Book is divided into 3 parts each depicting different stages of her life. Becoming me, Becoming Us and Becoming more. Becoming me is about her past and her backstory when she was a child and her transition to adulthood. Becoming us is about her adult life when she joins the university where she meets Barack Obama. Finally Becoming more is about her life in politics and becoming FLOTUS.



Mexico & USA Qualifies for Worldcup

- Devika R

Qatar: The World Cup will be held in 2022. The international soccer competition, which is regarded as one of the most prominent sporting events in the world, will be hosted in Qatar this November. This is the first time a Middle Eastern country has hosted such a large sporting event. Furthermore, it will be the first time it is hosted in a country with the features of Qatar, in which all of the event sites around Doha, the capital of the small country in the Persian Gulf, which is the only city with any hotel properties. The problem for Qatar will be to accommodate a significant influx of foreign tourists. Qatar is anticipated to receive around 1.2 million visitors, according to government projections. This equates to 40% of the overall population of the country. Any country in the globe, no matter how well-structured, faces infrastructure and logistical challenges



when hosting sporting mega-events like the Olympics and the World Cup. The World Cup has traditionally been staged in huge countries like Brazil and Russia, allowing fans to travel from city to city to watch and celebrate the event. Even yet, because they were dispersed around the cities, they occasionally experienced transportation issues, but rarely accommodation issues. Receiving such a big number of tourists in only one month, most of whom will be concentrated in and around Doha, is extremely difficult for Qatar. This will be especially difficult in the first round of the competition, when all 32 teams will still be competing. Those who have visited Qatar know that it is wealthy – it has the world's greatest per capita income – well-organized, gorgeous, and blessed with a tourist infrastructure that much surpasses its usual demand.

New Delhi: Mahendra Singh Dhoni stepped down as captain of the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on March 24th, only two days before the season began, turning up the leadership job to all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Dhoni's departure from Chennai signalled the end of an era for the franchise, as the wicketkeeper-batsman led the CSK to four IPL titles (2010, 2011, 2018, and 2021), as well as two titles in the now-defunct Champions League Twenty20 (2010 and 2014).

"MS Dhoni has decided to relinquish control of the Chennai Super Kings and has chosen Ravindra Jadeja to take over as captain. Jadeja, who has been with Chennai Super Kings since 2012, would become only the third player to manage the team" CSK said in a statement.

'It was also expected, but not so soon': Dhoni's decision to quit away as CSK captain has left



M S Dhoni in between an IPL match

- Shahana M T

a former BCCI selector 'shocked.' MS Dhoni's fitness and form are still a concern for the former CSK captain, who plays professional cricket primarily in the Indian Premier League. Dhoni has been the captain of CSK since the first season of the IPL in 2008. He is the second-most successful captain in the IPL, having led CSK to four titles, one more than Mumbai Indians' Rohit Sharma. CSK became the most successful IPL franchise of all time under Dhoni's leadership, failing to qualify for the playoffs only once in the tournament's 15-year existence.

This might also suggest that Dhoni will not play all of CSK's games this season, and it may be the final time we see him in the IPL. Jadeja last captained a team in any capacity in 2007, when he led Saurashtra to victory over Jharkhand in the Vinoo Mankad Under-19 tournament.

Bajrang's Defense Ain't Weak - Sujeet Maan

- Midhun M V

New Delhi: Contrary to common belief, Bajrang Punia's leg defence is not a key flaw in his game, according to Sujeet Maan, the star wrestler's new personal coach, the wrestler appears susceptible only because of his offensive style, and all he needs to do is convert the moves into points. In the last three years, Bajrang's leg defence has been a huge talking topic, particularly in the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics, when he won a bronze medal. Bajrang's battle with Takuto Otoguro, a Japanese rival, further added to the problem. His mentor Shako Bentineidis worked on the project as well, but Bajrang, never made the required progress, which irritated the national federation and the Georgian was eventually removed from his support staff.

"Many people believe his leg defence is weak, but this is not the truth. It's a fashion statement. The aggressive hitters in OPEN APP cricket go for their shots and risk losing their wicket in the process. When Bajrang plays an attacking game, he appears to be weak in his leg defence "In an interview with PTI, Maan stated.



Olympian Bajrang Punia

A BAD DAY FOR KERALA BLASTERS

- Arun Mahadev

Goa: The Blasters fall at the final hurdle for the third time, as a three-year-old squad wins its first ISL title in a shootout. Laxmikant Kattimani, the goalie for Hyderabad FC, saved three penalties in the tie-breaker to give his team their first Indian Super League title. Hyderabad, which has only been in the ISL for three seasons, finished last in their first season and missed the playoffs by two points last year. They tied the game at 1-1 with a late equaliser before winning the penalty shootout. Kerala was eliminated from the ISL final for the third time, having lost in the finals in 2014 and 2016.



AL RIHLA

-Lakshmi M

Qatar: Al Rihla will be the official match ball for the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, according to Adidas. For the 14th time, Adidas, the sportswear behemoth, is the match ball's official manufacturer. According to Adidas, the Al Rihla, travels faster in flight than any previous ball. The Arabic word al Rihla means "the journey." This ball is inspired by Qatar's unique architecture, boats, and national flag. The world cup match ball was given the name Al Rihla for the first time in order to promote sustainability by using only water-based ink and glue.



FIFA ball AL RIHLA

2022 FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION ALL STANDINGS			
UEFA	AFC	CONMEBOL	CONCACAF
ENGLAND 26	IRAN 16	BRAZIL 35	CANADA 16
POLAND 20	KOREA REPUBLIC 14	ARGENTINA 29	UNITED STATES 15
ALBANIA 18	UNITED ARAB E 6	ECUADOR 23	MEXICO 14
HUNGARY 17	LEBANON 5	COLOMBIA 17	PANAMA 14
ANDORRA 6	IRAQ 4	PERU 17	COSTA RICA 9
SAN MARINO 0	SYRIA 2	CHILE 16	JAMAICA 7
CAF			
GERMANY 27	SAUDI ARABIA 16	EGYPT 14	GHANA 13
NORTH MACEDONIA 18	JAPAN 12	GABON 7	SOUTH AFRICA 13
ROMANIA 17	AUSTRALIA 11	LIBYA 7	ETHIOPIA 5
ARMENIA 12	OMAN 7	ANGOLA 5	ZIMBABWE 2
ICELAND 9	CHINA PR 5		
LIECHTENSTEIN 1	VIETNAM 0		

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