THE **Quality at Value**

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CLASS 12 STUDENTS: FROM AGONY TO UNCERTAINTY Pg 21

'PICKING UP YOGA BASICS IS EASY; IT'S MOVING TO THE INTERMEDIATE THAT IS THE CHALLENGE' Pg 26

32°c. 26°c. Sunrise: 06:02 am Sunset: 07:18 pm

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Knowing is not the realm of the heart - Being is

the realm of the heart.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

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At the meeting, Twitter India was rep-

resented by its legal counsel Ayushi

Kapoor and senior manager for public

On non-compliance with the govern-

ment's interim guidelines, Twitter said

However, sources said, the two officials could not give a specific time-

Twitter was asked about its policy on

line for adherence to the new protocol.

content flagged as prickly or inflamma-

tory. In this context, a BJP MP specifi-

cally raised the Ghaziabad incident of

thrashing of a Muslim which was post-

ed on social media and went viral Officials admitted that they promote what

they think are healthy Tweets and de-

mote those which were not healthy,"

sources said - an explanation that did

not wash with the panel. CONTD. ON P13

policy Shagufta Kamran.

it is working on the issue.

KANDIVLI VAX SCAM AT NINE OTHER PLACES

- Mastermind was Class X dropout;
- Used hospital IDs;
- Knew doctors and nurses from the time he was a medical clerk;
- Vaccines procured from unauthorised sources



SMALL FINANCE BANK

UNDER CENTRUM Pg 9

Kandivli Police arrested four men and detained one, between Thursday and Friday morning, in connection with the 'fraud' vaccination drive undertaken in a residential society on May 30. Police said that the drive was conducted without permission from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the accused had misused hospital IDs. The same gang has conducted similar 'vaccination drives' at nine other places,



police said. police According to sources, the residents had



allegedly approached Rajesh Pandey, employed at a private hospital, to

Not a worry in

children enjoy a splash in the

Arabian Sea at

Badhwar Park during high tide,

in Mumbai on

Friday

the world,

enquire about the vaccination drive in their residential complex and he had referred a middleman. Pandey is then alleged to have approached the mastermind of the racket, Mahendra Pratap Singh, 39, and established contact with his aide Sanjay Gupta, 29, who organised the entire 'vaccination' drive.

Additional Commissioner of Police (North) Dilip Sawant said preliminary inquiries had revealed, the vaccination camp organised at Hiranandani Heritage in Kandivli was unauthorised

OUR BUREAU

Twitter executives were put in the pillo-

ry by MPs across the board on Friday

and incessantly reminded that "Indian

laws are supreme and the company has

to abide by them," sources said after a

meeting of the parliamentary panel on

Twitter India representatives were

bluntly asked if the company follows

the law of the land. The response -- that

"we follow our own policies" -- seemed to

During the meeting, Twitter was also

quizzed about the criteria based on

which it tags tweets as "manipulated

media". Pressed for a response, Twitter

said it is an intermediary, and

"whatever we think is not good for soci-

rattle the members further.

IT led by Congress's Shashi Tharoor.

and vaccines were bought from unauthorised sources. Mahendra, who has worked with a medical association for over 17 years as a clerk, has not completed Class 10. He was in touch with a number of hospitals and doctors and he contacted a doctor, not yet arrested and connected him to the other two arrested accused -- Nitin Mode, 32, and Lalit alias Chandan Singh, 32, who the hospital credentials in the CoWin application without authorisation.

CONTD. ON P13

Compliance 'work in progress'

Twitter told it must abide by rules, it is not above law

ety, we tag them". "We have a policy. We

Twitter had recently tagged certain

tweets by BJP leaders, including party

spokesperson Sambit Patra, as "manipulated media" after the BJP alleged that

the Congress was using a "toolkit" to de-

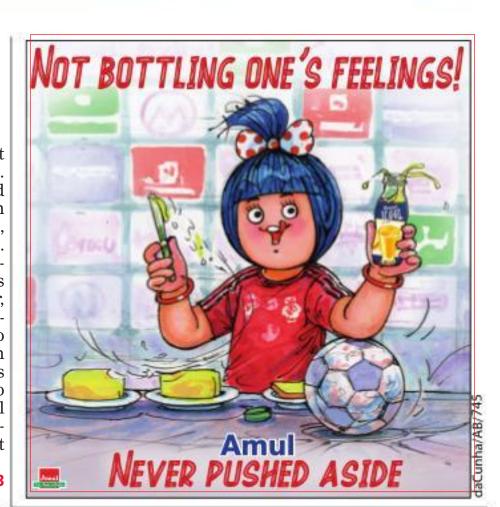
The parliamentary committee meeting

was called to examine the issue of safe-

guarding rights of Indian citizens and

preventing misuse of online platforms.

have equal respect for the law of land.



TRIBUTE **FLYING SIKH**

ndian sprint legend Milkha Singh died on Friday after a month-long battle with COVID-19, during which he lost his former national volleyball captain wife Nirmal Kaur to the same ailment. The Padma Shri awardee was 91 and is survived by his golfer son Jeev Milkha three and daughters. "He breathed his last at 11.30pm," ac-

His condition turned critical this evening as he developed complications, including fever and dipping oxygen saturation levels, after a bout with COVID-19, in the Intensive Care Unit of the PGIMER hospital here.

had contracted COVID-19 last month and tested negative for the virus on Wednesday when he was shifted to general ICU in another block of the



hospital. His oxygen level had suddenly dipped.

The legendary athlete is a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and the 1958 Commonwealth Games champion but his greatest performance remains the fourth-place finish in the 400m final of the 1960 Rome Olympics. He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and was bestowed the Pad-

ma Shri in 1959. Gobindpura, now in present-day Pakistan, on November 30, 1928 as per school records, had become the first Indian athlete to win gold in the then British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff in 1958, a record which stood for more than 50 years when Krishna Poonia won the gold in discus throw event in 2010 CWG at Delhi. Singh had emerged as the winner in the 400m final at Cardiff edging out Malcolm Spence of South Africa with a timing of 46.6 seconds.

While Singh had also won four Asian Games gold medals, including the 200m and 400m wins in the 1956 Asian Games and 400m and 4X400m relay in 1962 Asian Games, Singh's biggest moment of glory or miss came in the 1960 Rome Olympics where he finished fourth in the 400m final at the Rome Olympic Stadium to miss out on the bronze medal in a photofinish to Spence. Singh's then-national record timing of 45.6 seconds at Rome was broken by Paramjeet epape Singrelateren 1998urnal.in

GROUNDED

cording to family source.



other is Ayodhya Mayor Rishikesh Uppadhya. Singh, who was born in As per documents, on March 18, the Mandir trust got a 10370 sq m piece of land registered in its after its transfer from Kusum Pathak and Harish Pathak and an amount of Rs 8 crore was paid for it. While this land is adjacent to the main road leading to the proposed temple, another piece of land in a remote area was purchased the same day, but for Rs 18.50 crores.

LAST WORD

RASHMI SHARMA

More dubious temple land

deals are tumbling out of

Ayodhya, which may con-

strain the Kshetra Trust to

rethink the process of acqui-

sition of land. After the re-

cent controversy over pur-

chase of 12080 sq m of land,

another similar case has

surfaced. This time the trust

the purchased land at an

even more prominent site in

Interestingly, this second

deal too was secured on the

same day -- March 18 this

year -- and the original own-

ers,too, are the same. Not

only this, by an uncanny co-

incidence, the witnesses to

this deal too are the same.

While one witness is trust

member Anil Mishra, the

the city for just Rs 8 crore.

SC REFUSES TO STAY BAIL, STALLS **RULING ÓN UAPA**

FROM OUR BUREAU

Refusing to stay the bail granted to three students incarcerated in Tihar Jail for the last one year, a vacation Bench of the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the Delhi High Court verdict on the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) will not be used as a precedent by any party before any court in In-

The vacation Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian held that the issue of reading down of UAPA is "important" since it can have "pan-India ramifications" and so its use in other cases will require interpretation by the Apex Court. "We want to decide it for the good of the

country," it said. The Bench, however, shared the concern of petitioner Delhi Police on implications of the High Court ruling on UAPA, expressing surprise and finding it "troubling that the High Court has written 100 pages discussing the entire anti-terror law while deciding the bail applications

of the three students." Presiding judge Justice Gupta's remarks came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to the parts of the High court judgment contending that the bail order "turns on its head the entire UAPA, along with the Constitution."

CONTD. ON P13



Rain wiped out Day One at Southampton and the title clash is set to enter the reserve day.

Not so fast, says BMC, though city qualifies for unlocking

SANJAY JOG Mumbai

Though Mumbai has qualified to move to Level 1 of the phased unlocking measures in place, with a current positivity rate of 3.79 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy of 23.56 per cent as against the corresponding rates of 4.40 per cent and 27.12 per cent as on June 10, the city will continue to remain at Level 3, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

(BMC) said on Friday. This is in view of the possible third wave of the pandemic.

fame India.

Also, Mumbai's oxygen bed occupancy is higher than the state's average of 13.56 per cent. A total of 2,016 oxygen beds in Mumbai city are occupied, while 9,097 are currently vacant. Similarly, 951 ventilator beds are occupied, while 529 are currently not

in use. A senior BMC official told The Free Press Journal that for the time being, Mumbai would continue to remain at Level 3, as it is anticipated that a possible third wave could strike.

Under the Level 3 restrictions, both essential and nonessential shops are allowed to remain open until 4pm, but malls, theatres and multiplexes remain closed. Also, only essential services staff and government staff are permitted to travel on suburban local trains.

As per the government's June 4 order, all districts

where case positivity rates were five per cent or less and the occupancy of oxygen beds was below 25 per cent would fall under Level 1 of the phased unlocking measures in the state. Districts in this category can completely unlock and all activities can be resumed and all sectors, including public transport, cultural events, shops, restaurants, sports, theatres, malls, industries, private and government offices can open.

30-44 age

drive, now

CONTD. ON P13

SC refuses to cancel, postpone PG final year medical exams

AGENCIES New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to direct the medical universities to cancel or postpone the final year Post Graduate exams on the ground that the examineedoctors have been engaged

in Covid-19 duty. A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and MR Shah said it cannot pass any general order to all the universities to not conduct or postpone the final year post graduate medical examination.

The top court noted that the National Medical Council (NMC) has already issued

an advisory in April asking the universities in the country to take the Covid situation into consideration while announcing the dates for fi-

nal year examination. "We have interfered where it was possible like postponing by one month the INI **CET** examination conducted by AIIMS, New Delhi, where we have found that there was no justification in fixing the date for the examination without giving appropriate time to students to prepare," the bench said.

It rejected the submission of senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for 29 doctors, who have filed the writ petition that NMC be direct-

be coming sooner than anticipated.

ed to issue directions to all the universities to give reasonable time to students for preparing for the examina-

tion. "We don't know what could be the reasonable time for preparing for the examination. How can the court decide the reasonable time? Everyone may have their reasonable time. Let the university decide on the basis of the advisory of NMC as per the pandemic situation prevailing in their area," the bench said.

The top court said, "In a vast country like India, the pandemic situation cannot be the same.

CONTD. ON P13

The Maharashtra govern-

ment will be starting a special COVID-19 inoculation drive for the 30-44 years age group from Saturday, an official said here. Until now, the inoculation of 18-44 age group was taking place,

largely at private hospitals. The state had demanded permission from the Union government to start a special drive for 30-44 age group as it largely covers the working sections of population which would enable further relaxation of restrictions on shops, businesses and commercial activities, said a senior health department official.

Co-WIN will now have a new category of 30-44 age group, but people in this category can also register themselves directly at the staterun vaccination centres.

The Maharashtra government has been allocated 72 lakh vials of vaccines this month of which 25 lakh have been received and distrib-"With increased supply, we want to prioritise the working class," the official said. "Private hospitals will continue vaccination of 18-44 age group as per their schedule," the official added.

Third wave by Oct, will be controlled outbreak Of those who ventured a prediction. cinations would have been rolled out Indians itching to shop, eat out: Survey

AGENCIES / Bengaluru

CONTD. ON P13

A third wave of coronavirus infections is likely to hit India by October, and although it will be better controlled than the latest outbreak, the pandemic will remain a public health threat for at least another year, according to a Reuters poll of medical experts.

The June 3-17 snap survey of 40 healthcare specialists, doctors, scientists, virologists, epidemiologists and professors from around the world showed a significant pickup in vaccinations will likely provide some cover to a fresh outbreak.

over 85% of respondents, or 21 of 24, said the next wave will hit by October, including three who forecast it as early as August and 12 in September. The remaining three said between November and February.

But over 70% of experts, or 24 of 34, said any new outbreak would be better controlled compared with the current one, which has been far more devastating - with shortage of vaccines, medicines, oxygen and hospital beds - than the smaller first surge in infections last year. "It will be more controlled, as cases will be much less because more vacand there would be some degree of natural immunity from the second-wave," said Dr Randeep Guleria, director at All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

So far, India has only fully vaccinated about 5% of its estimated 95 crore eligible population, leaving many millions vulnerable to infections and deaths.

While a majority of healthcare experts predicted the vaccination drive would pick up significantly this year, they cautioned against an early removal of restrictions, as some states have done.

Thirty-one per cent of citizens plan to visit a restaurant, while 29 per cent plan to visit malls in the next 60 days, according to a survey conducted by Local Circles. In addition, 75 per cent of Indian households expect visitors like domestic help, service providers etc. to their homes in the next 30 days. As many as 43 per cent are expecting visits from friends and relatives who do not stay with them, while 27 per cent are expecting friends, neighbours and colleagues to visit them in the next 30 days. According to Local Circles, given the known air-borne nature of the SARS-COV2 strains, all the above activities without adhering to the guidelines, both by the business owners and the citizens, are likely to accelerate the spread of Covid and a possible third wave may



group of protesting healthcare workers including nurses who tried to stop the convoy of Deputy CM Ajit Pawar to present him their demands. The protesters were hired on

contractual basis at government hospitals after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Some of them lost the job after the contract expired. "We wanted to submit a memorandum to Pawar and Tope but they did not stop," said one protester.

SAFEGUARDING FREEDOM

'STATE CAN'T INTRUDE INTO MARITAL CHOICE'

HC says parents can't oppose children's marriage even in good faith

NARSI BENWAL narsi.benwal@fpj.co.in

In a significant ruling, the Bombay High Court bench of Justices Vishwas Jadhav and Shrikant Kulkarni at the Aurangabad seat on Monday held that the state or the society cannot interfere with an individual's choice to marry and whom to marry. The bench held that parents cannot oppose the marriage of their children, even in good faith, at the cost of their fundamental rights.

"The decision to marry someone rests exclusively with individuals themselves," the judges held, adding, "Neither the state nor society can intrude into that domain. The strength of our Constitution lies in



its acceptance of the plurality and diversity of our culture." "Intimacies of marriage, including the choices that individuals make on whether to marry and whom to marry, lie outside the control of the state. Courts as upholders of constitutional freedoms must safeguard these freedoms," the judges ruled.

The bench was dealing

with a plea filed by the parents of a minor girl from Parbhani, seeking directives to the police authorities to trace their daughter, who they claimed has been kidnapped.

However, during the course of the hearing and investigations, it transpired that the girl wasn't kidnapped and, in fact, had willingly left her maternal

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The Shiv Sena-led Maha

Vikas Aghadi government

and BJP are now pitted

house with her lover, who lived in her neighbourhood. The girl was traced to her now husband's hometown in Hyderabad and was brought to the court last week. She was accompanied by her mother-in-law

and father-in-law and an

eight-month-old son.

The bench was informed that the girl was nine months away from turning18 when she delivered the child in September 2020. On June 3, 2021, two days after her 18th birthday, the couple got married.

Having met their daughter in the courtroom after more than a year, her parents broke down and said they have nothing to say in the matter as their aim was to protect their daughter, but now she has already be-

QUOTA FOR OBCs IN LOCAL BODIES

come a mother and settled. On being asked by the judges, the girl clarified that she left her parents' house as her father refused the alliance. "The father, in good faith, was intending to protect the interest of his daughter. However, the same cannot be at the cost of curtailing her fundamental rights. She, out of her own free will, got married with her lover," the bench held.

The prosecutor urged the bench to exercise parens patriae principle, which allows sending minor girls or boys, who do not wish to live with their parents, to correctional homes. However, the bench noted that this principle cannot be applied in any and every case. The court said the girl is free to make her own decisions.

At 55, Sena faces challenge of consolidating its position

CM expects to reveal roadmap for BMC elections today

SANJAY JOG sanjay.jog@fpj.co.in

As Shiv Sena turns 55 on June 19, it faces a dual challenge of the survival of the party-led alliance government in Maharashtra and consolidates its position while playing Hindutva and secularism cards simultaneously.

Even though the party president Uddhav Thackeray has hinted that Shiv Sena will not shake hands again with BJP for its future growth, the party will have to further strengthen its ties with new allies NCP and Congress in a bid to take on its estranged ally BJP.

Thackeray is expected to reveal the party's roadmap for ensuing BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections at the 55th



Shiv Sena faces an acid test to retain its power in the BMC in the coming elections slated for 2022

foundation day in his virtual address. At the same time, he is expected to urge Shiv Sainiks not to be complacent but gear up to take on BJP.

Shiv Sena faces an acid test to retain its power in the BMC in the coming elections slated for 2022 especially when BJP has launched Mission 2022 with a resolve to

elect its mayor. It will be the first election after the Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government took over in November 2019. Thackeray will have to equally pay more attention to further strengthening the party organization by increasing dialogue with rank and file and giving more powers to Shakhas.

Thackeray took out time from his busy schedule on Thursday after a group of Shivsainiks came face to face with BJP activists who had staged a protest against Shiv Sena's statement on the allegations of a scam in the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. Thackeray will have to keep the rank and file charged but he will have to tell them to show restraint as Shiv Sena is leading the alliance government in the state.

Federal structure must be protected, State urges court

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The Maharashtra government on Friday told the Bombay High Court bench of Justhe FIR filed by the CBI against former home minister Anil Deshmukh because it wants to protect the federal structure of the country and also wants to protect its rights. The state further clarified that it is no longer concerned with Deshmukh since he isn't a minister anymore.

The state through senior counsel Rafiq Dada argued that the government wasn't against the entire FIR filed by the CBI but has taken exception only to two unnumbered paragraphs from it which refer to the reinstatement of arrested officer Sachin Waze and the alleged interference in the transfers and postings of policemen.

"This is a matter of federal right of the state. The minister has resigned and is personally battling the allegations and the probe against him. We aren't concerned with him but we are here to protect our federal rights," Dada submitted

on behalf of the state. The senior counsel further said that the CBI breached the jurisdiction as laid down for the agency by the orders passed by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta while ordering a preliminary enquiry into the allegations of Parambir Singh, the former top cop of Mumbai.

"The orders nowhere mention about how and why Waze reinstated. The CJ's bench specifically refused to deal with contentions of undue interference in the transfers and postings," Dada

The state seeks FIR that mention reinstatement of **Sachin Waze and** interference in of cops in state

Meanwhile, Dada pointed out that the Delhi Special Police Establishments (DSPE) Act under which CBI was constituted, bars the central agency from investigating any case in a state without its consent. "We never gave them the consent thus they can't probe," he argued.

However, Jha contested,

pointed out adding, "Now that the CBI has come up with a case that Deshmukh was aware of Waze's reinstatement. But the fact is he was tices Sambhaji Shinde and reinstated by Parambir Singh Nizamoodin Jamadar that it and it is the former top cop has challenged the portions of who had entrusted Waze with most important probes.'

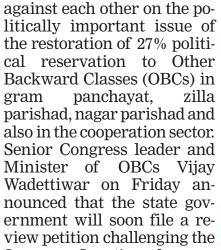
> deletion of portions of transfer and postings

"CBI is armed with the HC order to probe the entire case. If the state doesn't help the agency with the documents demanded by the agency it can be held under contempt." The matter would be heard further on Monday.

Meanwhile, advocate Subhash Jha for one of the intervenors, argued that the state hasn't come to the court with clean hands. "There is a hidden agenda for filing the present proceedings. Maybe the state is trying to be the mouthpiece or is trying to protect certain individuals, who may get entangled in the

probe in future," Jha claimed.

Supreme Court's order can-



celling the political quota for

the OBCs in local bodies. He

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The Congress party has reit-

erated its plan to contest the

upcoming elections to the lo-

cal and civic bodies and the

state assembly independent-

State party chief Nana Pa-

tole on Friday said the party

has already launched prepa-

rations for the same saying

that there has been demand

from the rank and file to go

solo in a bid to regain past

However, Patole clarified

that the party's decision will

not have any impact on the

Maha Vikas Aghadi govern-

ment because it is Congress

president Sonia Gandhi's de-

cision to share power with

Shiv Sena and NCP and the

government will complete its

five-year tenure.

ly in Maharashtra.

glory.



The state govt will have to take a decision for the restoration of political quota for OBCs; till then elections will not be allowed

> -PANKAJA MUNDE Former minister

said a two-day workshop of OBC leaders from all political parties has been organized to discuss future strategy.

Will go solo in assembly

elections, reiterates Cong

State party chief Nana

Patole said the party

has already launched

preparations for the

same saying that

there has been

demand from the rank

and file to go solo

day after the state NCP chief

and Minister of Water Re-

sources Jayant Patil's com-

ment that if the Congress de-

cides to go alone then NCP

Patole's statement came a and Shiv Sena will tie up for

Govt to file review petition against SC order stage state-wide agitation on able with the Centre but it June 26 demanding the restoration of OBC quota in the state despite requests the local bodies. Former min- made twice. There is a quesister Pankaja Munde has blamed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government for OBC losing their political reservation in the local bodies. She zilla parishad and nagar warned that till the reserva- parishad are in serious troution is restored, OBCs will ble." not allow the government to hold elections to the local

> BJP's announcement came days after Samata Parishad founded by veteran NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal launched the agitation for the restoration of OBC quota in the local bodies.

the coming elections. Patil,

however, desired that three

partners should continue to

jointly fight the ensuing local

body and assembly polls to-

gether. However, he reiterat-

ed that if Congress sticks to

its guns, then NCP and Shiv

Sena will contest the coming

Patole in his reaction said

Congress has already an-

nounced its stand and added

that other parties are free to

At the marathon meeting

chaired by the Congress par-

ty in charge HK Patil on

Thursday night with the

ministers and office-bearers,

Patole's repeated announce-

ments of going solo were dis-

cussed. Party insiders said

Patole has been asked not to

go on making statements in

this regard time and again as

the high command will take

a final call in this regard.

make their own decisions.

polls together.

On the other hand, BJP will pirical data of OBCs is availhas not yet been shared with tion mark over the political quota for OBCs. More than 40,000 seats in the cooperation sector, gram panchayat,

Munde has called for a 'chakka jam' agitation on June 26, questioning why it is wrong to link the corona situation and imperial data collection. "The state government will have to take a decision for the restoration of political quota for OBCs, till then elections will not be al-Wadettiwar said, "The emlowed," she warned.

Three injured in Ghatkopar wall collapse

MUMBAI: Three persons sustained injuries after a compound wall of a chawl in Ghatkopar crashed on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday following heavy rainfall. The Santacruz observatory recorded 83 mm of rainfall on Thursday. The injured have been identified as daily wage workers Altaf Shaikh (35), Rizwan Kalanigi (19) and Noor Jahan Ansari (35). They were rushed to Rajawadi Hospital and were discharged after treatment. The incident took place at Macchi Market near LBS Marg.

A civic official said a few other shanties were also affected due to the incident and some of the residents have been shifted to a local BMC school. According to the BMC, 11 incidents of wall collapse have been reported in Mumbai in the last 24 hours.

-Staff Reporter

Woman posing as PMMY

Court: Instead of trying for reformation of criminal mind, they should be punished work fruitfully in the case of bhavna.uchil@fpj.co.in

A special court that sentenced three men to ten years imprisonment on Tuesday for being members of banned organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and conspiring to attack right-wing leaders, has said in a 229-page judgment made available on Friday that instead of trying for reformation of their criminal mind, they should be punished.

Mohd Muzammil Gani, 37, Mohd Sadique Farookh and Mohd Akram - were convicted for offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Gani sentenced additionally under the Arms Act. Two co-accused Mohd. Ilyas 35 (brother of Akram) and Mohd Irfan were acquitted of

all charges. After examining evidence, the court concluded that looking into the facts and circumstances of the case, prosecution has proved beyond reasonable doubt that Mohd Akram had joined Lashkar-e-Taiba and that he was incited and motivated by the wanted accused and that he had instigated Mohd Muzammil Gani to procure weapons and Gani was found in possession of firearm and cartridges. Further, Gani and Sadique were found possessing photographs of human targets.

Some offences under UAPA, the trio was found guilty of, such as conspiring to commit a terror act and being a member of a terrorist organization are punishable by a life

While deciding the quantum of sentence, it observed on the point of reformation of accused that while it is true that reformative theory can

non-habitual offenders, but that there are some criminals who cannot be reformed.

Special judge under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act Dinesh E Kothalikar said he finds substance in the submission of defence advocate Wahab Khan that at the initial stage of the trial, the accused had shown their intention to plead guilty, but the same was not accepted by the court.

In a rare act, the court also issued notice to a witness for giving false evidence. The witness, a member of a political party, had turned hostile during the trial.

In a rare act, the court also issued notice to a witness for giving false evidence. The witness, a member of a political party, had turned hostile during the trial. He had denied his statements recorded before a magistrate in which he had revealed extensively regarding the conduct of Mohd Akram and his inciting youth into terror activities. The NIA had sought that the witness be tried for perjury. The court said that considering the version of the witness, that as his financial condition was not sound and accused Akram used to extend financial help to him, there is every reason to believe that he was under the accused's obligation and, therefore, he has deposed falsely in favour of the accused to save him from being punished legally for the offences committed by him.

Ashok Chavan wants another **bullet train**

MUMBAI: Even as the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train project faces uncertainty, the Public Work Minister Ashok Chavan has urged the chief minister to request the Centre for the development of the Mumbai-Aurangabad-Jalna-Nanded-Hyderabad bullet train. Chavan told Free Press Journal, "The Marathwada region is suffering due to adequate transport connectivity and access. Already the Aurangabad-Jalna-Nanded connector to Mumbai Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway is being developed and the land acquisition for the same is completed. Therefore, the govt will not need to incur an additional cost of land acquisition for the proposed bullet train." He said CM has in principle agreed to the project and now the state will send a formal proposal to Centre. "The National High Speed Rail Corporation has been formed at the national level to implement bullet train projects. Bullet or high-speed trains are proposed from Mumbai to Nagpur and Mumbai to Hyderabad via Pune and Solapur. However, in this entire scheme of things, Marathwada has been completely left out in this planning. The Mumbai-Nagpur project can be extended up to

CM seeks revised policy for electric vehicles

SANJAY JOG sanjay.jog@fpj.co.in

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday asked the government-appointed committee to present a revised policy to promote electric vehicles in Maharashtra. A committee headed by the additional chief secretary (transport department), which was formed in December 2020, is in the midst of crafting EV policy for the state.

The state government aims for 10% electric vehicles of all new vehicle registrations by 2025. The government proposes to substitute government

vehicles in major cities with EVs from April 2022 onwards. The government plans to convert about 25% of the existing public transport infrastruc-



ture in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Aurangabad, Pune, Nagpur, and Nashik to electric mod by 2025.

in a tweet said, "Addressing a meeting with the Transport Department, CM Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray advised a formulation of a revised policy to increase the use of elec-

tric vehicles to reduce air pollution. He instructed officials to prepare policy and present it in the cabinet." Thackeray has directed that while formulating a revised policy, consideration should be given to how

the policy can be effective-

ly implemented in urbanrural areas. CM asked the administration to prepare a road map for the infrastructure development for setting The Chief Minister's Office up charging stations.

Man arrested with charas worth ₹50L

MUMBAI: The Mumbai crime branch arrested a 40-year-old man with charas worth Rs 50 lakh on Thursday. The accused, identified as Akshaybar Kushwaha, a resident of Bihar, had procured charas from Nepal and came to Mumbai for a better deal, said police. The officials of crime branch unit 5 received an information that a drug dealer attached to international drug cartel would arrived from Nepal and would be carrying a large quantity of a contraband substance. Acting on the tip-off, crime branch sleuths laid a trap near Bhandup on Thursday and apprehended Kushwaha as he arrived. He was produced before the court on Friday which remanded him police -Staff Reporter custody.

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), received a call from one Priva Mishra who claimed to be calling from PMMY department and claimed that they are offering loan between Rs 50,000 to Rs 20 lakh to women.

"She reminded me that in 2014 I had received Rs 2.5 lakh from PM Awas Yojana for rebuilding my house in my native place in Lanja in Ratnagiri district, and claimed that she was calling from the same department as she already had my details. I believed her to be genuine," said Jadhav.

official dupes man of ₹55K his son then decided to take the loan and paid Rs 1000 as

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A 47-year-old man became the latest victim of cyber fraud when a woman posing as an official of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) duped him of Rs 55,000. The victim, a resident of Saat Rasta (Jacob Circle) in Mumbai, came to know about his mistake only

when he contacted the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi who clarified that it's a fraud. On March 15, Pramod Jadhav, who works in

processing fee and sent a copy of his wife's Pan and Aadhaar cards to Mishra.

The next day Mishra called and asked Jadhav to pay Rs 18,150 for insurance and later charged him Rs 36,200 for approving the loan amount, after which she sent home loan approval letter

> in the name of Jadhav's wife. She then asked Jadhav to pay 6% GST of the total loan amount which amounts to Rs 1.2 lakh. It was then Jadhav told her that there is no need to pay

GST before and asked her to cut the GST amount from the loan itself. However, Mishra denied it, Jadhav asked her to return the money he paid so far, however, since then she stopped responding to him. Sensing something amiss, Jadhav wrote to Prime Minister's

Office. Last week they replied and clarified that it's a fraud. Jadhav then approached the Agripada police and lodged his complaint.

have registered an offence under various sections of IPC, said an officer from Agripada police station.

PCM is not must for engineering diploma admission

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Now, students do not need to pass physics, chemistry and mathematics (PCM) subjects in Class 12 board examinations in order to secure admission to engineering diploma courses for the academic year 2021-22, announced Uday Samant, higher and technical education minister of Maharashtra on Friday.

Samant said, "Students who have cleared any of the three subjects out of physics, mathematics, chemistry, computer science, electronics, information technology (IT), biology, informatics practice, biotechnology, technical vocational subject, agriculture, engineering graphics, business studies and entrepreneurship in Class 12 will be admitted directly to the second year engineering diploma courses." Earlier, it was mandatory for a student to pass Class 12 examination in one of the compulsory subjects physics, chemistry, mathematics or biology.

In addition, students will get a chance to pursue engineering in Marathi language. Samant said, "For the first time in Maharashtra, the option of learning engineering degree in Marathi language will be made available this year."

Nirav Modi's sister, brother-in-law seek recall of warrants court through their advocates. case. In her plea seeking tender

STAFF REPORTER / Mumbai

The sister and brother-in-law of fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi, accused in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) multicrore fraud case, have sought before a special court on Friday that warrants issued against them by the court in July 2018 be recalled. Purvi Modi and her husband Maiank Mehta, both also

accused in the case by the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) for

PNB CASE

The couple has sought relief in view of the order passed by the court in January this year, accepting their request to be made prosecution witnesses in the case

their alleged role in being party

crime, are also absconding. They

made the application for relief

before the special Prevention of

Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

to laundering the proceeds of

The couple has sought relief in view of the order passed by the court in January this year accepting their request to be made prosecution witnesses in the case. Earlier, they had made a similar plea for the cancellation of non-bailable warrants (NBW) issued by the court against them. In November last year, the couple had approached the court for tender of pardon and sought to be made approvers in the

Modi had said that on account of being Nirav's sister she is in a unique position to be able to provide important evidence, access to bank accounts, entities relevant to Nirav Modi and his dealings. She undertook to be examined as a witness. The court had allowed their pleas on 4 January on the condition that they make full disclosure of circumstances in their knowledge.

of pardon under the CrPC, Purvi

Jadhav who has also taken a loan from BMC for treatment of

"Following the complaint, we

epaper.freepressjournal.in

Jalna and Nanded," said

Chavan in a letter to Thackeray.

-Sanjay Jog

MUMBAI | SATURDAY | JUNE 19, 2021

Schools fear surge in cases of unpaid fees

A recent GR has allowed students to secure provisional admission to classes 9, 10 without LC or TC

RONALD RODRIGUES ronald.rodrigues@fpj.co.in

The state government and aided schools have raised the issue of clearance of pending fees, in response to a June 16 government resolution (GR) allowing students to secure provisional admission in classes 9 and 10 without a Leaving Certificate (LC) or Transfer Certificate (TC). Schools said LC or TC is an important document provided only when students clear all pending fees. They said admission without this document could lead to mounting debts for schools.

State School Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad said, "In the current unusual circumstances, it is learned that some schools are refusing admissions to students due to a lack of LC or TC." She said in the case of non-receipt of LC or TC from the previous school, students should be admitted in the class according to their age. "For this, the birth certificate of the student should be considered as proof," Gaikwad added.

A former principal and a senior teacher, Sandesh Manikar, however, said that last year many parents didn't pay the fees for their children studying in class 9, citing the pandemic-induced financial crisis. He remarked, "Now these parents might transfer their children to another school as they do not need LC or TC. Who will pay their fees then? How are schools supposed to recover the expenses?"

The principal of a school in Bandra (East) said they don't issue LC or TC unless parents have paid all pending fees. "Until now, the students were unable to secure admission in another school without this document. Now that these certificates are not required, parents might shift their children without clearing pending dues,' the principal said.

Gaikwad said, "Denying admission to any student is unjust and a violation of the Right to Education Act. If the student is deprived of education, appropriate action will be taken against the headmaster concerned or school head as per the provisions of the rules and regulations.'



Parents protest after students denied access to online classes

RONALD RODRIGUES ronald.rodrigues@fpj.co.in

Over 50 parents, on Thursday, staged a protest at the Indian Education Society (IES) School at Charkop, Kandivali (West). Around 50 students of Class 10 were unable to access online education due to the non-payment of last year's pending

in Class 10 said their children have been denied access to online classes since June 15. Uday Ahire, a parent of a Class 10 student said, "My son was denied access to online classes after the first lecture on Tuesday. The login ID and password was blocked. When we called up the concerned teachers, they told us that access has been denied due to non-payment of pending fees."

Ahire added, "Then, we approached the school on Thursday and questioned the principal. The principal verbally told us that ac-

cess was denied from the head office as fees of the last six months to one year were not paid. The principal assured us that online education would start if 40 per cent of the pending fees is paid immediately. Also, the principal asked us to give a post dated cheque and pay the remaining 60 per cent pending fees by September 30, 2021."

Rajneel Sonavane, an advocate Parents of the students studying supporting the parents, said, "We have written to the state School Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray regarding this issue. Parents are willing to pay the fees, but need some additional time due to the financial crisis on account of job losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We request the school to resume online classes for all students and grant additional time to the parents to pay pending fees."

Despite repeated attempts, the school principal was not available for comment.

ANTILLA BOMB SCARE AND MANSUKH HIRAN MURDER CASE

NIA looks for evidence dumped in Goregaon

It also seized a computer and printer belonging to Pradeep Sharma from his NGO office

SOMENDRA SHARMA somendra.sharma@fpi.co.in

National Investigation Agency (NIA) officials, on Friday, three accused to a dumping space near Goregaon, where the agency suspects important evidence was destroyed and dumped. The agency is probing the accused in the Antilla bomb scare and Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran murder

According to the agency sources, during the interrogation of the accused perinformation had cropped up that some evidence related to the cases were destroyed and dumped near Goregaon. Following this, the NIA team, on Thursday evening, took the three accused.

The agency, on Thursday, had also seized a computer and printer belonging to encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma from his NGO office for investigation. "Our inves-



tigations revealed that the accused persons, who were actively involved in murdering Hiran, had called up Sachin Vaze and Sharma. We are trying to get more technical and digital evidence to make our case stronger," said an agency source, who refused to divulge more about the search operation at Goregaon.

Sharma as well as co-accused Satish Mothkuri and Manish Soni were arrested by NIA on Thursday noon. All the three accused were produced before a special court, and were remanded to the agency's custody till June

NIA, during its investigation, had found that, on March 4, 2021, dismissed police officers Sachin Vaze and Sunil Mane had handed over Hiran to Mothkuri, Soni, and two previously arrested accused Santosh Shelar and

Anand Jadhav. The accused

allegedly had smothered him

inside a vehicle. The very

next day, Hiran's body was

found near Mumbra creek.

An explosives-laden SUV was found near Industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house near Carmichael Road on February 25. Hiran, a Thanebased businessman, had

claimed that he was in possession of the SUV, but the vehicle had been stolen before its recovery near Antilia, Ambani's multi-storey residence. Hiran's body was found in a creek in Mumbra on March 5.

Maharashtra ATS, which was earlier probing the murder of Hiran, had arrested bookie Naresh Gor and convicted police constable Vinayak Shinde in the murder case. Their custody was later handed over to NIA after the Hiran murder probe was taken over by the central agency.

NIA has, so far, arrested former police officers Sachin Vaze, Riyazuddin Kazi, Sunil Mane, former police constable Vinayak Shinde and cricket bookie Naresh Gour for their involvement in the case. Interestingly, Shinde, who has been arrested by the NIA in the present case, was also convicted in the Lakhanbhaiya fake counter case.

WATCH YOUR STEP



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Oshiwara, Lokhandwala Complex, Andheri West. Hidden from sight due to waterlogging with the slightest of showers, they pose a grave risk to pedestrians.



Open manholes have been lying unattended opposite the Marks & Spencer showroom at PHOTO: TAPAN BANERJEE

4 BMC wards still account for 30% of city's active cases

PRATIP ACHARYA pratip.acharya@fpj.co.in

Four BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) wards in the western suburbs have recorded a 60 per cent to 70 per cent drop in the number of COVID-19 active cases in the last one month. Even though their active case tally has fallen, these four wards continue to record higher fresh case figures than the other wards. As per the latest data, the wards --K West (Andheri (West) and Oshiwara), R Central (Borivali), K East (Andheri (East), Vile Parle (East) and Jogeshwari (East)) and R South (Kandivali)-- have 4,744 active cases, which is 31 per cent of the total active cases in Mumbai. In the past seven days, each of these wards recorded 45 to 70 new cases daily. While in the month of May they reported 160 to 250 new cases regularly. And, as on May 15, their combined cases was 12,668.

Civic officials said that, due to the high population density, these four wards continue to be on the top of the table for daily active cases. "If we look at the figures closely, we will see that each and every ward has recorded a drop in cases by 60 per cent to 70 per cent in the last one month. However, these four wards continue to record higher fresh cases than the other municipal wards," said the of-

"As per the trend of the spread in the second wave, municipal wards have a higher number of residents from high-rises," the official said. At present, KE, KW and RS wards have a growth rate of 0.10 per cent, while RC has a growth rate of 0.11 per cent, which is higher than the average growth rate of Mumbai. At present, Mumbai has a growth rate of 0.09 per cent.

City reports 762 new COVID-19 cases

MUMBAI: Mumbai, on Friday, reported 762 new COVID-19 cases, 684 recoveries and 19 deaths, the Public Health Department of BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) stated. With this, the cumulative case load and fatalities has jumped to 7,19,941 and 15,266, respectively.

The recovery rate in the maximum city has remained 95 per cent and the growth rate has declined to 0.09 per cent this week.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra reported 9,738 new COVID-19 cases and 198 deaths in the last 24 hours ending Friday, stated a bulletin released by the state

Health Department. During the same period, 14,347 patients recovered, pushing the recovery rate to 95.73 per cent. The cumulative recovery number has jumped to 56,99,983.

On Thursday, the state had recorded 9,830 cases and 236 deaths, slightly lower than the previous day when it reported 10,907 cases and 237 fatalities. The cases have been declining in the state since April 18, when the daily count had crossed the 68,000-mark.

The state reported the lowest death count in two months. Now, the case fatality rate stands at 1.96 per cent. Currently, 8,54,461 people are in home quarantine and 4,831 are in institutional quarantine, the bulletin said. -Staff Reporter

Truck caught red-handed dumping debris in Bhandup

Environmentalist waylays vehicle; BMC fines contractor Rs 20,000

future.

PRATIP ACHARYA

pratip.acharya@fpj.co.in

The Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday took action against a private contractor for dumping debris in the wetlands of Bhandup.

Environmentalist Stalin Dayanand on Thursday caught a truck while dumping solid waste in a nullah near Chamunda Nagar. The director of NGO Vanashakti, Stalin informed the police, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board office and the BMC. He said, "The truck driver fled the scene. However, he was later summoned at the local police station." Senior civic officials told Free Press Journal that the contractor has been fined Rs 20,000 and asked to clear the debris. A senior civic official said the BMC has also initiated legal proceedings against him.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have blamed the BMC for not being able to protect the creeks and wetlands of the city. Stalin said the salt pans of Bhandup have been witnessing illegal encroachments during the lockdown. He alleged that garbage dumping is a way to fill the wetlands and make

space for shanties in the near

Stalin said it's obvious that the truck had brought the debris from the eastern side of Bhandup to dump it on the western side. "This is an organised racket that has been operating for some years now," he alleged, adding that the BMC has maintained that it will not remove debris as the land belongs to the salt department.

Meanwhile, the green warrior had also written on this issue to the environment department of the BMC.

State Cyber Dept issues advisory on virtual kidnapping

STAFF REPORTER | Mumbai

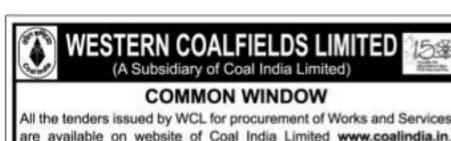
Maharashtra Cyber Department has issued a new advisorv on the variations they have come across in the modus operandi of virtual kidnapping. In its advisory, the police has not only made citizens aware of the changing modus operandi, but also the precautions they can take against potential cyber fraud. According to the advisory, virtual kidnapping takes on many forms. It is always an extortion scheme one that tricks the victim into paying a ransom to free a loved one they believe is being threatened with violence or death. Unlike traditional abductions, virtual kidnappers have not actually kidnapped anyone. Instead through deceptions and threats, they coerce the victims to pay a quick ransom before the scheme falls apart.

"We have seen a couple of variations in virtual kidnapping. In one scenario, the caller is far from the target and is working from the information gleaned from social media or is just fishing for a target. In the second scenario, the caller has done some homework, can physically see the target and may know that the loved one cannot be reached," it states.

Footfall at vax centres sees a slight dip more than 90 per cent of the cases are emerging from high-rises and all the affected **MUMBAI**: On Friday, a total of 61,710 beneficiaries took their COVID-19 dose.

378 active vaccination centres were operational on Friday, out of which 268 were civic, 20 were government and 90 private facilities. 40,307 beneficiaries belonged to the 18 to 44 age group, 13,230 beneficiaries were from the 45-59 age group and 7,599 beneficiaries were above 60 years of age. Alongside these, 192 healthcare workers (HCWs) and 342 frontline workers (FLWs) took their dose on Friday. The figures also include three beneficiaries who are heading abroad and 37 lactating mothers.

Senior officials said that now, on the days when walk-ins aren't allowed, there is usually a dip in the numbers. "Usually, on the first three days of the week, we receive a better footfall," a senior official said. -Staff Reporter



are available on website of Coal India Limited www.coalindia.in e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. Tendering Authority: General Manager (Civil), HoD, Coal Estate, Civil Lines Nagpur - 440 001

'Give a missed call on toll free number 18002003004 to get our apps'

KIRTI VYAS MURDER

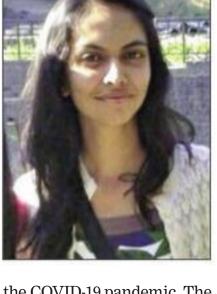
Both accused denied interim bail

STAFF REPORTER

A sessions court, on Wednesday, rejected the temporary bail applications of the two --Siddhesh accused Tamhankar and Khushi Sahjwani-- in the 2018 Kirti Vyas murder case.

The duo has been accused of killing Vyas, their colleague, who worked as a finance manager in B-Blunt Salon. The crime branch claims Tamhankar and Sahiwani had an affair and eliminated Vyas as she had served a notice to Tamhankar, terminating his services. The murder took place on March 16, 2018, the last day of service for Tamhankar.

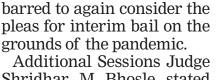
The two had sent their pleas to the court from jail on the grounds of the High Power Committee's (HPC) recommendations for the release of prisoners on temporary bail to decongest prisons during



the COVID-19 pandemic. The court, while deciding their pleas, said that it is worth noting that their pleas for bail on the merits of the case that, Sahjwani's pleas for interim

had been rejected earlier. It moreover, bail had also been rejected by the High Court in September last year. It considered that, in view of the guidelines of

the HPC in May 2021, it is not



Shridhar M Bhosle stated that it is settled that, as of right, the applicants are not entitled to interim bail and that the court can consider the merits of the case. The court said further that the consideration of material would prima facie indicate the involvement of the applicants on the basis of circumstances relied on by the prosecution.

"The deceased was working with the accused and she was murdered by them. Considering the gravity of the offence and now that the matter is for framing of charge, with further fact that all earlier applications for bail by the applicants were rejected by his court as well as the High Court, it is not proper to consider again the applications for interim bail," Judge Bhosle said in his order.

2 TV actresses arrested for theft in Aarey Colony

STAFF REPORTER | Mumbai

Aarey Police arrested two small-time television actresses for allegedly stealing Rs 3.28 lakh from a woman in Goregaon (East) on Thursday. They have been booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for theft. They were arrested after they had booked flight tickets to Delhi in a bid to escape.

According to the police, the accused duo, identified as Surabhi Shrivastav (25) and Mohsina Shaikh (19), have worked in several web series and crime shows. They were facing a financial crunch due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, following which they were unable to pay the apartment

When they went to the complainant's rented apartment in Aarey Colony on May 18, they were accommodated as



paying guests. At the same time, the duo stole Rs 3.28 lakh from the locker of a woman, who lived at the facility, said the police. When the complainant returned, she saw that the bag was missing, and approached the police.

Police lodged a complaint and then registered an FIR. During the probe, police scrutinised the CCTV camera footage and saw the accused women entering and leaving the premises in a rush after stealing the cash, the official said. The accused were placed under arrest for theft and Rs 50,000 cash was recovered from them, he said.





CLASS 12 ISC ASSESSMENT

Result to be based on classes 10, 11, 12 marks To take into account class 10 board results and best marks in classes 11, 12; result by July 31

RONALD RODRIGUES ronald.rodrigues@fpj.co.in

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has developed the assessment policy for class 12 Indian School Certificate (ISC) students. The examinations were cancelled this year due to the second devastating wave of Govid-19. The result will be declared by July 31, the GISCE told the Supreme Gourt on Thursday. Thursday.

Thursday.
Though affiliated schools have still not received an official circular, the policy has been submitted in the SC by the Council. It states that class 12 ISC students will be marked based on their performance in class 10 board exams. project 10 board exams, project and practical work in vari-ous subjects, along with best marks scored in classes 11 and 12.

The CISCE said, "For ramarks tionalisation of

We have not received any notification or circular yet from the CISCE explaining the assessment policy for class 12 students. We need to know the percentage breakup for calculating marks based on the performance of students in the past three years.

- PRINCIPAL OF A SOUTH MUMBAI SCHOOL

formance of the past six years will be taken into acawarded by individual schools, the historical per-

Though affiliated schools have still not received an official circular, the policy has been submitted in the Supreme Court by the Council.

count." The principal of a South Mumbai school said, "We have not received any notification or circular yet from the CISCE explaining the assessment policy for class 12 students. We need to know the percentage breakup for calculating marks based on the performance of students in the past three years."

On Thursday, the SC had approved the Central

approved the Central Board of Secondary Educa-tion's (CBSE) 30:30:40 per-Central centage breakup marking policy for class 12 students.

People's laxity may bring about third wave: Maha **Health minister**

MUMBAI: A possible third wave of the coronavirus infection could take place if people do not follow outbreak norms like maintaining hygiene and wearing masks, Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope said on Friday.

The minister also said there may be as many as 5,000 unreported COVID-19 deaths in the state, and these would be reconciled with the overall tally after all information about them is verified.

He told a regional news channel that it was not the crowd on the street that could trigger off a COVID-19 third wave, but "people not wearing masks and not following hygiene".

"Nobody can exactly predict a third wave. But by wearing masks and maintaining appropriate behavior, we can postpone its arrival and keep the impact to a minimum," Tope said. -AGENCIES

Realtors welcome Mumbai Mayor's decision on no hike in property tax

Developers believe it will protect homebuyers interest amid the pandemic

SWEETY ADIMULAM sweety.adimulam@fpj.co.in

The Real estate sector has welcomed Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar's statement that there will be no hike in property tax in Mumbai till Covid-19 situation continues. The developers believe that this will largely protect the interest of homebuyers especially in this pandemic.

Deepak Goradia, president, CREDAI MCHI said, "The move to not increase the property tax in Mumbai during such a difficult time bodes well for all stakeholders specially home owners. The second wave of the pandemic has not only disrupted construction activities but it has also hampered housing demand and this decision will help to neutralize, if not improve the sentiments of homebuy-

offered by the government such as the stamp duty rebate have been extremely successful in stimulating the demand for real estate. A similar measure will augur well for the overall revival and growth of the in-

Goradia asserted. Manju Yagnik, Vice Chairperson, Nahar Group and Senior Vice President, NAREDCO Maharashtra stated that once again the

dustry and the economy,

government of Maharashtra has come to the relief of the Mumbaikars. First it was a reduction in stamp duty and now its decision not to increase property tax is indeed very supportive. "We understand that the revision of property tax was due, however, considering the present crisis of pandemic and lockdown, postponing the increase in the property tax is a big relief to all the Mumbaikars," she

54-year-old man held for stealing wife's valuables worth ₹52 lakh

STAFF REPORTER

The Shahu Nagar police has arrested a 54-year-old man for allegedly stealing his wife's jewellery and cash worth ₹52 lakh. The accused identified as Idris Mohammad Shaikh has been arrested from Jhansi and police have recovered all the booty. According to the police, the Mariyam complainant Shaikh, 47, a resident of Matunga Labour Camp wanted to start a business which she withdrawn ₹52 lakh from her bank account and kept at her house. Mariyam had sold her shop in Kalyan for the same. She removed cash from her bank account last week and kept in the house as she was planning to buy a property. The incident occurred on June 11, when she went to attend the marriage of her sister's son in Dharavi area. Her husband Idrish Shaikh,

took the cash and gold ornaments from house and fled to his native place in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. When the complainant returned from the marriage she found cash and gold ornaments were missing. She approached the Shahu Na-

gar police station and regis-

tered a case for breach of trust against her husband. During inquiry police found that Shaikh has switched off his mobile number and was using another SIM card. Police questioned people and found Shaikh's current mobile number and after tracing his mobile location a police team

to Uttar Pradesh. The police managed to nab Shaikh with the help of local police station in Jhansi and he was brought to Mumbai and arrested in the case.

was immediately dispatched

Now check Covid test reports online NMMC provides link to Covid report on its website and sends links to registered numbers through SMS

AMIT SRIVASTAVA amit.srivastava@fpj.co.in

In an important development, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has made available COVID-19 tests report online. Now citizens who have undergone COVID-19 tests can check their report by clicking a link, available at NMMC's official website. The civic body also sends links to registered mobile numbers through SMS where citizens can also check the report.

If the citizen tests positive after the COVID test, the concerned person is immediately informed and the further process of isolation as well as contact tracing of the patient begins.

Earlier, when the report is



negative, the concerned person was not informed immediately. This caused mental anxiety of persons who took the tests. The municipal commissioner Abhijeet Bangar directed officials to take steps and make the report easily available to the citizens.

In this connection, a spe-

cial facility has been set up on the website of NMMC www.nmmccovidcare.com. "Citizens can also take the printout of their report," said a senior civic official

Apart from this, while conducting the COVID test, the citizens receive SMS mes-

from NMMC.

Looking at the mental anxiety caused due to delay in getting the reports, NMMC chief **Abhijeet Bangar directed** officials to take steps and make the report easily available to citizens.

sages on the registered mobiles. However, citizens can get the SMS again by clicking on the link sent on their mobile number.

The report of any person who has undergone antigen or RT-PCR test at the Covid Testing Center at municipal hospitals, civic health centers as well as APMC Market, Railway Stations will be available online.

54% work completed on Metro Line-3 longest station 'BKC'

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In a latest development, the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) station on Metro Line 3 (Colaba-Bandra--SEEPZ) has marked an overall progress of 54 per cent so far, according to the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), the implementing authority. The BKC metro station is longest station on Metro Line 3.

At the BKC station there are total three tunnels which will be passing under the Mithi River. Currently, the work on 153 meter long third tunnel which is being constructed by using New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) technology is under progress. Overall, 77 per cent of the NATM tunnelling at BKC has been completed so far. While the other two tunnels between BKC to Dharavi have already been completed in August 2020 using tunnel boring machine (TBM), according to MMRC officials.

The NATM made tunnel will be used as stabling line to facilitate quicker train operations during peak hours. This will also



work as sick lines to park a disabled train (if required), MMRC stated.

Unlike other stations on Metro Line 3 the BKC station will have three lines instead of two. It will also have two island platforms, to provide easy interchange from trains terminating at BKC. The station will have stabling lines and a seamless interchange with Metro Line 2B (Dahisar to DN Nagar Andheri) where commuters would not need to get out of stations of either Metro to change, reportedly.

Interestingly, the BKC Metro station has been planned as a crucial station and is expected to cater to the highest density along Metro Line 3.

Part of vacant building collapses Villagers beat up MMRDA officials Months after rape at Covid unit, in Thane; TMC shifts residents of 6 adjoining structures to school

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After a part of a dilapidated ground plus four storeyed building collapsed in Wagle estate of Thane on Monday morning. The Thane Municipal Corporation authorities taking safety and precautionary measures temporarily vacated residents of six adjoining buildings and shifted them to a nearby school.

According to the Regional disaster management cell of Thane, on Friday at 5:20am some parts of the first floor fell down in Shiv Bhavan building. The ground plus four storey building is a 30 year old structure near Shivaji Nagar, D'souza Wadi, Wagle estate, Thane. "The building was declared dangerous last year and needed repair work. So last year itself we vacated all the residents from the building and shifted them to rental flats as a precautionary measure. The residents were asked to car-



ry out the repair work. But they didn't carry out any repair work in the past one year resulting in the part falling down. As the building was vacated last year, no one was present to be injured," said Ashok Burpulle, deputy municipal commissioner, encroachment, TMC.

The authorities vacated 6 ground plus four storey buildings with 174 flats and more than 500 residents. All the buildings were vacated by the concerned assistant municipal commissioner of

THANE: An irate mob of villagers manhandled and beat up officials of the Mumbai Metropolitan Development Authority (MM-RDA) who had gone to Kasheli and Kalher villages in Thane district to demolish illegal buildings, police

said on Friday. The incident took place on Thursday when at least 25 people, led by Devanand Thale, deputy chief of the Shiv Sena's Thane district rural unit, attacked officials who had come to the village in Bhiwandi taluka with

bulldozers, an official said. The MMRDA has been tearing down illegal structures



in and around Bhiwandi since the last two weeks as per the direction of the Bombay High Court, it was stated. A video of the incident,

which went viral on social media, shows the mob beating up MMRDA officials, even as police personnel tried to intervene and protect them.

Villagers have alleged that the MMRDA was not follow-

ing proper procedure while taking action against illegal buildings.

Meanwhile, deputy commissioner of police (Bhiwandi zone) Yogesh Chavan said MMRDA officials are required to give seven days' notice before taking such actions, and the matter would be brought to the notice of senior officials he said.

The Narpoli police have registered an offence under relevant sections of the IPC and Maharashtra Police Act, against people involved in the attack, while no arrests have been made so far, senior inspector Maloji Shinde said. -AGENCIES

guards.

From being caught taking

over action against illegal buildings MBMC finally hires MSF guards

250 highly trained MSF guards roped in to replace private security guards in first phase

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Nearly nine months after the outrageous incident in which a private guard raped a woman at a quarantine unit in Bhayandar, the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) has finally taken a bold move by roping in the Maharashtra Security Force (MSF) to hire 250

Despite being obliged to hire fully-trained and background verified guards from the Maharashtra State Security Corporation (MSSC) run-MSF, the civic administration had been showing generosity by offering contracts and illegal extensions to a private security agency for the past 12 years.

bribes to abusing hawkers the bouncers have repeatedly been in the news -- mostly for wrong reasons. However, the heinous offence like rape at the quarantine unit in September-2020, had triggered public outrage in the twin-city, but the action was limited to a cosmetic show cause notice to the agency.

Realizing the need of a well-trained force to provide security and protection to its properties, civic chief-Dilip Dhole initiated a process to hire MSF guards. "Currently we have hired 250 guards who are not only selected by the MSF after a rigorous training imparted by serving IPS officers, but they also have limited policing powers. We will add more MSF guards in coming months.' said Dhole.

Trained by auto-driver, karate champ bags spot in India Book of Records

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A 19-year-old youth from Bhayandar has bagged a place in prestigious India Book of Records (IBR) for achieving a maximum number of certificates with medals in international, national, state, divisional district level Karate tournaments organized by various federations.

In an admirable show of community spirit, Kadam who himself is a Third Dan Black Belt, has been training civic school children to pursue their passion for Karate, for the past seven years, and that too, without charging a single penny.

"I love Karate. Sadly, it's still not an Olympic sport. Since it's my dream to win an



Vinod Kadam

Olympic medal for my country, I will remain indebted to Vinod Sir for selflessly training students like me who belong to humble backgrounds, hardly having any resources to enroll themselves for the expensive training sessions.' said Karan. The younger of two sib-

lings. Karan's father makes parts of mixers. "We are very proud of Karan's achievement and thankful to Vinod Sir who despite all odds has been striving hard to train the municipal school students," said local municipal corporator Prabhat Tai Patil.

Vinod Kadam strongly believes that there is no lack of Karate talent in the twin city and the priority for sports administrators should be to tap them at a right age. Apart from other successes, students trained by Kadam have already made the twin-city proud by bagging medals in various national level tournaments in Tang Soo and other forms of martial arts.



Woman, paramour held for

A 22-year-old woman along

with her boyfriend and one more person was arrested for allegedly killing her husband, a 30-year-old man in Dombivali. The Kalyan crime branch unit of Thane police arrested the three after investigations revealed that they had killed and dumped the man's body near Neral in Raigad district.

The police said the deceased was identified as Pravin Dhanraj Patil, a resident of Dombivali. On June 4, Patil's relative registered his missing complaint at Manpada police station in Dombivali. Accordingly, the Manpada police and Kalyan crime branch unit started

investigations to trace him. The crime branch sleuths carried out the call data record of the deceased's wife Laxmi and other relatives. The team found Laxmi was in frequent touch with Arvind alias Mari Ravindra Ram, 20, and Sunnykumar Ramanand Sagar, 19. "We called Laxmi for interrogation and questioned her whereabouts on June 1 and June 2, 2021. She claimed to be in Vajreshwari temple. As she gave a false state-



ment we then called up Arvind and Sunny for interrogation. During the investigation it came to light that Laxmi and Arvind were in an illicit relationship. Patil, being doubtful about laxmi's relationship, used to harass her," said a police officer.

The police said Laxmi was getting irritated with the regular taunts from husband. On June 2, she called Arvind and Sunny at her house. "The trio assaulted Pravin with hands and iron rod and later strangled him to death. They then took the dead body to Shelu village, in the jurisdiction of Neral police station and dumped it," said a police officer.

Sanju John, senior police inspector, Kalyan crime branch who detected the case along with his team said, "We have arrested the three on Thursday and after producing them in court they have been remanded in police custody till June 24."

CIDCO to auction 182 residential plots in 4 nodes **AMIT SRIVASTAVA**

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The City and Industrial De-Corporation velopment (CIDCO) has come up with 182 small and medium-size residential plots in four nodes in Navi Mumbai. The plots will be sold through eauction for which the details will be available by June 22. These plots range from 40 sgm to 300 sgm and they can be used for bungalows or row

houses. In the last few months, CID-CO has consistently made available plots to provide relief to the real estate sector and citizens, which received a good response. Now, CIDCO has brought 182 residential plots for sale in Ghansoli, Airoli, Kharghar, Kalamboli and New Panvel.

"CIDCO has undertaken various schemes to provide relief to the common people along with the real estate sector in the adverse situation of the pandemic. Through this scheme, CIDCO has once again provided a golden opportunity for common people to build their dream home, by providing plots at reasonable rates," said Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, vice chairman and managing director of CIDCO.

Man kills 13-yr-old niece over alleged affair with neighbour Shankar managed to run

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The Dombivli police have arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly killing his 13year-old niece. The police informed that the accused allegedly banged his niece's head on the door of a room.

According to police, the family resides in Dombivli east where Mahesh Sapliga stays with his wife Aarti, daughter Roshni, 14, and brother younger Mayuresh, 30, who is the accused. Shankar, 18, a neighbour, also used to stay with the family as he

was alone. According to police, when Mayuresh came back home on Thursday afternoon, he saw Shankar and Roshni sleeping together in the room through the window. Angry, Mayuresh attacked Shankar throwing a paver block on him, but he missed and

"Mayuresh later assaulted his niece too by banging her head on the door and window. After the intervention of Roshni's mother, he left her. Roshni started bleeding due to her head injuries. So she was shifted to hospital and after treatment was brought back home. She then slept to take a rest. At night, when her mother tried to wake her up she was not responding. Assuming she is unconscious, her parents again took her to hospital and she was declared dead by doctor," said a police officer.

Sachin Sandbhor, senior police inspector, Dombivli police station confirmed about a murder case been registered under section 302, 324, 323, 504 and 506 of the IPC. "We have arrested the accused Mayuresh and are further investigating the matter," said Sandbhor.

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Social stock exchange: Sebi extends deadline for public comments

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday extended the deadline till July 20 for submitting public comments on the suggestions made by the technical group on social stock exchange in the wake of ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Earlier, public comments were sought till June 20. "In view of the requests received from stakeholders seeking extension of timeline for submission of comments due to COVID-19 pandemic, it has been decided to extend the timeline for seeking public comments to July 20, 2021," Sebi said in a notice.

Morgan Stanley ups Brent, WTI price view for Jul-Dec by \$10 per barrel

Morgan Stanley has scaled up its estimate for global crude oil prices in the September and December quarters, it said in a release today. "OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) has substantial spare capacity, but with a receding risk of a sharp non-OPEC supply response, it may decide to unwind this only slowly. In that case, oil prices would need to rise to the level where demand destruction kicks in," the investment bank said.

CCI allows 2 entities to buy stake in Magma HDI General Insurance

The Competition Commission of India allowed India Advantage Fund S4 I and Dynamic India Fund S4 US I to pick up an effective combined stake of less than 25% in Magma HDI General Insurance Co Ltd through a special purpose vehicle, SPV-I. NHPEA Trisul Holding B.V would also buy an effective combined interest of less than 10% in Magma HDI General Insurance, according to a press release. NHPEA Trisul Holding B.V is an investment holding company, which belongs to a fund managed by Morgan Stanley's affiliate.

Apollo Tyres unveils new corporate identity, setting path for next 5 years

Apollo Tyres on Friday said it has unveiled a new corporate identity and vision, setting the path for the next five years. As part of 'Driving Progress, Together', the company is committed to bringing together a global community and fostering a diverse and inclusive culture, Apollo Tyres said in a statement. The new corporate entity encompasses both the Apollo and Vredestein brands.

Insuretech RenewBuy raises \$45 million in Series C funding

Insurtech company RenewBuy said it has raised USD 45 million (about Rs 320 crore) in a Series C funding round to scale up technology, add more products and expand the digital network. The funding round led by Apis Growth Fund II, a private equity fund managed by Apis Partners LLP - a UKbased asset manager that supports growth-stage financial services and financial technology businesses, it said.

IBM ties up with 30 organisatons to connect people with opportunities

Tech giant IBM has partnered with 30 global organisations, including 11 from India that will contribute to the company's goal of training 500,000 people by the end of the year through its SkillsBuild programme. The partnership includes governments, community colleges, non-profits, and employment agencies that are focused on improving underserved populations' skills and employability.

India Pesticides' Rs 800 crore IPO price band set at Rs 290-296/share

Agrochemical company India Pesticides said it has fixed a price band of Rs 290-296 a share for its Rs 800-crore initial share sale. The three-day initial public offer (IPO) will open on June 23 and conclude on June 25. The bidding for anchor investors will open on June 22, according to the company.

Tata's healthcare arm, CSIR tie up for Covid testing in smaller towns

Tata Group's healthcare arm on Friday announced a tie-up with Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research for COVID-19 testing in smaller cities and rural areas. Tata MD, the newly formed venture of Tata Group, and the apex scientific research organisation will ramp up the COVID-19 testing capacity across Tier II and III towns as well as rural areas across India, an official statement said.

Tata Motors, Tata Power inaugurate India's largest solar carport in Pune

Tata Motors and Tata Power on Friday jointly inaugurated India's largest grid-synchronised, behind-the-metre solar carport at the Tata Motors car plant at Chikhali here. The 6.2 megawatt peak (MWp) solar carport deployed by Tata Power will generate 86.4 lakh kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity per year and is estimated to reduce 7,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually and 1.6 lakh tonnes over its lifecycle.

After RJio, Bharti Airtel rolls out prepaid plan with 60-day validity

After Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd launched a new prepaid tariff plan, Bharti Airtel Ltd followed suit and rolled out a plan for 456 rupees with validity of 60 days and no restriction on daily data. The telecom provider usually launches plans with validities in multiples of 28 days. The new plan offers 50 GB of data for 60 days, free unlimited voice calls and 100 free SMS per day. The plan also includes a 30-day trial for the mobile edition of Amazon Prime Video and a cashback of 100 rupees on FASTag.

Revolt Motors closes new e-bike bookings in less than 2 hours

RattanIndia Enterprises, which recently acquired a stake in homegrown electric two-wheeler manufacturer, Revolt Motors, on Friday said that it had received electrifying response on the reopening of bookings of RV400 electric bike. The company, RattanIndia-Revolt, had to shut down the bookings of th electric motorcycle in less than two hours of them going live on their website www.revoltmotors.com.

NBFCs' collections to improve as lockdowns ease: Emkay Global

Non-banking finance companies are likely to witness a rise in collections and recoveries across portfolios and geographies on gradual easing of lockdowns, Emkay Global Financial Services said. This is mainly because the severity of the lockdowns was relatively mild compared with last year and most businesses were partly functional, witnessing only restrictions on movement of goods and services, it said.

S&P Global revises ICICI Bank outlook to stable from negative

S&P Global Ratings on Friday revised its rating outlook on ICICI Bank Ltd to stable from negative. It affirmed BBB-minus long-term and A-3 short-term issuer credit ratings on the bank. It also affirmed BBB-minus long-term issue rating on ICICI Bank's senior notes. "We revised the rating outlook to reflect our view that ICICI Bank will maintain its strong capital position over the next 24 months," said S&P.

ShareChat earmarks \$19 million for employee stock options buyback

Mohalla Tech, which operates social media app ShareChat and short video app Moj, on Friday announced its maiden ESOP buyback program worth USD 19.1 million (about Rs 140 crore). The company had recently raised over USD 500 million, taking its valuation to USD 2.1 billion. "Nearly 200 existing and former employees with vested options are eligible to participate in this process," a statement said.

Retail inflation for farm, rural workers up in May

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers rose to 2.94 per cent and 3.12 per cent, respectively, in May as certain food items turned costlier. The inflation rates in April had stood at 2.66 per cent and 2.94 per cent, respectively. "Point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers) stood at 2.94 per cent and 3.12 per cent in May 2021," the labour ministry said in a statement.

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PMC Bank set to turn small finance bank under Centrum

Reserve Bank allows Centrum Financial Services to set up small finance bank

AGENCIES Mumbai

Paving the way for takeover of crisisridden Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC), the Reserve Bank of India on Friday granted in-principle approval to the Centrum Financial Services to set up a small finance bank. Centrum Financial Services was one of the applicants for takeover of the PMC Bank.

"This 'in-principle' approval has been accorded in specific pursuance to the Centrum Financial Services Limited's offer dated February 1, 2021, in response to the expression of interest notification (November 3, 2020) published by the PMC Bank Ltd," the RBI said in a statement.

The RBI said that it has granted 'inprinciple' approval to Centrum Financial Services to set up a small finance bank under the general 'Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance



Banks in the Private Sector'.

The PMC Bank had invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible investors for investment/ equity participation for its reconstruction and had received four proposals.

In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC and placed it

under regulatory restrictions, including cap on withdrawals by its customers, after detection of certain financial irregularities, hiding and misreporting of loans given to real estate developer HDIL. The restrictions have been extended several time since then.

PMC's exposure to HDIL was over Rs 6,500 crore or 73 per cent of its total loan book size of Rs 8,880 crore as of September 19, 2019.

Initially, the RBI had allowed depositors to withdraw Rs 1,000 which was later raised to Rs 1 lakh per account to mitigate their difficulties. In June 2020, the RBI had extended the regulatory restrictions on the cooperative bank by another six months till December 22, 2020.

As of March 31, 2020, PMC Bank's total deposits stood at Rs 10,727.12 crore and total advances at Rs 4,472.78 crore. Gross non-performance assets of the bank stood at Rs 3,518.89 crore at end-March, 2020.

Customers fear delays, Page 9

Gautam Adani loses \$12 bn, Asia's second richest tag in 4 days

AGENCIES New Delhi

Suffering a rout in the stock markets this week, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has lost the coveted tag of being Asias second richest billionaire.

Adani has lost over \$12 billion in just four days after concerns over FPI owner-

Adani's net worth has come down to \$62.7 billion from \$74.9 billion at the beginning of this week, according to Forbes Real Time Billionaires index. Chinese pharmaceutical

magnet Zhong Shanshan has reclaimed his position of Asia's second richest man after Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani. Shanshan's wealth stood at

\$68.9 billion while Ambani's was at \$85.6 billion in the



rich list.

Shares of Adani Enterprises, Adani Power, Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission, Adani Ports and Adani Green Energy started falling on Monday after reports on FPI ownership.

Adani's lost almost \$12 billion in four days, according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires list, which tracks the wealth of the world's richest people. At the beginning of the week, Adani's net worth was just above \$77 billion.

Zara India posts loss of Rs 41 crore in FY21

NEW DELHI: Spain's Inditex, which owns luxury fashion brand Zara, posted a loss of Rs 41 crore in India for the financial year ended March 31, 2021.

Its revenue also declined by 28.3 per cent to Rs 1,126 crore during the pandemichit 2020-21.

The company had reported a profit after tax of Rs 104.05 crore and a revenue of Rs 1,570.54 crore in the financial year 2019-20.

Zara operates in India through the association of its parent Spanish clothing company Inditex with the Tata group firm Trent Ltd -Inditex Trent Retail India Private Limited (ITRIPL). The Inditex group of Spain owns 51 per cent while Trent has 49 per cent.

"During the year under review, the Zara entity



recorded revenues of Rs 1,126 crore and loss after tax of Rs 41 crore," said the latest annual report of the Tata group firm Trent Ltd.

Zara is presently operating 21 stores in India, in 11 cities. "The incremental store openings for Zara continue to be calibrated with focus on presence only in very high-quality retail spaces," it said.

Trent has two associations with Inditex -- one to operate Zara stores and the other for Massimo Dutti stores in India.

MPC may take policy action if inflation expectations rise In a move away from usual

AGENCIES Mumbai

Members of the Monetary Policy Committee have warned that policy action may be needed should inflation expectations settle in at elevated levels.

"In my view, clear signs of generalisation in CPI inflation setting in could be a tipping point where growth-inflation dynamics could alter. Also, with a further rise in elevated inflation expectations, policy may need to respond if these expectations are becoming unhinged," Reserve Bank of India Executive Director Mridul Saggar said at the committee's Jun 2-4 meeting, according to minutes of the meeting.

Saggar added that if not for the current extraordi-



nary circumstances, the committee would have shifted its stance to neutral from accommodative "long back". Saggar's views were echoed

external member Jayanth Varma, who said the committee must be sensitive to the risk that inflation expectations could become entrenched if inflation remains elevated for too long.

The sharp views of committee members on inflation expectations are in stark contrast to the statement issued earlier this month.

practice, the Jun 4 statement did not even mention the findings of the RBI's latest Households' Inflation Expectations Survey. However, the survey was

vealing that the median inflation perception had shot up by 150 basis points from March to 10.2%. Further, three-month and one-year-ahead inflation expectations were both up 70

released later that day re-

and 10.9%, respectively. High inflation has forced the committee to stand pat on rates since May last year, even in the face of a massive economic contraction.

bps from March at 10.8%

At 4.00%, the reporate is at an all-time low, with most economists seeing the policy rate being hiked as early as in the first half of 2022.

Quality of central govt's spend

HDFC Bank's refund of GPS commission to cost Rs 40 cr

NEW DELHI: HDFC Bank will absorb a cost of around 400 mln rupees to refund the commissions it had charged automobile customers bundling Global Positioning System devices with vehicles financed between 2013-2014 (Apr-Mar) and 2019-20, according to a person close to the developments.

The total impact on the bank related to this issue is expected to be 500 mln rupees. The additional 100 mln rupees is the penalty imposed on the bank by the Reserve Bank of India on May 28 for violating norms pertaining to automobile loans "based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance".

Cement cos to boost capacity as demand seen recovering

NEWDELHI: At a time when financing costs are quite low, Indian cement producers are planning to add capacity in anticipation of strong demand recovery with fall in Covid cases and hopes of robust growth in the coming four-five years, said analysts. Market participants be-

lieve that the government's focus on infrastructure, gradual recovery in housing segment and pick up in spending by corporates will bolster demand for cement in the next few years. In their post-earnings con-

ference call, managements of various cement companies guided for expanding capacities collectively to 52 mtpa over the next three years, said brokerage house JM Financial Institutional Securities.

"Large cement firms such as ACC, Ambuia Cement, Shree Cement, Ultratech Cement, Dalmia Bharat and Ramco Cements will contribute about 60% to the capacity additions of the sector over the next three years," an analyst from Emkay Global Financial Services said.

Prices of pulses stable, showing declining trend

New Delhi

Prices of pulses, primarily tur, moong dal and urad, have stabilised and are showing a declining trend in domestic markets, the government said in a release.

The average increase of the three varieties of pulses during Apr 1-Jun 16 compared to Jan 1-Mar 31 has been 0.95%, much lower than 8.93% witnessed in the corresponding period last

year, the release said. Central and state govern-

ments are coordinating action to provide pulses to consumers at fair and reasonable levels, it said. According to data released last week, wholesale inflation for pulses rose to

in April. March had seen Wholesale Price Index inflation for pulses jump to 13.14%. The movement has been similar in retail prices as

12.09% in May from 10.74%

deteriorated in last 10 years: RBI New Delhi

The last decade has seen a sharp deterioration in the quality of the expenditure made by the central government, according to a paper by the Reserve Bank of India staff.

An analysis of six indicators of central and state government finances showed that while the quality of the former's expenditure improved in highgrowth years, following the passage of the Fiscal Re-



sponsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, global financial crisis worsened expenditure quality, which has only continued

Expenditure quality has deteriorated at the state level too from the pre-global financial crisis period, although not to the same extent as is the case for the Centre.

"It is noteworthy that fiscal rules, when they were conceived, had embedded features focusing on the quality of expenditure--for instance, the FRBM Act, 2003 sought to build in quality in the form of the prescription of a zero revenue deficit," said an RBI staff paper titled 'Fiscal Framework and Quality of Expenditure in India', released Wednesday.

NSEL: Comm brokerage directors summoned by EOW

NEW DELHI: Stepping up its probe in the NSEL case, the Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai Police has served summons to directors of nearly 100 commodity brokerage firms, including some marquee names, who are alleged to have indulged in large-scale irregularities and suspected forgery with their trading clients, officials said on Fri-

day.

These notices, asking the directors of these brokerage firms with estimated outstanding receivables of over Rs 4,200 crore in the case, are being served since the beginning of the year and have continued till this month, the officials added.

They have been asked to personally depose before the EOW with information on trade modification details of all their clients, broker and

DIGI



client ledger accounts, client settlement account details, banking details, brokerage earned, client PAN and KYC, visits to warehouses and a host of other functional details. The brokers have been

denying any wrongdoing on their part and have instead put the blame for the NSEL payment crisis on the exchange and its erstwhile promoters.

The long-running EOW investigation covers "NSEL, its directors, FTIL (now, 63 Moons Technologies), its directors, borrowers, brokers and others for committing several acts of forgery and criminal breach of trust pursuant to a criminal conspiracy hatched by them". Those served with the

summons include directors

of Motilal Oswal Commodi-

ties Brokers Pvt Ltd, Anand Rathi Commodities, Systematix **Commodities**.

Way2Wealth Commodities, **India Infoline Commodities** and Progressive Comtrade.

Jio adds over 79 lakh mobile subscribers in March, Bharti 40 lakh, Voda Idea 10 lakh

NEW DELHI: India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio gained over 79 lakh mobile users in March, comfortably surpassing the combined net adds by rivals Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea during the month, according to data released by TRAI on Friday.

Bharti Airtel added 40.5 lakh wireless users, and interestingly Vodafone Idea gained 10.8 lakh customers during March (compared to the previous month). Reliance Jio added a staggering 79.18 lakh

tomers base to about 42.29 crore. Jio had topped net additions in February also -- the Mukesh Ambani-led company had added over 42 lakh users at that time.

wireless subscribers in March, taking its cus-

According to March data released by TRAI on Friday, Airtel's user base swelled to 35.23 crore as on March 2021. Vodafone Idea added 10.8 lakh subscribers in March, as its customer base jumped to 28.37 crore.

The monthly subscriber data by Telecom

Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) showed

that the total number of telephone subscribers in India increased to 120.1 crore at the end of March 2021, a monthly growth rate of 1.12%. "The monthly growth rates of urban and ru-

Total subscribers of Reliance Jio

ral telephone subscription were 0.92% and 1.37%, respectively during the month of March 2021," TRAI said.

The total wireless subscribers increased to 118 crore at the end of March, logging monthly growth rate of 1.13%. Wireless subscription in urban areas increased to 64.5 crore at the end of March and that in rural areas rose to 53.5 crore during the same period.

"Monthly growth rates of urban and rural wireless subscription were 0.93% and 1.38% respectively," TRAI said. The private operators held 89.6% market

share of the wireless subscribers on March 31, 2021, while state-owned BSNL and MTNL had 10.32% share.

"As per the reports received from 421 operators in the month of March 2021, the number of broadband subscribers increased from 765.09 million (76.5 crore) at the end of February 2021 to 778.09 million (77.8 crore) at the end of March 2021 with a monthly growth rate of 1.70%," the telecom regulator said.

The top five service providers constituted 98.82% market share of the total broadband subscribers.

'Capital infusion to boost PNB Housing's equity buffers' NEW DELHI: The proposed capital infusion led

by Carlyle Group into PNB Housing Finance Ltd will strengthen its equity buffers to absorb any asset-side stress, while providing capital for growth, India Ratings said.

On May 31, PNB Housing Finance announced a capital infusion plan of 40 bln rupees through preferential issue of equity and warrants, which would increase its net worth

by almost 50% to over 120 bln rupees. It would be led by the Carlyle group, which will hold 32.2% stake in the housing finance company, making it the largest shareholder.

The other players infusing equity would be General Atlantic Singapore at 3.9 bln rupees, and Alpha investments at 4 bln rupees. Besides Carlyle, Salisbury Investments Pvt Ltd, the family investment vehicle of former HDFC Bank chief Aditya Puri, will invest 250 mln rupees in the housing financier.

This transaction triggers an open offer by the Carlyle group for purchase of shares from public shareholders.

MONEY

NEWS IN BRIEF

RBI has taken steps to smoothen impact of Covid wave: Deputy Guv Jain Asserting that the second wave of COVID-19 has posed some challenges, RBI Deputy Governor M K Jain on Friday said both the central bank and the government have taken steps to mitigate its impact. He also said the domestic banking system is strong, as per the preliminary data for the quarter ended March 2021. "I am happy to inform that the banking sector was in strong position when COVID-19 hit...the preliminary data suggest that in terms of CRAR that has been improved upon, the profitability has been improved upon, he said.

Srei Equipment Fin gets Rs 2,200 cr investment interest from Makara Cap

Srei Equipment Finance said Singapore-based Makara Capital Partners has shown interest to invest up to Rs 2,200 crore by picking up equity and other securities in the company. The company, a fully-owned subsidiary of Srei Infra Finance, is looking to raise money, mainly after the coronavirus-induced economic downturn impacted its financials.

Forex reserves rise \$3.07 billion to record high of \$608.08 billion

The country's foreign exchange reserves surged by USD 3.074 billion to reach a record high of USD 608.081 billion in the week ended June 11, the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed on Friday. The reserves had increased by USD 6.842 billion to USD 605.008 billion in the previous week ended June 4, 2021.

WeWork India signs one-year pact with Tata Sky Broadband

Co-working major WeWork India on Friday said it has signed one-year deal with Tata Sky Broadband to provide desks on demand for 250 employees of internet service provider. Last year, WeWork launched its On-Demand Enterprise service where booking a space for a day was made possible across all its 35 centres in India at Rs 500 per day. WeWork India said in a statement that Tata Sky Broadband has signed a one-year deal for its On-Demand Enterprise service.

Wipro to roll out salary hikes for junior staff from September 1

IT services major Wipro on Friday said it will give wage hikes to junior employees with effect from September 1, 2021. "Wipro Limited will initiate merit salary increases (MSI) for all eligible employees up to Band B3 (Assistant Manager and below), effective September 1, 2021. In January 2021, the company had announced salary hikes for eligible employees in these bands, who form 80% of the company's workforce - this is the second hike in this calendar year," Wipro said.

Maruti cuts Eeco ambulance price by Rs 88,000 as govt reduces GST

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday said it has reduced prices of ambulance version of its van Eeco by Rs 88,000 to Rs 6,16,875 (ex-showroom Delhi), in line with the cut in the GST rate on such kind of vehicles. The GST rate on Eeco ambulance has come down to 12% from the earlier rate of 28%.

Dodla Dairy offer subscribed 46 times; sees strong QIB response

Dodla Dairy Ltd's initial public offering was subscribed 45.62 times on the third day, with the company receiving bids for over 388 mln shares compared to the 8.5 mln shares on offer. A strong interest from qualified institutional investors was seen on the final day, as their portion got subscribed 84.88 times. Similarly, the response from non-institutional investors was also strong as the portion got subscribed 73.26 times.

Sebi comes out with new guidelines on MF investment in interest rate swap

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday put in place fresh guidelines for participation of mutual fund schemes in interest rate swap, a derivative product. Mutual funds can enter into plain vanilla Interest Rate Swaps (IRS) for hedging purposes. The value of the notional principal in such cases must not exceed the value of respective existing assets being hedged by the scheme.

J&K Bank board okays raising up to Rs 150 cr via employee stock purchase

Jammu & Kashmir Bank on Friday said its board has approved the proposal to raise up to Rs 150 crore by allotting shares to employees. "The board of directors in its meeting on June 18, 2021, approved the issuance and allotment of up to 7.5 crore shares of face value of Re 1 each aggregating up to Rs 150 crore (including premium) in one or more tranches to eligible employees of the bank," J&K Bank said.

Adani Power emerges as successful bidder for Essar Power's Mahan proj

Adani Power has emerged as the successful bidder for Essar Power's 1,200 MW thermal power project in Mahan, Madhya Pradesh. The Adani Power bid for the project has been approved by a committee of creditors. Now, it will have to seek the NCLT approval to acquire the project, which is undergoing insolvency proceedings. EPMPL owns a 1,200 MW power plant in Singrauli district, MP, Adani Power said.

Hinduja Global Solutions Jan-Mar quarter net zooms to Rs 130 crore

Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS), the BPO arm of the diversified Hinduja Group, saw its consolidated net profit almost triple to Rs 130.3 crore in the March 2021 quarter. The company had registered a net profit of Rs 44.8 crore in January-March 2020, HGS said. HGS' revenue from operations grew 21.6 per cent to Rs 1,563.5 crore in the quarter under review, as against Rs 1,285.7 crore in the year-ago period..

Discretionary product demand hit, says HUL

AGENCIES Mumbai

Hindustan Unilever Ltd has seen a hit to demand for its discretionary products in the June quarter, as sales in the urban market and through the modern trade route were impacted because of localised lockdowns.

Demand was impacted from the second half of April till the end of May. The impact, though, was less than in the previous year, the company's management told Motilal Oswal Securities in an interac-

The management believes that the impact of the second wave of COVID-19 peaked out in May, and the outlook from June is positive. Its rural markets con-



tinue to perform better than urban ones, even after having seen a more severe impact of the second wave of COVID-19 compared to the first.

The fast moving consumer goods major has raised the prices of soaps, detergents, home products and tea in the June quarter, but sees operating margins remaining under pressure. The impact on discretionary demand, a rise in raw material costs, and elevated advertising spends would weigh on profitability, the management said.

Paytm to seek shareholders' nod to raise Rs 12,000 crore

COMPANY TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR DECLASSIFYING VIJAY SHEKHAR AS PROMOTER IN EGM IN JULY

INFORMIST New Delhi

Paytm will seek shareholders' nod next month to raise up to Rs 12,000 crore through issuance of fresh equity as the digital payments and financial services player prepares for an initial share sale.

The company will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on July 12 wherein it will also seek approval for declassifying Vijay Shekhar as a promoter.

Shekhar is the Founder and Managing Director of Paytm.

fresh issue aggregates up to Rs 12,000 notice. crores (fresh issue) with an option to

NEW DELHI: Batteries and

flashlights major Eveready

Industries India Ltd on Friday

reported a consolidated net loss

of Rs 442.53 crore in the fourth

guarter ended March 31, 2021,

exceptional adjustments towards

corporate deposits and write-offs.

provision for outstanding inter-

The company had posted a

63.07 crore in the same quarter

consolidated net profit of Rs

of the previous financial year,

Eveready Industries India said.

Consolidated revenue from

operations during the quarter

in the year-ago period. Total

expenses during the fourth

under review stood at Rs 272.63

crore as against Rs 224.08 crore

quarter stood at Rs 249.81 crore

as compared to Rs 219.81 crore

in the same period a year ago.

New Delhi

CA Rover Holdings on Fri-

day sold shares of SBI

Cards and Payment Servic-

es Ltd worth about Rs 4,811

crore through open market

transactions on BSE and

As per the BSE bulk deal

data, 1.05 crore scrips were

offloaded by Ca Rover Hold-

Polycab to

acquire Silvan

Innovation Labs

NEW DELHI: Polycab India

Limited (PIL) has signed an

agreement to acquire 100%

The cost of acquisition is

and around Rs 8 crore as

additional funds infusion to

discharge certain outstanding

liabilities, a PIL statement said.

Silvan, focused on providing

automation offerings for homes,

offices, banks, retail outlets and

wholly-owned subsidiary of PIL,

Silvans IoT-based automation

products and solutions portfolio

includes lighting management

system, room automation,

temperature control devices.

hotels, would operate as a

a manufacturer of wires and

cables, it said.

stake in Bengaluru-based Silvan

Innovation Labs Private Limited

around Rs 10.2 crore for shares

The total deal value stood

hit by higher expenses and



the Company to retain an over-subscription to the extent of 1 per cent of the net offer size," Paytm said in the EGM notice.

Paytm will seek approval for the ble law," the notice said. "...the consent and approval of the sale of equity shares by existing and shareholders of the Company be and eligible shareholders, who intimate is hereby accorded to create, issue, of their intention to the board, includfer and allot a such number of Equi- ing the issue and allotment of equity ty Shares, for cash such that the shares to the stabilising agent under amount being raised pursuant to the a greenshoe option, according to the

Paytm shareholders include Aliba-

ba's Ant Group (29.71 per cent), Softbank Vision Fund (19.63 per cent), Saif Partners (18.56 per cent), Vijay Shekhar Sharma (14.67 per cent). AGH Holding, T Rowe Price and Discovery Capital, Berkshire Hathaway hold less than a 10 per cent stake in the company.

"Resolved that the shareholders of the Company hereby take on record that Mr Vijay Shekhar Sharma shall henceforth not be identified as a 'promoter' of the Company for any purpose, regulatory, statutory, commercial or otherwise, under any applica-

The move follows a letter from Sharma to the board in which he stated that "the Founder does not exercise any control over the affairs of the Company and that the Board is not accustomed to act solely in accordance with any advice, directions or instructions given by him".

Eveready posts Q4 net loss of Air India puts realty assets across the country on sale Rs 442.53 crore

AGENCIES New Delhi

Air India has put several of its real estate properties across the country up for sale and has sought e-auction bids from interested parties.

The national carrier which is up for divestment. has invited bids through MSTC.

block include five units at Asian Games Village Complex in New Delhi, four units of 2BHK flats at Sohini Apartments, 18/2A-1 Udai Shankar Sarani, Golf Green in Kolkata.

The Mumbai properties up for sale include a resi-

CA Rover sells Rs 4,811 cr SBI Cards stake

at Rs 1,061.15 crore.

According to the NSE's

bulk deal data, the entity

sold over 3.74 crore shares

of the company, valuing the

New Delhi

Shareholders of two listed

companies of debt-ridden

Videocon group will receive

"nil" money at the time of

delisting as the liquidation

values of the two firms are

not even sufficient to cover

Videocon Industries Ltd

and Values Industries Ltd

will be delisted as part of

the resolution plan ap-

proved for the bankrupt-

There will be no offers to

any shareholders of the two

companies at the time of

delisting of their shares,

the firms said in a public

Under Sebi norms, a com-

outstanding debt.

Videocon group.

notice on Friday.

deal at Rs 3,749.81 crore.



The properties put on the dential plot with 14 flats of built-up area of around 2,030 square metre at Pali Hill, Bandra (W). The other property is a 3BHK flat and two units of 2BHK flats, Sachin D Strains, Gazdar

scheme, Santacruz (W). The 14 properties up for sale include assets in Nag-

Through a separate trans-

action, Morgan Stanley

Asia (Singapore) Pte-ODI

bought 54.09 lakh shares of

SBI Cards and Payment

Services at an average price

of Rs 1,002, taking the deal

Ca Rover Holdings is a

public shareholder of SBI

Cards, and held an 11.61 per

cent stake in the firm, ac-

cording to the shareholding

data for the March 2021

pany that wants to delist

from the bourses has to

make an offer to existing

shareholders, including

"As the liquidation value

of the company is not suffi-

cient to cover the debts of

the financial creditors of

the company in full, there-

fore the liquidation value of

the equity shareholders is

'nil' and therefore they

would not be entitled to re-

ceive any payment,"said

Values Industries Ltd.

public shareholders.

quarter.

Videocon shareholders to

get nothing on delisting

value to Rs 542.03 crore.

pur, Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru, Bhuj and Aurangabad.

The bid starts on July 8 and closes July 9 for all the properties.

The property in Bengaluru for which the national carrier has sought bids is a residential plot number 3, area 5,934 square metre, KHB Layout, Gangamuthanhalli Village, Devanhalli Taluk.

The airline which has been running in losses is already up for sale, however, the disinvestment process has been significantly delayed due to lack of interest among investors in the initial stage along with the impact of the pandemic.

Corp FY21

AGENCIES New Delhi

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd has posted total income of Rs 40,824 crore and profit after tax of Rs 12,036 crore on consolidated basis for the financial year ended March, 9 per cent.

On a standalone basis, the maharatna public sector undertaking under Ministry of Power achieved total income of Rs 40,527 crore and profit after tax of Rs 11,936 crore, marking a growth of 6 per cent and 10 per cent. Power Grid has been

identified among India's 100 Best Companies to Work For 2021 by the Great Place to Work Institute. It has been ranked 68 in the largest workplace culture study in the country. The company has proposed a final dividend of 30 per cent (Rs 3 per share on a face value of Rs 10 each) aggregating to 90 per cent (Rs 9 per share) already paid for the financial year 2020-21.

Power Grid net up 9% at Rs 12,036 cr

registering year-on-year growth of 6 per cent and

PMC customers see small finance bank plan as positive step, but fear delays

Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank's customers see the decision passed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to turn PMC bank into a small finance bank as a positive step. However, they still feel this could be another delay to revive the troubled bank.

JESCILIA KARAYAMPARAMBIL

Mumbai

A former banker and an affected PMC customer, TK Paul alleged, "This is nothing but another way to delay the whole process and denying customers their money. RBI has already delayed the process and now it is delaying it further."

Being a retired banker, he knows the banking process in and out, he claimed. "All depositors' money is held in the bank. And these funds are used to maintain the expenditure of a troubled bank at some point those funds will dry. So, time is of essence in this case." The bank registered a net loss of Rs 6,835 crore during 2019-20 and has a negative net worth of Rs 5,850.61 crore as of



March 31, 2020.

Reiterating Paul's words is Tanisha Jain, yet another PMC customer, "The takeover and SFBs were some of the early suggestions given to RBI. The question is why did the RBI take so long to act."

On September 23, 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of the bank and placed it under various regulatory restrictions after the detection of certain financial irregularities.

Jain, who feels the whole process has taken a toll in her life, said, "Over the last two years, many PMC customers have died. It was a sad state. It is de-

pressing to know the state of some PMC customers, who were struggling as their whole life savings were stuck."

Even though Jain is optimistic, she still has a doubt about this whole process. "I cannot believe the authorities anymore. I will only believe it when I get my money from the bank. Until that day I still believe the whole process is another delay."

An advocate and also a PMC customer, Pooja Mali stated, "Today's step may be in the right direction, but the process has already been delayed. However, the question now will be what is next. We do not know what are the terms at which the RBI is allowing this takeover."

Mali thinks unless the terms are not clear, it is still a black hole for customers. She added Rs 5 lakh (insured deposits) to depositors under the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961 is there. But what happens to depositors who have deposited more than that, she quizzed.

Centrum Financial Services was selected among more than three bidders.

Corp banks: A new dawn about to set in

tejimand

Stock Investing, Simplified

asset quality cycle ap-

It is also visible in

out.

pears to have bottomed

their solid earning per-

formance and strong as-

set quality. These banks

have also strengthened their balance sheets by

provisions and raising

the pandemic impact.

Corporate banks are

now well poised to drive

growth due to high em-

phasis on economic re-

covery post-pandemic.

prioritising the Capex

The government is also

intensive sectors like in-

frastructure and manu-

which augurs well for

facturing sectors

corporate banking

In the new decade,

large private banks will

continue to gain market

share as PSU banks will

fast move towards disin-

And private corporate

banks are looking at a

stocks.

vestment.

fresh capital to mitigate

making aggressive

BY TEJI MANDI

Private corporate banks are looking to chart new growth paths for themselves after a turbulent last decade. These asset quality concerns

banks have left the worst of behind them and are looking for growth as India goes into rebuilding mode in the postpandemic world.

Tn the past decade, the banking sector saw **L**rapid value migration in favour of private sector banks. The sector gained over PSU banks as loan market share rose to 36% in FY20 from 18% in FY10. Retail participation was crucial in this success story. Their share in credit expanded from 19% in FY10 to 26% in FY20.

Within the private banks, corporate-oriented banks struggled with a sharp deterioration in their asset quality. SBI, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank consumed 37-63% of the decade's cumulative PPOP in provisions on account of higher stress on their corporate book.

It was in sharp contrast for retail-oriented banks like HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, who consumed only 10-15% of their PPOP towards making provisions.

Corporate Banks at Inflection Point

HDFC and Kotak Mahindra Bank continued to expand their profitability and market cap over the last decade on a strong performance of its retail franchise. Corporate banks like SBI/ICICI/Axis Bank, on the other hand, lost out on that front.

However, the cycle is fast changing for corporate banks. The adverse corporate

clear growth runway ahead of them as the Indian economy picks up momentum.

> With the government promoting industries to fasten the recovery, the corporate cycle is also expected to turn. This is another inflec-

tion point where loan growth is likely to pick up for corporate banks after lying low for a decade. Credit growth decelerated from 22% in FY00-10 to 12% in FY10-

It was at ~8% YoY over the past five years, considering the heightened asset quality-related concern.

Teji Mandi (TM Investment Technologies Pvt. Ltd.) is a SEBI registered investment advisor. Information in this article should not be construed as investment advice. Please visitwww.tejimandi.com to know more.

MARKET WATCH

SENSEX 52344.45 +21.129 **NIFTY** 15683.40

Markets end mixed, realty stocks may gain traction

he benchmark Indices closed on a • flattish note with Sensex 0.04 percent and Nifty 50 (-) 0.05 percent. Major Indices declined more than 1 percent but later recovered from the intra-day low in today's session. It is a buy-on-dips kind of market so at the lower levels buying was seen that gave support to the market, said Mohit Nigam, Head-PMS, Hem Securities.

"Expect positive for real estate stocks as Mumbai's Mayor Kishori Pednekar on Friday (June 18) said that there will be no hike in property tax in Mumbai till the COVID-19 situation continues," he said. Adani Ports, Bajaj Auto and HUL were among the top gainers in Nifty 50 while ONGC, Coal India and JSW Steel were among the top losers in Nifty 50 today. Immediate support and resistance

are intact at 15,600 and 15,850 for Nifty 50. The benchmark index erased opening gains and crashed badly from the day high of 15756.50 levels, it made a low at 15451.50 levels after that index showed good recovery during the day and settled at 15724.95 levels with gains of 0.21percent while Bank Nifty ended at 34,558 with a loss of 47 points. All the Nifty indices were trading in red, led by the Nifty Metal & PSE indices.

Technically, the Nifty index has formed a Hammer candlestick pattern in the recent trade on the daily chart, which indicates a further upward move in the counter, said Sumeet Bagadia, Execu-

tive Director, Choice Broking. Moreover, the index has also tested good support at its prior level of 15431, which suggests immediate support for the near term. In addition, on an hourly chart, the index has turned upward from the oversold zones, which point out positive moves for the upcoming session. At present, nifty has an immediate support at 15,430 levels, whereas 15,900 may act as a resist-

ance zone. Shrikant Chouhan, Executive Vice President, Equity Technical Research at Kotak Securities, said, "Technically, post-strong uptrend rally, the Nifty/Sensex has formed Hammer candle stick pattern which clearly indicates indecisiveness between bulls and bears. However, the medium term texture of the benchmark indices is still bullish and likely to continue in the short run. We are of the view that post strong uptrend rally the market is hovering in the range of 15.450 to 15.900/ 51,900-52,850 levels. The texture of the chart suggests 15,400/51,800 should be the sacrosanct level for the bulls and as long as its trading above the same, uptrend is likely to continue up to 15,800- $15,900/\overline{5}2,600-\overline{5}2,850$ levels. Further upside may also continue which could lift the index till 16,050-

the flip side, below 15,400/51,800, uptrend would be vulnerable. On sector-specific front, capital goods, infrastructure, and telecom stocks are likely to outperform in the near future" he said.

16,130/53,100-53,300. On

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K'TAKA CAULDRON

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'SCAM' HITS BSY SON

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FAKE COVID TESTING SCAM

Not in my term: U'khand CM

Predecessor for judicial probe

bring out the truth and pun-

Meanwhile, his predecessor Trivendra Singh Rawat

has demanded an impartial

probe into the scam by a high

court judge, terming the

The Uttarakhand govern-

ment on Thursday had

lodged a case against a com-

pany and two private labs for

fudging coronavirus test re-

ports during the Kumbh

Mela in April. The firm, Max

Corporate Service, Nalwa

Laboratories Private Limited

of Hisar and Delhi-based Dr

accused of issuing fake nega-

tive test reports.

Lalchandani Lab have been

scam serious in nature.

ish the guilty.

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat *(pic)* has said the fake Covid testing scam during the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar dates back to before his term, while his predecessor Trivendra Singh Rawat demanded a judicial probe into it. Both remarks came on Thursday.

The decision to rope in private firms to conduct Covid tests during the Kumbh Mela was taken before he took over as Chief Minister, Tirath Singh Rawat said.

"The scam is old. I took over in March. However, a probe has already been ordered into it and stern action will be taken against those involved," he told reporters here on the sidelines of a programme on Thursday.

Tirath Singh Rawat became Chief Minister of the state on March 10 while the Kumbh Mela was held from April 1 to April 30.

However, he expressed the state government's resolve to

MAX CORPORATE SERVICES GOES TO COURT AGAINST FIR OVER FAKE COVID TESTS AT KUMBH

ax Corporate Services today moved the Uttarakhand High Court challenging an FIR filed against the firm for allegedly conducting nearly one lakh fake Covid tests during the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar. The company pleaded before the court in Nanital that it had no role to play in any fake Covid tests conducted during the religious congregation, the firm's counsel Kartikeya Hari Gupta said. In the petition to the court, the company said it was merely a service provider with no actual role in generating fake Covid test reports as it had only signed a contract with the ICMR-accredited laboratories - Nalwa Laboratories Private Limited and Dr Lal Chandani Labs Limited - to conduct the tests.

'Must vaccinate 90L daily to flatten Covid curve by July end'

The country's Covid curve **⊥** can be flattened by July end if the government is able to vaccinate a whopping 90lakh people a day, said a healthcare expert at a webinar. The Thursday webinar was hosted by MeraDoc, a personalized healthcare platform that connects highly experienced health practitioners with people.

"We invited the second wave and if we were to repeat the same, then God help us! With near double mortality versus the first, the second was a shocker." Dr Naresh Trehan, CMD, Medanta. **Biotech meets WHO on Wed** In a major boost for Bharat Biotech, the WHO has accepted its Expression of Interest for Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin and scheduled a presubmission meeting on June 23. Though the meeting will not be a detailed review on

the product, the manufacture

will get a chance to submit a

summary on overall quality

of the jab, as per the WHO.

Delhi braces to tackle possible third wave

L-G Anil Baijal and CM Arvind Kejriwal in a meeting on Friday discussed the roadmap and an action plan to tackle a possible third Covid wave in Delhi. A task force, more healthcare staff and a special task force for treatment or kids are part of the city government's action plan to deal with the third wave, the CMO tweeted. During the meeting, the L-G and the CM also discussed bed and oxygen management.

Disgruntled BJP legislator AH Vishwanath, who has been demanding Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa be replaced, on Friday alleged the Irrigation Dept has readied a Rs21,473 crore tender in a hurry and without financial approval, and dubbed it a "scam". He accused Yediyurappa's son and BJP state unit vice-president

BITTER TASTE OF SUCCESS?

'Most leaders who met Arun Singh feel leadership should be changed'

By MLC AH Vishwanath on Friday claimed that most party leaders, who met BJP general secretary Karnataka Arun Singh, feel that leadership in state should be changed otherwise the party shall neither survive nor come back to power. His remarks came two days after Arun Singh said there are no differences among party members and the Bharatiya Janata Party stands united amid speculations of leadership change in the state.

'SON STRUCK'

Speaking to agencies, Vishwanath alleged that Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's son Vijayendra seems to be involved in all the state departments and people are talking about his corruption. "I have already spoken to the

They (leaders who met Arun Singh) are not saying it openly. Yesterday more than 80% who met him said that leadership (in state) must be changed otherwise the party won't survive and we won't come back again (to power). Many leaders, even ministers, said this.

—AH VISHWANATH, BJP MLC

party in charge before on issues concerning the functioning of government, party, transparency and our responsibility towards people. There's corruption. His (CM) son, Vijayendra seems to be involved in all the state departments. The public is talking about the intervention and corruption of his son."

SPEED NEWS

U'khand Cop who fined MLA for violating lockdown shifted

▲ police sub-inspector posted in Uttarakh-Aand's Mussoorie was transferred days after he fined an MLA for allegedly violating Covid-19 guidelines, fuelling allegations he was penalised for acting against a sitting legislator. Last Sunday, a video clip surfaced on social media in which Roorkee MLA Pradeep Batra was seen throwing money at a police subinspector who had fined him and walking away. The MLA was stopped for not wearing a mask properly and roaming around with his family despite the lockdown enforced in Mussoorie. The sub-inspector, Neerak Kathait, was on Thursday transferred to Kalsi, around 40 km from Dehradun, Mussoorie Circle Officer Narendra Pant said.

C'garh: Woman Naxal killed; AK-47 rifle, 2 pistols seized

RAIPUR: A woman Naxal was killed in a gunbattle with security forces inside a forest in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh on Friday, a senior cops said. 3 weapons and a huge cache of Maoist camping material were recovered from the encounter site. The gunfight took place around 8am in the forest of Chandameta-Pyarbhat villages when joint teams of security forces were out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI. "After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a woman Naxal clad in 'uniform' along with 1 AK-47 rifle, 2 pistols and a huge amount of camping materials were recovered from the spot," he said.

Assam: Royal Bengal Tiger dies in 'accidental firing'

GUWAHATI: A Royal Bengal Tiger has died due to "accidental firing" by forest personnel on Friday in the fringe areas of the world famous Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP & TR) in eastern Assam, officials said. Director of the KNP & TR, Karmashree P Sivakumar said a carcass of the nearly 10-yearold male Royal Bengal Tiger was found near Japoripothar, Karuabari area (fringe area KNP & TR) by the forest personnel. "On inquiry, it is found the tiger died due to bullet wound suspected to be accidental firing while trying to scare away the tiger from the public area. We are further conducting a detailed inquiry into the incident," Sivakumar told IANS.

Kids live with father's corpse, go to neighbour for food

BAREILLY: Two children, aged 8 and 6 years, stayed in their house with their father's body for 2 days simply because they could not understand what had happened to him. On the third day, the children — a boy and a girl went to a neighbour's house asking for food and said they were hungry and their father "was not talking to them". Suspecting something amiss, the neighbours went into their home and found their father's body, hanging low from the ceiling. The neighbours informed the police which later said the deceased had most likely killed himself 3 days ago as his body had started decomposing. The wife of the deceased was living with her parents, following a tiff with her husband. The deceased, Manoj Dayal, 32, was working in Noida and had returned home after the lockdown was clamped.

Nandigram case deferred till Thursday

TMC demands change of Justice



ARITRA SINGHA / Kolkata

The Calcutta HC on Friday deferred the hearing in the matter of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee challenging Nandigram results, deferred to 24 June. The matter was mentioned by Banerjee's lawyer before the court of Justice Kaushik Chanda as per the list for hearing. On Thursday evening, Mamata had moved the court challenging the poll results of Nandigram in the recent Assembly poll.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday urged the Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Rajesh Bindal to transfer the hearing of her election petition regarding the result of the Nandigram constituency in the last Assembly election from the bench of Justice Kaushik Chanda claiming that he was an "active member" of the BJP.

Sharing a photo of Chanda with BJP state president Dilip Ghosh, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien stated the TMC wants to change the Justice as it fears the verdict will be biased. Stating that Chanda has no affiliation with the saffron camp, Ghosh said as a lawyer, he attended BJP's program, but as Judge he would not be partial. "The TMC has expressed its willingness to change the Justice. They want everything according to their own will. The Justice has nothing to do with BJP, as a lawyer he attended some of our programs. Saffron camp's lawyers are also seeing the recounting matter and the BJP can move the SC for recounting," stated Ghosh.

WEST BENGAL POST-POLL VIOLENCE SC CASE OFF TO JULY 1

NEW DELHI: A petition for a probe into the killing of two BJP workers on May 2 in the post-poll violence in West Bengal was adjourned to July 1 for hearing after the recusal of Justice Ms Indira Banerjee heading a 2-judge vacation Bench with Justice Mukesh R Shah.

The order says the case be listed before an appropriate Bench on which Jutice Banerjee is not there. There two petitions were filed by one Biswajit Sarkar, brother of BJP leader Avijit Sarkar who was lynched and another by a widow of BJP worker Haran Adhikari. -Our Bureau

HC seeks NHRC report

KOLKATA: At a time when the ruling Trinamool Congress is claiming that there is no post-poll violence in West Bengal, Calcutta High Court on Friday had instructed the National Human Rights Commission to form a committee and with the help of West Bengal Human Rights Commission court had asked to submit a report before it by June 30.

Talking to Free Press Journal, BJP advocate Priyanka Tibrewal stated that though the court had asked the police to help the displaced BJP cadres but the police on the contrary are harassing the BJP workers.

"For last 10 days, I have been visiting places and have collected several affidavits of such displaced workers. I had also learnt that the police after getting to know the displaced workers are forcing them to write on a blank sheet that they are not being heckled by anyone," stated the advocate. —Our Correspondent

Rift over turncoats' posts

KOLKATA: BJP North Bengal MLA Manoj Tigga on behalf of Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari on Friday had submitted the letter demanding disqualifying of Mukul Roy from MLA post to the chief secretary of West Bengal Assembly speaker Biman Bandhopadhyay. According to Tigga a 64 pages letter was submitted to substantiate the claims Mukul Roy should be disqualified from the post.

POINT-COUNTER-**POINT**

Bengaluru

BY Vijayendra of interfering

"The tender of over

department.

govern-

Rs20,000 crore is ready in the

which pertains to Bhadra

Upper canal project and Cauvery irrigation project. No fi-

nancial clearance (from the

Finance Department) has

been sought, no board meet-

ing took place. It was done in

a hurry," Vishwanath alleged

He alleged the intention

was to take "kickbacks" from

contractors. "Is this a con-

ment?" The BJP MLC, who

had switched his loyalty

from JD(S) to BJP two years

ago, alleged that the "entire

state" including Ministers,

had been talking about Vi-

jayendra's interference in

"Which minister is content

today? His (Vijayendra's) in-

terference is in all the de-

partments," Vishwanath

charged. Reacting to the alle-

gations made by Vishwanath

department, JD(S)

on the "scam" in the Irriga-

leader and former Chief

Minister H D Kumaraswamy

told reporters in Kolar that

"this is a government which

believes in loot".

at a press conference.

tractor-oriented

the administration.

Irrigation

in government functioning.

✓ arnataka Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader CN Ashwathnarayan refuted Vishwanath's allegations and said that the issue of leadership in the

state has already been addressed by the BJP's National general secretary and party president. "There's nothing like that. The national general secretary, party president have addressed this issue (leadership change in state) We don't have to talk about this time and again. The concerned national leadership and state leadership will look into it," said Ashwathnarayan.

WHAT ARUN **SINGH SAID** n June 16, BJP national general

Jsecretary Arun Singh held a meet with CM BS Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Besides Yediyurappa, other Karnataka ministers were also present in the meeting chaired by Arun Singh at the BJP office in Bengaluru. "There are no differences in the party and we are united. Commendable work is being done under CM Yediyurappa's leadership. This meeting was only to strengthen the party, to promote good governance and schemes of the central govt to the ground level. Nothing else was discussed," Arun Singh had said.

HOWEVER...

arlier, several BJP MLAs and ministers had demanded that Yediyurappa should step down as chief minister. State Tourism Minister CP Yogeeshwara in a statement had said that instead of the Chief Minister, his son has been ruling and controlling the Ministries of Karnataka. BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal had said that the leadership must be changed in Karnataka. Several other leaders had met the High Command and demanded the leadership be changed in the state.

IN SUPPORT

Days ago, he had received a ringing endorsement from Arun Singh. "Yediyurappa is the CM, he is doing a good job and will remain the Chief Minister. He has done a good job during the COVID situation, all the Ministers and the party- everyone has done a good job," he had said on June 10.

Guj: 1st 'love jihad' case in 72 hours of new law

A man befriended a woman posing as Christian and later allegedly 'forcibly' married her according to Islamic rituals

DARSHAN DESAI Ahmedabad

In less than 72 hours after the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act 2021 or 'love jihad' law came into force on June 15, the State police have registered the first case in Vadodara and arrested one person.

The Gotri Police in Vadodara nabbed one Samir Abdulbhai Qureshi, 25, for marrying a Hindu woman in 2019 by first introducing himself as a Christian and the 25-year-old woman came to know of his actual religion just a few days ahead of the wedding.

Tarsali in Vadodara, on Thursday. ered that he was not a Christian a or by getting a person married, or

Gotri Police Inspector SV Chaudhary told Free Press Journal that the woman had alleged that she was lured into a relationship through Instagram by Samir, who

said that he was a Christian by the name Sam Martin. "She has complained that Qureshi had forced her into a phys-

'Mann Ki Baat' hero

Rajappan alleges sis

has taken his money

Rajappan, who shot to fame after

PM Modi referred to his yeoman

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: NS

ical relationship and had even shot the intimate moments in his cell phone. He was threatening her to make the pictures viral on social media if she did not marry him. They married in 2019," Chaudhary The woman filed a complaint said. They married according to against Qureshi, a resident of Muslim rituals and she discov- forcible conversion by marriage, are lured to marriage for the pur-

few days ahead of the wedding when he took her to a relative. Qureshi was arrested under Section 376, 377, 504, 506 (2) and

clause 4 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021. The new law, which came into force on

June 15, was passed in

the State Assembly on April 1 and received Governor Acharya Devvrat's assent a month ago. This follows similar legislations

Pradesh.

in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya in the original 2003 legislation, by aiding a person to get married, an accused shall attract punishment of 3-5 years and a fine up to Rs.2 lakh. The jail term is four to seven years and fine Rs 3 lakh if the woman victim is a minor and is from a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

The penalty will be three to 10 vears in case an organization is found involved. The definition of "allurement" has been expanded to include "any person who offers a better lifestyle, divine blessings or otherwise." All offences under this law are cognizable and nonbailable. It says the new legisla-According to the new provisions tion attempts to nip in the bud the "emerging trend in which women pose of religious conversion".



Indian Medical Association (ima) members hold placards and shout slogans as they take part in a nationwide protest, seeking a law to protect doctors against violence in New Delhi on Friday.

GHAZIABAD ASSAULT

UP Police summons Twitter India MD

GHAZIABAD: The Ghaziabad Police has sent a notice to Twitter India managing director Manish Maheshwari, asking him to join a probe in the case involving an assault on a Muslim man here in the Uttar Pradesh's district earlier this month, officials said

He has been asked to appear at the Loni Border police station here within seven days to get his statement

recorded in the case in which an FIR was lodged against the social media giant also, a senior police official said. "Manish Maheshwari is the MD of Twitter India and was sent a notice vesterday

porters Friday. The Ghaziabad Police had on June 15 booked Twitter Inc, Twitter Communications India, news website The Wire, journalists Mohammed Zubair and Rana Ayyub, besides Congress leaders Salman Nizami, Maskoor Usmani, Shama

days' time to appear at the lo-

cal police station," Superin-

tendent of Police (Ghazi-

abad Rural) Iraj Raja told re-

Naqvi. They were booked over the circulation of a video in which the elderly man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, claims he was allegedly thrashed by some young men who also asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on June 5. The police claim the video was shared to

Mohamed and writer Saba

Abusive content: TN YouTuber Manickam held

CHENNAI: Popular YouTuber Madhan Manickam, who was booked by the Tamil Nadu Police for uploading abusive content, was arrested from Salem in Tamil Nadu on Friday morning. The YouTuber was brought to Chennai by road after the Act, and the Indecent Representaarrest in Dharmapuri.

He will be produced before a magistrate court, according to Chennai city police. Madhan Manickam's

wife Kruthika was arrested by the Chennai police on Wednesday for

the same crime — violation of IT rules of uploading abusive content. She was remanded to judicial custody along with her baby. Kruthikia was the admin of the

YouTube channel of Madhan and

was uploading abusive content in vi-

epape olationeofrenesi To Act. Sources said

bition Act, 1986. Police received over 100 complaints against Madhan for using abusive content. Madhan was uploading abusive con-

tion of Women Prohi-

they had resorted to such a tactic to

increase the visibility of their

The Cyber Crime Wing of the

Tamil Nadu Police have registered a

case under sections of the IPC, IT

YouTube channel.

tent in 3 YouTube channels which he owned, "Toxic Madan 18+", "Pubg Madan Girl Fan", and "Richie" Gaming. The channels had over 8 lakh subscribers. Cyber Crime Wing officers told IANS several juveniles, includ-

service in protecting the environment by picking up waste from the Vembanad lake, has alleged his sister has taken his money. Rajappan, whose legs are paralys-

ed, hails from Kumarakom, the famed tourist destination. For years he has been rowing his small boat and his job is to collect all the plastic waste, including bottles thrown into the lake. After collecting it, he disposes of the waste and uses money for his livelihood. The local TV channels ing school-going children were his depicted his work and the miserable life that he leads. fans and watched the content.

Owner of Delhi's 'Baba ka Dhaba' attempts suicide, hospitalised **NEW DELHI:** The owner of south Delhi's 'Baba ka

Dhaba', Kanta Prasad, allegedly attempted suicide and has been admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital, police said on Friday. Prasad, 81, tried to kill himself on Thursday. The reason behind his extreme step was unknown, they said. Sources said he was on ventilator support in the ICU. He is critical but stable. "On Thursday at 11.15 pm, information was received from the Safdarjung Prasad was admitted there. Police reached the hospital and collected the MLC (medico-legal case), which

states intake of alcohol and sleeping pills as the

Kumar Thakur said. The statement of Prasad's son

cause of unconsciousness," DCP (south) Atul

Karan was recorded.

Man who slapped **Abhishek Banerjee** dies mysteriously

Debasish Acharya who had slapped TMC MP Abhishek juries.

According to Debasish's namool Congress goons.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Banerjee in 2015 at a TMC rally, died under mysterious circumstances on Thursday. According to hospital sources, Debasish, who was severely injured, was brought by some unknown persons to the hospital on Thursday and a few hours after he was admitted, Debasish had succumbed to his in-

mother, her son has been murdered by the alleged Tri-

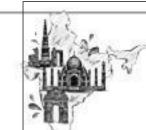
on Friday.

under CrPC section 166 seeking his cooperation in the probe. Some other details have been sought from him and he has been given seven

cause communal unrest.

nation."

that Kaunda, a champion of African independence, has died at the age of 97. Condoling Kaunda's demise, Gandhi described Kaunda as a towering personality, who led the struggle against colonialism. Gandhi also hailed Kaunda as a statesman who shaped Zambia and much of post colonial Africa.



NATION

www.freepressjournal.in

4-time Assam Cong MLA quits

Rupjyoti Kurmi says Rahul Gandhi unable to shoulder leadership

Pilot is an asset to the

party, says Maken

Guwahati

Questioning the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader Rupjyoti Kurmi on Friday tendered his resignation as a Member of the State Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Assam to Speaker Biswajit Daimary.

Speaking to ANI, Kurmi earlier said, "Congress is not listening to its young leaders.

'PM has lost moral authority to rule'

AGENCIES / New Delhi

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Frisaid Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi has 'without doubt" lost the moral au-

thority to rule for not standing with people in need of medical aid during the second wave of Covid-19 and for playing political one-upmanship in polls instead. In an interview with PTI,

the former union minister launched a hard-hitting attack on the prime minister saying the lack of a credible political alternative did not mean that he should stop discharging his duties believing that his political fortunes are secure.

That is why the situation of the party is worsening in all states. I will meet Assembly Speaker and tender my resig-

"Rahul Gandhi is unable to shoulder leadership, if he is at the helm, the party will not move forward. I am leaving Congress as High Command in Delhi and Guwahati leaders give priority to elderly leaders only," the four-time Congress MLA said.

After the over week-long po-litical drama of statements

and counter statements in

Rajasthan Congress, the par-

ty has now come up with a sort of clarification and bal-

ancing act. Congress general

secretary in charge of Rajasthan Ajay Maken has said that Sachin Pilot is a star

campaigner and an asset to the party while at the same time he taught a lesson of discipline to MLAs making

statements against Ashok

Talking to media in Delhi

on Friday, Ajay Maken dis-

carded reports of party high command not giving time to

Sachin Pilot during his re-cent visit to Delhi. "Sachin is a senior leader of the party It

Gehlot government.

"We did tell them Congress has a good chance of coming to power this time and we should not forge an alliance with AIUDF as it would be a mistake. It indeed was," he

added. BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a comfortable majority in Assam winning 75 seats of the total 126 constituencies in the state assembly elections held in April. While

is not possible that he sought time to meet any leader and

didn't get it."
He said, "Priyanka Gandhi
is not in Delhi for ten days. So

how could she meet Sachin,

but she is in touch with him"
On cabinet expansion and political appointments, he said, "We are working on this and MLAs should understand that discipline will play an important role at the time of appointments so they should not say anything in public."

Sources in the party say that Maken's statement is a

clear indication that the par-

ty cannot afford to lose one

more young leader, and

hence has clarified the situa-

tion on the narrative which was made after Sachin's

much-hyped Delhi visit.

in public.'

BJP secured 60 seats, about 33 per cent, its allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United People's Party, Liberal (UPPL) bagged nine and six seats respectively.

Congress managed to secure 29 seats (29.7 per cent vote share) while its 'Mahajoth' allies AIUDF won 16, and Bodoland People's Front bagged four seats of the total 126 constituencies in the state assembly elections.

Cong flays govt over increase in I Swiss bank deposits by Indians

AGENCIES /New Delhi

The Congress attacked the government over reports of an increase in Swiss bank deposits by Indians by 286 per cent in 2020 and asked the government how much black money has been brought back and from which country in the last 7 years?

The Congress demanded that the Modi government should share the names of individuals who have moved the money to Swiss banks in

the last one year. The opposition party alleged that Modi government has not acted to curb the flow of black money.

AICC Spokesperson Gau-

rav Vallabh, addressing a press conference on Friday, said, "The data for funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks for 2020 was released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB). Our assertion is that the divide between the rich and the poor has been widening under the Modi government."

Now, factionalism in Raj BJP

MANISH GODHA / Jaipur

After Congress, now it is BJP in Rajasthan where factionalism has surfaced. The loyalists of former chief minister Vasundhara Raje are annoyed with the removal of her picture from the poster outside the party headquarter in Jaipur and are saying there is no alternative to Raje in Rajasthan. However, party's state president said these kind of statements are not in limits of the party and another office bearer of the party said BJP is a party where the organisation is supreme and not the individual.

In the last four days, three Raje loyalists - former MLAs Bhawani Singh Rajawat and Prahlad Gunjal and one existing MLA Pratap Singh Singhvi have said that the party cannot ignore Raje as

she is the only mass leader of the party in the state. Singhvi said, "There is no alternative to Raje in Rajasthan. She can swing the votes by up to 15-20 per cent and that's the reason the party got full majority twice under her leadership."

Notably, all these leaders had voiced the same views two months ago and convened a meeting in Kota in favour of Raje and a show of strength was organised in the name of dharmik yatra on her birthday by supporters in Bartapur district in March this year.

While countering Singhvi and other leaders statements, the party's state president Satish Poonia said, "It is time to fight Congress and such statements are not in the limits of the party." He said that everybody gets a chance to express himself on party

platform, but these statements on public platform are not in the interest of the par-

While party's vice president Madan Dilawar said in media that we are the party where the organisation is supreme.

It is to note that it all started after the removal of Raje's picture from the poster outside party headquarter in Jaipur. Although party state president Satish Poonia clarified that it was done according to guidelines of the party and there is nothing political

in it. It is also to be mentioned that the party's state executive committee meeting is scheduled on June 22 and sources in the party say that emergence of such controversy is indication of a 'happening' meeting as leaders of all factions will be present.

DMK chief MK Stalin

meets Sonia, Rahul

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Kandivli vax scams at nine other places Police officials said that Sanjay and Mahendra had hired nursing students from a Charkop training institution to administer the shots

to the residents without an authorised doctor in attendance, a clear violation of the BMC guidelines for vaccination drives in residential complexes. The fifth accused, Qareem Akbar Ali, 21, was the carrier of the vaccination vials and he could shed light on the source of the vaccines, police said. Qareem has been detained in Madhya Pradesh and is being brought to Mumbai for further probe. ACP Sawant said that the vaccines had not been purchased from authorised centres. Police said that certificates received by the residents from the CoWin portal had correctly named the beneficiaries but the time, location and hospital names were not accurate.

"The same gang has conducted similar vaccination camps at nine different locations and we are working with the BMC and will conduct a parallel investigation", said a police officer. Police are also awaiting the report from the BMC in the matter. Police suspect that the accused could have hired different nurses at other locations and has not ruled out the possibility of more nurses being roped in for the fraud. Two more accused are still wanted in the case and more arrests are likely to be made, they said. Additional Municipal Commissioner (Health) Suresh Kakani has said that the BMC would be able to identify other housing societies where similar fraudulent vaccine drives may have been arranged only if it receives details from police.

"As these are privately organised vaccine camps, the onus was on the society management and suppliers, so BMC can trace any other locations only if the culprits reveal it to Mumbai Police," Kakani told the FPJ on Friday. Further, Kakani said that the report of the inquiry being carried out by Deputy Municipal Commissioner Vishwas Shankarwar is due and may be submitted late night on Friday or early on Saturday. (With inputs from Pratip Acharya)

Compliance work in progress

An MP said the approach violated the IT Act. The two officials of Twitter India were grilled for about 1.5 hours. "On many issues, Twitter India officials were vague and evasive," sources said.

Not so fast, says BMC though city...

In its order dated June 17, the state government said that in all,16,570 oxygen beds were occupied in Maharashtra, a declining trend. Since this number is below 35,000, the state-level 'oxygen trigger' would not be in operation for the ensuing week. According to the government, Kolhapur, Pune, Satara, Ratnagiri, Raigad and Sindhudurg districts had also improved their position in terms of the positivity rate and oxygen bed occupancy. While Kolhapur's positivity rate is 13.77 per cent, Sindhudurg's oxygen bed occupancy is 55.20 per cent, as per figures shared by the Maharashtra disaster management department. Thane district's

oxygen bed occupancy is 10.74 per cent. Last week, Kolhapur had a positivity rate of 15.85 per cent and an oxygen bed occupancy rate of 67.41 per cent - both the highest in the state at that time. In terms of positivity rate, Raigad and Ratnagiri follow Kolhapur, at 12.77 per cent and 11.90 per cent respectively, it said, adding that Gondia had the lowest positivity rate, 0.27 per cent. Pune's positivity rate is now 9.88 per cent while oxygen bed occupancy is 10.90 per cent, while the corresponding figures for Nagpur are 1.25 per cent and 2.17 per cent, it added. In terms of oxygen bed occupancy, Kolhapur is second to Sindhudurg with 54.78 per cent. Wardha has the lowest bed occupancy rate of 0.45 per cent, the data said.

With the 'further decline' in the number of occupied oxygen beds in the state, the disaster management department on Friday asked all the municipal corporations and district collectors to issue relaxations in their jurisdictions. The government orders said that municipal corporations and district collectorates were considered as two separate units for Covid management. This would enable the commissioners and collectors to take stock of the situation and come up with fresh guidelines (in their respective areas), it said. "It will mean more relaxation in terms of opening of shops, services, running malls among others," an official said. On June 4, the state government had announced a five-level 'unlock' plan for the administrative units of the state, based on the case positivity rate and oxygen bed occupancy. As per the notification, areas with the positivity rates of five per cent or less and oxygen bed occupancy of less than 25 per cent would be in the first level and could open up completely, whereas areas in the fifth category (positivity rates more than 20 per cent), only essential shops would remain open and

office attendance would be capped at 15 per cent. SC REFUSES TO STAY BAIL...

Refusing to interfere with the liberty of the three student activists --Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal of the JNU and Asif Iqbal Tanha of Jamia Millia Islamia -- the Court ordered issue of notices to the three students to let them file the counter in four weeks. The Solicitor General pleaded that "in the interim the impact of judgment be stayed without affecting the bail granted to the accused." Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, appearing for the student activists, opposed Solicitor General Mehta's plea for the stay of the High Court judgment. Agreeing that the court should examine the judgment for its ramifications across the country, he said at the most the Court may say that the (HC) judgment will not be a precedent. Sibal said if the Solicitor General has "much to say" on the issues relating to UAPA, then he too "has a lot to say."

The Solicitor General singled out the High Court judgment for drawing a distinction between the charges levelled against three student activists and a terrorist act.

In its verdict on Tuesday, the Delhi High Court had said that "In our opinion, the intent and purport of Parliament in enacting the UAPA, and more specifically in amending it in 2004 and 2008 to bring terrorist activity within its scope, was, and could only have had been, to deal with matters of profound impact on the 'Defence of India.' Nothing more and nothing less."

Assailing the High Court ruling that the UAPA could only be invoked in respect of the activities impacting the defence of the country, the Solicitor General told the court that in the last year's violence in northeast Delhi 53 people lost lives and over 700 were injured. He said if this protest was on the "perceived belief" that Citizenship (Amendment) Act was against a particular community, then "the lady who assassinated a former PM" also did it in the belief that injustice was done to a particular community. His reference was to Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.

The Solicitor General also took exception to a paragraph of the High Court judgment which reads, "We are constrained to express, that it seems, that in its anxiety to suppress dissent, in the mind of the State, the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity seems to be getting somewhat blurred. If this mindset gains traction, democracy would be in peril."

Another shady temple deal

misleading the devotees.

This land too was originally owned by Harish Pathak and Kusum Pathak who had an agreement of sale with property dealers Ravi Mohan Tiwari and Sultan Ansari. The 12080 square meter land was sold twice on the same day but at a much-escalated price. While the original owner sold the land to property dealers, Ravi Mohan Tiwari and Sultan Ansari, for Rs 2 crore, the later sold it to the temple trust for Rs 18.50 crore within a span of a few minutes the same day. The opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh, including Aam Adami Party (AAP), the Samajwadi Party and the Congress have questioned the deal accusing the trust of misappropriating the money given by donors. However, the trust has denied all these allegations and has thrice issued a clarification in this regard. The trust had stated that the land was purchased at a price much less than the market rate and no irregularities were committed. It even threatened to sue the leaders of AAP and Samajwadi Party for misrepresenting facts and

The AAP Rajya Sabha member and in charge of UP, Sanjay Singh, reiterated that a proper enquiry should be conducted in the land deals negotiated by the trust. He said that as per norms the income tax department should be apprised about any land deal above Rs 50 lakh in UP but it was not done in case of the temple. In Varanasi land corridor project, a valuation committee comprising

of officials of revenue department and engineers was formed. This committee was entrusted with the task of finalizing the rate of the land to be purchased for the project. The trust at Ayodhya too may adopt this model to bring transparency in land deals. The seers in Ayodhya and outside are divided over the issue of irregularities in the deals. While Swami Avimukteshwaranand, who is close to Shankaracharya Swaroopanand, has accused the temple trust of misusing the donor's money, another seer and former MP,

Ram Vilas Vedanti, said that none could doubt the honesty and

integrity of trust general secretary Champat Rai. He, however,

favours a Kashi like model in Ayodhya land deals, too.

PM launches crash course for C-19 frontline workers

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the six Customised Crash Course programme for Covid-19 frontline workers on Friday through video conferencing

under the Skill India scheme. According to the Prime Minister's office, under the Customised Crash Course programme, the government will start 111 training centres spread over 26 states.

AGENCIES / Chennai

Indian Coast Guard is moni-

toring the 10 kilolitres oil

spill into the sea about

450km southeast of Chennai

from a Portuguese flag con-

tainer ship named MV De-

von, said an official. "The

quantity of oil spilled is not

large. So, the economical op-

tion is to wait and watch.

Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were

also present on the occasion. The programme aims to skill and upskill over one lakh Covid warriors across the country. The training will be imparted to Covid warriors in six customised job roles namely Home Care Support, Basic Care Support, Advanced Care Support, Emergency Care Support,

Coast Guard monitoring 10KL oil spill

Further the distance is also

far off," Coast Guard official

Sample Collection Support, and Medical Equipment Sup-

The programme has been designed as a special programme under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0, with total financial outlay of Rs 276 crore, the PMO said.

The programme will create skilled non-medical healthcare workers to fill the present and future needs of manpower in the health sector.

cases, deaths

India logs lower

OUR BUREAU / New Delhi

With the threat of the third wave of Covid-19 looming large in a few weeks even while the second wave is waning, India logged in 62,480 new infections and 1,587 deaths due to the dreaded disease, according to the latest data released by Union Home Ministry at 8 am on Friday. The overall tally has reached 2,97,62,793, though 96.03% of it has recovered with the recovery of 2.85 crore and the active cases are below 8 lakh after 73 days as 7.98 lakh is the latest figure of the active cases while the deaths at 1.29% grossed 3,83,490.

16 deaths not due to 02 mock drill: Clean chit to UP hospital

LUCKNOW: A hospital in Agra, UP, whose owner allegedly was caught on audio bragging about how they shut oxygen supply on April 27 for 5 minutes in a "mock drill", has been cleared of allegations that the exercise led to deaths of 16 patients. UP government had ordered an inquiry into the incident at Agra's Shree Paras Hospital. A panel of investigators in its report concluded that the 16 deaths

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin on Friday met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi in the presence of Rahul Gandhi and described the meeting as 'close to the heart."

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Chennai

This is the first meeting between Stalin and Sonia Gandhi after the DMK-Congress alliance swept the April 6 Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu, with the Dravidian party coming to pow-

er in the state after a decade The leaders are learnt to have discussed the new government's schemes and policies in Tamil Nadu, where the Congress is a jun-

ior partner. Both Rahul Gandhi and Stalin took to Twitter to share about the meeting. "Congress President Smt.

Sonia Gandhi and I had the pleasure of meeting Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Shri M. K. Stalin and Smt. Durgavathy Stalin earlier today," Rahul Gandhi said in the tweet.

No hike in prices

NEW DELHI: Former Congress

is also news!

were not due to the mock drill. Below 2% convictions under UAPA Asaram case off to

next month NEW DELHI: The bail plea for Ayurvedic treatment in an

Ashram near Haridwara once again alluded self-styled Godman Asaram Bapu (83), who is undergoing a life sentence in Jodhpur for raping a minor girl in his Ashram in 2013.

The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned his petition to be taken up after the summer vacation ends this month. —Our Bureau

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all that I am

investigating the title of Mr.

Sureshkumar Kundanmal Shah and

Mrs. Kamal Suresh Shah who are

"the said flat") which my clients are

If any person has any Claim, right,

title and interest by way of mortgage,

lease, lien, gift, tenancy, heirship

and/or any encumbrances of any

nature for the said flat may please

inform about their claim within seven

days of this notice being published to

the Advocate at the address

published below with documentary

proof/evidence thereof or otherwise

any such purported claim, objection,

interest or demand shall be deemed

to have been waived to all intents

Dated this 18th day of June, 2021.

Near Kadam Wadi, Marol Pipeline,

MRS. KRANTI S. SIDRUK

Komal Niwas, Marol Pipeline,

Advocate High Court

Next to Rahul Apartment,

epaperAndiree@pote/sambau+trab9in

Andheri Kurla Road,

and purposes.

intending to deal and purchase.

said on Friday. Continuing further, the official said further details will be obtained from the ship once it reaches Haldia in West Bengal.

The official added that MV Devon is expected to reach Haldia on Friday night or on Saturday morning. The vessel was on passage from

OUR BUREAU / NEW DELHI

The Unlawful Activities (Pre-

vention) Act UAPA), 1967, is

mostly used to harass the ac-

tivists by putting them in jails

for months and years, but the

convictions of those arrested

under it is very poor, not even

2 per cent.

Bengal, carrying 10,795 tonnes of general cargo in 382 containers, manned by 17 crew of mixed nationality. Coast Guard on Thursday said that it received information from Maritime Res-

Colombo to Haldia in West

cue and Coordination Centre in Colombo late Wednesday about oil spill about 450 km southeast of Chennai.

the analysis of the data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which shows that 7,840 persons were arrested under the draconian law in five years between 2015 and 2019, but only 155 were con-

law was originally enacted in 1967, but the law has come into focus from Delhi High Court giving bails to three student leaders of Delhi in jails since last one year, stressing that the UAPA should be used against the terrorists and not against the protesters. Delhi Police has come to the Apex Court to challenge the High Court verproperty of the accused.

dict on Friday. UAPA law has been thrice amended since its enactment in 2008, 2012 and 2019, expanding the definition of terrorist act to include cases of economic security, fake currency notes and procurement of weapons and addi- hike fuel prices is the exception tional powers were granted to which proves the rule that the courts to confiscate the

President Rahul Gandhi on Friday chided the government for an every day hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, so much so that no hike on any day also makes a news. "The rare day GOI does not prices are increased everyday,"

he tweeted.

BAIL TO MAN IN CUSTODY FOR **OVER 40 YRS IN DOWRY CASE**

This revelation has come in ed for terrorism for which the

victed.

the Owners of Flat No.151 on the 15th Floor admeasuring 1008.06 sq. ft. carpet area alongwith One car Our Bureau / New Delhi parking bearing No. 521 on the 5th The Supreme Court on Friday level in "Rushabh Apartments" in the ordered release of a man from Rushabh Apartments Co-op. Gorakhpur in custody since June Housing Society Ltd., at Dr. Parekh Street, Prarthana Samaj, Mumbai-1980 in a dowry case, in which 400004 constructed on the property the trial is still pending. bearing Plot No.33A of the Sandhurt A Vacation Bench of Justices Road (West), Cadastral Survey Hemant Gupta and V No.4/1289 and 5/1289 Girgaum Division (hereinafter referred to as

Ramasubramanian ordered release of one Sahabuddin on bail to the satisfaction of the trial court. "Keeping in view the custody period undergone by the appellant, we deem it proper to order release on bail," the top court ruled.

The data, however, does not

show how many were convict-

CBI court frowns upon British High **Commission letter on Mitchel bail**

Legal Gallery A special CBI court on Friday frowned upon a direct communication to it from the British High Commission in the matter concerning bail of Christian Michel James

AGENCIES / NEW DELHI

who is in judicial custody in the AgustaWestland chopper case. Special Judge Arvind Kumar in his order rejected the bail petitions of Michel James. "It needs to be mentioned that British High Commission has sent a letter addressed to this court stating that medical condition of accused Christian Michel James and his pretrial detention of two-and-a-half years may be taken into account when his bail application is considered," he said.

Lawyers desirous of sharing important judgements, with a word count of up to 200, can send them to presley.thomas@fpj.co.in. Newspieces that meet all the requisite criteria, as per the editor's discretion, will be published in The Free Press Journal.

QUICK LOOK LIFE-TERM FOR ACCUSED IN

GUDIYA RAPE-MURDER CASE SHIMLA: A court here on Friday sentenced a 28-year-old man to life imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life in the Gudiya rape and murder case, which had triggered outrage across Himachal Pradesh four years ago. The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 10,000 on convict Anil Kumar, alias Nillu, a woodcutter.

The 16-year-old girl was raped and killed in a forested area in Shimla's Kotkhai when she was returning home from her school on July 4, 2017. The court had held Anil guilty

on April 28 under the Indian Penal Code sections related to rape and murder as well as provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Special Judge Rajeev Bhardwaj

pronounced the order in the

presence of the convict on Friday. Not satisfied with the verdict, Gudiya's mother demanded reinvestigation into the case. She told PTI that the crime was not

committed by a single man.

Cong accuses BJP of swindling Ram Temple donations

OUR BUREAU / New Delhi at Ayodhya at three different

The Congress kept up pressure for yet another day with hashtag

#Chanda_Chor_Bhajpa (donation thief BJP) on swindling of the donations received by the Shri Ram Temple Trust, set up by the Prime Minister Modi to construct a grand Ram Mandir, citing purchase of two plots of land

prices on March 18. One parcel of land 1.037 hectares in area bought at Rs 8 crore from the owners, Kusum Pathak and her husband Harish Pathak, while the adjacent parcel of 1.208

hectares of land in the area bought through the brokers in Rs 18.5 crore, it tweeted, asking why such drastic fluctuations in land rates.

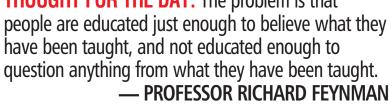
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SC refuses to cancel, postpone PG final

hardly 200 cases per day. In Karnataka, however, the situation is not that good even now. Therefore, we cannot pass any general order without hearing the universities". Advocate Gaurav Sharma, appearing for NMC said that not all

In April-May the situation in Delhi was very bad but now it is

doctors were engaged in Covid duty and the council had issued an advisory in April to all the universities to hold the examination after taking into consideration the COVID situation in their respective areas. Hegde said that since the doctors were engaged in COVID duty, they were not able to prepare for the examination, which will enable them to become senior resident doctors. At the outset, the bench clarified that it is not allowing the doctors to be promoted without appearing for the examination.





Class 12 students: From agony to uncertainty

he agony of millions of Class 12 students and their parents has finally come to an end, with L the Central Board of Secondary Education proposing a 40:30:30 formula to the Supreme Court for computing their marks, following the cancellation of the make-or-break Class 12 Board exams earlier this month. The formula will compute the marks in the theory portion of the subjects based on the student's performance as assessed by the respective schools' internal assessment systems in Classes 12, 11, as well as the Class 10 Board exam performance. As per the CBSE formula, which has been accepted by the Supreme Court, the marks for the practical examinations and internal assessment components will be based on the actual scores uploaded by the concerned school on the CBSE portal by July 15, after which the CBSE will declare the results by July 31. Since other boards of secondary education like the ICSE and several state boards had also cancelled the Class 12 exams subsequent to the CBSE's decision to cancel the same, it is expected that they too, will follow the same formula to compute the marks and declare the results. With this, the tension over the exams has finally ended for the hapless students and parents, with a clear end date in sight for publishing of results. This also means that the higher education system has been spared the problem of finding new ways to assess applicants for admissions into college courses. The status quo will continue, with marks-based admissions in most courses, apart from professional courses like engineering and medicine, which will continue to use a common entrance examination system to shortlist candidates.

Since other boards of secondary education like the ICSE and several state boards had also cancelled the Class 12 exams subsequent to the CBSE's decision, it is expected that they too, will follow the same formula to compute the marks and declare the results. ... This also means that the higher education system has been spared the problem of finding new ways to assess applicants for admissions into college courses. The status quo will continue

Given that it was imperative that some sort of solution be found once the decision was finally taken to cancel the Class 12 Board examinations in view of the deadly second wave of the Covid pandemic, the CBSE and the Supreme Court must be commended for speedily bringing the matter to a close. However, the formula, while guaranteed to generate a result for every student, is by no means capable of generating a fair or accurate evaluation of a student's performance. For instance, the Class 10 syllabus and subjects are very different, with students tested in both humanities and sciences, whereas the Class 12 exams take place after two years of streamed study focus on science, commerce or arts groups of subjects. Giving a standardised weightage to the 10th results will hamper the chances of those who decided to drop one or the other stream for the 12th. It also does not take into account the different learning trajectories shown by different students. For example, a student who has improved with every outing after the Class 10 boards, and hence could be expected to improve further in the Class 12 boards, will now be treated the same as a student who has displayed a declining performance over the same timeframe, but whose high scores in Class 10 may help level out the averages.

The system also does not account for the huge variations in infrastructure, pedagogic capacity as well as internal assessment systems across the school system. India's school system is a vast spread, ranging from ramshackle government schools at one end, to world-class private schools at the other. Both teaching and the measurement of learning outcomes differ wildly within this vast range. In fact, it is open to question whether many government schools, particularly in the less developed areas of the country, even followed a regular system of internal assessments, let alone ensure that these were properly tracked and recorded. Further, even picking which scores to include has not been standardised. Each school will form a "results committee" which will decide whether to use marks from unit tests, the pre-boards, or some combination of the two. Needless to say, both performance and marks scored by a student may vary sharply, depending on the system a particular school picks, leaving any possibility of comparison of performance across schools – which is what the final Class 12 assessments should ideally indicate – well nigh impossible. The problem is worse compounded by the fact that several states have decided to stick with delayed exams. Tripura, for instance, has gone one step further and reduced the "portions" for the Classes 10 and 12 boards by a third, which means Tripura students will be evaluated by a totally different yardstick.

The pandemic-induced pause had provided a golden opportunity to reset India's school education and evaluation system. Unfortunately, the boards tasked with this – whether the CBSE/ICSE or the state – have displayed an inability to think outside of the box and fix an increasingly compromised system which was being easily 'cracked' by those with money power, privilege or persistence, while unfairly punishing those without. Having a system which first imparts necessary skills to students and a testing system which accurately measures learning outcomes and not memory power is the need of the hour.

Mumbai needs truly gutter politics

The Fault With Reality **X**Anil Singh

one-minute clip of a bullock cart towing a car through a flooded Bombay street in 1932 – when Dadar and Bandra were at the edges of the city -- went viral last week as the first monsoon showers submerged the city. Strangely, the BJP did not blame Nehru but the Shiv Sena, and for all the wrong reasons. Come to think of it, this is the time for literally gutter pol-

Over the last 50 years, Mumbai's population has risen from 30 lakhs to two crores. Water supply has kept up, thanks to new dams more than 100 km away but not much brain has been spent on the drain.

The annual flooding is treated as an act of god. Not only was drainage ignored, slums and buildings came up in low-lying areas and even on reclaimed ponds and marshes, to house the nearly seven-fold increase in population. The land area of the city has miraculously increased by almost 50 sq km in less than three decades, since 1991.

The first reality check came on July 26, 2005, when more than 400 Mumbai residents perished in a deluge caused by the heaviest rainfall the city had witnessed in a century. That day, Mumbai received 944 mm of rain whereas the century-old storm-water drainage system of the city could cope with only 25mm of rain a day. Who can forget the photograph of Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray being evacuated from his Kala Nagar bungalow in a boat when the Mithi river broke its banks.

Ever since, mini pumping stations and valves to prevent tidal water from entering the drains

prevented flooding at Kala Nagar although it is a low-lying area, made worse by the elevated BKC next door. However, on June 9, the very first day of the monsoon, housing societies in Kala Nagar had knee-deep water in groundfloor flats. It turned out that the pumps were not working and the

sea valves had not been closed. As if this embarrassment was funct for at least the next two months. Also, no one knows what happened to all the rain gauges that were to be set up across the

How does all this square up with the fact that Mumbai is the second Indian city, after Chennai, to get its own integrated flood warning system, run by the BMC and the State Disaster Management Authority? CM Uddhav Thackeray had better ensure that such systems work if he wants to stay afloat in the Mumbai civic polls, less than a year away.

groves be protected, that the municipal corporation be consulted before any construction in low-lying areas...

It was only after 26/7 that the BMC took up the Brimstowad (Brihanmumbai StormWater Disposal System), which was conceptualised in 1993 but rejected for being too costly.

The Chitale committee had proposed setting up river development authorities for each of Mumbai's four rivers – Dahisar, Poisar, Oshiwara and Mithi -- but it has been done only in the case

sorb and capture rainwater. In 2015, China selected 16 pilot sponge cities which had measures such as rooftop gardens, wetlands for rainwater storage and permeable pavements.

Mumbai, instead, is eyeing one of the last open spaces left in the city, the salt pan lands. The MMR-DA is looking at seven such plots, totalling 300 acres between Kanjurmarg and Mulund for development. Now, these are the issues that the BJP ought to take up in their gutter politics.

The city's blind spot, though, is the threat of submergence by the sea which is rising at the rate of 1.7mm per year along the Indian coast. Mumbai was marked as one of the coastal cities at risk of being submerged by 2050 in a study released in 2019 by Climate Central, a U S non-profit news organisation comprising scientists and journalists.

The news hit the front page but there has been hardly any discussion on it. What can one expect from Maharashtra which has no town planners in its urban development bodies and no hydrologists in its water resources Department.

However, there are still some scientists left in our scientific institutions and they say that the entire Mumbai will not be submerged by 2050 but there could be prolonged flooding in low-lying areas. After all, South Mumbai's Pydhonie (which translates to 'foot wash' in Marathi), was so named because the feet got wet in this stretch while crossing from one island to another at low tide.

Experts say it is time we create a 20-year climate change mitigation plan for Mumbai that will be linked to the city's development plan and civic budget. And that can happen only when voters tell the politicians that their bread and butter depends on the gutter.

The writer is an independent journalist on anilsinghjournalist@gmail.com

not enough, the widespread waterlogging in the city belied Mayor Kishori Pednekar's claim that "107 per cent of desilting work has been completed in all the drains in the city". And, as usual, Every year, the BMC claims it is of Mithi. Here too, the grand Mumbai is the second Indian city, after Chennai, to get its own integrated flood warning system, run by the BMC and the State Disaster Management Authority. CM Uddhav Thackeray had better ensure that such systems work if

he wants to stay afloat in the Mumbai civic polls, less than a year away. Every year, the BMC claims it is ready to tackle 350 to 450mm of rain in a day but the existing drains are not ready even for 50mm, while the pumping stations, crucial for preventing sea water from entering the drains during high tide and for pumping out storm water into the sea, often malfunction in the face of "more than heavy rainfall"

the BMC and the Mumbai Metropolitan and Region Development Authority (MMRDA) passed the Kala Nagar buck to each other. This is the state of rain-readiness in the CM's locality.

Another viral video showed two women falling, one by one, into an open manhole in a Bhandup footpath. Since it was only waistdeep, they were not swallowed, like Dr Deepak Amrapurkar in August 2017, whose body was found days after the top gastroenterologist fell into an open manhole near Elphinstone Road railway station.

And would you believe it: The India Meteorological Department's Doppler radar – which warns us about cloud formation, rain and thunderstorms – is out of order and likely to remain de-

ready to tackle 350 to 450mm of rain in a day but the existing drains are not ready even for 50mm, while the pumping stations, crucial for preventing sea water from entering the drains during high tide and for pumping out storm water into the sea, often malfunction in the face of "more than heavy rainfall".

The Madhav Chitale committee that probed the 26/7 deluge recommended that Mumbai's rivers – there are four of them – and natural drains be widened and dredged, that encroachment on their banks be removed, that contour maps be made and flood-risk zones be demarcated and that construction in such zones be regulated, that new underground storm-water drains be laid with pumping stations, that man-

plans for river rejuvenation and beautification of the banks were reduced to pre-monsoon de-silting.

While most of Chitale's recommendations were accepted, the one to demarcate flood-risk zones and to regulate construction in them remained on paper because of opposition from the builder lobby. Only half the projects initiated on the basis of the committee's recommendations have been completed.

Meanwhile, 14 new flooding spots have emerged this year, taking the tally to 405, up from 386 last year and 273 the year before

Countries such as China are seeking to counter urban flooding through the concept of sponge cities, which are structured to ab-

based in Mumbai. He welcomes feedback

ONE FLEW OVER THE NEST

Let he who is without sin write the first book. And then, let's read only that!

What's next? Charles Dickens hated Indians? (He did) Overweight Gym Bro@AListRap

Also- so many people read Rudyard Kipling's "If" with passion and I'm v v tempted to tell them that the man was a raging racist

Re Enid Blyton - racism, yes, xenophobia, yes, but "lack of literary merit" about books that have sold 600 million copies just sounds weirdly snooty

you can love enid blyton books and acknowledge that they're problematic it's okay nothing is perfect life goes on Shreemi Verma@shreemiverma



The exodus of the affluent from India is not merely due to the Covid pandemic but has deeper causes

#EnidBlytonBooks

Impose exit tax on fleeing rich & educated



onsultancy company Henley and Partners assists the rich in migrating from one country to another. It has said that the number of the rich wanting to emigrate from India had increased by 63 per cent in 2020. Certainly, there is the contribution of the Covid pandemic towards this move. However, in 2018, before the pandemic, the Afro Asian Bank, in its Global Wealth Migration Review reported that 15,000 rich persons migrated out of China, 7,000 from Russia, 5,000 from India and 4.000

from Turkey. Three of these four countries namely, China, Russia and Turkey—are dictatorial in their political set-up. We may speculate that the outward migration from these countries could be due to political suffocation. The inclusion of democratic India in this list is ringing a danger bell for us. On the other hand, the destination of the rich was 12,000 to Australia, 10,000 to the United States, 4,000 to Canada and more importantly, 100-plus migrated to a developing country like Mauritius. We lost the rich while Mauritius gained. The exodus of the rich from India is, therefore, not merely due to the Covid pandemic but has deeper causes.

Avendus Wealth Management, which too helps the rich to migrate, has said that India need not worry about this emigration because India is creating more numbers of rich than those going away. This much is true that the number of rich in India is increasing despite this emigration. However, if we have to become a developed country and be included in the countries at the forefront of the world, then we will have to develop

Contrary to this assessment,

the capacity to attract the rich from other countries, just as Australia, the United States and Canada are doing.

Let us first dismiss three alleged reasons for this emigration. The rates of income tax in Australia are high, yet the rich are migrating to that country in hordes. This establishes that allegedly high tax rates are not the cause of emigration. The availability of good quality education and opportunities in hi-tech finance and technology sectors is also plentiful in India. Therefore, these too cannot be held to be the causes of emigra-

foreign countries. No wonder our GDP growth rate has been declining in the last six years. The government must consider the following steps to manage these reasons for emigration.

First, the government must institute external evaluation of all senior police officers. The Fifth Pay Commission had recommended the external evaluation of all Class A officers of the government. However, this was put in cold storage at the behest of the bureaucrats. The implementation of such evaluation would provide the government with better information regarding the police offi-

The US has a provision that any person surrendering American citizenship has to pay a huge 'exit tax'. The idea is that the person has benefitted from the public services of the US and they must repay the monies spent by the US on their welfare

The report of the Afro Asian Bank says that one main reason for emigration from a country is safety. The rich like to migrate if they find that their families are not safe. Religious disturbances are said to be the second reason. The presence of religious disputes leads to agitations and endangers the security. The third reason is freedom of media and entertainment. This is important because the rich may want to live in a 'free' environment. They do not like that they may be prevented from obtaining information freely or may not be able to express themselves freely.

The fourth reason is the low rate of economic growth. We may understand this to indicate the less availability of opportunities, which again translates into social disturbances. The government must deal with these issues. The Indian economy has become like an inverted funnel that is sucking out the wealth and sending it to

cers that are more efficient in controlling crime.

Second, the Prime Minister had expressed his resolve to make Varanasi the global spiritual capital. Followers of different religions live together peacefully in countries like Malaysia and states like Kerala in our country. One reason is that the followers are more aware about the beliefs of the other religions and do not consider them antagonistic to their beliefs. The government must establish an 'Indian Institute of Religions' on the lines of IITs and IIMs in each state. Departments of different religions may be stablished in these institutes so that a constructive dialogue takes place and better understanding is created between the religions.

Three, Kabir had said "Keep critics near you. They clean up your temperament without soap and water." The government must give special advertisements to those engage in constructive criticism of the government. This will create an atmosphere of freedom in the minds of the rich. The rich will then not be afraid and not want to emigrate for this reason. Four, our GDP growth rate has

print media and TV channels that

been declining in the last six years. At the same time the share markets have been rising and rising. The reason for these contradictory movements is that our economic policies are supporting large businesses and making it difficult for the small businesses to survive. This policy of killing the small businesses and handing over their market to large business on a platter was supposedly to make it attractive for the rich to stay in India. It is having exactly the opposite effect, however. The killing of small businesses is leading to less demand in the economy, lower growth rate and less opportunities for the rich even though they may be making more profits immediately. This is like the plentiful availability of chocolates but no bread. In the end, the rich are leaving despite making profits because they do not see the economy growing.

Lastly, the government must impose an 'exit tax' on those rich and educated who want to surrender their Indian citizenship. The US has a provision that any person surrendering American citizenship has to pay a huge 'exit tax'. The idea is that the person has benefitted from the public services of the US and they must repay the monies spent by the US on their welfare. Large numbers of the rich, along with graduates of IITs and IIMs, are migrating to greener pastures in foreign countries. They must be required to pay a huge exit tax. Perhaps that will dissuade some. In any event, it may provide good revenue to India to compensate for their emigration.

> The writer is former professor of Economics, IIM Bengaluru

TO THE EDITOR

More infra, then Ref.: 'State proposes hike in FSI to

create jobs' (June 18). There is a direct relationship between FSI and density of population. More the FSI, the more the density. Higher FSI also means lesser availability of land for public use. The new government resolution will certainly have an impact on these factors. Similarly, higher FSI will put more load on the existing infrastructure such as roads, drainage etc. So, the government should also simultaneously think of widening roads and increasing the capacity of drainage and storm drain pipes. If this is not done, the situation will get worse in the future.

Ravindra Bhagwat

Agree to disagree

Ref.: 'Tech makes for a noisy democracy, so, adapt' (June 18) is spot-on and deserves appreciation. Social media platforms are a necessary part of our day-to-day lives and can't be wished away. In an interdependent world and when all countries have strategic interests with all US-based media platforms, the role of our government must be constructive, not destructive. The government of the day is duty-bound to abide by the Constitution and Twitter too has responsibilities. One may not agree with another but can respectfully agree to disagree. This will solve problems related to dissent. The quicker the agreement, the better for all.

Parthasarathy Sen

Proceed cautiously

Ref.: 'Possible third wave unlikely to hit children' (June 18). The study predicting low chances of Covid-19 infecting children may be good news but should be interpreted with caution. While high sero-prevalence rates are likely to be protective, the decision to open schools cannot be rushed. Their safety has to be gauged against the ongoing academic losses. More data in the coming months would perhaps help to formulate a suitable policy.

Dr IIa Railkar

T&C apply Ref.: 'PSB sales may not be exciting for

the staff' by Madan Sabnavis (June 18). Both UPA and NDA have looked at PSUs as a kitty to fund their favourite projects. We have seen even private banks faltering on various fronts, including NPAs, corporate governance etc. Yes, PSUs are not performing the way they should. But for this, the age-old working culture is also to be blamed. Performance-linked pay, regular work appraisals and aligning with a changing ecosystem is the key to success, so privatisation is good but with certain non-negotiable clauses, as mentioned above. And the staff should not become a casualty.

Bal Govind

Letters to the editor should be sent to: The Free Press Journal, Free Press House, Free Press Journal Marg, 215 Nariman Point, Mumbai. 400021; Fax: 69028020, e-mail: mail@fpj.co.in; Type letter, leave space, write your views and name. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

ICG readiness for oil spill from MV Devon



ICG received information from MRCC Colombo in late hours of June 16, 21 regarding a mid sea oil spill about 450 Km South East of Chennai. On further investigation, it was revealed

that a Portugese Flag Container ship MV Devon on passage from Colombo to Haldia (West Bengal), developed an underwater crack in the left side fuel tank containing about 120 KL of Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO). The crack resulted in spillage of about 10 KL of Oil into Sea before preventive action was taken and remaining oil in tank was transferred to another tank by Ship's crew. ICG Pollution response team at Chennai has been alerted and kept standby. In addition, ICG ships & aircraft deployed at sea are also put on alert in pollution response configuration.

First draw held for allotment of unsold inventory of SC monitored Amrapali projects



Marking successful beginning of the allotment process in Supreme Court monitored Amrapali Housing

Projects, the first Draw of unsold Residential/Commercial units of Phase-I was held successfully on June 14, 2021 at NBCC HQ. While expeditiously acting upon the issue of resolving the homebuyers' crisis, units were allotted through lottery system to the applicants who had submitted their applications previously. Considering the ongoing COVID-19 second wave, applicants joined digitally and draw was conducted in an organized yet transparent manner by the company. To elaborate further, the total eligible applicants considered for draw were 87. However, 49 units were put for sale out of which 20 units were allocated in total. Unsuccessful/ waiting applications will be provided with an opportunity to book units from 29 balance available units.

Tanuja Kansal, President, CRWWO felicitates staff of first all women station



Tanuja Kansal, President, Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (CRWWO) felicitated the staff of first

all women station at Matunga (Central Railway) today. She also gave a group award of Rs.25,000/- to the staff and Rs.2,500/- to two pointswomen who have done exemplary work. Executive Committee Members of CRWWO were also present on the occasion. Kansal also interacted with the staff individually and enquired about the challenges faced by them in performing their duties and encouraged them. She also said that this the best environment for women where they can make all decisions of their own for their personal and professional wellbeing.

HSBC India pledges support to Mumbai's Dabbawalas, commits ₹15 cr for Covid relief

CORPORATE GALLERY



HSBC India today announced that it is pledging financial assistance to the tune of INR 15 crore to support dabbawalas in Mumbai. This support will be provided in association with **United Way**

Mumbai and aimed at providing relief to dabbawalas who have been significantly impacted due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. This donation will be utilized for a range of interventions to address the loss of income and livelihood of Mumbai's renowned dabbawalas. As part of the support and relief packages, each dabbawala will be provided ration and hygiene material supplies for three months. Financial protection in the form of life insurance cover will be provided through tie-ups with insurance providers.

HPCL becomes first company to bring ethanol blended petrol in Ladakh



In a first, HPCL brings Ethanol Blended Petrol (Gasohol) in its Leh Depot, situated at an altitude of 11500 feet in Ladakh Region. Conquering the fuel requirement at such high altitude / low temperature and duly backed by robust quality checks, HPCL has become the first Oil Marketing Company in the country to launch Ethanol

Blended Petrol in Ladakh region. HPCL's Leh depot, which was commissioned in 2018 with a total tankage of 4450 KL, is a crucial POL depot in the northernmost part of the country as it caters to the local demand and requirements of the Indian Armed Forces deployed along the borders. The depot has enough capacity to cater to the entire region during the harsh winter months, when supply to the region is not possible due to road blockages.

CRPF bravehearts donate blood in Srinagar



"A single pint of blood can save three lives, a single gesture can create a million smiles". It is in this very spirit that more than 100 Bravehearts of CRPF serving

the nation in Srinagar volunteered to donate blood for the humane cause. Srinagar Sector CRPF came together with Indian Red Cross Society to undertake this noble initiative which will augment the blood supply of Government hospitals in Srinagar. Adhering to all the COVID protocols, the blood donation camp was organised at four different camps of CRPF where officers and men enthusiastically donated blood, the total of which reached over 125 pints. The representatives of IRCS J&K chapter, the doctors and technicians from local hospitals were present at all four locations. The medical officers and technicians of CRPF too lent their assistance in the event. Charu Sinha, IG Srinagar Sector, under whose guidance this event was executed, congratulated all the volunteers and thanked IRCS J&K Chapter for coordinating the efforts.

Praful Patel, Administrator of UT to soon start helpline senior citizens



Under the guidance and visionary and capable leadership of the Administrator of Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Praful Patel, with the purpose of providing assistance in respect of living,

maintenance, legal matters, medical aid etc. to the senior citizens of the state. National Action Plan for Senior Citizens (NAPSrC) under the scheme, National Institute of Social Defense (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Social Welfare Department, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu will soon have a helpline. For the implementation of this scheme in the Union Territory, UP Industrial Consultants Ltd. (UPICON) Lucknow has been designated as the nodal agency. For this, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 17th June, 2021 between Social Welfare Department Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and UPICON.

GM-ECR starts various facilities in Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Mandal



Various facilities at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Mandal (DDU Mandal), were started in the division by Lalit Chandra Trivedi, General Manager,

East Central Railway The pavilion and dressing room at Bakle Ground at Dal HQ was inaugurated in Gaya and the second floor of Railway Rest House at Lodhi Road in Delhi was inaugurated and Gross Happiness Index App (GHI App) related to DDU Division's running room was launched for the convenience of Railway personnel.

ICSI-WIRC, SPPU conduct Teacher's Conference on 'Capacity Building: for **Faculty Members'**



ICSI-WIRC jointly with Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) has successfully conducted First Day of Teacher's Conference on theme "Capacity Building: for Faculty Members"

on 17 June 2021. Around 250 Faculty Members from Various Colleges and Institutions of Savitribai Phule Pune University participated in the event. Session was initiated by CS Pawan G Chandak, Chairman and CS Hrishikesh Wagh, TEFC Chairman, ICSI-WIRC. Session was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Nitin Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Parag C Kalkar, Dean – Faculty of Commerce and Management, Savitribai Phule Pune University, CS Nagendra Rao, President and CS Devendra Deshpande, Vice President, The ICSI. Session was conducted on key area — New Avenues for Company Secretaries in a Corporate World.

CORPORATE CORNER

Hallmarking of gold jewellery made mandatory from June 16

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in a press conference held on June 16, shared insights on Mandatory Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery which has come into force from June 16, 2021. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS while addressing the facets of Mandatory Hallmarking shared that mandatory hallmarking has initially started with 256 districts of the country which have Assaying and hallmarking centres. He further added that Jewellers with annual turnover upto Rs. 40 lac will be exempted from mandatory Hallmarking. Export and re-import of jewellery as per Trade Policy of Government of India - Jewellery for international exhibitions, jewellery for government approved B2B domestic exhibitions will also be exempted from mandatory Hallmarking. Watches, fountain pens and special types of jewellery viz. Kundan, Polki and Jadau will be exempted from Hall Marking. Registration of jewellers will be one-time and there will be no fees charged from jewellers for registration. Any manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, distributor or retailer engaged in selling precious metal articles has to mandatorily get registered with BIS. However, artisans or manufacturers who are manufacturing the gold jewellery on job work basis for the jewellers and are not directly related to sale to anyone in the chain are exempted for registration.

740 companies roll out 9,381 job offers to VIT students

With a record 9,381 placement offers rolled out by 740 companies for the 2021 graduating batch, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) emerges yet again as the top institution in India for Campus Recruitment. For the third successive year, more than 700 companies have visited Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) for campus placement and the number of offers provided this year is the highest for VIT since its inception. This number is nothing short of a milestone considering the severe impact of the prevailing COVID 19 pandemic. This record number of offers includes Super Dream and Dream offers through the campus recruitment held virtually. Students belonging to all the four campuses of VIT – Vellore, Chennai, Amaravathi (Andhra Pradesh) and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) took part in the centralised campus recruitment process. The Campus Recruitment was held for the first time at Bhopal and Amaravathi campuses and more than 90% of the students from these campuses have received placement offers from top MNCs.

whispersinthecorridors

Dr Suresh Mehrotra

▶ MPs and MLAs to join BJP?

Over 20 BJP MLAs and two BJP MPs are expected to ioin the TMC in West Bengal. They are said to be in touch with Mukul Roy.

▶ Right man in wrong party?

In Delhi media world, Nitin Gadkari is the most popular Minister in the Modi Government where journalists say "Right man is in the wrong party".

Manoj Parida appointed Chairman, NACWC

Manoj Kumar Parida has been appointed Chairman, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) in the Secretary rank. He is a 1986 batch IAS officer of UT cadre.

Correctness of this content is the responsibility of the author

Covid affected mental health of parents, caregivers: CDC

AGENCIES Washington

arents and caregivers in the US reported mental health issues more often than others during the Covid pandemic, according to a study by US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The study showed that about 70 per cent of parents and adult caregivers – such as those tending to older people, for example – and about 85 per cent of people who were both, reported adverse mental health symptoms during the pandemic, versus about a third of people who did not hold those responsibilities, the New York Times reported.

The study also found that people who were both parent and caregivers were eight times more likely to have seriously considered suicide than people who held neither role.

"These findings highlight that parents and caregivers, especially those balancing roles both as parents and caregivers, experienced higher levels of adverse mental health symptoms during the Covid-19 pandemic than adults without these responsibilities," the authors were quoted as saying.

"Caregivers who had someone to rely on for support had lower odds of experiencing any adverse mental health symptoms," they added. -IANS

with oysters.

TIME OUT

Scramble Unscramble

Unscramble the letters below to form

meaningful words. Then select the letters

as directed, and rearrange them to form

a new word. Psst...the word is associated

ALTEP - take

DRAAW- take

second letters of

the word formed.

fourth letters of

the word formed.

END - take

ne second letter of the word

PEARL

the first and

BRINGING UP FATHER / FRANK JONSON



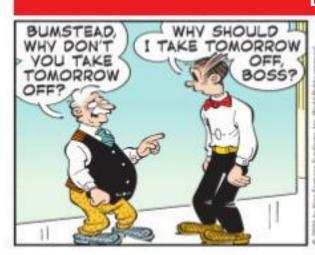
WHEN HE BRINGS OUR CHANGE FOR THAT \$ 100, I'LL JUST PUT IT IN MY BILLFOLD

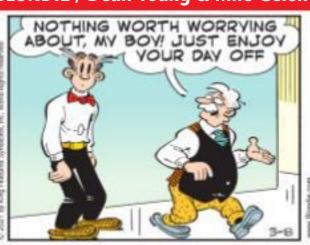


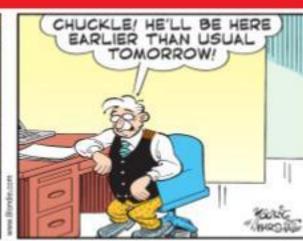
"PROBLY RECAUSE THEY DON'T MAKE "EM LIKE THEY USED TO." CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY

DENNIS THE MENACE

BLONDIE / Dean Young & Mile Gersher







WHIZ QUIZ balls are used

in the game of snooker? -2 What does CVV stand

4. The world's longest sea bridge is located in which



Express published?

AWARD, DEN. Rearrange the selected Answer: Words formed: PLATE, 5. In which Indian state is the daily The Morung

Answers: 1. 22 2. Card Verification Value 3. Ruma 4. China 5. Nagaland

4454 / @ 2021 Amrita Bharati, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

formed.

letters P L A R E to get the word

GUIDING LIGHT

Importance of meditation breaks

- Ritesh Rawal

ith a flood of information to contend with, and social needs – especially in pandemic has today the brains of our kids are tired like proven to be another big reason why children never before and children of all ages dire-should meditate. Meditation negates the anti-sleep ly need an opportunity to open up, relax and focus. effect of screens, helps an individual remain in tune Meditation offers a pause and helps children to act with one's purpose and aids the creativity in a more effectively and clearly. Regular meditation young mind. practice has many positive effects on the emotional, In their growing years, children tend to undergo mental, and intellectual development of children. It many emotional and mental challenges. These chalalso helps children to tune in to themselves, sleep lenges may also result in weaknesses developing latbetter, and develop better social interactions. Meditative practices have been used since ancient times to unlock inner potential, improve health and well-

In contemporary times, the most common form of meditation is mindfulness. It works to upgrade concentration, boost focus, rejuvenates the mind, and helps maintain a positive vibe, keeping the wayward emotions in check and insulating one from

Kids today also have high levels of academic pressure and resulting stress. To help them take a break mentally and sharpen their intellect, parents should encourage them to meditate. Gadget overuse – for educational, entertainment

er in life. Meditation empowers children with emotional and mental agility to overcome any form of hurdle in life. Meditation helps release these psychic stressors, resulting in children brimming with not only physical energy but also emotional solidity and mental robustness.

You can make children sit still, but you can't force them to meditate. As with most desirable behaviors, parents must take the lead and demonstrate commitment to deeper awareness themselves first. If you model a meditative practice, your kids will learn one, too.

(The author is a founder of Dudes & Dolls World, Adhyay School, and Ritesh Rawal Foundation)

Crossword #122 Across Artist's work (6) London's Gardens 8 One-named Irish singer (4) 9 Tell 10 Pulling with the help of a rope (6) 11 Large hairy spider (9) 13 Cat's noise (4) away : escaped ? 16 Be silent (5) 17 Improvise (5) 20 Frequency unit (3) 22 Put on (3) 23 Poultry farm

commodity (5) 24 Leash (5) 26 Firmament (3)

28 Spying (9)

33 Ex-India all-rounder

34 Talk at length (3)

35 Inclined head (6)

Eight-tentacled creatures (6) 27 River of Flanders (4) Not worthy (8) 31 Rome was not built 32 Tiger Woods' game

21 Infernal (7) 3 Hire charges (4) 24 Jamaican popular Betrothed (7) music (3) 5 Unit for measuring 25 Supplicated (6) 26 Go furtively (5) 6 Unit of power (4) 7 Scoundrel (7) 29 Dubious (4)

12 Bosh! (3) 30 Word form for "within 14 Tear down (4) Solution 25 Rmn, 28 Rouge, 30 Audit, 31 Eking, 32 Pisa, 33 Clan.

13 Faraway, 15 Pan, 16 QED, 18 Pebble, 20 Wench, 21 Ray, 22 Che, 23 Baking, Down: 1 Offal, 2 Toxin, 3 Riga, 4 Lapel, 5 Seal, 6 Ruckus, 9 Relate, 11 Vet, 12 Laser, Ploy, 33 Chunk, 34 Milieu, 35 Gyration, 36 Agnate.

Spar, 19 Awes, 21 Re-enacted, 23 Barb, 24 When, 26 Way, 27 Brae, 29 Came, 32 Across: 4 Losers, 7 Flotilla, 8 Prance, 10 Avila, 13 Feel, 14 Lena, 15 Pall, 16 Qua, 17

FPJ - SUDOKU - 27

Level: Very Easy

18 Make-or-break time (

19 Leaning to one side

20 Grand house (7)



WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.



YOUR DAY



ARIES: You will yield positive results all because of your courage, competence, and hard work. Your social horizon will widen. Avoid being overly emotional on the relationship front.



front. Pay attention to your domestic life. CANCER: You will grow in all aspects of your life, the progress will be real quick. Your mental health will improve and you will now feel much

GEMINI: You may move to a new place

because of emotional or financial reasons. You

may face minor disappointments on the work

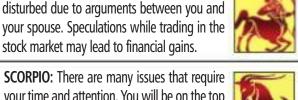


around you. You may earn more respect on the social front. Your financial position will be good. There will be new sources of income. VIRGO: Listen to the advice given by your

LEO: You will get along well with everyone



stock market may lead to financial gains. **SCORPIO**: There are many issues that require



problems. Avoid overthinking. You need to get away from your negative perspective. **CAPRICORN:** You will have considerable work pressure and you will also be involved in

SAGITTARIUS: Don't neglect your health,

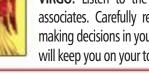
neglecting your health may lead to serious



more caring about your physical needs. See the other side of things before you express yourself. Be kind to everyone. Stay cool and calm. **PISCES:** Sportsperson should concentrate on

TAURUS: You will meet new people and will learn from their experiences. You will be in a positive mood. Your communication skills will be appreciated by all. Don't neglect health.

better. A new relationship is on the cards.



associates. Carefully review the trend before making decisions in your professional life. Work will keep you on your toes. A short tour is likely.



your time and attention. You will be on the top and would take all the challenges head-on. Your health may be troublesome, take care.

LIBRA: The harmony at home may get



unrewarding jobs. Your health may deteriorate. Your workaholic tendencies will be off the charts.



building team spirit. Politicians and those in the film industry will have a good day. Matters related to your parents must be solved with care.

By Nilikash P. Pradhan

AQUARIUS: Try to be patient with yourself and



MUMBAI | SATURDAY | JUNE 19, 2021 www.freepressjournal.in

Iran votes in prez poll tipped in hard-liner's favour

Dubai

Iran voted on Friday in a presidential election tipped in the favour of a hard-line protege of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, fuelling public apathy and sparking calls for a boycott in the Islamic Republic.

State-linked opinion polling and analysts put hardline judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi (pic) as the dominant front-runner in a field of just 4 candidates. Former Central Bank chief, Abdolnasser Hemmati, is running as the race's moderate candidate but hasn't inspired the same support as outgoing President Hassan Rouhani, who is term limited from

seeking the office again. If elected, Raisi would be

HONG KONG: Despite a mas-

sive raid on the pro-democ-

racy Apple Daily, the Hong

Kong tabloid, continued its

operations and printed

500,000 copies of Friday's pa-

per while warning the read-

ers that the city's "press

freedom is now hanging by a

On Thursday, 5 senior ex-

ecutives were arrested on

suspicion of violating the

national security law after

its headquarters were raid-

ed by the police, Hong Kong

Free Press reported. Over 44

computers and hard disks

were seized by police during

Thursday's operation in-

volving 500 officers, the

In an open letter published

to its readers, the paper said:

"After five hours of investi-

large number of items, in-

cluding 38 computers of

journalists, which con-

tained considerable journal-

gation, police confiscated a

thread".

tabloid said.



the first serving Iranian president sanctioned by the US government even before entering office over his involvement in the mass execution of political prisoners in 1988, as well as his time as the head of Iran's internationally criticised judiciary — one of the world's top exe-

It also would firmly put

istic materials. Hong Kong's

press freedom is now hang-

labelled journalistic materi-

als that were gathered open-

ly as evidence of crime;

while the regime has pub-

licly called on journalists to

keep a distance from fellow

media workers, who are

merely doing their jobs," the

Hong Kong police on

Thursday had arrested the

chief editor and 4 directors

of a pro-democracy Apple

Daily newspaper under dra-

conian Hong Kong security

law on suspicion of conspir-

acy to collude with foreign

forces. The South China

Morning Post (SCMP) re-

ported the National Security

Police officers raided their

homes to gather evidence

and held all of the accused

for questioning. However, none of them have been

"The law enforcement has

ing by a thread."

letter reads.

charged yet.

HK's pro-democracy

daily prints 5L copies

despite raid, arrests

hard-liners in control across the Iranian government as negotiations in Vienna continue over trying to save Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers, as it enriches uranium to the closest point yet to weaponsgrade levels.

Tensions remain high with both the US and Israel, believed to have carried out a Iranian nuclear sites and assassinating the scientist who created its military atomic program decades earlier. Polls opened at 7 am local

time for the vote, which has seen widespread public apathy after a panel under Khamenei barred hundreds of candidates, including reformists and those aligned with Rouhani.

Khamenei cast the ceremo-

where he urged the public to take part. "Through the participation of the people the country and the Islamic ruling system will win great points in the international arena, the ones who benefit first are the people them-

But by mid-day, turnout appeared far lower than Iran's last presidential poll in 2017.

ahead, choose and vote."

selves," Khamenei said. "Go

NORTHERN IRELAND DUP LEADER **RESIGNS AMID PARTY REVOLT**

BELFAST: Edwin Poots announced his resignation as leader of Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland after less than a month in the post amid an internal revolt. His resignation on Thursday came after a party officers' meet in Belfast amid the internal revolt over nomination of Paul Givan as Northern Ireland's First Minister. "I have asked the Party Chairman to begin an electoral process within the party to allow for a new leader of DUP to be elected," Poots said.

UK's Conservatives suffer defeat in 'Blue Wall' seat

LONDON: In a surprising result, British PM Boris Johnson's Conservative Party has been easily defeated in a special election for a seat it has held for decades. The Liberal Democrats, which was in a coalition government with the Conservatives between 2010 and 2015 before seeing its electoral fortunes wane dramatically, won Thursday's election in Chesham and Amersham, 57 km northwest of London. Sarah Green, the Liberal Democrat candidate, picked up around 57% of the vote and won a seat the Conservatives have held since it was created in 1974. She added around 30 percentage points to the party's result from the 2019 general election.

QUICK BYTES



French President Emmanuel Macron speaks with pupils as he visits a primary school classroom at Poix de Picardie, France.

US shootings leave 1 dead, 12 injured

WASHINGTON: 1 person was killed and 12 others were injured in a series of shootings in several places in the Phoenix metropolitan area in the US state of Arizona, police said, adding the suspect was arrested. As per Peoria Police dept, the shootings took place on Thursday at 8 locations throughout the West Valley cities in the Phoenix metropolitan area and lasted over an hour, reports Xinhua. 4 of the 13 victims injured were struck by a bullet and 9 others were hurt but not shot, Brandon Sheffert, a police spokesperson said, adding, the suspect was found during a traffic stop in the city of Surprise, where the suspect surrendered to cops without incident.

Defence secy: China a pacing challenge for US

WASHINGTON: China is a "pacing challenge" for America, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has said, asserting it is "really important" for the US to focus more on creating opportunities to better partner with its allies and partners in the strategically vital Indo-Pacific region. Austin told the Senate Appropriations Committee during a hearing on 2022 Budget Request for the Defense Dept on Thursday China was his "priority focus". "China is, in fact, our pacing challenge and it is my priority focus. You've seen that through quite frankly our actions. My first overseas trip along with Secretary Blinken was over to the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Israeli warplanes strike Hamas posts

GAZA: Israeli warplanes struck military posts of the al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Hamas movement, in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian security sources said. Israeli media reported the airstrikes on Thursday were in retaliation to the launching of dozens of incendiary balloons into southern Israel from Gaza for the third consecutive day, reports Xinhua news agency. The Palestinian sources and witnesses said several explosions were heard in the northern and southern Gaza Strip following the airstrikes. Severe damage was caused to the military posts, but no injuries were reported. The Israeli media reports said the incendiary balloons launched from Gaza caused over 8 fires in

communities near borders.

Migrant boat capsize near Spain's Canary

BARCELONA: Spanish authorities say 4 people, including a child, died after a migrant boat believed to be carrying 45 passengers capsized near Spain's Canary Islands. The boat was approaching Orzola on the island of Lanzarote on Thursday night when it flipped over a few metres from shore, throwing the passengers into the water. Emergency workers and residents rescued 41 people, including 19 women and 7 kids, with sub-Saharan nationalities and worked overnight to Friday recovering the bodies of 3 adults and a boy. 2 more boats with 110 migrants reached the Canary islands of

Lanka seeks India's help as lion tests +ve

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's zoological gardens authorities have sought assistance from India after a lion tested positive at a zoo in Colombo. The head of the National Zoological Gardens here said they are in touch with India's Central Zoo Authority to treat an 11-year-old lion named 'Thor' who has tested positive. "We are in regular touch with the Central Zoo Authority of India and following their instructions on taking preventive measures to prevent the staff and other animals in the zoo being infected. We continue to treat the lion while keeping him in isolation," DG Ishini Wickremesinghe said.

PIO Justice becomes 1st person of colour to be nominated to



Indian-origin Justice Mahmud Jamal to the Supreme Court of Canada, becoming the first person of colour to be named to the apex court of the country.

Trudeau announced Jamal's nomination on Thursday to replace the retiring Rosalie Silberman Abella, the first refugee and first Jewish woman to sit on the top court. "I am pleased to announce the nomination of Justice Mahmud Jamal to the Supreme Court of Canada. I know that Justice Jamal, with his exceptional legal and academic experience and dedication to serving others, will be a valuable asset to our country's highest court," Trudeau

said in a statement. Justice Jamal, who is in his mid-fifties, had a distinguished career as a litigator with a deep commitment to pro bono work prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 2019, the PM's office said. He appeared in 35 appeals before the Supreme Court of Canada on civil, constitutional, criminal, and regulatory issues. He also taught constitutional law at McGill University and administrative law at Osgoode Hall Law

US House votes to repeal '02 Iraq war authorisation

WASHINGTON: The Democratic-led US House of Representatives has voted to repeal the 2002 authorisation for the Iraq War, an effort to curb presidential war powers. The House revoked the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) in a vote on Thursday of 268 to 161, with 49 Republicans joining 219 Democrats, reports Xinhua.

"After 20 years of fighting for this, we're finally one step closer to ending forever wars," Congresswoman Barbara Lee, the sponsor of the repeal bill, said tweeted after the vote. The 2002 AUMF allows military action to defend the national security of the US "against the continuing threat posed by Iraq". SC junks suit by Republican-led

states, upholds Obamacare: The US Supreme Court has dismissed a lawsuit by Republican-led states seeking to repeal the Affordable Care Act, upholding former President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law. The Justices on Thursday ruled 7-2 that 18 Republican-led states led by Texas and 2 individuals lacked standing to bring their lawsuit to a federal court, marking the third time the highest court dealt a blow to efforts to strike down the 2010 law, Obamacare, meant to provide healthcare for millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions.



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Opal Lee (2nd L), the activist known as the grandmother of Juneteenth, look on as US **President Joe Biden signs the Juneteenth National Independence** Day Act, in the White House in Washington.

INDIAN-AMERICAN CHEMIST WINS **EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD**

LONDON: Indian-American chemist Sumita Mitra has won one of the Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes for her pioneering use of nanotechnology in dentistry to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings, now used by dentists around the world. Mitra won European Inventor Award 2021 in the "Non-EPO countries" category. This researcher found nanoclusters could be used in dentistry, resulting in

robust, durable, and aesthetically pleasing fillings, the European Patent Office (EPO) said. Her material overcomes many limitations of previous dental composites, which were either too weak to be used on biting surfaces or

quickly lost their polish. These tiny clusters have been used in one billion dental restorations worldwide, it said.

'BLATANTLY FALSE', SAYS INDIA, DENYING ATTACK CLAIM ON

"blatantly false" the reports about the Indian Navy's alleged assault on

group of 13 fishermen claimed they had ventured into the sea on May

7 onboard trawlers 'Thushan 1' and 'Thushan II' and were physically

LANKAN FISHERMEN BY ITS NAVY: India on Friday rejected as

Sri Lankan fishermen, saying no such incident has taken place. A

assaulted by the Indian Navy around Diego Garcia on June 4.

Islands kills 4

Fuerteventura and El Hierro.

Hindustan Unilever Limited

Registered Office: Unilever House, B. D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 099. CIN: L15140MH1933PLC002030, Web: www.hul.co.in, Email: levercare.shareholder@unilever.com, Tel: +91 22 5043 3000 / 5043 3070

NOTICE

This is an addendum, to the Notice of 88th Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held through Video Conference (VC) / Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM) on Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021 at 3.00 p.m. The venue of the Meeting shall be deemed to be the Registered Office of the Company i.e. Unilever House, B. D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 099. By this addendum, Notice is hereby given that the electronic dispatch of the Integrated Annual Report was completed on 27th May, 2021. The copy of Integrated Annual Report is also available on the Company's website www.hul.co.in and on website

of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com from 27th May, 2021.

Date : 19th June, 2021

Place : Mumbai

For Hindustan Unilever Limited Dev Bajpai Executive Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary

DIN: 00050516 / FCS No: F3354

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank

REGIONAL OFFICE, MUMBAI THANE Dhanlaxmi Industrial Estate, Gokul Nagar, Near Navnit Motors, Thane (W) 400 601. • PH. No. (022) 2172 1145 (D) / 1746 / 3741 • Fax No. : (022) 2172 1611.

DEMAND NOTICE U/s 13 (2) Read with Sec. 13 (3) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 The Authorized Officer of the Bank has issued demand notices in compliance of sectio

13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 to the below mentioned Borrower / Guarantors demanding outstanding amount within 60 days from the issue of the said notice, mentioned as pe details. The said notices are returned undelivered / un-served. Hence this publication of the Demand notice is made for notices to the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

Name and Address of the Borrowers & Guarantors ■ Mr. Balkrushna Babu Shethe • R/o.:- House No. 1414/2, Priyajan Society, Khoni PO. Bhiwandi, Dist. Thane, Bhiwandi-421 302. ■ Mr. Anil Purushottam Bidvi

• R/o.:- Godvinde Nagar, At PO. Vashind, Tal. Shahpur. Dist Thane-421 601

Ground Floor, Priyajai CHS., Khoni Taluka Bhiwandi, Distrcit Thane-421 302. Date of Demand Notice

Description of Propert

Flat No. 2, Bldg. No. 1

Amount due to Bank as per Notice ₹ 5.20.222.32 + further Interest thereon & Other Charges.

Vhereas on the request of the Borrowers & Guarantors as mentioned above **Union Ban**

of India, Kawadkhurd FI Branch has sanctioned the credit facilities. The above accour has been classified as NPA due to non payments of principal and interest thereon and consequently the notices of demand issued to the Borrowers & Guarantors on the above mentioned dates & on the given address under section 13 sub section (2) of THI SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 but it was returned un-served.

Whereas the aforesaid dues of the bank are secured by the securities mentioned agains the name of the Borrowers / Guarantors, the aforesaid Demand is hereby made agains borrowers and guarantors under section 13 sub section (2) of the said Act, all at the above addresses through this notice to repay the above noted dues to the bank mentioned agains their names plus upto date interest within 60 days from the date of notice failing which the bank will proceed further to take steps U/s. 13 sub section (4) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002 All the above borrowers and guarantors advised not to sell, transfer to any other type o transfer of the above mentioned properties mortgaged with the bank without prior approval of the bank. The Borrowers / Guarantors are advised to collect ORIGINAL NOTICE issued U/s 13 (2) from the undersigned on any working day.

Authorised Officer, UNION BANK OF INDIA

Nepal House dissolution: Prez says SC cannot overturn her decision

KATHMANDU: Asserting that the House of Representatives was dissolved as per the constitutional provisions, Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari has told the Supreme Court it cannot overturn her decision on the matter or subject it to a judicial review.

President Bhandari, at the recommendation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. dissolved the lower house for the second time in 5 months on May 22 and announced snap polls on November 12 and 19. PM Oli is heading a minority government after losing a trust vote in the House. **Swedish govt to face**

no-trust vote: Swedish PM Stefan Lofven will face a no-trust vote on June 21, opposition parties announced. The vote, should it go through, would lead to a snap poll or a caretaker govt.

NK's Kim vows to be ready for confrontation with US

School, it said.

SEOUL: North Korean leader party meeting on Thursday, Kim Jong Un ordered his government to be prepared for both dialogue and confrontation with the Biden administration — but more for confrontation, state me-

dia reported Friday, days after the US and others urged the North to abandon its nuclear programme and return to talks.

Kim's statement strength his nuclear arsenal and increase pressure on Washington to give up what North Korea considers a hostile US policy, though he'll also prepare for talks to resume, some experts say.

Kim analysed in detail the policy tendencies of the US under President Biden and clarified unspecified steps to be taken in relations with Washington, the Korean Central

Agency said. Kim "stressed the need to get ready for both talks and confrontation, especially to get fully pre-

pared for confrontaindicates he'll likely push to tion in order to protect the dignity of our state and its interests for independent development and to reliably guarantee the peaceful environment and the security of our state."

In 2018-19, Kim held a se-During an ongoing ruling ries of summits with thenPresident Trump to discuss his advancing nuclear arsenal. But their negotiations fell apart after Trump rejected Kim's calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for a partial surrender of his

Biden's administration has worked to formulate a new approach on North Korea's nuclear programme it describes as "calibrated and practical."

policy haven't been publicised, but US officials have suggested Biden would seek a middle ground between Trump's direct meetings with Kim and former Presi-Barack Obama's "strategic patience" to curb Kim's nuclear programme.

News nuclear capability.

Details of his North Korea

Delta variant cases jump 33k in a week, making up total UK count

LONDON: The number of Delta variant infections has jumped by 33,630 in a week to hit a total of 75,953 in the UK, with the highly transmissible variant first identified in India now making up 99% of all Covid-19 cases in the country, health officials said on Friday. Public Health England, which has been tracking variant of concerns (VOCs) on a weekly basis, said data shows a higher risk of hospitalisation with Delta VOC compared to Alpha — the VOC first detected in the Kent region of England.

It also pointed to its previous findings 2 doses of a vaccine gives a "high degree of protection" against hospitalisation from the Delta variant. "PHE's weekly Covid-19 variant cases data show numbers of the Delta variant in the UK have risen by 33,630 since last week to a total of 75,953," PHE reports. "The most recent data show 99% of

sequenced and genotyped cases across the country are the Delta variant. Data show an increased risk of hospitalisation with Delta compared to Alpha, although PHE's analysis shows two doses of vaccine gives a high degree of pro-



Ardern gets shot in the arm

ew Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern on Friday received her first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine in Auckland. Ardern said the vaccine was "easier than getting the flu jab", reports Xinhua. "I never wanted to be among the first, but I also wanted to be a role model I'm choosing to be vaccinated at this point to play my role in demonstrating that I consider it to be absolutely safe, but also really critical to keep others safe," the PM said.

tection against hospitalisation, estimated to be more than 90%." Meanwhile, UK opened vaccines to all adults.

DASHBOARD ▶ Brazil reports 2,311 more deaths Namibian chief who urged German

reparations dies >> 114 sick, 1 dead in Kabul US mission HK reports 3 imported Covid cases

Tokyo may ease alcohol ban in bars France scraps mask mandate, lifts curfew

Lanka detects first Delta varinat case

Illionois identifies 64 Delta cases Italy launches 'green pass', a digital proof the holder is not infected

CDC: Delta variant maybe dominant in **US:** The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention director Rochelle Walensky says she expects the delta variant will become the dominant strain in the US. "As worrisome as this delta strain is with regard to its hyper transmissibility, our vaccines work," Walensky said. She encouraged Americans to get vaccinated and "you will be protected against the delta variant."

EXTENSION OF RUN OF SPECIAL TRAINS FROM MUMBAI Train No. From - To

Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur daily special

with effect from 1.7.2021 till further advise.

05018	Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus daily special with effect from 1.7.2021 till further advise.
05102	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Chhapra special (every Thursday) with effect from 8.7.2021 till further advise
05101	Chhapra-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus special (every Tuesday) with effect from 6.7.2021 till further advise.
02598	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus- Gorakhpur superfast special (every Wednesday) with effect from 7.7.2021 till further advise.
02597	Gorakhpur -Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus superfast special (every Tuesday) with effect from 6.7.2021 till further advise.
06351	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus- Nagercoil special (every Monday & Friday) with effect from 2.7.2021 to 8.11.2021.
06352	Nagercoil -Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus special (every Sunday & Thursday) with effect from 1.7.2021 to 7.11.2021.
06071	Dadar- Tirunelveli superfast special (every Thursday) with effect from 8.7.2021 to 4.11.2021.
06072	Tirunelveli – Dadar superfast special (every Wednesday) with effect from 7.7.2021 to 3.11.2021.
02619	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Mangaluru Central daily superfast special with effect from 2.7.2021 to 8.11.2021.
02620	Mangaluru Central- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus daily superfast special with effect from 1.7.2021 to 7.11.2021.
www	For detailed halts and timings please visit enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

RESERVATION

Bookings for special train No. 05017, 05102, 02598, 06351, 06071 and 02619 on special charges will open on 19.6.2021 at all computerised reservation centers and on website www.irctc.co.in.

Only passengers having confirmed tickets will be permitted to board these special trains. Passengers are advised to adhere all norms, SOPs related to COVID19 during the boarding, travel and at destination



Central Railway

Date: 19.06.2021 Place: Thane

www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in Follow us on: 1 centralrailwayindia | 2 (S) Central_Railway

epaper_freepressiournal in

Copenhagen: Christian Eriksen was discharged from the hospital on Friday and immediately went to visit his Denmark teammates nearly a week after suffering cardiac arrest during a European

Championship match. The Danish soccer federation wrote on Twitter that Eriksen was released from the Rigshospitalet in central Copenhagen after a successful operation.

SPORTS CAFE

Boxers head to Italy for training

NEW DELHI: Eight of India's nine Olympic-bound boxers, along with a few sparring partners, will leave for Italy early Saturday morning for a training camp as they gear up for the Tokyo Games from July 23 to August 8. Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom (51kg), as reported by PTI earlier, has decided to base herself in Pune's Army Sports Institute till the Games.

Chopra, Phogat to train in Europe

NEW DELHI: Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and star wrestler Vinesh Phogat will continue to train in their respective locations in Europe till July 25 before leaving for the Tokyo Olympics, Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Friday. .

Ministry extends deadline

NEW DELHI: The Sports Ministry on Friday extended the deadline to submit applications for this year's National Sports Awards by a week, enabling the online process to continue till June 28. Éarlier the last date of submission of nominations and applications was fixed at June 21.

IOA rope in JSW Group as sponsors

NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Friday announced that JSW Group has been roped in as a sponsor for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. This comes a day after IOA entered a sponsorship agreement with MPL Sports Foundation as the 'Principal Sponsor' covering the Tokyo Olympic Games, 2022 Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games.

Hyderabad FC rope in Aaren D'Silva

HYDERABAD: Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC have signed young striker Aaren D'Silva on a three-year deal ahead of the new season, the club announced on Friday. The deal will see the 23-year-old attacker stay at the club till the end of 2023-24

Ali extends contract with Chennaiyin FC

CHENNAI: Chennaiyin FC forward Rahim Ali has signed a twoyear contract extension with the club, the Indian Super League (ISL) side confirmed on Friday. The 21-year-old from Bengal will be aiming to build on a breakaway 2020-21 ISL season, having impressed with a string of solid performances that also included two well-taken goals.

Kerala Blasters appoint Ivan as coach

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Indian Super League side Kerala Blasters FC has appointed Serbia's Ivan Vukomanovic as the club's new head coach for the upcoming season. Vukomanovic will be the first Serbian to manage KBFC and comes with a broad experience of coaching in the top divisions of Belgium, Slovakia, and Cyprus.

Bopanna-Sharan pair ousted

HALLE (Germany): India's Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan were knocked out of the Noventi Open men's doubles event after straight-set loss here. The Indian pair went down 3-6 6-7 to the sixth-seeded Belgian duo of Sander Gille and Joran Vilegen, failing to advance to the semifinals of the event on Thursday.

Naomi Osaka withdraws from Wimbledon

LONDON: Four-time Grand Slam champion and world No. 2 Naomi Osaka of Japan has withdrawn from the Wimbledon commencing on June 28. The 23-year-old has, however, confirmed on Friday that she would compete at the Tokyo Olympics beginning on July 23.

Bottas leads 1st practice at French GP

LE CASTELLET: Valtteri Bottas overcame a poor start to top the first practice session ahead of Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton at the French Grand Prix on Friday.

WHAT'S ON TV

- 05.30: Copa America; Argentina vs Uruguay; Sony Ten 2
- 05.30: WWE SmackDown; Sony Ten 1
- 15.30: England vs India (Women); Test; Sony Ten 1 15.30: India vs New Zealand WTC; Day-2; Star Sports
- 17.30: Euro; Pre show; Hungary vs France; Sony Ten 2 18.30: Euro; Hungary vs France; Sony Ten 2
- 20.30: Euro; Pre show; Portugal vs Germany; Sony Ten 2
- 21.30: Euro; Portugal vs Germany; Sony Ten 2

THIS **DAY**, THAT **YEAR**

The highest score in men's ODIs. At Trent Bridge, where they had set the previous world record of 444 for 3 in 2016, England smashed 481 for 6 against Australia. Jonny Bairstow (139 off 92 balls) and Alex Hales (147 off 92) were the chief plunderers in an innings in which England scored at 9.62 an over. The pair hit 31 fours and ten sixes between them and a total of 291 runs were scored in boundary hits in England's innings. Of the eight bowlers used by Australia, not one went for less than seven an over, and Andrew Tye became the 12th bowler to concede 100 or more runs in an ODI innings. Australia were bowled out for 239 and suffered their biggest defeat ever.

First day's play in WTC Final washed out, reserve day to come in force

Fielding coach Sridhar rules out change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA / Southampton

India's fielding coach R Sridhar ruled out the possibility of a change in the playing

XI after the opening day of the World Test Championship final against New Zealand

was washed out, insisting that the chosen players are capable of making conditions

irrelevant. The fickle English weather means that temperatures would go down and

there would be overcast conditions and after a day of frustrating wait and no toss,

a question was asked if India would still like to go in with three pacers and two

specialist spinners. "I was expecting this to be first question. The eleven that has

been announced is eleven that takes conditions out of equation," Sridhar told the

media after the opening day wash-out. "I think its the eleven which can play and

perform on any given surface and any given weather conditions. This eleven that

being abandoned means that if required, four hours of play will be possible on the

that ICC has got in organising matches and they know what it is about. And we all

know how the English weather is," Srdhar said. "I think they have been prudent and

reserve day. "That's going to make it a complete match and that's what the viewers

underwhelming England series and below-par first phase of IPL, has looked in good

not in a position to give you technical details as that will be an answer better given

nick. "Shubman Gill is a million dollar cricketer. He is batting brilliantly now. I am

sixth day which is reserved for a result. "It's trial and refinement with experience

wise. As it is, if play starts on time, we are looking at four hours of play on the

and audience want, a complete game," the former Hyderabad left-arm spinner

said.On the players' front, Sridhar feels that Shubman Gill, irrespective of an

has been put on park. If need be, a decision will be taken." The first day's play

FPJ NEWS SERVICE Southampton

All the anticipation, all the buildup, and it ends up being all about the rain on the first day of the World Test Championship between the world's top two teams, India and New Zealand here on Friday.

The opening day's action of the greatest Test matches, has ended after an extended farce, with rain playing the role.

This is for the first time in seven Test matches at Rose Bowl here, the first day's play has been abandoned without a ball bowled. This means the reserve day's play will come into force.

As per ICC playing conditions guidelines for the WTC final, if required the reserve sixth day can now come into effect with six hours of play lost on Day 1 itself.

There was forecast of rain and thundershowers and the heavens opened up last evening with relentless downpour continuing till after-

With puddles forming throughout the outfield, even the best drainage system couldn't have possibly forced some action on the opening day.

Umpires Michael Gough and Richard Illingworth, after multiple inspections, called off the game at 7:30 pm IST (3 pm local time).

ICC and England and Wales Cricket Board before they finalised the venue which also has a five-star facility within the premises, helping create a While there has been talk about tight bio-secure bubble.

by (batting coach) Vikram (Rathour)," he said. The English weather is known to be fickle and in any case, there was no guarantee that the match being

played at any other venue would

have not led to a wash-out on the

Isak, the Swedish messiah

first day. In the last five years, England has hosted 32 men's Test matches and

only as many as four have ended in draws which is an indication that even if rain plays spoilsport, the final will go the distance.

Will India change the playing XI?

Team India announced their playing XI last evening and it comprised of two spinners (Ashwin and Jadeja) and three seamers (Bumrah, Shami and Ishant). Now, with the weather playing its part, taking away more than a session and a half on Day 1 and conditions still overcast for today and the next few days, will India change their XI and go in with additional seamer? Technically they are allowed to do so, change the playing XI as the toss still has not taken place yet.

As per the ICC rule 1.2.1 of the playing conditions of WTC final, each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of four substitute in writing on the sheet provided by ICC. Other than as set out in clause 1.2.7 and 1.2.8 no player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination without the consent of the opposing captain. Immediately prior to the toss, the ICC Match Referee or his nominee shall check with both team captains that the players nominated on the team sheet are correct.

Peerless Shafali leads India's fightback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shafali Verma continued to amaze the cricketing world with her audacious strokeplay as she became only the fourth player in the history of women's Tests to two half centuries on debut, taking India to 83 for 1 at stumps on the third day of one-off Test against England.

The teenage prodigy was batting on 55 not out off 68 balls in the Indian second innings when the day's play ended after the third session was washed out by rains.

Another debutant Deepti Sharma, who was promoted to number 3 after her resolute 29 not out in the first innings, was giving Verma company on unbeaten 18 after India were forced to follow-on in the one-off Test.

Before Verma, Lesley Cooke (England), Jessica Louise Jonassen (Australia) and Vanessa Bowen (Sri Lanka) were the other players who have scored two 50-plus scores in their debut matches.

India trail by 82 runs overall with nine second innings wickets in hand and they still need to do a lot of work to save the match on the final day on Saturday. Only 45.5 overs were

possible on the day with three rain delays or interruptions. With the third interruption, the umpires called for tea and that was the end of the day's play as the final session could not be resumed due to incessant rain.

A new-look hockey side

FPJ NEWS SERVICE Bengaluru

Twenty-four hours after Hockey India read out eight new names in the women's hockey team for the Tokyo Games, the men too followed the suit as they added ten debutants in the side for the biggest Games of the globe, in the 16-member squad, which also features seasoned performers like PR Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh, for the Tokyo Games to be held from July 23 to Au-

The Squad: PR Sreejesh, H Singh, RP Singh, S Kumar, Amit R, Bi Lakra; H Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit; Shamsher Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh.

St. Petersburg

Southampton being the preferred

venue, it has been learnt that BCCI

was taken into confidence by both the

Sheer presence of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's successor in Sweden's national team changed the game even without scoring the goal. Alexander Isak's second-half performance illuminated a hitherto tough-to-watch match against Slova-

> kia that was heading for a goalless draw until the highly rated 21-yearold striker produced a deft flick over the top of the defense. Substitute Robin Quaison ran onto the ball and was brought down by the goalkeeper. Emil Forsberg converted

> the penalty to give Sweden a 1-0 victory Friday and, quite possibly, a place in the round of 16 at the European Championship. In the other matches of the day, Croatia held Czech Republic sharing

a goal each (Group D) in Glasgow.

Petr Sevcik put Czech Republic

ahead from the dreaded spot (37th), and Bruno Petkovic found the

equaliser for Croatia ten minutes later, at the Hampden Park. At the Wembley Stadium in London arch rivals Scotland and England

split points in a Group D encounter. It was after a quarter of a century after their memorable previous Euro

meeting, when the magic of Paul Gascoigne inspired England to victory. But harry Kane and boys coudl not as they shared points.

An early attempt by the self-same Larsson had set the tone in Saint Petersburg, where Janne Andersson's side – unchanged from their impressive defensive display against Spain –

against a cautious Slovakia outfit, happy to sit back and try to dictate from deep. Isak, the son of Eritrean parents

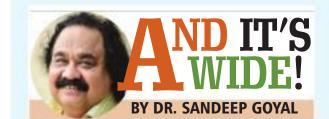
kicked off with a sense of freedom

who moved to Stockholm in the 1980s because of the long civil war in eastern Africa, also came close on two other occasions during a second half that was a huge step-up from the first.

Yet it was more the way he almost single-handedly turned things Sweden's way that was so impressive for a young player who is in his first major tournament after a breakthrough season at Spanish club Real Sociedad. There, he is nicknamed "The Swedish Messiah."

That goal eventually came and it gave Sweden four points in Group E, which could be enough to advance to the round of 16 after opening with a 0-0 draw against Spain. Slovakia has three points after starting with a 2-1 victory over Poland.

From zeroes to heroes: The English victory of 1971



ndia had not won a Test abroad till 1968 and had had no success in their previous six Test tours of England. However, under their new captain Ajit Wadekar, India had defeated West Indies in an away series that very year in early 1971. The victory in that series was built around the incredible batting sensation debutant Sunil Gavaskar, and old experienced hand Dilip Sardesai who scored 774 and 642 runs respectively to beat Gary Sobers' XI.

Having conquered the Caribbean giants, Ajit Wadekar's India were now headed to England in the Summer of '71. England were arguably the best cricket team in the world at that point of time. Earlier in the summer, they had managed to defeat a mercurial Pakistan 1-0 and were coming into the series with India with 24 Tests without defeat on the trot. They were to extend it to a record 26 Test matches before losing the third Test finally to India. And therein hangs a tale, told and retold many times over the years, but now starting to be somewhat lost in the folds of time. What better time than now to recount what happened 50 years ago than today as India played New

Zealand to be world champions in cumstances, but there was a steely re-

India played three Test matches that summer in England, and surprisingly won the series 1-0, with two Tests drawn. This was India's first ever series win in England. The First Test at Lord's and the Second Test at Old Trafford were drawn. India then pulled off a historic win in the Third Test at The Oval by 4 wickets after being 71 runs behind on first innings. They bowled England out for only 101 in the second innings with magician Bhag-

wat Chandrasekhar claiming 6-38. England were a strong side. Actually, that is a bit of an understatement. Led by the shrewd Ray Illingworth, they boasted a fine balance, including in their ranks batsmen of the calibre of Brian Luckhurst, Geoff Boycott, John Edrich, John Jameson, Keith Fletcher, Basil D'Oliveira and Dennis Amiss. The bowling, manned by John Snow, John Price, Peter Lever, Richard Hutton, Illingworth, D'Oliveira, Norman Gifford and Derek Underwood, had the right blend of speed and subtlety. And of course there was Alan Knott, who behind the stumps or in front of them was a force to reckon with.

Wadekar lost the toss in all three Tests and the Indian batsmen had to play in conditions favourable to bowlers, complete with interruptions for rain and bad light, in both the first and second Tests. Past Indian teams had succumbed meekly under such cir-

solve about Wadekar's side. India may have actually been a trifle fortunate in that rain washed out the final day of the second Test with England in a commanding position. Needing 420 to win, India were 65 for 3 at stumps on the fourth day. Rain also curtailed the first Test at Lord's with India needing 38 runs for victory with two wickets in hand. That match could have gone either way.

In the first Test, India bowled England out for 304 in the first innings. In reply they scored 313 gaining a first innings lead of 9 runs, only the second time India had led England in a Test overseas. The Indian spin trio of Srinivas Venkataraghavan, Bishen Singh Bedi and Chandrasekhar had a combined 9-wicket haul in the first innings and got into action again to bowl England out for 191 in their second innings. Needing only 183 to win, India however slipped to 145-8 at tea on the final day and were thankful for the rain which prevented any further play.

Gavaskar and Eknath Solkar with scores of 57 and 50 respectively were the only ones to offer some resistance in India's reply of 212 to England's score of 386 in the first innings of the second Test.

England's ferocious pace attack led by John Price and John Lever took India to 65-3 in pursuit of a target of 420. Ajit Wadekar, sitting in the pavilion, gratefully accepted the rain as a God-send - it



washed out the last day.

India's triumvirate of spinners gave away runs in excess of three runs-perover as England racked up 355 on the first day of the third Test. The second day was washed out due to rain. India responded with 284, thanks to fifties from Dilip Sardesai and Faroukh Engineer, along with some useful contributions from the tail.

From thereon it was Chandra's show. He first ran out John Jameson, England's second highest run-scorer from the first innings. Next he got John Edrich in a divine delivery that is part of cricket folklore.

England's left-handed No. 3 stepped forward, put down his bat in a perfect forward defence, only to find the ball had glided through his defences and hit middle and off! Solkar's superhuman catching skills at bat-pad were on display next ball as he snaffled up a sharp catch to dismiss Keith Fletcher and England were 24/3 at lunch on the fourth day, but still leading by 95. Then Basil D'Oliveira and Derek Underwood played rash shots and fell to catches in the deep. Captain Ray Illingworth and then John Snow hit a full toss and a half

volley straight back to Chandrasekhar. Both gone. Solkar dived forward to take another stunner to remove Alan Knott off the leg-spinner's bowling. When Chandrasekhar trapped the No. 11 Price in front, England were 101 all out and B S Chandrashekhar had taken

But the game was not yet won. Needing just 173 for a famous win, India started with Gavaskar getting a duck. Ashok Mankad scored a 74-ball 11. Wadekar was run out first thing next Sardesai, Gundappa morning. Viswanath and Engineer played knocks that took India closer. Viswanath was out with four runs to win and finally Abid Ali hit the square cut which gave India their first ever

Test series win in England! The day of India's win actually coincided with Ganesh Chaturthi that day. A group of Indian supporters had arranged for a three-year-old elephant named Bella from a nearby zoo to romp around the field. In really Lord Ganesh had perhaps come down to bless India ... 50 years on India is currently in battle for the WTC crown! Long long way from that epic 1-0 win in

England in 1971. (This is the concluding piece of a two part series on a flashback to 1971).

Dr. Sandeep Goyal, Managing Director of Rediffusion, has been a keen follower of the game for well over 50 years.

Sony India unveils new smart TV at Rs 299,990

NEW DELHI: Sony India on Friday unveiled a smart TV under the new BRAVIA XR A80J OLED series powered by the cognitive processor XR starting at Rs 299,990. The new BRAVIA XR A80J OLED series is currently available in 164 cm (65-inch) and two additional screen sizes 195 cm (77-inch) and 139 cm (55-inch) will be launched soon. The new TV is available across all Sony centres, major electronic stores and e-commerce portals in

India. "The new OLED series is powered by the cognitive processor XR which uses a completely new processing method that goes beyond conventional AI, designed to think like a human brain," said the company in a statement. The A80J pairs the 4K clarity with the brightness, colour and detail of High Dynamic Range (HDR). It features Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos so that one can enjoy cinematic thrills at home.





This 'bean' in the Arabian Sea is baffling experts

Recently, Google Maps satellite image showed a bean-shaped structure above the sea, west off the Kochi coast. Experts are trying to figure out if it is a plankton assemblage, a piece of land or something else

AGENCIES / Kochi

ver since a bean-shaped structure in the Arabian sea, about seven km west off the Kochi coast, was put out using the Google Maps satellite image showing the formation of an 'island' under the sea, talks have begun, that only a detailed study would reveal, what it is.

Experts have expressed doubts that there is a chance it could be even a plankton assemblage as a mass. This was first noticed by the Chellanam Karshika Tourism De-

CANDID

CORNER

Intimacy & Relationship Coach

is devastated. How do I help her?

them makes them last much longer.

away from it.

Aili Seghetti

Mother's heartbreak

Q. My mother is seeing her former colleague. He is married

and in the process of getting a divorce. He moved in with

us six months ago, and then suddenly left and went back

to his wife. He has stopped responding to messages. Mom

Ans: You can help your mum by holding space for her feelings

and asking her how she wants to be supported. Just be present to her sorrow without reacting or trying to make things

better. Things will get better on their own but they will take

time. There is a natural flow to painful emotions and even if

they theoretically last only 90 seconds, us thinking about

Your mother will need to process all her emotions first. It

is very important for her to acknowledge what she is going

through and grief. Heartbreak pain is a pain of separation.

It is the same pain we experience when we lose someone to

death or illness. It needs to be felt and validated, no matter

how much we feel like distracting ourselves and running

The pain might be followed by anger, sadness and even de-

nial or, by your mother trying to get back with this man. Just

be with her through all and keep on asking her what kind of

emotional and tangible support you can help with. What she

needs the most right now is to know that someone is there for

Slowly start suggesting some of the activities that help

hack happiness chemicals such as dopamine, serotonin, en-

dorphins and oxytocin. So many simple things in life can bring a smile on our face. Meeting a friend, petting a dog, sun

exposure, exercising, meditation, music and massages have

been part of self-healing practices for centuries, and they

The writer is an Intimacy & Relationship Coach, Founder

of The Intimacy Curator, an organisation promoting

(www.theintimacycurator.com).

self-discovery through emotional and sexual wellbeing

(Have a query? Send it on fpjcandidcorner@gmail.com)

World's third-largest diamond

unearthed in Botswana

her and that she is being heard without judgement.

work. Take it slow, healing takes time.

FPJ WEB DESK

Botswana, the country gov-

ernment said. The CNN re-

ported that the 1,098-carat

stone, believed to be the third

largest "gem-quality" diamond ever found, was pre-

sented to President Mokg-

weetsi Masisi on Wednesday.

The discovery was made ear-

lier this month at the Jwa-

ing to countries official web-

site. "Proceeds from the dia-

mond will be used to advance

national development in the

"Debswana should use this

latest discovery as an inflec-

tion point, for the mine to use

ment tweeted.

ne of the world's

largest diamonds has

been unearthed in

velopment Society when its president X.J. Kalipparambil shared the image which according to him was approximately around 22 sqkm (8 km in length and 3.5 km in breadth). Speaking to IANS, former director - research, at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), K.V.Jayachandran said that he too, read and heard about this phenomenon from the media.

"What it is, can only be proved through proper studies and for those agencies like KUFOS and CUSAT (Cochin University of Sci-



ence and Technology) can take the lead and am sure they will."

"From what I have read about this, chances are there could be a

plankton assemblage as a mass, as, such formations can be captured by satellite imagery. Moreover, I did not find in any of the reports about the presence of soil deposits," said Jayachandran and added that this phenomenon is seen commonly in temple pounds inland localities.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of KUFOS, K. Riji John also pointed out that only through a proper investigation can one find out what the new structure was.

"To make any sort of comment or opinion on this phenomenon at this stage is too early and it will be too premature. As the first step, we are now going to call a meeting of agencies who work in this area and once we do that, then we will approach the state government to take forward our studies," said

once in 45 days, but as new

findings emerge, we can now

donate platelets in 15 days —

new platelets were formed in

Bapat's donation figure has

now reached 284. "I have al-

ways believed that this is the

least we could do for the so-

ciety. We also arranged blood

donation camps as the sup-

ply is far lesser than the demand. I believe that in 365

days of a year, I should be

able to arrange at least 365

bottles of blood," Bapat

added. He aims to create

awareness about blood dona-

tion amongst citizens by do-

nating platelets in hospitals

or blood banks.

five-six days," Bapat said.

Stream, Chill, Stay home!

From music and art to fitness, and from webinars to unique workshops, here are some interesting online events which will help you keep busy during the pandemic

Celebrate World Music Day with Virtual concerts



WHAT: World Music Day is around the corner - concert goers, enthusiasts, and fans from all over the world are gearing up to celebrate their love for music. Which is why, Paytm Insider has a groovy

Virtual concerts, online masterclasses & lots more at-home experiences, that will offer fans more than one way to celebrate World Music Day - from the comfort and safety of their home. Here are some of the interesting music events that can be enjoyed: India Foundation for The Arts Presents 'Hitting the High Notes' Ft. Rahul Ram (June 26), 'Umeed Ki Sur' A Sewa International fundraiser with Jubin Nautiyal (June 19), Ace it with the masters, with Shubha Mudgal - Learn to sing devotional verses by 8 prominent poets of the Nirgun and Sagun traditions, each of which have been composed by the legend Shubha Mudgal (Available through the year), and more...

Log on to http://bit.ly/all-digital-events-music to choose the musical event you want to enjoy.

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT: https://insider.in/

Father's Day special: The Magic Mania Show



WHAT: Make your Father's Day Celebrations truly magical. Raell

Padamsee's Ace presents 'The Magic Mania Show'. For the first time ever, you can celebrate father's day as a family with a magical Father's Day Bonanza. Enjoy a magical time with your father as you tune in to the Great magician Zenia. Get blown

away as a family with her amazing magic. Then discover the secrets behind the act as you learn an awesome magic trick together. It's your chance to make your Father's Day celebrations

WHEN: June 20, Show 1: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM & Show 2: 5 PM

Call me By Your (Sur) Name – A father's day Comedy



WHAT: Four comics explore their relationships with their fathers through a stand-up show. Why? Because therapy is expensive. WHEN: June 20, 10 PM

onwards

To register, visit: https://in.bookmyshow.com/ What: Whether you want to introduce your child to Yoga or take time to share quality Yoga time with one another — this Yoga experience is designed to celebrate Father's Day and International Yoga Day! In this Yoga session, you will work on creative and fun balancing poses that can be done by all age groups – a great activity to stay fit, rejuvenate and bond with your family, children, friends and loved ones. A perfect class for beginners and can be done with the family.

WHEN: June 20, 11 AM onwards TO REGISTER, VISIT: https://insider.in/

Wall exercises for older adults by **GetSetUp**

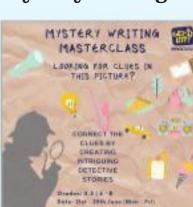


WHAT: GetSetUp is a peer-topeer learning community that enables older adults to serve as the surprising superheroes of today's economy, tapping a formidable, growing population of expert, retired educators to

help teach essential life-changing skills to others. In this virtual session, the wall is used as a prop to make the pose accessible and easier for seniors who may not have the needed strength, flexibility, or balance to do the same pose without such props. Note: The session is specifically for older adults, above 50+ years old. WHEN: Today, 9 AM onwards

TO ATTEND, VISIT: https://www.getsetup.io/classes/wall-exercisesfor-weekend-warrior/PUzy-QqLv

Mystery Writing Masterclass by GetLitt!



WHAT: As schools re-start, kids will be occupied and buried with school assignments and project works as the new term begins. To keep their creativity skills rolling and in motion and to make learning fun, enrolling kids in live and engaging masterclasses should be the way to go. Mystery stories fascinate all age groups and writing your own mystery

stories is a great way to get kids excited about writing. It teaches them critical thinking, planning, adding perspective and on top of all these are super fun to write! Children in this masterclass will plan and write the story by detailing out the problem, clues, the detective and finally the resolution.

Age Group: Grades 4 - 5, 6 - 8**WHEN:** June 21 to June 25, **TIMINGS:** (GRADE 4 – 5) 12 PM to 1:30 PM & 5 PM to 6:30 PM/ (GRADE 6 – 8) 10 AM to 11:30 & 3 PM to 4:30 PM

Caged: A collection of three curbed

voices in the abyss

WHAT: How does it feel

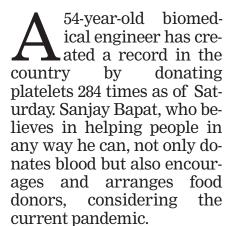


to be caged with the predators hounding for your existence? How does it feel to be left alone? Listen to three featured artists spill their poetry beyond the corral of life. Join

Platform Number 4 at our first featured show with Vaishnavi Kamath, Yash Wavdankar & Krishna Manaktala three amazing poets to soothe the evening with poetry and a subtle emotion of oppressed thoughts. WHEN: June 20, 7 PM onwards **WHERE:** Google Meet TO REGISTER, VISIT: https://insider.in/

Man donates platelets 284 times!

PRIYANKA NAVALKAR



Speaking to the Free Press Journal, Bapat, who has always been an avid social worker, has been donating blood every three months since 1987. However, when he learnt about the blood platelet and plasma donation in 1996, he began donating the platelets every 45 days, with the hope that blood banks never run dry. During the pandemic, a number of surgeries were either cancelled or postponed, posing a problem for blood banks. Bapat said, in the last 11 months of the pandemic, he has do-



nated platelets 21 times. "I am a regular blood donor and I have donated blood at least 56 times so far. Being in the biomedical en-

gineering field, I had my

usual visits to hospitals. In

1996, I learnt about a new machine brought in at Tata Hospital, which used to separate the platelets. I became the third donor on that new machine. Back then we could donate blood platelets

Apart from donating blood, Bapat also arranges food donors and has helped arrange over 160 food donors. "Once I cross 58 years of age, I will not be able to donate blood or platelets. But I also don't want to be useless and hence want to help as much as I

can," Bapat concluded. priyanka.navalkar@fpj.co.in

Bats in Switzerland harbour viruses with ability to jump to humans

AGENCIES / Bern

ats in Switzerland are harbouring viruses from 39 different viral families and some have the potential to jump to other animals, including humans and cause disease, researchers have found.

Monitoring the viruses harboured by bats around the world could improve understanding and detection of those that pose risk to humans, and better prepare the world for another such pandemic.

While previous research has investigated viruses carried by bats in several differ-

ent countries, none have focused on Switzerland. Researchers from the University of Zurich investigated viruses carried by more than 7,000 bats living in Switzerland. These bats belonged to 18 species of stationary and migratory bats. Specifically, they analysed DNA and RNA sequences of viruses found in organ, fecal, or stool samples collected from the bats.

The genomic analysis revealed the presence of 39 different families of viruses, including 16 families previously found to be able to infect other vertebrates, and which therefore could poten-



tially be transmitted to other animals or humans.

Further analysis of viruses with this risk revealed that one of the studied bat colonies harboured a nearcomplete genome of a virus known as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)-related coronavirus (CoV).

MERS-CoV has been responsible for an epidemic in 2012. These findings are published in the open-access iournal PLOS ONE.

While the MERS-CoV-related virus is not known to cause disease in humans,

"Metagenomic analysis of bats endemic to Switzerland

reveals broad virus genome

genomes from 39 different virus families were detected, 16 of which are know to infect vertebrates, including coronaviruses, adenoviruses, hepeviruses, rotaviruses A and H, and parvoviruses," said the team including Is-Hardmeier abelle from the varsity's Institute of Virology.

researchers The noted that genomic analysis of bat stool samples could be a useful tool to continuously monitor viruses harboured by bats, including the MERS-CoV-related virus. This type of tracking could potentially detect accumulations of

viral genetic mutations that could increase the risk of transmission to other animals, enabling earlier detection of viruses that pose danger to humans.

While there are few known instances of disease-causing viruses jumping directly from bats to humans, some viruses carried by bats may jump to other animals and then become transmitted to humans. SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, is also debated to have originated from a virus that was transmitted from a bat to another animal before infecting humans.

This AI tech can hear Covid in a cough

AGENCIES / Sydney

ustralian computer scientists have developed a novel Artificial Intelligence-based model that can hear the effects of Covid-19 in the sound of a forced cough, even when people are asymptomatic, an advance that can pave the way for detecting the infectious disease via diagnostic

mobile phone apps. During the pandemic, many crowdsourcing platforms have been designed to gather respiratory sound audios from both healthy and Covid-19 positive groups for research purposes.

A team of researchers from RMIT University accessed datasets from two of these platforms - Covid-19 Sounds App and COSWARA

– to train the algorithm using contrastive self-supervised learning, a method by which a system works independently to encode what makes two things similar or different.

With further development, their algorithm could power a diagnostic mobile phone app, said lead author Hao Xue, Research Fellow in RMIT's School of Computing Technologies. "We've overcome a major

hurdle in the development of a reliable, easily-accessible and contactless preliminary diagnosis tool for Covid-19.' said Xue, Research Fellow in RMIT's School of Computing Technologies.

products lining the store windows, and set out on low tables across the

massive space. A 17-foot-tall circular

glass structure near the entrance

also helps users find out more about

the products. Dubbed the Google

Imagination Space, it has custom in-

teractive screens that feature rotat-

ing exhibits and provides real-time

translation of your speech into 24

There is also a team at hand to field

Google opens its first-ever retail store in New York

Google through our phones, displays,

FPJ WEB DESK / Mumbai

esidents of New York can now march into a Google retail store to purchase an extensive selection of hardware and software products. The company's first-ever brick-and-mortar store

WHAT'S TRENDING?

showcases an impressive array of wares - from Pixel phones, Stadia, WearOS to Nest and Fitbit devices, Fitbit devices to Pixelbooks - all in a 5,000 square feet store.

"We wanted our first store to reflect the same approach we take to deepaper_freepressiournal in



they're always helpful to people. The

result is a space we believe is warm

signing our products: making sure and inviting, while providing new ways to celebrate and experience

speakers, wearables and more," explains a blog post on the company's website. Photos shared online show

post explains.

languages.

queries from potential customers. "For those who want to get up close and personal, every part of the store invites hands-on interaction with our products and services," the blog

neng mine, around 75 miles these large more of from the country's capital, discoveries," it added. Gaborone. Officially opened in 1982, the Jwaneng mine usually The mine is operated by yields between 12.5 million Debswana, a diamond company jointly owned by and 15 million carats of dia-Botswana's government and monds a year, according to the De Beers Group, accord-

Debswana. This month's find is the largest gem unearthed by the company since diamonds were first discovered in Botswana in 1967, the govcountry," Botswana govern- ernment said. At present, the largest diamond ever recorded is the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa in 1905.

its technology to realise

Raftaar to accept cryptocurrency as fees



apper Raftaar has become the first Indian artiste to accept cryptocurrency instead of actual currency as performance fee. "I've always been an ardent admirer of blockchain technology. I've always wondered why artistes and managers alike haven't explored the potential of this disruptive medium. Nevertheless, I've finally taken the baby steps in this direction and all the credit goes to my manager, Ankit Khanna for making this dream a reality for me," said Raftaar. The virtual performance for which Raftaar accepted cryptocurrency is scheduled for the second week of July.

Bollywood Bytes

Neeti Mohan shares adorable pics of her baby boy





arlier this month, playback singer Neeti Mohan and her husband, actor Nihaar Pandya, welcomed their first child. The singer on Thursday shared some adorable pics of her baby boy, Aryaveer.



Akshay's effigy burnt amid *Prithviraj* controversy

khil Bhartiya Kshatriya Mahasabha has objected to the name of the movie Prithviraj starring Akshay Kumar and termed it an insult to the great ruler. Recently, an effigy of the superstar was burnt in Chandigarh amid demonstrations against the film. Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha has demanded change in the title of the film immediately and the script should be approved by senior representatives of the Kshatriya Samaj and screening of the film must also be done before the release while objectionable and distorted facts must be removed. According to reports the organisation has asserted that the film's title should include the King's full name — 'Hindu Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan' or 'Emperor Prithviraj Chauhan'.

—FPJ Web Desk

KJo's Foundation to help members of film fraternity amid the pandemic

n a bid to extend help to the members of the Indian entertainment industry amid the coronavirus pandemic, filmmaker Karan Johar on Friday launched a foundation named after his late father, film producer Yash Johar. In a social media post, the 49-year-old director said the Yash Johar Foundation has been set up with an aim to look into financial well-being, health and educational and vocational training of people from the industry.



Deepika launches 'Chain of Well-Being'

Padukone, on Thursday,

launched Chain Of Well-Being' initiative on social media. The digital guide is focused on bringing to the forefront things that would support people in coping with "the overall gloom and overwhelm" during these stressful times. The United Nations' agency, UNICEF, India has also partnered with Deepika for the 'Chain of Well-Being' along with several other digital influencers. The intent is to create a

guide from thought

leaders and powerful

extends support to the

voices in the field of

mental health that

ones in need.

Salim Diwan adopts 20 children

ctor Salim Diwan, has taken up the responsibility of 20 children and their education, and says he is trying to give back to the society by helping those in need amid the pandemic crisis. "These children are my family. I look after their education and well-being. I hope they also do the same going forward. I am just doing my work as a human being. It is the responsibility of each and every person who is capable enough to look after other people apart from their families. If you have more money than you need, you should help others," he

'Picking up yoga basics is easy; it's moving to the intermediate that is the challenge'

Ahead of International Yoga Day (June 21), Malaika Arora talks about its benefits

ANITA RAHEJA-HEENA AGARWAL

alaika Arora is one of the fittest personalities in the Hindi film industry. Be it on a flight or on ground she can take some time out to stretch anywhere. Her love for yoga is even reflected in her social media posts. In fact, she calls herself a Yogi on her Instagram handle. Apart from being an ardent yoga practitioner, she is also a co-founder of a yoga school called Sarva. In an interview with the Cinema Journal, Malaika talks about her love for yoga and its benefits. Excerpts:

When and who introduced you

• Honestly, I don't remember. I faintly remember starting yoga when I was in school. I think it just happened subtly and without the realisation that it would have such a **solitary** deep impact on my life.

What school of yoga do you follow?

None in particular.

What are your favourite asanas? • Suryanamaskars are my favourite. They are easy and uncomplicated. In addition to these, I love twisting asanas, they are great for detoxifying the body.

Which are the most

challenging asanas? • I would say back bends. It needs everything strength, stamina and flexibility.

Do you have a yoga teacher?

I have so many fantastic teachers at Sarva. I look forward to my class with them everyday.

How quickly did you pick up the basics of yoga?

 Yoga focuses on a lot of natural movements. So, picking up yoga basics is easy. It's moving from beginner to intermediate practitioner that is the

What motivated you

challenge.

to start a yoga school? • Well, I have been a practitioner for such a long time. And I see how people go through their life with challenges that seem insurmountable. I often think, how much strength do people need for this. And that's where the idea struck. What if there was something we could do to help people out there live better lives? And it all comes down to mental, physical and emotional strength. The answer was with us all along: Yoga!

Do you see it as a group activity or a returning to yourself and therefore a

The journey to self is not hinged on the physical presence of someone around us. In my opinion, you can be in a crowded market place and still be one with yourself. Group yoga sessions are fun, they challenge you to further push your limits and of course, who doesn't love a fabulous encouraging group of people to practice with.

Do you do it for physical well-being or as part of your spiritual quest?

You can simply

replace the

with an AND. I do it for my physical well-being AND as a part of my spiritual quest.

Are you also into meditation? • Yes, I am. A very big portion of my yoga practice is the meditation. It's not easy to keep a calm mind in situations that demand your best all the time — whether its work, family

or any other area of life. It's important that we spend five minutes daily to simply look inwards.

How have you benefitted from it?

Yoga establishes a mind-bodybreath connection that creates a balance and equilibrium within. This creates a sense of calm and quiet that helps us stay centred.

What should one avoid before doing yoga?

• One should definitely avoid eating for up to three hours before a yoga session. The process of digestion is an important time when our body absorbs the nutrients from the food. At such a time, practicing yoga may cause harm. So, practice three hours after a proper meal.

What should one do after a session?

• After a yoga session, it is important to sit for a few moments and let the body cool down. After an intense session, the body emanates a lot of energy, especially when you have had a high intensity class and done some intensive *pranayama*

/kriya as well.

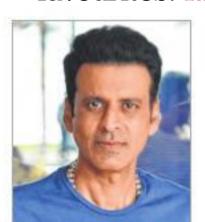
How can yoga help in one's mental well-being, especially in such tragic and difficult times?

 Yoga creates a sense of calm. I feel that breath is the centre of life. The better we breathe, the better we live! Staying fit, keeping calm and finding peace are all goals that can be fulfilled with yoga. As a Covid survivor, pranayama, some gentle asana practice and

meditation aided greatly in my recovery and my mental health during my quarantine.

Talking Heads

Creative people shouldn't have favourites: Manoj Bajpayee



anoj Bajpayee, who has worked in films as well as OTT, says he would never pick a favourite medium when it comes to showcasing his work. "Creative people should not have favourites because you are supposed to work on whatever medium that you are working for. You have to just look for good work that excites and challenges you," the actor says. He cites examples of recent projects he has worked in that dropped digitally. "So many films that

have come on OTT have done well. Bhonsle or Silence were meant for theatre release. OTT came as a blessing and we can put these films on OTT for people to see. Theatres will open again. The more the avenues, better the chances for all of us. More talent will be consumed and benefit from it." he added.

Those who have power must look out for others: Pankaj Tripathi

ankaj Tripathi feels those who have power and potential must take up the duty of looking out for others more than ever today. He addressed the subject through an audio clip on social media. "It's time for us to be selfless and help anyone who looks like they're in need of it. Trust me, doing this will feel good. Care is always welcome, especially in times of crisis. A book I read recently describes how even in the presence of a



powerful king in the jungle — which is the lion — all the inhabitants of the forest have to look out for themselves," said Pankaj. "In human society, it's not the same. Those of us who have power and potential must take up the duty of looking out for others who need us more than ever today," he added.

Brilliant narrative exposes every day patriarchy

SHUBHA SHETTY

he title says more about the protagonist of this film, Vidya Vincent [Vidya Balan], than the actual tigress. In a well-fleshed out character, Vidya plays a forest officer (DPO), who is pitted against the influential and powerful men around her and their misogyny. Vidya's duties include making sure that the poor villagers don't become victims of the tigress' ire, while trying to protect the tigress and her cubs. Apart from being caught in a political drama between a local MLA and a former legislator [Satyakam Anand], Vidya also has to struggle against a weakwilled corrupt superior [Brijesh Kala] and an aggressive hunter [Sharad Saxena]. Her professionalism and good intent is side-lined because she is a woman.

Vidya Balan is the best fit to play a woman who doesn't protest openly when faced with misogyny and disrespect and continues doing her work with integrity. While Vidya's character is still struggling to find her way around patronising men, she also has to defend the actions of the tigress who is forced to come out of her habitat due to the negligence and corruption of the people. It seems like both the protagonist of the film and the animal in question are stuck in a trap-like situation.

This might look like a man-animal

Vidya yet again shows us why she is considered one of the most deleaves a solid impact. She finds

conflict at the outset, but it is much more than that. Director Amit Ma-



surkar, whose last film Newton went on to win many laurels, along with writer Aastha Tiku, converts this into a brilliant narrative that exposes every day patriarchy and the unquenchable human greed in the process.

pendable actresses from the current generation. Sans makeup and other paraphernalia, she plays this powerful role with raw vulnerability and support in a fantastic bunch of actors around her, which includes Vijay Raaz, Brijendra Kala and Neeraj Kabi.

Brilliant cinematography by Rakesh Haridas makes you feel like **TITLE:** Sherni CAST: Vidya Balan, Sharat Saxena, Vijay Raaz, Mukul Chadda, Brijendra Kala, Neeraj Kabi, Ila Arun **DIRECTOR:** Amit Masurkar **PLATFORM:** Amazon Prime Video RATING: ★★★★

you are a part of the forest and in the midst of the action.

Masurkar and his team, like his earlier movie *Newton*, manage to cover a whole lot of ground about the current social and political issues that need to be talked about. This is an important film and shouldn't be missed.

> (The reviewer is Director — Quest Films/Quest Digital)

> > said.

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