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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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PMC BANK SET TO TURN SMALL FINANCE BANK UNDER CENTRUM Pg 9

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

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

PRIYANKA NAVALKAR
Mumbai

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,

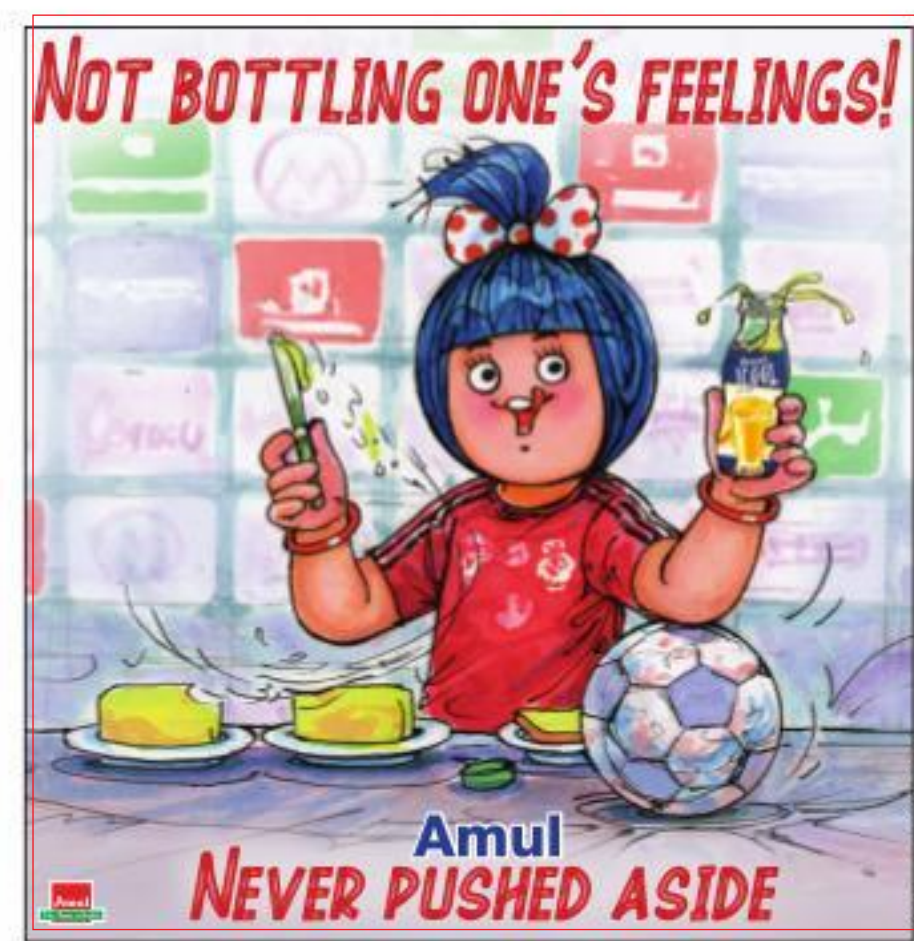


police said. According to police sources, the residents had allegedly approached Rajesh Pandey, employed at a private hospital,

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 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 used the hospital credentials in the CoWin application without authorisation.

CONTD. ON P13



TRIBUTE FLYING SIKH GROUNDED

Indian 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 Singh and three daughters. "He breathed his last at 11.30pm," according to family source.

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.

He 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 Padma Shri in 1959.

Singh, who was born in 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 photo-finish to Spence. Singh's then-national record timing of 45.6 seconds at Rome was broken by Paramjeet Singh of India in 1970.



Not a worry in the world, children enjoy a splash in the Arabian Sea at Badwar Park during high tide, in Mumbai on Friday

ANOTHER SHADY TEMPLE DEAL

RASHMI SHARMA
Lucknow

More dubious temple land deals are tumbling out of Ayodhya, which may constrain the Kshetra Trust to rethink the process of acquisition of land. After the recent controversy over purchase 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 the city for just Rs 8 crore.

Interestingly, this second deal too was secured on the same day - March 18 this year - and the original owners, too, are the same. Not only this, by an uncanny coincidence, the witnesses to this deal too are the same. While one witness is trust member Anil Mishra, the other is Ayodhya Mayor Rishikesh Uppadhyay.

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.

SC REFUSES TO STAY BAIL, STALLS RULING ON UAPA

FROM OUR BUREAU
New Delhi

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 India.

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.

Compliance 'work in progress'

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

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi

Twitter executives were put in the pillory 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 IT led by Congress's Shashi Tharoor.

"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 rattle the members further.

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 society, we tag them".



"We have a policy. We have equal respect for the law of land. 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 defame India.

The parliamentary committee meeting was called to examine the issue of safeguarding rights of Indian citizens and preventing misuse of online platforms.

At the meeting, Twitter India was represented by its legal counsel Ayushi Kapoor and senior manager for public policy Shagufta Kamran.

On non-compliance with the government's interim guidelines, Twitter said it is working on the issue.

However, sources said, the two officials could not give a specific timeline for adherence to the new protocol.

Twitter was asked about its policy on content flagged as prickly or inflammatory. In this context, a BJP MP specifically raised the Ghaziabad incident of thrashing of a Muslim which was posted on social media and went viral. Officials admitted that they promote what they think are healthy Tweets and demote those which were not healthy," sources said - an explanation that did not wash with the panel.

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.

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 non-essential 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.

CONTD. ON P13

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 examinees-doctors 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 final 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 directed to issue directions to all the universities to give reasonable time to students for preparing for the examination.

"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

30-44 age group vax drive, now

PTI
Mumbai

The Maharashtra government 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 state-run vaccination centres.

The Maharashtra government has been allocated 72 lakh vials of vaccines this month of which 25 lakh have been received and distributed. "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.

LAST WORD

Third wave by Oct, will be controlled outbreak

AGENCIES / Bengaluru

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.

Of those who ventured a prediction, 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 vac-

inations would have been rolled out and 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.

Indians itching to shop, eat out: Survey

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 be coming sooner than anticipated.



Protesting nurses try to stop Deputy CM's car in Beed

BEED: Police used baton-charge here on Friday to disperse a 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 contract 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

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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 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 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 turning 18 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-

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

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

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

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 Justices Sambhaji Shinde and Nizamuddin Jamadar that it has challenged the portions of the 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.

The state seeks deletion of portions of FIR that mention reinstatement of Sachin Waze and interference in transfer and postings of cops in state

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.

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, "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 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 Parmbir Singh, the former top cop of Mumbai.

"The orders nowhere mention about how and why Waze was reinstated. The CJ's bench specifically refused to deal with contentions of undue interference in the trans-

fers and postings," Dada 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 reinstated by Parmbir Singh and it is the former top cop who had entrusted Waze with most important probes."

QUOTA FOR OBCs IN LOCAL BODIES

Govt to file review petition against SC order

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The Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government and BJP are now pitted against each other on the politically important issue of the restoration of 27% political reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in gram panchayat, zilla parishad, nagar parishad and also in the cooperation sector. Senior Congress leader and Minister of OBCs Vijay Wadetiwar on Friday announced that the state government will soon file a review petition challenging the Supreme Court's order cancelling the political quota for the OBCs in local bodies. He



The state gov't 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.

On the other hand, BJP will stage state-wide agitation on June 26 demanding the restoration of OBC quota in the local bodies. Former minister Pankaja Munde has blamed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government for OBC losing their political reservation in the local bodies. She warned that till the reservation is restored, OBCs will not allow the government to hold elections to the local bodies.

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.

Wadetiwar said, "The em-

pirical data of OBCs is available with the Centre but it has not yet been shared with the state despite requests made twice. There is a question mark over the political quota for OBCs. More than 40,000 seats in the cooperation sector, gram panchayat, zilla parishad and nagar parishad are in serious trouble."

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 allowed," she warned.

Court: Instead of trying for reformation of criminal mind, they should be punished

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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 Farooq 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 terrorist act and being a member of a terrorist organization are punishable by a life term.

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

work fruitfully in the case of 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 Maharashtra 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 gov't 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, Maharashtra has been completely left out in this planning. The Mumbai-Nagpur project can be extended up to Jalna and Nanded," said Chavan in a letter to Thackeray. -Sanjay Jog

CM seeks revised policy for electric vehicles

SANJAY JOG
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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 infrastructure



in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Aurangabad, Pune, Nagpur, and Nashik to electric mod by 2025. The Chief Minister's Office

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 electric 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 effectively implemented in urban-rural areas. CM asked the administration to prepare a road map for the infrastructure development for setting 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 Akshayabharat 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 arrive 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 custody. -Staff Reporter

Woman posing as PMMY official dupes man of ₹55K

SACHIN GAAD
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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 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), received a call from one Priya 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 Awaz 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. Jadhav who has also taken a loan from BMC for treatment of

his son then decided to take the loan and paid Rs 1000 as 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

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 available this year."

Nirav Modi's sister, brother-in-law seek recall of warrants

STAFF REPORTER / Mumbai

The sister and brother-in-law of fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi, accused in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) multi-crore 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 to laundering the proceeds of crime, are also absconding. They made the application for relief before the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

court through their advocates. 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

case. In her plea seeking tender of pardon under the CrPC, Purvi 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.



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 Aripada police and lodged his complaint.

"Following the complaint, we have registered an offence under various sections of IPC, said an officer from Aripada police station.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: To assess whether people will shift from private vehicles and road transport to trains if more AC locals are started, Central Railway has sought suggestions on desired fare, coach composition and schedule for AC locals. What would you suggest?

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

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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."



PICTURE: BL/SONI

Parents protest after students denied access to online classes

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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 fees.

Parents of the students studying 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."

Ahira 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 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.

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

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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 official.

"As per the trend of the spread in the second wave, more than 90 per cent of the cases are emerging from high-rises and all the affected 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.



Truck caught red-handed dumping debris in Bhandup

Environmentalists waylays vehicle; BMC fines contractor Rs 20,000

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

Environmentalists 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 future. 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.

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KIRTI VYAS MURDER Both accused denied interim bail

STAFF REPORTER
Mumbai

A sessions court, on Wednesday, rejected the temporary bail applications of the two accused -Siddhesh 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 Sahjwani 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 had been rejected earlier. It said that, moreover, Sahjwani's pleas for interim 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

barred to again consider the pleas for interim bail on the grounds of the pandemic.

Additional Sessions Judge 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 rent.

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.

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

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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 cases.

According to the agency sources, during the interrogation of the accused persons, information 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 Muthkuri 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

28.

NIA, during its investigation, had found that, on March 4, 2021, dismissed police officers Sachin Vaze and Sunil Mane had handed over Hiran to Muthkuri, 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 Thane-based businessman, had

claimed that he was in possession of the SUV, but the vehicle had been stolen before its recovery near Antilla, 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 Lakhanbhैया fake encounter case.

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FREE PRESS
Open manholes have been lying unattended opposite the Marks & Spencer showroom at Oshiwara, Lokhandwala Complex, Andheri West. Hidden from sight due to waterlogging with the slightest of showers, they pose a grave risk to pedestrians.
PHOTO: TAPAN BANERJEE

State Cyber Dept issues advisory on virtual kidnapping

STAFF REPORTER | Mumbai

Maharashtra Cyber Department has issued a new advisory 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 kidnapers have not actually kidnapped anyone. Instead through deceptions and threats, they coerce the victims to pay a quick ransom before the scheme falls apart.

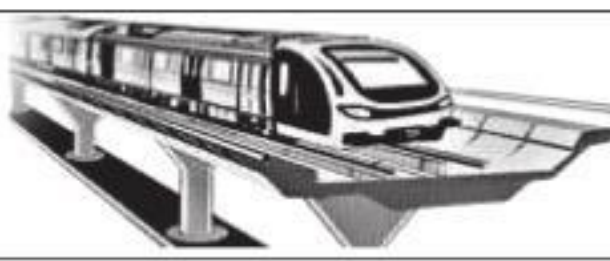
"We have seen a couple of variations in virtual kidnapping. In one scenario, the caller is far from the target and is working from the information gleaned from social media or is just fishing for a target. In the second scenario, the caller has done some homework, can physically see the target and may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

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BookASmile will match donations collected through the fundraiser upto one million rupees.

NMMC vax drive benefits 186 persons with disabilities

NAVI MUMBAI: A total of 186 persons with disabilities turned up for Covid-19 vaccination at three centres during a special drive conducted by the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). The sessions were

conducted at Maasaheb Meenatai Thackeray Hospital in Nerul, Rajmata Jijau Hospital in Airoli and ESIS hospital in Vashi. 64 people were vaccinated at the Nerul centre, 64 in Vashi and 58 in Airoli. -AMIT SRIVASTAVA



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

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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 Covid-19. The result will be declared by July 31, the CISCE told the Supreme Court on 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 and practical work in various subjects, along with best marks scored in classes 11 and 12.

The CISCE said, "For rationalisation of marks

"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

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

"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."

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

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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 homebuyers."

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

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



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

STAFF REPORTER Mumbai

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 complainant Mariyam Shaikh, 47, a resident of Matunga Labour Camp wanted to start a business for which she had 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 Idris 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 Nagar police station and registered 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 few people and found Shaikh's current mobile number and after tracing his mobile location a police team was immediately dispatched 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.

Now check Covid test reports online

NMMC provides link to Covid report on its website and sends links to registered numbers through SMS

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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 special 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 from NMMC.

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

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.

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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.



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

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 stabilizing line to facilitate quicker train operations during peak hours. This will also

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 stabilizing 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 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 Wagale 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, Wagale 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 the ward.

Villagers beat up MMRDA officials over action against illegal buildings

THANE: An irate mob of villagers manhandled and beat up officials of the Mumbai Metropolitan Development Authority (MMRDA) 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 following 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

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

SURESH GOLANI suresh.golani@fpj.co.in

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



Karan Pawar with his mentor 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 siblings, 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 killing her husband in Thane

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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 Dombivli. 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 Nerul in Raigad district.

The police said the deceased was identified as Pravin Dhanraj Patil, a resident of Dombivli. On June 4, Patil's relative registered his missing complaint at Manpada police station in Dombivli. 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-



Pravin Dhanraj Patil

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 Nerul 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 amit.srivastava@fpj.co.in

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

In the last few months, CIDCO 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 Ghanoli, 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.

Months after rape at Covid unit, MBMC finally hires MSF guards

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

SURESH GOLANI suresh.golani@fpj.co.in

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 guards.

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.

From being caught taking

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.

Man kills 13-yr-old niece over alleged affair with neighbour

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The Dombivli police have arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly killing his 13-year-old niece. The police informed that the accused allegedly banded 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 younger brother 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 by throwing a paver block on him, but he missed and

Shankar managed to run away.

"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 being 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.



Mumbai needs truly gutter politics

Class 12 students: From agony to uncertainty

The agony of millions of Class 12 students and their parents has finally come to an end, with 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.

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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.

The Fault With Reality

✦ Anil Singh



A 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 politics.

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 ground-floor flats. It turned out that the pumps were not working and the sea valves had not been closed.

As if this embarrassment was 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,

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 ground-floor flats. It turned out that the pumps were not working and the sea valves had not been closed.

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. Every year, the BMC claims it is

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It was only after 26/7 that the BMC took up the Bristowad project (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 of Mithi. Here too, the grand

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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 it.

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

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 US 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 based in Mumbai. He welcomes feedback on anilsinghjournalist@gmail.com

ONE FLEW OVER THE NEST #EnidBlytonBooks

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

imokusoso

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.

Suel@Wander_Ponder

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

David Baddiel@Baddiel

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

Shreemi Verma@shreemiverma



LETTERS 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

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

Impose exit tax on fleeing rich & educated

Viewpoint

✦ Bharat Jhunjunwala

Consultancy 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.

Contrary to this assessment, 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

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 emigration.

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

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-

print media and TV channels that 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 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

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 Ira Raikar

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

CORPORATE GALLERY

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 Portuguese 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



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 is 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



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 Jaduu 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 join 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

Parents 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

BRINGING UP FATHER / FRANK JONSON



BLONDIE / Dean Young & Mile Gersher



DENNIS THE MENACE



GUIDING LIGHT

Importance of meditation breaks

— Ritesh Rawal

With a flood of information to contend with, today the brains of our kids are tired like never before and children of all ages direly need an opportunity to open up, relax and focus. Meditation offers a pause and helps children to act more effectively and clearly. Regular meditation practice has many positive effects on the emotional, mental, and intellectual development of children. It also helps children to tune in to themselves, sleep better, and develop better social interactions. Meditative practices have been used since ancient times to unlock inner potential, improve health and wellbeing. 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 chaos. 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

and social needs - especially in pandemic has proven to be another big reason why children should meditate. Meditation negates the anti-sleep effect of screens, helps an individual remain in tune with one's purpose and aids the creativity in a young mind. In their growing years, children tend to undergo many emotional and mental challenges. These challenges may also result in weaknesses developing later 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 (3)
 - One-named Irish singer (4)
 - Tell ___ : fib? (1,3)
 - Pulling with the help of a rope (6)
 - Large hairy spider (9)
 - Cat's noise (4)
 - ___ away : escaped? (3)
 - Be silent (5)
 - Improvise (5)
 - Frequency unit (3)
 - Put on (3)
 - Poultry farm commodity (5)
 - Leash (5)
 - Firmament (3)
 - River of Flanders (4)
 - Spying (9)
 - Rome was not built ___ (2,1,3)
 - Tiger Woods' game (4)
 - Ex-India all-rounder Kirti ___ (4)
 - Talk at length (3)
 - Inclined head (6)



- Down
- Eight-tentaced creatures (6)
 - Not worthy (8)
 - Hire charges (4)
 - Betrothed (7)
 - Unit for measuring gold (5)
 - Unit of power (4)
 - Scoundrel (7)
 - Bosh! (3)
 - Tear down (4)
 - Make-or-break time (4)
 - Leaning to one side (8)
 - Grand house (7)
 - Infernal (7)
 - Jamaican popular music (3)
 - Supplicated (6)
 - Go furtively (5)
 - Dubious (4)
 - Word form for "within" (4)

Solution

Across: 1 Artist's work (6) 2 London's ___ Gardens (3) 3 One-named Irish singer (4) 4 Tell ___ : fib? (1,3) 5 Pulling with the help of a rope (6) 6 Large hairy spider (9) 7 Cat's noise (4) 8 ___ away : escaped? (3) 9 Be silent (5) 10 Improvise (5) 11 Frequency unit (3) 12 Put on (3) 13 Poultry farm commodity (5) 14 Leash (5) 15 Firmament (3) 16 River of Flanders (4) 17 Spying (9) 18 Rome was not built ___ (2,1,3) 19 Tiger Woods' game (4) 20 Ex-India all-rounder Kirti ___ (4) 21 Talk at length (3) 22 Inclined head (6) Down: 1 Eight-tentaced creatures (6) 2 Not worthy (8) 3 Hire charges (4) 4 Betrothed (7) 5 Unit for measuring gold (5) 6 Unit of power (4) 7 Scoundrel (7) 8 Bosh! (3) 9 Tear down (4) 10 Make-or-break time (4) 11 Leaning to one side (8) 12 Grand house (7) 13 Infernal (7) 14 Jamaican popular music (3) 15 Supplicated (6) 16 Go furtively (5) 17 Dubious (4) 18 Word form for "within" (4)

FPJ - SUDOKU - 27 Level: Very Easy

7	5	6	3		
1	8		7		9 5
		6	7	8	2 3 4
		4			8
		3	9	4	5 7 2
9	4		8		1 2
5	2		1		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.

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.

GEMINI: You may move to a new place because of emotional or financial reasons. You may face minor disappointments on the work 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 better. A new relationship is on the cards.

LEO: You will get along well with everyone 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 associates. Carefully review the trend before making decisions in your professional life. Work will keep you on your toes. A short tour is likely.

LIBRA: The harmony at home may get disturbed due to arguments between you and your spouse. Speculations while trading in the stock market may lead to financial gains.

SCORPIO: There are many issues that require 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.

SAGITTARIUS: Don't neglect your health, neglecting your health may lead to serious 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 unrewarding jobs. Your health may deteriorate. Your workaholic tendencies will be off the charts.

AQUARIUS: Try to be patient with yourself and 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 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.

Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN Secy Gen

UNITED NATIONS: UN General Assembly on Friday appointed Antonio Guterres as the UN Secretary General for a second term beginning January 1, 2022, days after the powerful Security Council unanimously recommended his name to the 193-member body for

re-election. President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly Volkan Bozkir announced Guterres "has been appointed by acclamation as the Secretary General of the UN for the second term of office beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2026."

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

JON GAMBRELL
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 hard-line 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



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 executioners. It also would firmly put

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 weapons-grade levels. Tensions remain high with both the US and Israel, believed to have carried out a

series of attacks targeting 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-

nial vote from Tehran, 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 themselves," Khamenei said. "Go ahead, choose and vote." But by mid-day, turnout appeared far lower than Iran's last presidential poll in 2017.

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.



HK's pro-democracy daily prints 5L copies despite raid, arrests

HONG KONG: Despite a massive raid on the pro-democracy Apple Daily, the Hong Kong tabloid, continued its operations and printed 500,000 copies of Friday's paper while warning the readers that the city's "press freedom is now hanging by a thread". On Thursday, 5 senior executives were arrested on suspicion of violating the national security law after its headquarters were raided by the police, Hong Kong Free Press reported. Over 44 computers and hard disks were seized by police during Thursday's operation involving 500 officers, the tabloid said. In an open letter published to its readers, the paper said: "After five hours of investigation, police confiscated a large number of items, including 38 computers of journalists, which contained considerable journal-

istic materials. Hong Kong's press freedom is now hanging by a thread." "The law enforcement has labelled journalistic materials that were gathered openly as evidence of crime, while the regime has publicly called on journalists to keep a distance from fellow media workers, who are merely doing their jobs," the letter reads. Hong Kong police on Thursday had arrested the chief editor and 4 directors of a pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper under draconian Hong Kong security law on suspicion of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces. The South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported 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 charged yet.

PIO Justice becomes 1st person of colour to be nominated to Canada apex court



TORONTO: PM Justin Trudeau has nominated 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 School, it said.

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.

QUICK BYTES



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

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 capsizes near Spain's Canary Islands kills 4

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 Fuerteventura and El Hierro.

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.

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 gov 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 gov.

NK's Kim vows to be ready for confrontation with US

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his government to be prepared for both dialogue and confrontation with the Biden administration — but more for confrontation, state media reported Friday, days after the US and others urged the North to abandon its nuclear programme and return to talks. Kim's statement indicates he'll likely push to 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. During an ongoing ruling



party meeting on Thursday, 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 News Agency said. Kim "stressed the need to get ready for both talks and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation 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 series of summits with then-

President 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 nuclear capability. Biden's administration has worked to formulate a new approach on North Korea's nuclear programme it describes as "calibrated and practical." Details of his North Korea 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 President Barack Obama's "strategic patience" to curb Kim's nuclear programme.

'BLATANTLY FALSE', SAYS INDIA, DENYING ATTACK CLAIM ON LANKAN FISHERMEN BY ITS NAVY: India on Friday rejected as "blatantly false" the reports about the Indian Navy's alleged assault on Sri Lankan fishermen, saying no such incident has taken place. A group of 13 fishermen claimed they had ventured into the sea on May 7 onboard trawlers "Thushan I" and "Thushan II" and were physically assaulted by the Indian Navy around Diego Garcia on June 4.

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

New 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.

DASHBOARD

- Brazil reports 2,311 more deaths
- Namibian chief 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 variant case
- Illinois 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
05017	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 7.7.2021 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.

For detailed halts and timings please visit www.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
www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in
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RailMadad Helpline 139

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.

For Hindustan Unilever Limited Dev Bajpai
Executive Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary
Date : 19th June, 2021
Place : Mumbai DIN : 00050516 / FCS No: F3354

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE, MUMBAI THANE
Dhanlaxmi Industrial Estate, Gokul Nagar, Near Navit 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 SARRFAESI ACT, 2002
The Authorized Officer of the Bank has issued demand notices in compliance of section 13(2) of SARRFAESI Act, 2002 to the below mentioned Borrower / Guarantors demanding outstanding amount within 60 days from the issue of the said notice, mentioned as per 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	Description of Property
Mr. Balkrushna Babu Sheth R/o:- House No. 1414/2, Priyaganj Society, Khoni PO. Tal. Bhiwandi, Dist. Thane, Bhiwandi-421 302.	Flat No. 2, Bldg. No. 2, Ground Floor, Priyaganj CHS., Khoni Taluka, Bhiwandi, District Thane-421 302.
Mr. Anil Purushottam Bidvi R/o:- Godvinde Nagar, At PO. Vashind, Tal. Shahpur, Dist Thane-421 601.	Bhiwandi, District Thane-421 302.

Amount due to Bank as per Notice ₹ 5,20,222.32 + Further Interest thereon & Other Charges. **Date of Demand Notice** 31.05.2021
Whereas on the request of the Borrowers & Guarantors as mentioned above Union Bank of India, Kawadkhurd FI Branch has sanctioned the credit facilities. The above account 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 THE 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 against the name of the Borrowers / Guarantors, the aforesaid Demand is hereby made against 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 against 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 SARRFAESI ACT 2002. All the above borrowers and guarantors advised not to sell, transfer to any other type of 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.
Date : 19.06.2021
Place : Thane Authorised Officer, UNION BANK OF INDIA



Eriksen released from hospital after successful operation

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. Earlier 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 season.

Ali extends contract with Chennaiyin FC

CHENNAI: Chennaiyin FC forward Rahim Ali has signed a two-year 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 Novosti 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 Vliegen, 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

2018 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.



Relentless rain

First day's play in WTC Final washed out, reserve day to come in force

FPJ NEWS SERVICE
Southampton

Fielding coach Sridhar rules out change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA / 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 afternoon.

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).

While there has been talk about

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 it's the eleven which can play and perform on any given surface and any given weather conditions. This eleven that has been put on park. If need be, a decision will be taken." The first day's play being abandoned means that if required, four hours of play will be possible on the sixth day which is reserved for a result. "It's trial and refinement with experience 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 wise. As it is, if play starts on time, we are looking at four hours of play on the reserve day. That's going to make it a complete match and that's what the viewers 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 underwhelming England series and below-par first phase of IPL, has looked in good nick. "Shubman Gill is a million dollar cricketer. He is batting brilliantly now. I am not in a position to give you technical details as that will be an answer better given by (batting coach) Vikram (Rathour)," he said.

Southampton being the preferred venue, it has been learnt that BCCI was taken into confidence by both the 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 tight bio-secure bubble.

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 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.

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 August 8.

The Squad: PR Sreejesh, H Singh, RP Singh, S Kumar, Amit R, Bi Lakra; H Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagor Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit, Shamsheer Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh.

FPJ NEWS SERVICE
St. Petersburg

Isak, the Swedish messiah



Sweden players celebrate after the match

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 Slovakia that was heading for a goalless draw until the highly rated 21-year-old 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 could 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 -

kicked off with a sense of freedom against a cautious Slovakia outfit, happy to sit back and try to dictate from deep.

Isak, the son of Eritrean parents 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



AND IT'S WIDE!
BY DR. SANDEEP GOYAL

India 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 Tests.

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 Bhagwat 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 Amis. 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.

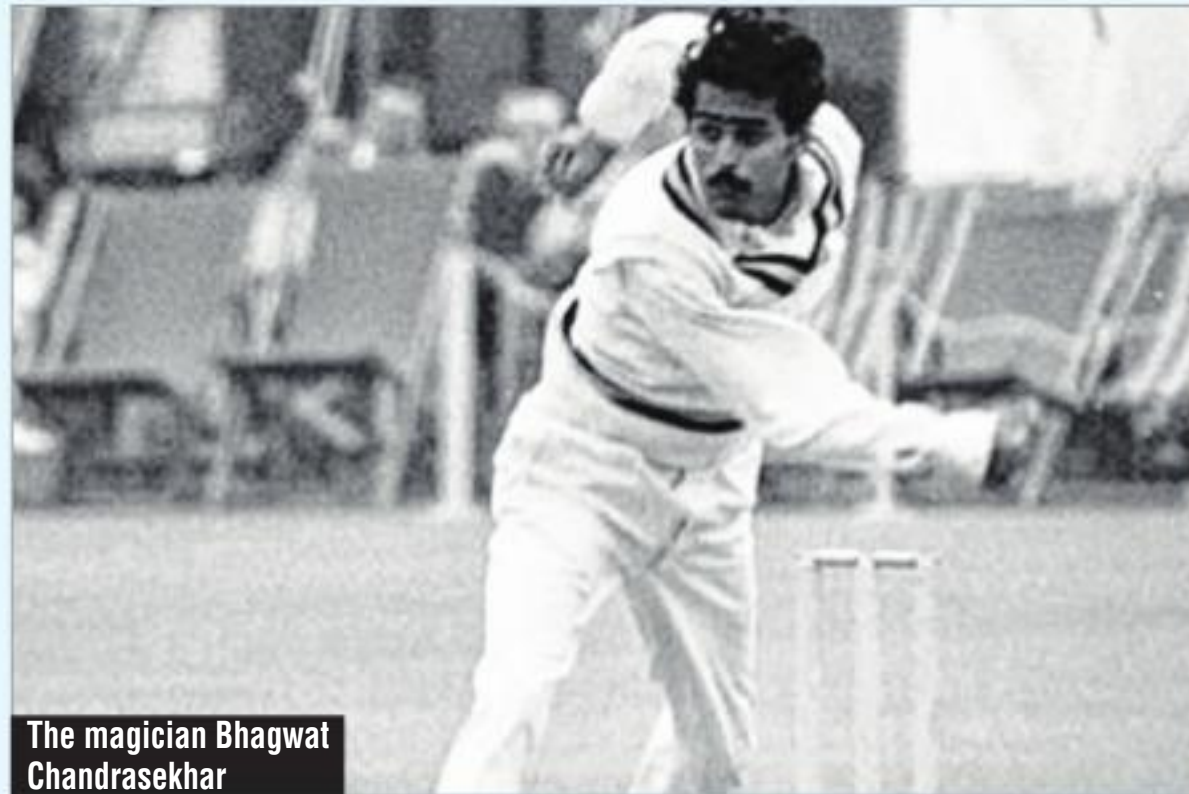
Wadekar lost the toss in all three Tests and the Indian batsmen had to play in conditions favourable to bowlers, complete with interruptions for rain and bad light, in both the first and second Tests. Past Indian teams had succumbed meekly under such cir-

cumstances, but there was a steely resolve 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



The magician Bhagwat Chandrasekhar

washed out the last day. India's triumvirate of spinners gave away runs in excess of three runs-per-over 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, but 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 Chandrasekhar had taken 6/38!

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 morning. Sardesai, Gundappa 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 reality 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.

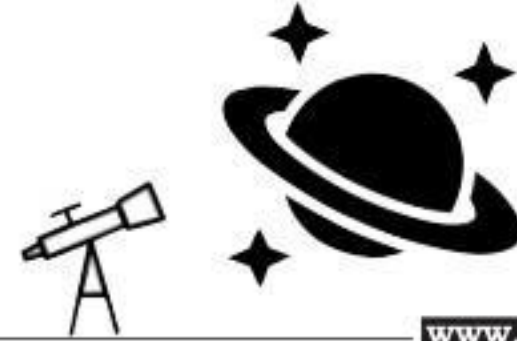
(This is the concluding piece of a two part series on a flashback to 1971).

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. —IANS



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



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 ponds inland localities. Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of KUFOS, K. Rijji 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 John. —IANS

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

line up of online music events for every music lover out there. 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 Seva 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. Rael 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 truly special. **WHEN:** June 20, Show 1: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM & Show 2: 5 PM to 6 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-to-peer 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-exercises-for-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 coral of life. Join

Platform Number 4 at our first featured show with Vaishnavi Kamath, Yash Vandankar & Krishna Manakata 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/>

AGENCIES / Kochi

development 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.

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-

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

Man donates platelets 284 times!

AGENCIES / Mumbai

A 54-year-old biomedical engineer has created a record in the country by donating platelets 284 times as of Saturday. Sanjay Bapat, who believes in helping people in any way he can, not only donates blood but also encourages and arranges food donors, considering the current pandemic.



once in 45 days, but as new findings emerge, we can now donate platelets in 15 days - new platelets were formed in five-six days," Bapat said. Bapat's donation figure has now reached 284. "I have always believed that this is the least we could do for the society. We also arranged blood donation camps as the supply 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 donation amongst citizens by donating platelets in hospitals or blood banks. 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.

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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 1986, 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 donated platelets 21 times.

CANDID CORNER

Intimacy & Relationship Coach

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 is devastated. How do I help her?
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 them makes them last much longer.

Bats in Switzerland harbour viruses with ability to jump to humans

AGENCIES / Bern

Bats in Switzerland and harboured 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 different 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 potentially be transmitted to other animals or humans.

This AI tech can hear Covid in a cough

AGENCIES / Sydney

Australian 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. —IANS

World's third-largest diamond unearthed in Botswana

FPJ WEB DESK | Mumbai

One of the world's largest diamonds has been unearthed in Botswana, the country government said. The CNN reported that the 1,098-carat stone, believed to be the third largest "gem-quality" diamond ever found, was presented to President Mokgweetsi Masisi on Wednesday. The discovery was made earlier this month at the Jwaneng mine, around 75 miles from the country's capital, Gaborone.



Its technology to realise more of these large discoveries," it added. Officially opened in 1982, the Jwaneng mine usually yields between 12.5 million and 15 million carats of diamonds a year, according to De Beers Group, according to countries official website. "Proceeds from the diamond will be used to advance national development in the country," Botswana government tweeted. "Debswana should use this latest discovery as an inflection point, for the mine to use

While previous research has investigated viruses carried by bats in several different 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 potentially be transmitted to other animals or humans.

Further analysis of viruses with this risk revealed that one of the studied bat colonies harboured a near-complete genome of a virus known as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)-related coronavirus (CoV). While the MERS-CoV-related virus is not known to cause disease in humans, MERS-CoV has been responsible for an epidemic in 2012. These findings are published in the open-access journal PLOS ONE.

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Metagenomic analysis of bats endemic to Switzerland reveals broad virus genome diversity. Virus genomes from 39 different virus families were detected, 16 of which are known to infect vertebrates, including coronaviruses, adenoviruses, heparin-binding epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase A and H, and parvoviruses," said the team including Isabelle Hardmeier from the varsity's Institute of Virology. The researchers 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.

Google opens its first-ever retail store in New York

FPJ WEB DESK | Mumbai

Residents 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



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 interactive screens that feature rotating exhibits and provides real-time translation of your speech into 24 languages.

There is also a team at hand to field 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 post explains.

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 foot store.

"We wanted our first store to reflect the same approach we take to de-

veloping our products: making sure they're always helpful to people. The result is a space we believe is warm and inviting, while providing new ways to celebrate and experience Google through our phones, displays,

speakers, wearables and more," explains a blog post on the company's website. Photos shared online show

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 foot store. "We wanted our first store to reflect the same approach we take to de-



Raftar 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 Raftar. The virtual performance for which Raftar accepted cryptocurrency is scheduled for the second week of July. —IANS

'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

Malaika 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 to yoga?

● 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 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 challenge.

What motivated you

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 solitary

practice?

● 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 OR

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 it's 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-body-breath 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.



Bollywood Bytes

Neeti Mohan shares adorable pics of her baby boy



PICS: INSTAGRAM/NEETI MOHAN

Earlier 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



Akhil 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 Bhartiya 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

In 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. —PTI



Deepika launches 'Chain of Well-Being'



Deepika Padukone, on Thursday, launched 'A 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 voices in the field of mental health that extends support to the ones in need. —ANI

Talking Heads

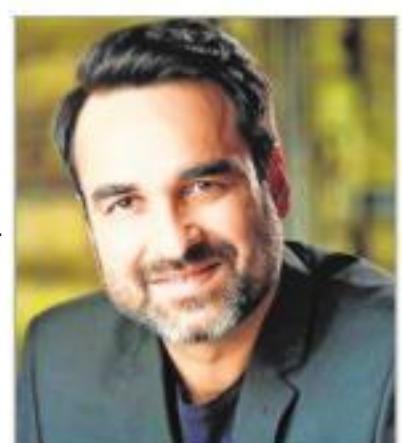
Creative people shouldn't have favourites: **Manoj Bajpayee**



Manoj 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, the better the chances for all of us. More talent will be consumed and benefit from it," he added. —IANS

Those who have power must look out for others: **Pankaj Tripathi**

Pankaj 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. —IANS



Brilliant narrative exposes every day patriarchy

SHUBHA SHETTY

The 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 weak-willed 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 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.

Vidya yet again shows us why she is considered one of the most dependable actresses from the current generation. Sans makeup and other paraphernalia, she plays this powerful role with raw vulnerability and leaves a solid impact. She finds 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

Review

TITLE: *Sherni*
CAST: Vidya Balan, Sharad 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*)

Salim Diwan adopts 20 children

Actor 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 said. —IANS



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