

# STEPHANOTIS FINANCE LIMITED

(FORMERLY: VORA CONSTRUCTIONS LTD)

3, Ground Floor, Durga Chambers, Veena Industrial Estate, Off Veera Desai Road, Andheri (W) Mumbai – 400 053

Email ID: voraconstructions@ymail.com CIN: L45200MH1985PLC036089

Website: [www.stephanotis.in](http://www.stephanotis.in)

Tel No.: 022- 66929290

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

To,

Department of Corporate Services

**BSE Ltd.,**

Phiroze Ieejeebhoy Towers,

Dalal Street, Mumbai – 400 001

**Stephanotis Finance Limited (BSE Script Code: 512215)**

**Subject : Submission of newspaper advertisement of the Notice of the Board Meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In compliance with the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we are enclosing herewith advertisement published in the newspaper namely “**Navsakti**” (Marathi newspaper) edition and “**The Free Press Journal**” (English) edition dated 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

Please find enclosed below copies of Newspaper articles as published in both the above mentioned newspapers. Kindly take the same on your record.

Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully

**For STEPHANOTIS FINANCE LIMITED**

S/d

**Rashmi Raturi**

Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Mob No. 9820884310

**Encl:** As above







# SUNDAY FREE PRESS JOURNAL

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Quality at Value

## PM Modi hails judiciary for safeguarding people's rights



**AHMEDABAD** PM Narendra Modi hailed the country's judiciary, saying that it has performed its duty well in safeguarding people's rights, upholding personal liberty, and in situations when national interests need to be prioritised. (Report on Pg 7)

**Coronavirus Cases**  
106,034,379

**Deaths**  
2,311,764

Source - Worldometer

## Aston Villa stunned Gunners 1-0 thanks to goal by Watkins



**BIRMINGHAM:** Aston Villa maintained its push for a finish in the European qualification positions by beating Arsenal 1-0 in the Premier League thanks to a goal after 74 seconds by Ollie Watkins. Bertrand Traore pounced on a loose pass by Cedric Soares. (Report on Pg 18)

# WORLD GLUED TO FARMERS' CHAKKA JAM

• Farmers give Centre time till Oct 2 to repeal farm laws • Reject Govt's offer to keep the farm laws on hold for 18 months



Police beefed up security along Delhi borders as farmers protested on Saturday



Photo ANI, PTI, AFP

FPJ BUREAU  
NEW DELHI

Even as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government tried to downplay the nationwide 'Chakka Jam' protests observed by farmers, the world media took note of the 'Chakka Jam' protests. Armed police came out in large numbers across Delhi. Nearly 10 metro stations in central Delhi were shut down for six hours on Saturday. Many protesters said it was to create a false narrative of Khalistanis on the prowl in the national capital to create another spurt of violence at the Red Fort and other parts on the Republic Day.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said that they have given the

Modi-government time till October 2 to repeal the controversial farm laws. "After this, we will do further planning. We won't hold discussions with the government under pressure," Tikait said.

Fear was writ large on the people coming out of their homes to unusual security blanket covers. Fortunately, there was no violence in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad in the National Capital Region (NCR). Traffic resumed late in the afternoon on the highways to Haryana and Uttar Pradesh after the 3-hour "Chakka Jam". The Police justified the massive security, saying it does not want to take any chance. All 125 entry points to Delhi were cordoned off.

The Home Ministry also ordered the

suspension of Internet at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur border protest sites from Friday midnight to Saturday midnight. The Haryana government shut down the Internet in the nearby towns on the borders till 5 pm. There were some clashes at the Singhu border. Reporters could not reach the site because of the multi-layered barricades. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of the agitating farmer unions, had excluded Delhi and NCR from "chakka jam" on the national and state highways, but the police said it cannot trust the Morcha as its leaders had violated the routes agreed with the police for their tractor rally and resorted to violence instead of the promised peaceful rally.

CONTD. ON P7

## Pawar tells Sachin to be careful on peasants' pitch

SANJAY JOG  
Mumbai



After being trolled for being "biased" and supporting the government with a call for unity on farmers' protest, the NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday asked the master blaster Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar to be careful while speaking on issues other than cricket. "My advice to Sachin will be to be careful while speaking on issues other than cricket," said Pawar.

Sachin had tweeted, "India's sovereignty cannot be compromised. External forces can be spectators but not participants. Indians know India and should decide for India. Let's remain united as a nation." Known as "God of Cricket", Sachin had posted the message as part of similar tweets on India's unity posted by celebrities in response to international pop star Rihanna expressing solidarity with the farmers' agitation. "Many ordinary people are reacting sharply over the tweets by Lata Mangeshkar

and Sachin Tendulkar. I would advise Tendulkar to be careful while talking about other issues," said Pawar after the function at Pune.

Even though Sachin's tweet attracted over 2.7 lakh likes, a large number of people led a scathing attack against him as they wanted to know why he was silent for over 60 days.

A large number of celebrities with #IndiaAgainstPropaganda were furious over support to the agitating farmers by pop star Rihanna and climate activist Greta Thunberg. The MEA slammed foreign individu-

als and entities for their comments.

Pawar said the government should consider the issues raised by Farmers. "They are receiving support from the global community; they are getting sympathy. Farmers are being named Khalistani and extremists. Their agitation is being discredited," he noted. "The government needs to address the farmers' issues. If senior ministers like Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari take the lead, there is every possibility to find a way out," said Pawar.

## Fast News

### PM wants use of AI in judiciary

**GANDHINAGAR:** PM Narendra Modi on Saturday said the possibility of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being examined to improve the efficiency and speed of the judiciary in the country. Modi was virtually addressing an event in Ahmedabad, marking the diamond jubilee of the Gujarat High Court. The Prime Minister also released a commemorative postage stamp marking 60 years of the Gujarat High Court.

### No driving test for licence now

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Friday issued a draft notification for the accreditation of driver training centres, wherein an individual, on successful completion of driver training from such centres, will be exempted from the requirement of driving test while applying for a driving licence. This move, the Ministry said, will also help the transport industry to have specially-trained drivers, which will improve their efficiency and reduce road accidents.

### Second vax jab on February 13

**MUMBAI/NEW DELHI:** Beneficiaries of the inaugural Covid-19 vaccination day on January 16 will get their second dose on February 13, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan announced on Saturday. While reviewing the status and progress of the vaccination process, Bhushan also urged authorities to exponentially increase the pace of vaccination. Union Health Ministry Additional Secretary Manohar Agnani said that ever since the vaccinations for frontline workers had started on February 2, a total of 3,70,693 of them have been covered, which is around 4.5 per cent of the current database.

### US man swallows earpod in sleep

**MASSACHUSETTS:** In a rather bizarre incident, a man in the United States swallowed an Apple EarPod in his sleep. The incident took place in Massachusetts. Brad Gauthier (38), a resident of Worcester woke up on Tuesday morning and gagged on a glass of water. He experienced chest pain but went to work. At work, he noticed that one of his EarPods was missing. He went in for a chest X-ray at the hospital. Brad and doctors were stunned to find an earpod in his oesophagus. The earpod was removed via an endoscopic procedure.

## India undergoes painful Root canal

Powered by skipper's double ton, England piles up 555 for 8 at stumps on Day 2 of first Test Match

FPJ NEWS SERVICE  
Chennai

England skipper Joe Root became the first cricketer to score a double hundred in his 100th Test match. This feat was achieved by the Englishman on the second day of the First Test match, as England went on to pile on 555 for eight when the stumps were drawn, here on Saturday.

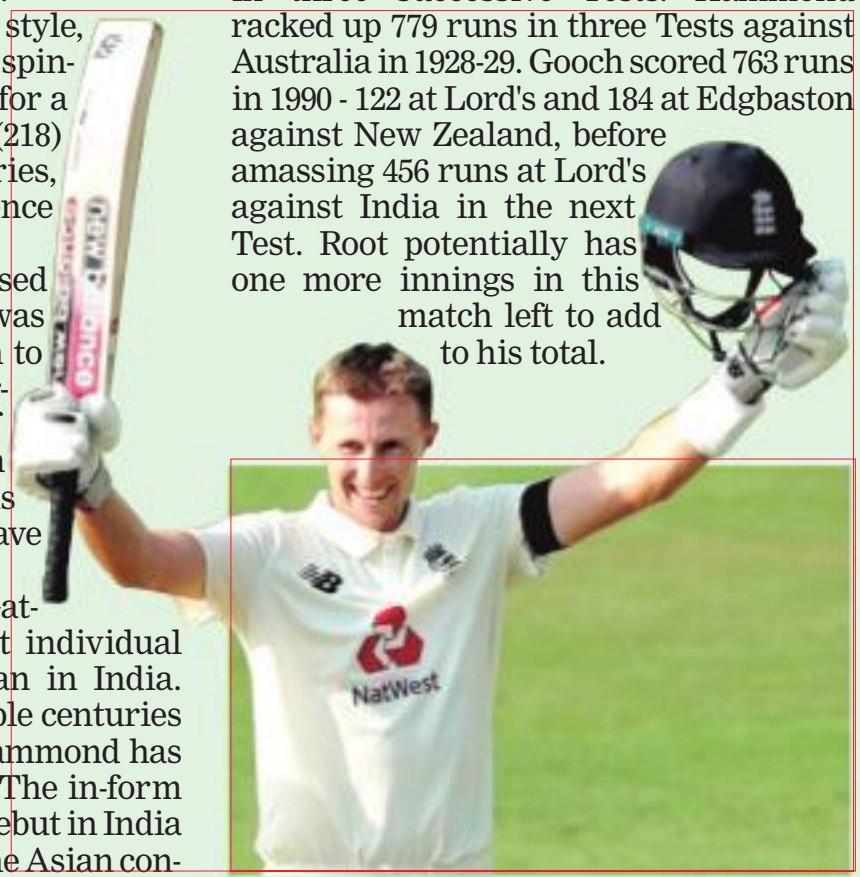
He scaled the new height in style, dancing down the track to loft spinner Ashwin over the long-on for a second six in his innings (218) which came off 377 deliveries, studded with 19 hits to the fence and two over.

The stylish batsman erased many records en route. Root was the first-ever cricketer to reach to double-ton with a six and over-took Inzamam-ul-haq 184 of the highest runs in the 100th Test match. The 30-year-old is the 15th England player to have played 100 Test matches.

He also surpassed Mike Gatting (207) to post the highest individual score for an English batsman in India. Root has now scored five double centuries in Test cricket; only Wally Hammond has posted more for England (7). The in-form batsman, who made his Test debut in India in 2012, has taken a liking to the Asian con-

ditions. His knocks of 228 and 186 propelled them to win against Sri Lanka, and joined greats in the likes of Colin Cowdrey and Alec Stewart in scoring a century in their 100th Test match.

Root's amazing 644 runs have come in the last three Tests. Only two other batsmen from England, Hammond and Graham Gooch, have scored more runs than Root in three successive Tests. Hammond racked up 779 runs in three Tests against Australia in 1928-29. Gooch scored 763 runs in 1990 - 122 at Lord's and 184 at Edgbaston against New Zealand, before amassing 456 runs at Lord's against India in the next Test. Root potentially has one more innings in this match left to add to his total.



## Tata quells social media's 'Bharat Ratna' campaign

FPJ BUREAU  
Mumbai



Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, Ratan Tata, who is known for his social causes and philanthropic efforts, has responded to the social media campaign demanding for Bharat Ratna, the country's highest honour, to be given to him.

Tata took to Twitter on Saturday and asked people to discontinue the campaign. He wrote, "While I

appreciate the sentiments expressed by a section of the social media in terms of an award, I would humbly like to request that such campaigns be discontinued."

He further added, "Instead, I consider myself fortunate to be an Indian and to try and contribute to India's growth and prosperity." Motivational speaker Dr Vivek Bhindra, tweeted about conferring the highest civilian award to Ratan Tata.

## Guv should not make us go to court: Raut

Sena MP unhappy over Raj Bhavan's delay in nominating 12 names to Legislative Council

SANJAY JOG  
Mumbai



Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday gave a subtle warning that the Maha Vikas Aghadi government will have to approach the court of law if Governor BS Koshiyari sits on the state cabinet's recommendation of 12 names in the Legislative Council. He expressed displeasure over delay by the Raj Bhavan on the nomination in the upper house. The face-off between the MVA government and the gover-

nor is acting unconstitutional," he claimed. The nomination of 12 in the state council is not political. The Governor is bound to accept the recommendations made by the cabinet. However, he does not decide on that. The Governor should not force us to go to court, Raut reiterated.

"The proposal was sent to the Governor twice. After being told that there was an error in the first proposal, the government has sent a second proposal signed by CM Uddhav Thackeray. However,

no decision has been taken yet," said Raut. He recently said that no decision has been made yet. "If there is any pressure, the Governor should declare it," he noted. "If the state and the country want to run according to the state constitution, then the person sitting in the constitutional position should abide by the state constitution. According to the powers conferred by the state constitution, the decisions taken by the state cabinet are binding on governor," he said.

## Navy man burnt to death by 3 in Palghar district

STAFF REPORTER  
Palghar



In a shocking incident, a 27-year-old Indian Navy personnel died after he was allegedly burnt alive by his abductors on Friday at Vejji village in Palghar district. The deceased person has been identified as Surajkumar Dubey, who originally hailed from Ranchi in Jharkhand. He had joined Indian Navy as a seaman in 2019.

The victim had given his statement to the police before he succumbed to death later at night. The police claimed that the deceased was abducted by three persons who were demanding a ransom of Rs 10 lakh.

### Heinous Crime

- Talasari villagers were shocked when they saw Surajkumar Dubey with severe burn injuries
- He approached the villagers and asked for water
- Before his death, Dubey gave statement to the police

FULL STORY ON P2

Provincial govt last month fixed the price of actor's ancestral house at Rs 80.56 lakh

## Owner of Dilip Kumar's Pak home seeks Rs 25 cr

AGENCIES  
Peshawar



The owner of legendary actor Dilip Kumar's ancestral house in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province refused to sell it at a rate fixed by the government, saying he would demand Rs 25 crore for the prime location property which is severely undervalued by the authorities.

The provincial government last month fixed the

price of the four marla (101 square metre) house, declared as a national heritage, in Peshawar at Rs 80.56 lakh. Marla, a tradi-

tional unit of area used in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, is considered as equal to 272.25 square feet or 25.2929 square metres. The owner, Haji Lal Muhammad, said he would demand Rs 25 crore from the provincial government for the property as and when approached by the Peshawar administration. Muhammad said he had purchased the property in 2005 for Rs 51 lakh after completing all formalities required for trans-

fer of the land and possesses all the documents of the house.

He said it is unjust on part of the government to fix the rate at Rs 80.56 lakh for the property after 16 years.

The property is very expensive in Mohallah Khudadad qissa Khwani bazar where the rate of one Marla land is above Rs 5 crore, he said, adding he would demand Rs 25 crore through his lawyer from authorities for house.

## Joe Biden administration delays Donald Trump's H-1B visa policy

FPJ BUREAU & PTI  
Washington/Mumbai

The Biden administration has announced that it is delaying the H-1B policy of the previous Trump administration on allocation of the popular foreign work visas by continuing with the lottery system until December 31, 2021, to give the immigration agency more time to develop, test and im-



plement the modifications to the registration system. On January 7, the US Cit-

izenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced to do away with the traditional lottery system in deciding the successful applicants for the H-1B visas.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.





## Mumbai farmers' protest: Cong leader attacks Centre

MUMBAI: Several farmers' groups held a protest in Mumbai on Saturday against the Centre's new agri marketing laws. Addressing the rally, Maharashtra Congress leader Naseem Khan said the BJP-led Centre, rather than trying to find a solution, was trying to insinuate that the protests underway for several days near Delhi were being backed by Khalistani elements. -AGENCIES

## NUMBER GAME

# MVA faces acid test to win Speaker's election

Sena, NCP and Cong will have to keep their flock together and also ensure independents support them

SANJAY JOG  
Mumbai

Even though the Maha Vikas Aghadi government claims it has the support of 171 legislators in the legislative assembly, it faces an acid test during the elections to assembly Speaker. The election is necessitated following the resignation of Nana Patole. Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress will have to keep their flock together and also ensure that the independents keep supporting the government.

BJP with 105 legislators with the support of 11 independents is determined to take advantage of internal contradictions among the ruling partners and woo some of the legislators.

On the other hand, MVA partners Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress hope to lure the disgruntled legislators from BJP fold during the speaker's election which



will take place during the budget session beginning March 1.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will not only have to focus on legislators of Shiv Sena but will have to ensure support of NCP and Congress legislators, independents and small parties to avoid defeat or even division in votes. Thackeray, his deputy Ajit Pawar and the outgoing

president of the state Congress have predicted smooth sailing saying that they together will foil BJP's desperate attempts to split the votes.

Days after his statement that speakers' post is now open for all three ruling partners, NCP Chief Sharad Pawar, who is MVA's architect, on Saturday clarified that the Congress will retain the speak-

er's post. His statement comes after Thackeray and DCM were upset over the Congress party's decision asking Patole to step down. However, Pawar has hinted that the Congress should not take the support of NCP and Shiv Sena for granted as it will have to discuss the name of party nominee for the speaker's post and arrive at unanimity.

The names of Congress legislators Suresh Warpudkar, Sangram Thopte and Amin Patel are doing rounds for the speaker's post. However, Congress has yet to take a call.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut admitted that the speaker's post is a constitutional one and it was for a five-year term. "The fresh election is inevitable after the resignation. It is a coalition government which has a majority in the assembly. Still, such things should be avoided," he opined.



## More than 2K houses sold in city this week

SWEETY ADIMULAM / Mumbai

In the first week of February, sales of over two thousand houses were recorded, according to the data available with the state stamp duty registration office. The sale of these many houses has generated revenue of Rs 84.41 crore through stamp duty. While in the entire state of Maharashtra, a total of 38,180 houses were sold which generated revenue of Rs 298.97 crore.

While in January over 9,000 houses sold out in Mumbai alone generating revenue of Rs 263.33 and about 13,000 houses were sold in the entire state during this period earning revenue of Rs 1014.79 crore.

Currently, the state takes three per cent on stamp duty registration. The concession on stamp duty from the previous five per cent is now three which will remain so till March 31. Earlier, the stamp duty charges were 2% till December 2020.

# Navy man kidnapped, burnt alive by 3 persons in Palghar

The victim in his dying declaration stated that he was kidnapped from Chennai on Friday and was brought to the jungles in Talasari

STAFF REPORTER  
Mumbai



A 26-year-old Indian Navy personnel died after he was allegedly burnt alive by his abductors on Friday. The victim had given his statement to the police before he succumbed to death later at night. The police have claimed that the deceased was abducted by three persons who demanded a ransom of Rs 10 lakh from him.

The deceased person has been identified as Suraj Kumar Dubey, who originally hails from Ranchi in Jharkhand. He had joined Indian Navy as a sailor in 2019.

According to the Gholwad police in Palghar district, on Friday evening at around 6 pm, a few locals of Vevji village in Talasari were left shocked when a man who had burn injuries, approached towards them and asked for water. The locals immediately helped him and informed the po-

lice. The police then got Dubey admitted in a local hospital and he was later shifted to another hospital in Mumbai where he was declared dead on arrival at around 11:15 pm.

"Before his death, Dubey had given his statement to the police and he revealed that he was kidnapped by three unidentified persons in Chennai on Friday and was brought to the jungles in Talasari where was later set on fire after he refused to pay Rs 10 lakh to his kidnapers," said a police officer.

However, another officer

supervising the probe said that the incident appears to be very mysterious and there appears to be more than what has been told by Dubey before his death. "Several aspects needs to be probed such as how was he brought from Chennai to Mumbai in a day and no-body realised that he was abducted?" said the officer.

"We have registered a case of murder and kidnapping against unknown persons in the matter and are probing from all possible angles. We have also informed Dubey's family about his death," the officer said.

The Navy on Saturday issued a statement stating that Naval sailor, Suraj Kumar Dubey of INS Agrani, on leave from the unit was found in Palghar with 90% burns on the morning of 5th February. He was brought to INHS Asvini and declared dead on arrival. A case has been registered by the police.

# Farmers block roads in Karad and Kolhapur; many detained

AGENCIES / Mumbai

'Rasta rokos' were staged in Karad and Kolhapur cities in Maharashtra on Saturday as part of the 'chakka jam' protest called by farmer bodies agitating at borders of New Delhi against the three new farm laws.

At least 40 protesters, including senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan's wife Satvasheela Chavan and farmers, were detained by the police for holding the protest on a busy road at Kolhapur Naka in Karad in western Maharashtra this afternoon, a police official said.

They were detained under sections 68 and 69 of the Mumbai Police Act and released, he said.

As per farmer unions, the 'chakka jam' includes blocking national and state highways between 12 noon and 3 pm to protest the internet ban in areas near their agitation sites, harassment allegedly meted out to them by



authorities, and other issues.

In Kolhapur city, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatna leader Raju Shetti led a protest against the farm laws. Shetti and some farmers were detained for staging a rasta roko at Dabholkar Chowk in afternoon. They were released later, a local police official said.

Farmer activists also blocked roads at different places in Latur district on Saturday as part of the 'chakka jam' protest called by farmer bodies agitating at borders of New Delhi against the three new farm laws.

# Former BJP MLA Hemendra Mehta joins Shiv Sena

SANJAY JOG  
Mumbai



secretary Varun Sardesai. Mehta was elected from the Borivali assembly constituency for three consecutive terms on BJP ticket in 1990, 1995 and 1995 elec-

tions. Thereafter, he was sidelined with the emergence of other leaders.

Mehta had joined the Sharad Pawar led Nationalist Congress Party but could not adjust to its style of functioning. He later re-joined BJP expecting rehabilitation.

Shiv Sena's move to welcome disgruntled leaders aimed to checkmate BJP which has announced Mission Mumbai 2022 with a resolve to unseat Shiv Sena and get the party candidate elected as the city mayor.

Shiv Sena is not leaving any stone unturned to corner its estranged ally BJP as the party has launched an agitation against the Centre over the fuel price hike and has extended its support to the farmers' protest.

Further, Thackeray has directed all Vibhag Pramukhs and Shakha Pramukhs to step up an outreach programme to consolidate the party's position. The party has launched a drive to lure Gujarati community which has been a traditional supporter of BJP.



# Cops organise super bikes rally in Thane today

PRİYANKA DHOMSE / Thane

The Thane traffic department as a part of its road safety programme, has organised a super bike rally on Sunday. The rally consisting of around 300 bikes will begin in the morning and cover various routes.

"The rally has been scheduled at around 8 am, as a part of road safety programme organised by the Thane traffic department. It will be flagged off by the Thane police commissioner, Vivek Phansalkar," said a traffic official from Thane.

The rally will consist of old and new models of bikes like Yamaha, BMW, Harley Davidson, Royal Enfield, Ninja and Kawasaki.

"The rally will begin from the Court Naka covering around 20 routes through major junctions in the Thane City, which will continue for around 20 minutes. The citizens will be allowed to witness the rally by standing aside the road, with security deployed by traffic police team," added the official.

The routes of rally is Court Naka-Tower Naka-Gadkari Rangaytan-Gajanan Maharaj Junction-Teen petrol pump-Harinas-Teen Haat Naka-Cadbury Junction-Shastri Nagar-Upavan-Kashinath Ghanekar Auditorium-Khewra Circle-Tikujiniwadi-Manpada-Brahmand-Hiranandani Estate-Ghodbunder road-Kapurawadi-Majiwada-Meenatai Thacker junction and post office.



# Builder sells same flat to 2 persons, arrested

AMIT SRIVASTAVA  
Navi Mumbai

Khandeshwar police arrested a 47-year-old builder who allegedly cheated a homebuyer by selling one flat to two different persons. The police arrested him from Kharghar on Friday evening. Now, police are investigating if there are more homebuyers who have been cheated by him.

The arrested builder identified as Bharat Kaniram Ramawar, had a project in Kananjade in Panvel. Police said that Ramawar allegedly sold one flat to two homebuyers and delayed the possession. The complainant Rajaram Pandurang Jadhav, a resident of Chembur had bought a flat at sector 2 in Kananjade from Ramawar. As decided, he had already made a payment of Rs 20 lakh of the Rs 20.5 lakh.

Now, he was asking Ramawar to give him the possession.

However, he was delaying by giving different excuses. "When the victim Jadhav went to the flat and enquired, he was shocked that the builder sold the flat one more person apart from him," said a police official from Khandeshwar police station.

The Khandeshwar police arrested the builder from Kharghar. Meanwhile, the Khandeshwar police appealed to citizens to report if anyone was cheated by him. Earlier, the police had appealed that homebuyers verify before making a deal. Police commissioner Bipin Kumar Singh had even issued notice to check credentials before buying. "As the city is developing, homebuyers must take precaution," stated the notice.

# MNS chief Raj Thackeray granted bail in 2014 Vashi toll plaza vandalism case

AMIT SRIVASTAVA  
Navi Mumbai

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Chief Raj Thackeray appeared before Belapur Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) on Saturday morning in a 2014 Vashi Toll Plaza vandalism case and he was granted bail. The next hearing has been scheduled for May 5.

Thackeray had allegedly provoked MNS workers on January 26, 2014, who vandalized the toll plaza. Later a case was registered



MNS Chief Raj Thackeray comes out of CBD Belapur Court on Saturday. (PTI Photo)

against him at Vashi police station.

The Belapur court had issued summons twice in 2016 and 2018. However, Thackeray did not turn up follow-

ing which the court had issued a warrant. However, after the lawyer appealed before that the court that Thackeray is a public figure and he would not run away, the court asked him to present before the court on February 6.

Ravindra Pashte, one of the lawyers of Thackeray while talking to the media said that all the sections were bailable. "He appeared before the court in 2014 speech that he had delivered at the Vishnudas Bhawe auditorium," said Pashte.

# Two held with 47 kg of cannabis in Kandivali

STAFF REPORTER / Mumbai

In two separate incidents of contraband seizures, Mumbai Police Crime Branch's Anti Narcotic Cell arrested two people in Kandivali area. Police have seized a total of 47 kilograms of Cannabis from the duo valued at over ₹9 lakh. Both the accused had been booked under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act.

According to police sources, the Kandivali unit of ANC received a tip-off that a woman was to arrive at Ali Talav Road in Malad (W), following which police laid a trap and intercepted the woman and frisked her. During frisking, police found 24 kilograms of Cannabis valued at ₹4.8 lakh. The accused was identified as Shahida Shaikh, 30. Police booked her under relevant sections of the NDPS Act.

# Hookah parlour raided in city; 42 persons booked

AGENCIES  
Mumbai

The crime branch of the Mumbai Police raided a hookah parlour being operated from the terrace of a hotel in suburban Andheri in the early hours of Saturday and booked 42 persons, an official said.

During the raid conducted around 2:30 am, the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) found that at least 27 customers were being served hookah, he said.

The hookah was found to be tobacco-mixed, the official said, adding that various hookah flavours, pots, cigarettes and other equipment were seized.

A case was registered against the staff of the parlour, the customers and others under various sections of the India Penal Code (IPC), the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act and the Disaster Management Act, he said.

A ban on hookah was imposed in Mumbai after the 2017 Kamla Mills fire incident in which 14 people lost their lives.

## BIRD FLU IN MAHARASHTRA

# 4,581 birds including a record 4,562 poultry birds found dead

SANJAY JOG  
Mumbai

A total of 4,581 birds including a record 4,562 poultry birds have been found dead due to avian influenza in Maharashtra. The samples are being sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal and Disease Investigation Section, Pune. A total of 28,968 deaths of various birds have been recorded till date since the outbreak of bird flu from January 8.

The department of animal husbandry said so far 72,301 poultry birds, 44,686 eggs and 63,339 poultry feed have been scientifically destroyed within a radius of 1 km from the poultry farm. The process of declaring "infected zone" has been initiated wherever the bird flu positive reports in poultry bird and ducks were reported.

The government has delegated powers to the district



collectors for the prevention and control of bird flu under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009. The local administration has declared the infected zone wherever the reports of deaths of poultry birds and ducks were communicated.

The department has reiterated its appeal saying that consumption of chicken and eggs should not be reduced or stopped by citizens on account of rumours and misconceptions as they are the cheapest source of protein.

## NMMC POLLS

# 13 small parties come together to form NMVA

AMIT SRIVASTAVA  
Navi Mumbai

At least 13 parties including Samajwadi Party (SP) and Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) will form Navi Mumbai Vikas Aghadi (NMVA) to fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the coming election of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation. The party representatives will meet in Vashi on January 10, to chalk out a plan for the election.

Afsar Imam, who recently joined Samajwadi Party after leaving NCP said that except for MVA and BJP, we are making a front of the remaining parties. "We al-

ready had a meeting where PWP, Republican Sena, CPI, CPM, Janta Dal Secular among others were present. They all ready to make a front to fight on all the 111 seats in the civic election," said Imam.

On February 10, there is a meeting at Vishnudas Bhawe auditorium in Vashi wherein Abu Ajmi, Anandraj Ambedkar among others will be present. "The front will be announced after the daylong congregation of all parties," said Imam.

Earlier, the Republican Party of India (A) announced to contest on 10 percent or 12 seats in the election and they will discuss it with the BJP.

# 'Making The Difference' in the life of Dabbawalas

SURESH GOLANI  
Mira Bhayandar

In continuance with their selfless endeavour to serve the needy and the underprivileged sections of the society, volunteers of social welfare organization 'Making The Difference' (MTD) have geared up to launch yet another drive to distribute 6,000 dry ration kits to the hardworking 'dabbawalas' of Mumbai who have been rendered jobless due to the pandemic.

The distribution programme will be held at Vardhaman Fantasy near the Shivar Garden in Mira Road on Sunday. The task

of supplying lunch boxes from homes to offices and back is one of the worst-hit businesses during the pandemic, leaving the dabbawalas on the brink of collapse, as very few establishments have resumed regular office work.

In a similar drive, volunteers had distributed grocery kits to more than 2,000 dabbawalas at Seven-Eleven School in Mira Road on December 20, 2020.

This time the MTD has added yet another noble deed in addition to the distribution drive by organising a blood donation drive at the same venue, with a target of collecting over



Ration kits being distributed by MTD in Mira Road

1,000 units. Established in 2014 by Meet Vishwakarma, MTD

in association with Donatekart aims to serve the needy, under privileged



MUMBAI: A 27-year-old police woman, attached to Pydhonie police station died during excessive bleeding during childbirth and lost the baby as well. The policewoman, identified as Akshata Patil, was on leave following the government circular

asking pregnant women to take a mandatory leave, but during the third trimester, due to some complications, she was rushed to the hospital in Vashi, where she succumbed. Patil was admitted in the hospital following complications.

## COASTAL ROAD PROJECT

# BMC ALL EARS FOR CONCERNED PARISIS

Members of the community present alternative design for a proposed ramp so that the century-old Parsi Gate can be preserved better

PRATIP ACHARYA  
Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is reviewing an alternative plan for the construction of a ramp for the ongoing coastal road project. In order to build a ramp for an underground tunnel, the civic body has earmarked a spot just where the Parsi Gate structure stands at the Marine Drive.

Members of the Parsi Community had met, municipal chief - Iqbal Singh Chahal last month and proposed an alternate design for the ramp of the tunnel. According to the new design, the proposed tunnel could be constructed in the middle of the road, instead of building on the outer edges. This way it would also not affect the century-old, Par-



According to the alternative design submitted by the Parsi community, the proposed tunnel could be constructed in the middle of the road instead of building it on the outer edges. This way it would also not affect the century-old Parsi Gate at Marine Drive

si Gate structure. Chahal had taken note of

the plan and instructed the technical team of the coastal

road project to meet the concerned citizens. Earlier this week, a delegation of citizens led by municipal corporator - Harshita Narwekar met the technical team lead by Vijay Nighot, chief engineer of the project.

The marathon meeting went for more than two hours, where the citizens made a presentation of the alternate design and urged the civic authorities to acknowledge it.

"Our proposal is to not shift the tunnel but to build the ramp on the middle of the road instead of building it on the outer edges, this will be potentially safer," Alan Abraham, the architect of the alternate plan told FPJ.

"We are not objecting to the project, our only concern is the work should be initiated in a proper way, also building

Every step for this project should be well thought off before its implementation because the citizens will have to live with it in the future

— Harshita Narwekar, Municipal Corporator

the ramp in the middle of the road will not affect the view of the seascape," he added.

The citizens stated, the meeting ended on a positive note and the officials gave a patient hearing to the matter. However, they are yet to receive feedback from them.

Corporator Narwekar on Friday had written to the chief engineer, seeking feedback on the proposed design.

"We have only suggested our idea to the administration as we have envisioned some problems with the present de-

sign, every step for this project should be well thought off before its implementation because the citizens will have to live with it in the future," Narwekar told FPJ.

Senior officials of the civic body stated they are presently reviewing the proposed plan.

"The citizens have given us some suggestions and at present, we are reviewing them, hopefully, a joint decision will be taken soon," a senior official associated with the coastal road project told the Free Press Journal.

## BMC dipping into reserves a dangerous trend: Corporators

DIPTI SINGH/ Mumbai

As the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) - known as the country's richest civic body, grapples with finding new sources of revenue, it has expressed its plans to withdraw from its reserve funds. A trend that the elected representatives of the Mumbai civic body say can prove to be very dangerous for the BMC in the near future. If the BMC continues to dip into its available reserves of Rs. 50952.27 crore in every budget, the reserves are sure to run dry in about a decade with the civic body's increasing expenditures and low revenue generation, corporators have said. Every year, the municipal corporation keeps aside 2% of the total budget in its contingency fund. Over the years, the amount had reached Rs 1,000 crore. Then the Covid-19 pandemic broke out and a lockdown was imposed. Civic officials said that less than Rs 30

crore now remain in the contingency funds. Currently, there is a total amount of Rs 77,635.22 crores held in reserves by the civic body. As mentioned in the Budget 2021-22 document presented by the civic body on February 3, Rs. 26682.95 crore are being held by BMC in reserves which cannot be dipped into even in emergency situations as it has been allotted for committed liabilities like provident fund, pensions, gratuity and other deposits. The remaining Rs 50952.27 crores have now been linked to various infrastructure projects. "This will ensure that reserves are funnelled towards Capital Expenditure to improve infrastructure for citizens in Mumbai," said a BMC officer. There are three major factors contributing to BMC's revenue coming under such stress. Firstly, the introduction of the GST, octroi being discontinued, and low revenue from the property tax collection.

## Cop cheated of ₹17 lakh on pretext of sale of two flats

STAFF REPORTER  
Mumbai

A policeman attached to a suburban police station was recently duped to the tune of over ₹17 lakh on the pretext of promising two flats allotted by the MHADA by three people. The accused trio had promised to draw documents and give possession of the flats in 2019, but kept delaying, only to later learn that the MHADA had never allotted flats in the said building, thereby cheating the cop in a number of transactions. Police said that the cop, who is attached to Kandivali police station, had come across a woman who had booked two flats in Shivshahi Prakalp in Goregaon (E), but was unable to make the full payment due to a financial crisis. Subsequently, the woman had approached a cop, who was also house-hunting at the time in 2019, and shared her ordeal. The policeman agreed to buy the two flats of 225 sqft each and she got in touch with two men, who promised to draw all the paperwork. The men, whose names were not revealed by the police, had



charged over ₹5.4 lakh from the policeman, besides ₹12 lakh for the flats. The cop had wired the money in a number of transactions, but never got any receipt from the accused. When the accused people stopped entertaining his calls, the cop enquired with the MHADA office about the status of his flat, only to learn that the flats were never allotted by the MHADA to the Shivshahi Prakalp. Having realised that he has been duped, the policeman approached Saki Naka Police and lodged a complaint against the accused trio, who were booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for cheating and criminal conspiracy. Police said that no arrests have been made as of now and the investigation is underway.

## MMRDA yet to hire agency to carry out Metro One's performance review

STAFF REPORTER  
Mumbai

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is still unable to find an agency for Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd. that runs between Ghatkopar and Versova. This agency will provide financial quotes and market value of metro line one and carry out performance reviews before the acquisition. Recently, the authority extended the extension of tender issued by another 15 days for hiring a consultant who will provide these services. The earlier issued tenders also re-



ceived a similar dull response. The Mumbai Metro one which started commercial operations in 2014 is looking to sell its equity and ac-

cording to sources, it has already submitted a proposal to the state urban development department. Following this, the MMRDA has given its due con-

sideration to its proposal. The Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RIL) led Mumbai metro one, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) that was constituted to develop and run the 11.5-km Metro One on a public-private-partnership model. RIL owns 69 per cent stake in MMOP, MMRDA owns 26 per cent and Transdev (formerly Veolia Transport) owns 5 per cent. The total cost of the project is Rs2,356 crore, which includes Rs 650 crore granted by the authority as a viability gap funding (VGF), of which Rs 471 crore was released by the government of India between 2009 and 2014.

## Flyer from Dubai hides gold in aircraft toilet; caught at arrival

PRATIK SALUNKE  
Mumbai

A flyer from Dubai who was exiting the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMA) after leaving behind gold bars worth Rs 82 lakh was arrested by Mumbai customs on Friday. The arrest of the passenger comes as a major success as the recent such cases had led to the recovery of abandoned gold while the passengers had escaped. Based on intelligence, authorities rummaged through a flight arriving from Dubai which led to the recovery of 16 gold bars from the aircraft toilet. The total weight of recovered gold is 1863 grams. Authorities stated that the passenger who had abandoned the gold was identified before he could escape. "The concerned passenger was further identified and arrested in the arrival hall," they stated. The flyer may



have abandoned the gold while someone was to pick it up before the Customs recovered the gold. Investigations done in such cases in the past have revealed that a number of persons are involved in these rackets - from the flyer who conceals the gold to the one who retrieves it. Authorities also probe if any staffer is involved, whose job may have been to retrieve the gold. The gold was seized under the reasonable belief that the same was smuggled into India without payment of customs duty in contravention to provisions of The Customs Act, 1962.

## Court rejects Viva Group MD, director's plea for home food

PMC FRAUD

MUMBAI: A sessions court on Friday denied home food claimed on medical grounds by Viva Group MD Mehul Thakur and Director Madan Chaturvedi in custody in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank fraud. Thakur in his plea said that he suffered from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder with anxiety and mild depression and needed counselling on alternate days with medication. Chaturvedi stated he had Blood Pressure and Cholesterol. The court while dealing with Thakur's application said that the fact regarding his medical issues was not brought to its attention either by the prosecution or the defence during prolonged remand hearings. — STAFF REPORTER

## Residents from Dahisar & Borivali threaten to boycott BMC elections

DIPTI SINGH  
Mumbai

As a protest against cattle sheds (tabelas) dumping cattle dung and animal carcasses and polluting Dahisar River, citizens of Borivali and Dahisar along with members of the citizens movement River March have initiated a campaign to boycott the upcoming BMC elections. Upset by empty promises for the last four years, Dahisar and Borivali residents want action and say that they will not fall for any more assurances from BMC officials or elected representatives. "The river has been saturated with cow dung for years which is continuously eliminated from the cow shelters (tabelas) along the river. However, despite years of follow-ups and protests to pressurise BMC officials to act the



Dahisar river covered with cow dung

situation is the same. The cow dung is not only severely damaging the water body but the smell makes us suffocate here," said Pankaj Trivedi, a river activist and resident of Srikrishna Society in Borivali. "Politicians have failed to follow-up and civic officials show mere lethargy in taking action against these illegal activities by the cattle shed owners. Last year on January

30, we were promised that floodgates will be installed in the areas which will restrict animal waste and dung from entering the river. However, nothing was done as the city was hit by the pandemic. The problem persisted and so last month we approached the civic body again, we were told that floodgates will be installed at the earliest. We have waited for over four years and still the civic body has failed to come up with any concrete solution to the problem," said Gopal Jhaveri, founder of River March - a citizen's movement for rejuvenating four rivers of Mumbai. BMC has time and again failed to clean them despite allocating funds towards river rejuvenation every year. This year the civic body has allocated ₹50 crores for rejuvenating Dahisar, Poisar, and Walbhat - Oshiwara river.

## 81% turnout for vaccination

MUMBAI: On Saturday, the Mumbai civic body managed to reach 81 per cent of its daily vaccination target. Of the total beneficiaries who took the vaccine shot on Saturday, 85 per cent were Healthcare workers (HCW), while 74 per cent were Frontline Workers (FLW). On Saturday, total 6914 (4407 - HCW and 2507 FLW) beneficiaries were vaccinated against the set target of 8575 (5185 - HCW and 3390 FLW) across 21 vaccination centres, taking the total achievement rate of 81 per cent of the targeted total. From Thursday, BMC simultaneously started vaccinating FLWs along with HCWs at 21 vaccination centres in the city. On Saturday, 2507 FLWs, reported for vaccination as against the target of 3390. Of the total people vaccinated on Saturday, around seven reported Adverse event following immunization (AEFI). According to civic officials, these seven people complained of giddiness and were asked to stay back at the facility and were kept under observation for 30 minutes before getting discharged. "No serious cases were reported and none of the volunteers vaccinated had to be hospitalised. Those reported minor AEFI, were observed and discharged in half an hour," said a civic official. As per the Central Government's directions on Thursday, even in Mumbai, the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to healthcare workers (HCW) starting February 13. Only the first dose has been given to them so far. — Staff Reporter




## 414 new Covid cases in Mumbai

STAFF REPORTER  
Mumbai


Mumbai on Saturday registered 414 new covid-19 cases and four fatalities, pushing the cumulative case count and the death toll in the city to 3,11,426 and 11,386 respectively. The financial capital's overall growth rate of infection has dropped to 0.12%, while the recovery rate remains at 94%. A total of 299 people were discharged from across the city, following which the total number of people recovered from the deadly infection in the city has jumped to 2,93,417. Mumbai currently has 5,708 active covid-19 cases. With a steady decline in the number of cases, the number of Containment zones and Sealed buildings has dropped too. While the number of containment zones in the city has come down to 165 from 199 last week, only 1,929 sealed buildings have left across the city. Meanwhile, Maharashtra reported 2,768 new coronavirus




infections on Saturday, taking the cumulative tally of cases to 20,41,398, the state health department's bulletin revealed. With 25 new COVID-19 deaths, the overall death toll of the state has jumped to 51,280. Of new deaths, 17 were from the last 48 hours, while eight from the last week the health department's bulletin stated. A total of 1,739 patients were discharged from hospitals on Saturday, taking the number of recoveries to 19,53,926. The state currently has total of 34,934 active cases. Maharashtra's recovery rate as of Saturday stands at 95.72% while the fatality rate has dropped to 2.51%.




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
Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	Extract of Unaudited Financial Results For & Up to the Quarter Ended December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2020							
		₹ in Crore				₹ in Crore			
		3 Months Ended 31.12.2020	Corresponding 3 Months Ended 31.12.2019	9 Months Ended 31.12.2020	Corresponding 9 Months Ended 31.12.2019	3 Months Ended 31.12.2020	Corresponding 3 Months Ended 31.12.2019	9 Months Ended 31.12.2020	Corresponding 9 Months Ended 31.12.2019
		(Standalone)				(Consolidated)			
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
1	Income from Operations	4203.04	5457.77	9543.13	15897.05	4203.04	5459.24	9543.92	15900.49
a	Sales/Income from Operations	248.32	221.58	594.30	539.70	248.32	221.58	594.30	539.71
b	Other Operating Income	4451.36	5679.35	10137.43	16436.75	4451.36	5680.82	10138.22	16440.20
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional Items)	(292.88)	226.30	(2226.68)	46.84	(298.01)	219.38	(2240.95)	26.88
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items & share of net profit/(loss) of joint ventures in consolidated results)	(292.88)	226.30	(2226.68)	46.84	(279.75)	229.29	(2205.95)	49.52
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	(230.99)	158.82	(1684.26)	61.15	(217.86)	161.81	(1663.39)	63.83
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(249.24)	124.17	(1739.01)	(42.80)	(236.11)	127.17	(1718.14)	(40.10)
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value Rs. 2 per share)	696.41	696.41	696.41	696.41	696.41	696.41	696.41	696.41
7	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Basic & Diluted Earnings Per Share.	(0.66)	0.46	(4.84)	0.18	(0.63)	0.46	(4.78)	0.18

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended ("the Regulation") read with SEBI Circular NO. CIR/CFD/CMD1/44/2019 dated March 29, 2019 ("the Circular"). The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites of BSE and NSE and at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and under "Financial Information" section of the Company's website [www.bhel.com](http://www.bhel.com)
- During the quarter, the Group operations recovered as compared to Q2/20-21, but pre-covid level of operations are yet to be achieved. Based on its assessment of business/economic conditions as on date, the Company expects to recover the carrying value of its assets. The Company will continue to evaluate the pandemic related uncertainty with respect to the future economic conditions and update its assessment.

For and on behalf of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited  
Sd/-  
(Dr. Nalin Shinghal)  
Chairman & Managing Director

Place : New Delhi  
Dated : 06.02.2021

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**Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited**  
 CIN: L74899DL1964GOI004281  
 Registered Office: BHEL House, Siri Fort, New Delhi - 110049  
 Phone No: 011-66337000, E-mail: [shareholderquery@bhel.in](mailto:shareholderquery@bhel.in)







## Assam visit: Glad to see immense enthusiasm, says PM

NEW DELHI: PM Modi on Saturday said that he felt glad to see immense enthusiasm amongst people of Assam ahead of his visit in the state tomorrow and hopes to continue working for the state's all-round development. In a tweet, the PM said, "Glad to see

immense enthusiasm in Assam. Happy to be getting yet another opportunity to be in the state tomorrow. We will continue working for Assam's all-round development." Along with this tweet, Modi shared images of preparations in the state.

## PC questions delay in Faruqui's release

NEW DELHI: Congress leader P Chidambaram on Saturday questioned the delay in the release of comedian Munawar Faruqui by the MP Police and jail authorities despite the order of interim bail granted by the SC on Friday.



Chidambaram tweeted it has been over 30 hours since the order was passed but Munawar Faruqui has not been released from jail. "Why has Munawar Faruqui not been released from jail despite an order of interim bail granted by the Supreme Court yesterday morning," Chidambaram tweeted. "It is nearly 30 hours since the order was passed. Yet, the order

is being undermined by the MP police and jail authorities. Is all this happening with or without the knowledge of the MP CM?" he asked in a subsequent tweet.

Faruqui, arrested by the Madhya Pradesh police in a case relating to allegedly hurting religious sentiments, was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court on Friday. Faruqui and 4 others were arrested on January 1 following a complaint by Eklavya Singh Gaud, son of BJP MLA Malini Laxman Singh Gaud, for objectionable remarks about Hindu deities and Union Minister Amit Shah were passed during a comedy show at a cafe in Indore on NY's Day.

# PM Modi hails judiciary for safeguarding people's rights

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the country's judiciary, saying that it has performed its duty well in safeguarding people's rights, upholding personal liberty, and also in the situations when national interests need to be prioritised.



The Prime Minister also said the Supreme Court has conducted the highest number of hearings via video-conferencing in the world during the coronavirus pandemic.

Modi was speaking after virtually releasing a commemorative postage stamp on the completion of 60 years of the Gujarat High Court.

"Every countryman can say that our judiciary has worked with firmness to uphold our Constitution. Our judiciary has strengthened the Constitution by its positive interpretation," Modi said.

"The Supreme Court has conducted the highest number of hearings through video-conferencing in the world during the pandemic," he added.

Judiciary has performed its duty well in terms of safeguarding the rights of the people, upholding personal liberty and whenever such situations have arisen in which national interests need to be prioritised, PM Modi said.

## SC JUDGE: PM IS A POPULAR, VIBRANT, VISIONARY LEADER

Supreme Court justice M R Shah on Saturday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "our most popular, loved, vibrant and visionary leader". The praise for the PM by Justice Shah came during a function to celebrate diamond jubilee of the Gujarat HC. "I am proud and privileged to participate in the function to celebrate diamond jubilee of Gujarat HC and that too in the presence of our most popular, loved, vibrant and visionary leader, PM Narendra Modi."

## Bihar seeks safe return of man abducted by ULFA

LAW KUMAR MISHRA / Patna

The Bihar government has requested the Arunachal government to secure safe return of Ram Kumar, 35, from the custody of banned United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) militants. Ram Kumar, a Samastipur executive with an oil and gas drilling company, was kidnapped by ULFA (I) led by Paresh Barua on December 21.

Bihar DGP SK Singhal telephoned his Arunachal counterpart RP Upadhyay and requested the AP government to help in seeking safe return of Kumar, a Samastipur resident. On Dec 21, he, along with colleague Pranab Kumar Gogoi, were held hostage by ULFA (I) at Kumichakh in Changlang district of Arunachal-Myanmar border.

ULFA released a video on Thursday with two hostages telling their company the abductors were demanding a Rs20 crore ransom for the release. ULFA claimed the 2 hostages were healthy and safe in their custody, but warned if the ransom money was not paid by February 16, they would be liquidated.

## Sasikala: TN ministers meet DGP second time

N CHITHRA / Chennai

For the second time in less than a week, Tamil Nadu's senior ministers and AIADMK leaders met Director General of Police J K Tripathy on Saturday to complain against V K Sasikala, the former aide of late Chief Minister J Jayalalitha.

Sasikala, who was recently released from prison in Bengaluru after completing her four year term in a corruption case, is set to return to Chennai on February 8 and her supporters have planned a massive reception for her en route from the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border. However, the Law Minister C Ve Shanmugam, Electricity Minister Thangamani and Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar

## SEC: Confine AP Panchayat Raj minister to home

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar on Saturday ordered the Director General of Police (DGP) Gautam Sawang to confine Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy to his home until the end of panchayat polls, for allegedly threatening officials to not follow his directives.

"We have no objection to Sasikala's return. However, AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran [Sasikala's nephew] said she would travel with the AIADMK flag as 'general secretary' [a post to which she was appointed after Jayalalitha's death and later ousted]. He said not just the DGP even the chief of three armed forces would not be able to stop it. Some supporters of Sasikala had said in Bengaluru that they would turn as 100 'human bomb' shields to her and reach Tamil Nadu. That is why we have given a complaint to prevent violence," the Law Minister claimed.

along with AIADMK president chairman Madhusudan met the DGP alleging that Sasikala's supporters planned to incite violence on the occasion.

"Having carefully looked at various alternatives and avenues of remedial action, the commission by invoking its plenary powers under Article 243 K of the Constitution, directs DGP to confine Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development to his residential premises till the completion of elections to the gram panchayats which will conclude by February 21," ordered Kumar.

## CHHATTISGARH DIARY NAXAL WITH ₹1L BOUNTY KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

AVDHESH MALLICK / Raipur

A dreaded Naxal having Rs1 lakh as bounty on him was slain in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Dantewada district on Saturday, police said. The gunfight took place in the morning hours in a forest area between Suman and Tetam villages when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation.

Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said, "After an exchange of fire, the body of a Naxal, Muchaki Masa, was recovered from the spot along with a weapon," he added. Masa, who was active as a jan militia commander, was involved in several Maoist incidents in the area and carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, Pallava said. Chhattisgarh observes peaceful protest and chakka jam against farm laws.

## Chakka jam peaceful

On the call for a Chakka jam (road blockade) from Sanyukta Kishan Morcha, Chhattisgarh observed a peaceful road blockade across the state for three hours on Saturday. In several places in the state, the leaders and members of Congress Party, Communist Party, Aam Aadmi Party and others were seen on the roads to extend solidarity with farmers and support the bandh.

The bandh was actively supported by more than 30 farmer organisations and 58 social organisations in the state, a press release of Chhattisgarh Sanyukta Kishan Morcha said. Bandh was effective on various national and state highways across the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon, Mungeli, Janjgir-Champa and other places. Hundreds of vehicles, including buses and trucks, remained stranded on the highways. However, to avert any untoward incident, heavy police forces were also deployed during the bandh to maintain law and order.

## C'garh Cong wants Rahul as party prez

Chhattisgarh state Congress unanimously passed a resolution to re-appoint Rahul Gandhi as the Indian National Congress President, on Saturday. In a meeting held in the Congress state party headquarters in Raipur, the Chhattisgarh Congress Committee Executive and District Presidents passed the resolution seeking the services of Gandhi to again head the country's oldest political party, a press release said.

This resolution was proposed by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and supported by state in-charge PL Punia and state Congress President Mohan Markam.

## Another plea seeking removal of mosque from Sri Krishna Janambhoomi admitted

LUCKNOW: After the Ram Janambhoomi case, it is the Lord Krishna birthplace case has landed in the court again. A Mathura court has allowed another writ petition to be admitted in the case pertaining to dispute over 13.37 acres of adjoining land of Shahi Mosque Idgah. Admitting the plea, by Pawan Shastri, priest of Thakur Keshav Dev Ji Maharaj Virajman Mandir, the additional district judge-6 (ADJ-6) Devkant Shukla issued notices to Central Sunni Waqf Board, Shahi Mosque Idgah Trust, Sri Krishna Janam Sewa Sansthan and Sri Krishna Janambhoomi Trust. March 8 is the next hearing date. Pawan Shastri claimed 13.67 acres of Shahi Mosque Idgah was owned by Thakur Keshav Dev Ji Maharaj Janamsthan Sewa Sangh entered into an agreement with Idgah Trust to give them the land. —Srawan Shukla

# Rajasthan ex-CM Raje plans temple run as show of strength

URVASHI DEV RAWAL Jaipur

Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje is planning to undertake a religious yatra in the Krishna Circuit in Bharatpur on her birthday on March 8, leading to speculation on whether this is an attempt to send a message to her detractors.

Raje's supporters are busy arranging the high-profile event. Raje will begin her visit from the Adi Badri temple and then offer prayers at the Girirajji and Govardhan ki Poonchri temples and also visit other temples en route. While no official programme has been declared yet and Raje has maintained silence, her supporters are actively preparing for her visit.

Raje's supporters on social media too are active, posting messages such as "March me Vasundhara Rajeji ka toofani daura. Iss tsumnami se achhe achhe dharashahi ho jayenge. (Vasundhara Raje's high-voltage tour from

March will knock out even the stalwarts)" and "Dhairya rakho, karm karo, jald hi sakaratmak parinam prapt honge (Be patient. Work hard. Soon you will see good results)".

Recently, former minister Yunus Khan, a close Raje aide, visited Bharatpur and met with other BJP workers in Bharatpur and discussed travel and other arrangements. Those present included former MLAs Anita Gurjar and Vijay Bansal and former MP Bahadur Singh Koli among others. All the leaders are considered close to Raje who is married into the Dholpur royal family.

Political commentators say Raje, who is upset with her sidelining in the state BJP, could use the opportunity as a show of strength.

Sources said state BJP president Satish Poonia was planning to change several leaders in the eastern belt for failing to strengthen the party at the grassroots. Worried they could be shunted out, the

leaders are now urging Raje to be more proactive.

Raje recently met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi and is believed to have put up her grievances to him. Analysts say the party high command wants Raje, the BJP national vice president, to play a more active role in national politics and might even send her to Bengal as a strong woman face to counter CM Mamata Banerjee. However, Raje is reluctant to leave Rajasthan where she has been 2-time CM.

Rumours of a rift in the Rajasthan unit have been flying thick and fast since after the BJP's defeat in the 2018 assembly poll. Raje's influence in the BJP has been waning as a younger leadership emerges with the backing of Shah and PM Modi. Row erupted weeks ago when some Raje supporters floated the 'Vasundhara Raje Samarathak Manch' and appointed office bearers in 25 districts. There are other groups active on social media backing Raje.

## Allegations against Shahrukh Pathan grave, observes Delhi court junking bail

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has dismissed the bail plea of Shahrukh Pathan, the man who allegedly opened fire at police personnel on February 24 during the northeast Delhi violence. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat in an order passed on February 4 said that the gravity of the offence and the allegations against the accused are quite grave, adding



that the conduct of the accused showed that he does not satisfy the triple test for the grant of bail.

"In view of the above discussion, I am not inclined to grant the relief prayed for. Accordingly, the bail application under Section 439 Cr. PC of accused Shahrukh Pathan @ Khan stands dismissed," the court said in its order.

Persons in illegal occupation of govt land cannot claim regularisation : SC

## Persons in illegal occupation of govt land cannot claim regularisation : SC

NEW DELHI: Persons in illegal occupation of government or panchayat land cannot claim regularisation as a matter of right, the Supreme Court has said. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said regularisation of the illegal occupation of govt or panchayat land can only be as per the policy of the state govt and the conditions stipulated in the rules. The top court was hearing a plea filed by residents of Sarsad village in Tehsil Gohana in Haryana's Sonapat district who encroached upon panchayat land and constructed houses.



Lawyers desirous of sharing important judgements, with a word count of up to 200, can send them to [fpjcitydesk@gmail.com](mailto:fpjcitydesk@gmail.com). Newscopies that meet all the requisite criteria, as per the editor's discretion, will be published in The Free Press Journal.

## QUICK LOOK

### 4 WOMEN JAILED IN RAGGING SUICIDE

Probably in a first such verdict in Madhya Pradesh, a court in Bhopal has handed 5-year imprisonment to 4 women students of a private pharmacy college for abetting suicide of another student in a 2013 ragging case. In his order on Friday, additional sessions court judge Amit Ranjan imposed a fine of Rs8,000 on each of the convicts, the prosecution said. The court absolved a college teacher from charges for want of proof. The prosecution said the convicts mentally and physically tortured the deceased, after which she hanged herself at her home in Bhopal on August 6, 2013. The victim had named the 4 students in her suicide note.

### 4 MEN BOOKED FOR RAPE AFTER COURT ORDERS IN UP

Police lodged a case against 4 people for allegedly raping a Dalit woman, 35, in Chitrakoot, UP, following a court's orders. Karvi police station SHO Virendra Tripathi on Saturday said in compliance with court orders, a case of gangrape was lodged against 4 persons under the IPC and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act sections. A woman working at a govt hospital has been made an accused for hatching conspiracy. The accused are yet to be arrested.

## Soumen Mitra is new Kol top cop

KOLKATA: Ahead of the Assembly polls in West Bengal, the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led government has appointed Soumen Mitra, currently the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Training, as the new Commissioner of Kolkata Police, informed the Home and Hill Affairs Dept on Saturday. As per a statement by the Home and Hill Affairs Dept, the state government has also transferred incumbent Anuj Sharma as ADGP of the state CID. —FPI Correspondent

## Hathras POCSO Court delivers fastest rape verdict in just 14 working days

SRRAWAN SHUKLA / Lucknow

Delivering fastest verdict in record 14 days of hearing in a case relating to rape with a one-and-half-year-old girl, the POCSO Court in Hathras awarded life imprisonment to the accused and imposed a Rs1 lakh fine on Saturday. It is perhaps the fastest verdict in the country by any POCSO Court in sexual assault on a girl.

Of the 23 days from the date of filing the charge-sheet, the Hathras POCSO Court had only 14 working days to hear

## Ruling front's nemesis Sabarimala back as poll issue

K RAVEENDRAN Thiruvananthapuram

The opposition UDF hit the ruling LDF at its most vulnerable point by releasing the draft of a bill that would debar women of prohibited age from entering the Sabarimala temple. The UDF game plan is to bring the Sabarimala issue right back into the electoral narrative, which had paid it rich dividends and routed the ruling front in the Lok Sabha elections.

The election results saw the ruling party being punished mercilessly for implementing the SC verdict allowing entry of women of all ages to the hill shrine, which until then was forbidden by law the entry of women of reproductive age, in a hurry. The SC verdict has since been challenged and is now pending review by a larger constitutional bench.

The ruling LDF seems to be having been caught on the wrong foot as it is struggling to come up with a credible response to the UDF move. CM Pinarayi Vijayan tried to dodge questions by newsmen the other day by saying LDF would go by what the court decides. The opposition asserts that the court verdict,

which has angered millions of Ayyappa devotees across the world, was asked for by the govt, which had submitted an affidavit in favour of allowing women's entry on the basis of gender equality.

The opposition is now daring the CM to declare if the government is on the side of the devotees or the feminists, who have unsuccessfully tried to enforce their new right, but were frustrated by resistance by the devotees.

The government had tried to smuggle in a few activist women, including Trupti Desai, to the temple, which led to state-wide protests by the devotees, who punished the LDF in the LS poll for its 'reformist' agenda. The UDF's draft bill gives complete freedom to the tantris, the custodian of the temple by both custom and law, to decide matters relating to the temple rituals and declares Ayyappa devotees as a separate denomination.

The SC had based its decision to allow women on the ground Sabarimala was a public place of worship like any other temple, so no special rule could be applied to it to prevent anyone from entering the shrine.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### WORLD GLOUED TO FARMERS' CHAKKA JAM

The farmer unions have declared not to negotiate any further with the government, accusing it of spreading disinformation and resorting to arrests. No further talks until all those arrested are released, Tikait said, declaring that the farmers won't return home until the three contentious farm laws are repealed.

Nearly 50 protesters were detained at Shaheedi Park in the national capital. The Congress and Left parties too held protests in some states in support of the 'chakka jam' called by the agitating farmer unions. 'Rasta roko' protests were staged in Karad and Kolhapur cities in Maharashtra.

At least 40 protesters, including senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan's wife Satvasheela Chavan, were detained for holding a protest on a busy road at Kolhapur Naka in Karad in western Maharashtra this afternoon, a police official said. Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raju Shetti and others were detained briefly in Kolhapur.

In Telangana, police said several people were taken into preventive custody as leaders of opposition parties joined the farmers in 'Raasta Roko' protests.

Farmers blocked highways in different parts of Karnataka to show their solidarity, following a call given by various farmers' associations led by Kuruburu Shanthakumar. A few pro-Kannada organisations too came in support of the agitators.

The Punjab farmers, who are camping on Delhi's borders for the past 74 days, point out that they would not allow any Khalistanis in their movement.

## More marshals deployed at rly stations

Between February 1 and 4, BMC marshals have slapped penalties on 51,175 violators across all the 24 municipal wards and have earned Rs 1.02 crore in fines. Senior civic officials have stated that between 55-60 per cent of these violators were fined outside the railway stations.

"A lot of people are now being fined regularly for not wearing their masks outside the station areas of Dadar and Andheri, many people have this mentality that now that train services have resumed, the pandemic is over," a senior official of the BMC Solid Waste Management department (SWM) told FPJ.

The official also said that the number of marshals in a ward has not been increased, only more people have been assigned near station areas.

He also stated that at stations like Dadar, which have market areas just outside it, remains heavily crowded throughout the day, for which many of the violators keep their masks below their nose level.

"In case of senior citizens carrying any load, we don't fine them directly, rather request them to pull up their mask once," said the official.

Marshals also stated, now that trains have resumed, more people are now being fined at the commercial districts of the city.

"In places like Colaba, Grant Road, Parel and Sandhurst Road, the number of violators have increased, after trains resumed," said another official.

Till February 4, BMC has fined total 13.71 lakh violators and have earned Rs 27.79 crore in the form of penalties.

## Guv should not make us go to court: Raut

Raut's attack came days after the Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar targeted the Governor for not clearing the nomination of 12 names recommended by the state cabinet from his quota in the Maharashtra Legislative Council. Pawar said the Governor should clear the names at the earliest.

The state government is expected to soon make a fresh representation to the Governor for clearing 12 names to the state council.

Meanwhile, Raut has slammed the Centre over the ongoing farmers' agitation on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border. He also said that the central government should not show ego for having a majority in the Lok Sabha. "Is government waiting to see farmers becoming violent?" he asked.

## Farm laws: Kumble faces bouncers for backing govt

SHANKAR RAJ Bengaluru

Former Indian cricket captain Anil Kumble had to face a few 'bouncers' for supporting the Union government on the new farm laws. Kumble had joined his former teammates like Sachin Tendulkar by giving a thumbs up to #IndiaTogether hashtags to counter celebrity international tweets in support of the on-going farmers' protest on the outskirts of Delhi.

As soon as he supported the hashtag, Samyukta Karnataka Horata, an umbrella forum of farmers in Karnataka, along with workers and Dalit organisations in Karnataka, hit back saying in a tweet, "More than 100 farmers have died ever since farmer organisations launched protests in Delhi. Even farmers in Karnataka had been protesting against the state and central government amendments to the farm laws, since September. Dear Kumble, did you ever ask these farmers as to why were they protesting? Why are you tweeting now? Your stand in the matter is very painful."

Kumble was reacting to the voices against celebrity international singer Rihanna and activists like Greta Thunberg who had tweeted in support of the protesting farmers.

Renowned Kannada writer Srinivasa Karkala said, "Human rights violations are not the internal affairs of any country."



Writer Chetan Krishna asked, "Being a Kannadiga, how could you be a mouthpiece of this vicious government?"

"No one said a word when Trump called India dirty. It is amusing to hear all the noise against the international celebrities who are empathetic with the farmers' cause. May there be some loyalty towards farmers who toil hard to feed you," wrote Rekha Srinivas, a social activist.

Kannada activist Dinesh Kumar said, "Didn't you think of the prestige and reputation of the country when you read about hundreds of farmers who died because of the cold at the protest sites? Where was your 'self respect' when farmers were attacked and fake cases being filed against them? You should be ashamed of yourself for selling yourself to the ruling party."

At the end of the day, Kumble was left stranded at the social media crease not knowing how to tackle the bouncers.

## AAP BEST ALTERNATIVE FOR GUJARAT: SISODIA

GANDHINAGAR: Claiming the Aam Aadmi Party was the best alternative for Gujarat, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Saturday said the AAP government in Delhi has revolutionised the health care system as well as the education system in just five years and has achieved what the BJP government in Gujarat has not been able to do in its 25-year rule. Sisodia was in Gujarat to campaign for AAP candidates for the local body elections slated at the end of this month.

Sisodia said, "The 5-year period is also a very long period and in just 2 years, the Kejriwal govt in Delhi, by creating 'Mohalla clinics' revolutionised the health care system in such a manner, that not only from national but also from abroad, people came to see how the health care system can work for the common man. Whereas even after 25 years of BJP rule, the common man anywhere in Gujarat cannot feel confident about receiving good health care in the government-run health facilities."



# Canada's unemployment rate hits new high

OTTAWA: Amid the raging second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate in Canada rose by 0.6 percentage point to 9.4% in January, the highest rate since August 2020, according to the national statistical office. On Friday, Statistics Canada said employment decreased by 213,000, or 1.2%, in January as lockdowns and restrictions caused the closure of many businesses across the country, reports Xinhua. The decrease marked a second straight month the labour market contracted after 63,000 positions disappeared in December 2020 to break a streak of monthly gains that began in May 2020. It was heavy in the services sector and part-time work fuelling the largest monthly decline since last April when some 2 million jobs were lost.

## US will hold China accountable for its abuses of international system: Blinken

LALIT K JHA  
Washington/Beijing

The US will hold China accountable for its abuses of the international system, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said as he spoke to his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi and raised with him the issue of human rights violations in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.

Price said in a readout of the call. In recent years, China has faced severe criticism from western countries over human rights violations in Tibet and persistent reports of the mass detention of Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. China has also ramped up a crackdown in Hong Kong after imposing a new law against subversion following major protests in the city. During the call, Blinken

reaffirmed that the United States will work together with its allies and partners in defence of their shared values and interests to hold China accountable for its ef-



ports to threaten stability in the Indo-Pacific, including across the Taiwan Strait, and its undermining of the rules-based international system, Price said.

China claims almost all of the 1.3 million square-mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

In Beijing, China's official media reported that Yang told Blinken that the US should rectify its mistakes made over a period of time and work with China to uphold the spirit of no conflict, mutual respect and win-win cooperation, focus on cooperation and manage differences, so as to push forward the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations.

China-US relations now stand at a key moment, he said, adding that the Chinese government takes a stable and consistent policy toward the US, Xinhua reported. Yang stressed the two sides should respect each other's core interests

and choices of the political system and development path, and manage their domestic affairs well. China will unswervingly follow its path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and no force could stop the realisation of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, Yang said, adding, the development of China-US ties has brought great benefits to people of the two countries and also promoted world peace and prosperity.

## 300 Myanmar lawmakers sign declaration rejecting junta rule

AGENCEIS  
Naypyitaw

Days after the military coup in Myanmar, almost 300 lawmakers have signed a declaration rejecting the military junta rule and also promised to continue their fight for democracy.



Protesters take part in a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon, on Saturday. —AFP

According to a report by Sputnik, almost 300 lawmakers in Myanmar have met by video to declare themselves the legitimate sole representatives of the people after the military seized power on Monday.

In the declaration, signed on Friday, the lawmakers rejected the junta and also promised to fight for democracy in their respective constituencies.

The statement was posted on Facebook by the communications chief of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Myanmar went into its second nationwide internet shutdown in a week's time on Saturday after the military seized power and arrested the Southeast Asian country's civilian leaders, Sputnik said in its earlier report.

Myanmar's military launched the coup on Mon-

day morning after days of escalating tensions between the government and the military in the aftermath of last November's general elections.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi-led NLD claimed an overwhelming victory in the polls, securing over 80 per cent of the seats, according to media reports. However, the military and some political parties disputed the results, alleging that the polls were marred by irregularities.

Days after the coup by Myanmar military, the police on Wednesday charged

San Suu Kyi for "illegally" importing at least 10 walkie-talkies.

The New York Times reported an official from the NLD party as confirming that the leader has been charged with an obscure infraction: having illegally imported at least 10 walkie-talkies.

According to media reports, the detentions started in the early hours of Monday (local time), with political leaders held in Yangon and other cities across Myanmar, and soldiers said to be out on the streets and at prominent landmarks.

### MYANMAR JUNTA BLOCKS INTERNET ACCESS AS COUP PROTESTS EXPAND

YANGON: Myanmar's new military authorities appeared to have cut most access to the Internet on Saturday as they faced a rising tide of protest over their coup that toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's elected civilian government.

Numerous internet users noted a slow disappearance of services, especially from mobile service providers, that accelerated sharply on Saturday morning. Broadband connection later failed, while there were mixed reports on whether landline phone service was still working.

Netblocks, a London-based service that tracks internet disruptions and shutdowns, said Saturday afternoon that "a near-total internet shutdown is now in effect" in Myanmar, with connectivity falling to just 16% of normal levels.

The broad outage followed Friday's government order to block Twitter and Instagram that said some

people were trying to use the platforms to spread what it deemed fake news. Facebook had already been blocked earlier in the week - though not completely effectively. The communication blockages are a stark reminder of the progress Myanmar is in danger of losing after Monday's coup plunged the nation back under direct military rule after a decade-long move toward greater openness and democracy. During Myanmar's previous 5 decades of military rule, the country was internationally isolated and communication with the outside world strictly controlled.

Suu Kyi's five years as leader since 2015 had been Myanmar's most democratic period despite the military retaining broad powers over the government, the continued use of repressive colonial-era laws and the persecution of minority Rohingya Muslims.

The impeachment trial of Donald Trump is more than an effort to convict the former president of inciting an insurrection. It's a chance for a public accounting and remembrance of the worst attack on the US Capitol in 200 years.

In the month since the Jan. 6 siege by a pro-Trump mob, encouraged by his call to "fight like hell" to overturn the election, defenders of the former president say it's time to move on.

Trump is long gone, enshrined at his Mar-a-Lago club, and Democrat Joe Biden is the new president in the White House. With the trial set to begin Tuesday, and a supermajority of senators unlikely to convict him on the single charge, the question arises: Why bother? Yet for many lawmakers who were witnesses, onlookers and survivors of that bloody day, it's not over.

One by one, lawmakers have begun sharing personal accounts of their experiences of that harrowing afternoon. Some were in the Capitol fleeing for safety, while others watched in



LISA MASCAROAP  
Washington

disbelief from adjacent offices. They tell of hiding behind doors, arming themselves with office supplies and fearing for their lives as the rioters stalked the halls, pursued political leaders and trashed the domed icon of democracy.

"I never imagined what was coming," said Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., recounted in a speech on the House floor.

Memory is a powerful tool, and their remembrances, alongside the impeachment proceedings, will preserve a public record of the attack for the Congressional Record.

Five people died and more than 100 people have been

arrested in a nationwide FBI roundup of alleged ringleaders and participants, a dragnet unlike many in recent times. While that is sufficient for some, assured the perpetrators will be brought to justice, others say the trial will force Congress, and the country, to consider accountability.

Todd Shaw, an associate professor at University of South Carolina, said the founders envisioned a check on the presidency and the trial provides a moment that will demarcate whether American democracy makes a course correction and says "things have gone too far" - or not, he said.

## EU foreign policy chief slams Moscow's expulsion of European diplomats



AGENCEIS  
Brussels

The European Union's high representative for foreign policy, Josep Borrell, on Saturday condemned Russia's move to expel European diplomats a day earlier, reported Euronews.

"I strongly reject the decision. I reject the allegations that these diplomats were performing activities incompatible with their role as diplomats," said Borrell.

The EU's top diplomat informed that he learned of the news during his meeting with Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow.

"During my meeting with Minister Lavrov I got news that three European diplomats were going to be expelled," said Borrell.

On Friday, Russia had expelled three European diplomats from Germany, Poland, and Sweden for participating in "illegal" rallies demanding the release of President Vladimir Putin's biggest critic Alexey Navalny. According to an official statement, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it had made formal protests to the embassies of Germany, Poland and Sweden.

Tens of thousands of Russians protested last weekend in support of the Kremlin critic who was detained upon returning to Russia from Germany after recovering from being poisoned, reported Euronews.

A Moscow court on Tuesday had sent Navalny to prison for more than two-and-a-half years.

## Pak arrests 2 on child porn charges after Interpol tip

ASIM TANVEER / Multan

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency arrested 2 men on suspicion of links to an international child pornography ring following a tip from Italy through Interpol, authorities said Saturday.

The arrests took place after an early-morning raid in the eastern Punjab province on the outskirts of the city of Sialkot, said Mohammad Iqbal, a top FIA official in the

city. This was the first time Interpol provided information to Pakistan about the presence of a criminal operation involving child pornography, he said.

Material retrieved from a computer allegedly belonging to one of the men showed "he was in contact with an international gang and was posting child pornography videos on the dark web," Iqbal told AP. The dark web is a layer of

the internet that isn't visible on search engines and requires specific software.

The first suspect was probed after his arrest, leading to the arrest of an accomplice, but two others remained at large, Iqbal said. Under Pakistani law, the two must be taken before a judge within 24 hours of arrest, at which point the FIA will likely ask for additional time for a probe before filing formal charges against them.



Firefighters work to fight a blaze at the mayors office set on fire during a protest against the shooting of a street juggler killed by police during an identity check, in Panguipulli, Chile

## Chinese whistleblower doctor honoured on death

AGENCIES  
Wuhan

The message was tucked into a bouquet of chrysanthemums left by a mourner at the back of Wuhan Central Hospital to honour a Chinese whistleblower doctor who died from the coronavirus a year ago. It was simply the number of a Bible verse: Matthew 5:10.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," the verse reads. A year ago Sunday, Dr. Li Wenliang died from the virus first detected in this Chinese city. A small stream of people marked the anniversary with visits

to the hospital Saturday, some leaving flowers.

The 34-year-old ophthalmologist was one of eight whistleblowers who local authorities punished early on for "spreading rumors" about a SARS-like virus in a social media group.

His situation, eventually made public in media reports, made him a potent symbol for the perils of going against official messaging in China.

The Chinese public embraced Li, whose presence online had painted a picture of an ordinary person. His wife was pregnant and he was soon to be a father. He sent the "rumor" because he wanted to warn others.

## No indication that India has given up extradition of Headley: Ranas' attorney

WASHINGTON: There is no indication India has given up on the extradition of David Coleman Headley, the Mumbai

terror attack accused, attorney of his co-accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana has told a US court. Rana, 59, a childhood friend of Headley, is facing extradition request by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people, including 6 Americans, were killed. Rana, who has been declared a fugitive by India, is opposing his extradition.

In a submission early this week before the US District Court Judge in Los Angeles Jacqueline Chelonian, opposing his extradition the attorney of Rana claimed that as of now there is no indication in the record that India has agreed to forgo Headley's extradition to India. "India presumably could

have agreed to forgo Headley's extradition in return for his assistance to the United States, but there is no indication in the record that it did so," the court submission told the court.

"In fact, the opinion of the Indian prosecutor serving as the government's expert states: 'The present opinion is specific to the extradition request in respect of

fugitive Tahawwur Hussain Rana. This opinion may not be construed in any manner to indicate that the various extradition requests pending with different sovereign nations in respect of the above-mentioned case which includes the case in respect of Accused No. 1, David Coleman Headley, is either being given up or not being pursued vigorously," said the motion filed by his attorneys.

## China imposing undeclared blockade, say Nepali traders

KATHMANDU: The Nepali traders have accused China of conducting an 'undeclared trade blockade' as their merchandise-laden container trucks have not been allowed to cross the border into Nepal for the past 16 months, reported The Kathmandu Post.

"Goods are still stuck at the border. We have discussed the matter multiple times with China, and have asked all key political leaders including the concerned ministries. We even requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to resolve the issue diplomatically. But no outcome has been forthcoming," said Naresh Katuwal, President of the Nepal National Trader's Federation.

"We have taken this gesture of China as an unofficial blockade," said Katuwal. "If this situation continues, there is no point in doing trade with China," he added.

## Climate change may have directly influenced emergence of Covid-19

AGENCIES  
London

Researchers at University of Cambridge have revealed a mechanism by which climate change could have played a direct role in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the Covid-19 pandemic.

The new study published in the journal Science of the Total Environment revealed large-scale changes in the type of vegetation in the southern Chinese Yunnan province, and adjacent regions in Myanmar and Laos, over the last century.

Climatic changes including increases in temperature, sunlight, and atmospheric carbon dioxide -- which affect the growth of plants and trees -- have changed natural habitats from tropical shrubland to tropical savannah and deciduous woodland.

This created a suitable environment for many bat species that predominantly live in forests.

The number of coronaviruses in an area is closely linked to the number of different bat species present.

The study found that an



additional 40 bat species have moved into the southern Chinese Yunnan province in the past century, harbouring around 100 more types of bat-borne coronavirus.

This 'global hotspot' is the

region where genetic data suggests SARS-CoV-2 may have arisen.

"Climate change over the last century has made the habitat in the southern Chinese Yunnan province suitable for more bat species,"

said Robert Beyer, a researcher in the University of Cambridge and first author of the study, who has recently taken up a European research fellowship at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany.

"Understanding how the global distribution of bat species has shifted as a result of climate change may be an important step in reconstructing the origin of the Covid-19 outbreak," he added.

To get their results, the researchers created a map of the world's vegetation as it

was a century ago, using records of temperature, precipitation, and cloud cover.

Then they used information on the vegetation requirements of the world's bat species to work out the global distribution of each species in the early 1900s.

Comparing this to current distributions allowed them to see how bat 'species richness', the number of different species, has changed across the globe over the last century due to climate change.

"As climate change altered habitats, species left

some areas and moved into others -- taking their viruses with them. This not only altered the regions where viruses are present, but most likely allowed for new interactions between animals and viruses, causing more harmful viruses to be transmitted or evolve," said Beyer.

The world's bat population carries around 3,000 different types of coronavirus, with each bat species harbouring an average of 2.7 coronaviruses -- most without showing symptoms.

An increase in the num-

ber of bat species in a particular region, driven by climate change, may increase the likelihood that a coronavirus harmful to humans is present, transmitted, or evolves there.

Most coronaviruses carried by bats cannot jump into humans. But several coronaviruses known to infect humans are very likely to have originated in bats, including three that can cause human fatalities: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) CoV, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) CoV-1 and CoV-2.





# Freedom of speech Unsettled?

Speaking to artistes, OTT buffs, and lawyers, **Maithili Chakravarthy** tries to excavate why we are all getting so offended with fictional themes and artistes' quirks...

There has been for some time a long, drawn-out debate about freedom of speech and expression in our democracy.

Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India guarantees this right to all Indians. It states that all citizens shall have the right to free speech and expression. However in Article 19 (2) the term "reasonable restrictions" comes to the fore. The right in (1) (a) bestowed on Indian citizens (by all means a human right) is subject to "reasonable restrictions". Hence all Indians are promised by their own constitution the right to voice how they feel on issues that they want to talk about – in conversation, in the written word, in the press, in movies, etc.

So what are the so-called reasonable restrictions? Those that will set off

alarm bells in the exercise of our free rights? To maintain India's sovereignty, integrity, security, in the context of friendly relations with other countries, in the context of public order, "decency, morality, contempt of court", defamation and incitement to an offence, the free speech right can be truncated.

In the recent case of the Amazon Prime series *Tandav*, "religious sentiments were hurt." In art, a highly subjective mode of communication, is it possible to really interpret what reasonable restrictions are?

Mumbai-based Civil and Constitutional Lawyer Abhijeet Deshmukh attempts to draw up a clearer picture for the layman. Someone wondering what his rights are with respect to expressing an opinion he or she might have, someone wanting to tap into

creativity to produce art in the way he so desires.

"If a group of people belonging to a community or sect goes to a court saying they are offended, the courts are burdened with the dilemma of balancing free speech on the one hand and the sentiments of the aggrieved on the other. From 1947 to 2000 things were more binary when it came to deciding what public domain is and what is private. However, 2000 onwards, IT has boomed and novel challenges are making things more difficult for courts. A WhatsApp group of friends can end up becoming public domain. With shift in time there is a rapid shift in society and legislations must keep up with these changes. Laws of 19th and 20th centuries cannot be expected to be applied to 21st Century events." Deshmukh goes on to

compare laws across the globe, in the US, and in Europe, comparing how the freedom to speech and expression law works out in those countries.

"Honestly, tolerance has to grow as a democracy matures. In democracies such as some European countries – those that are about 200 or 300 years old, the law concerning freedom of speech is pretty much settled. The American law on freedom of expression is more absolute and less qualified. Hence the comedy cartoon series *South Park* that was made in the US where in one episode a nuclear bomb is suspected to be in Hillary Clinton's genital area, did not lead to litigation or censorship. Even Hillary or her followers did not seek judicial intervention. In India, such a series would not have gone down well."

"In India, 'right to free speech' is qualified, and there is a wide degree of judicial discretion in deciding what is offensive and what is not. Also, plea of justification is not an absolute defence. In India, courts have balanced freedom of speech by cur-tailing right to offend," he adds.

With such grey areas, is being, appearing, feeling and expressing offence the norm of the day? Several critiques of people in power, just like Deshmukh's,

Saif Ali Khan-starrer web series *Tandav* recently caused quite a stir over some scenes, which were later snipped by the makers



"Sometimes we get offended by what someone says when we don't fully understand the context behind their comments. No matter how offensive we find it, we should not react in a manner that impinges on their civil liberties."

—Hemendra Shah, businessman

make references to how laws such as the Law on Sedition, which were in practice when India was

under the British, have not been struck down. So what about the series such as *Tandav*? What about that poet who wants to use absolutely explicit language and phraseology to express raw sexuality in a work of art?

Shares actor Jayati Bhatia about the film, TV and theatre fraternity, "Art is a mirror to the society. What you see is what you get. No creative person will support such offence being taken to everything they do. There has to be at least that much tolerance in the country. What we present can't be flavoured creatively. Otherwise that's not art. Have the *Tandav* and similar episodes affected many in the film and TV field?

Not yet. Many of us don't want to face it or come to terms with it... (such attacks on our creative labour). *Hum kis kis ko khush karien?* Is this how our country is going to progress? So many times we have featured the Mumbai police in our movies in certain ways, but they have stood by us," says Bhatia in adulation of the Mumbai police, which she regards as quite tolerant so far. "*Jab yeh sab hota hai, humara bhi sentiment hi kharab hota hai.*" Bhatia has asserted here that offence goes both ways.

It's not only those who object to their creativity, whose feathers are getting ruffled. It's the other way round too. Says a Mumbai-

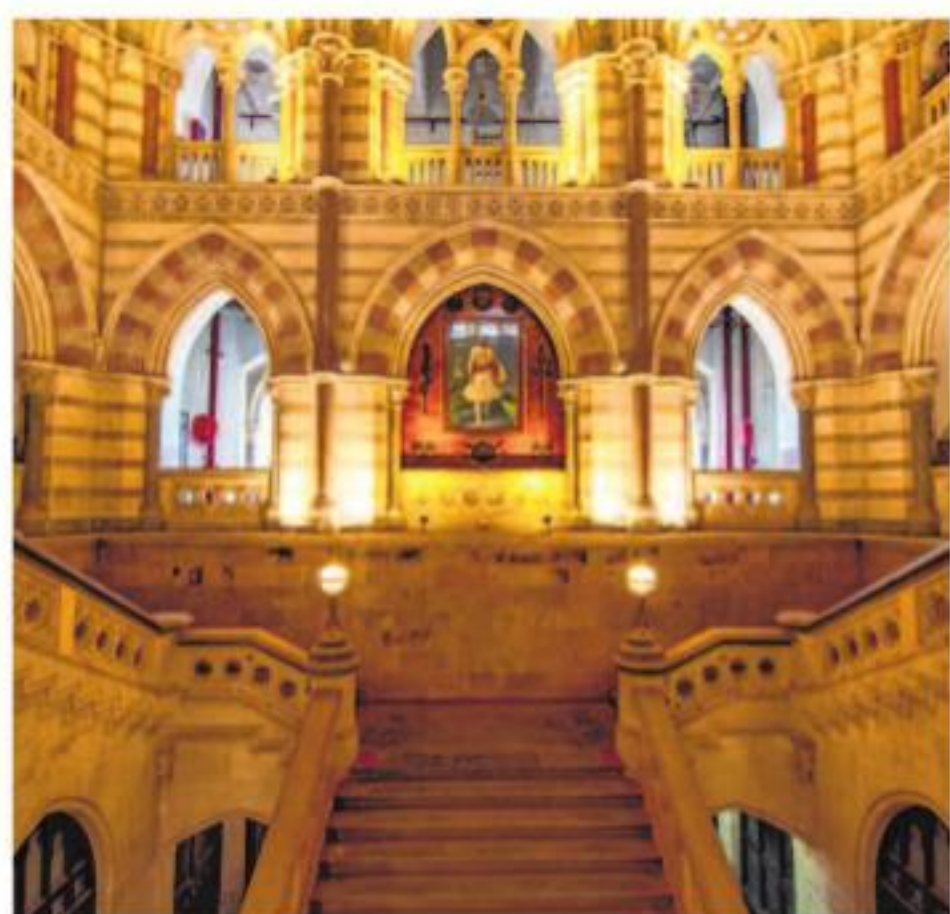
based senior level management consultant, who did not wish to be named. Someone who enjoys his weekend OTT binge from time to time. Someone with strong political opinions of his own but zero tolerance for issues he considers not germane.

Speaking about *Tandav*, which he recently watched cover to cover, he says, "I don't think there is any culture of getting offended in India. I don't think the average Indian living in Dharavi or Shivaji Park, in Mumbai, the middle class Indian, is concerned by the *Tandav* content. These are simply people who want to stay relevant and hence they pick up these non-issues for publicity. The media has worsened the situation. They don't report responsibly. They showcase these people, they want to show the juicy details of cases like these, and they play things up. People in India sometimes don't understand the concept of freedom of speech. Somebody needs to stand up to them..."

Adding to this, Hemendra Shah, a businessman from Chennai, says, "Sometimes we get offended by what someone says when we don't fully understand the context behind their comments. No matter how offensive we find it, we should not react in a manner that impinges on their civil liberties."



A peek inside the heritage structure



# A veritable treasure trove of heritage

With the BMC opening its headquarter's doors to the public for guided tours, **Manu Shrivastava** speaks with participants about their experience of taking a walk through the heritage structure

For more than seven years as a student at St Xavier's College, and then for work, I'd pass by the beautiful BMC building, always wondering what would it look like from the inside. I would wonder about the story of the statue of the angel who represents colonial Bombay and the building's history!" recalls Ghatkopar-based Milloni Doshi.

And, now she got a chance to step inside the building and witness it in full grandeur. Milloni Doshi was one of the 15 participants of the first-ever heritage walk conducted inside the iconic 128-year-old BMC building in South Mumbai. She was part of the first walk thrown open to members of the public and conducted on January 30, 2021. "It was truly a memorable moment for me," says the BMC Education Department Fellow.

Milloni "could not wait to take the walk" when she learnt of it and "booked the ticket immediately" so she doesn't miss the opportunity. "I got a chance to see the dome, the museum gallery, etc. and learned the most interesting facts about the structure and its origin. Also,

that this was not the original BMC building, etc."

The heritage walk of the BMC headquarters is being organised with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). The walks are planned for weekends with two slots in the morning and two in the evening on Saturday and Sunday each. After the inauguration by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on January 28, 2021, the first walk for officials and dignitaries was conducted on the morning of January 30, 2021 and attended by Tourism and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar and other officials.

There were four tours that were conducted last weekend – two on Saturday evening and two on Sunday morning. As of now, the tickets can be booked at a cost of Rs 300 per person and online through Book-

MyShow only. It is, also, the very first time that the city's civic body has opened its

door to the public for guided tours.

MTDC personnel Nikhil Dhanwatey, who attended the first walk open to public, said, "It was a great experience. The Mayor personally welcomed all the members of the tour. It was nice to see the internal structure. It must be great to work in a place like this."

"I had crossed the building innumerable times. It's one of those thousands of structures we take for granted in Mumbai, like a monument and don't know what's inside. The one hour 15 minute walk was a revelation. I particularly liked the majestic lions next to the staircase. It's a pretty well-maintained building and it was unexpected to see everything in such good condition despite the popular perception of governmental buildings being in a state of perpetual ruin and disarray. It was a grand experience," Nikhil adds.

"It's a wonderful endeavour by the State government to bring to limelight the works of those who have been associated with the BMC Headquarters," says Mumbai-based septuagenarian Ramesh Salvi.

"It's time that tourists shed the general perception that governmental buildings and structures are old and dilapidated. I feel strongly on this issue and hope that the trend of changing this perception continues," adds the retired banker.



The interior of the heritage structure



MTDC personnel Nikhil Dhanwatey

Another Mumbai resident and history enthusiast Raviraj Pawar always wanted to see the inside of the BMC building. "Being a student of history, I was particularly interested in exploring but never got a chance earlier. It's such an old structure with Gothic architecture...because of the walk I got a chance to see the smallest details such as the windows, the façade, etc. It was fascinating!"

The BMC headquarter heritage walk is presently planned for groups in batches of 15 members. The tour starts from Gate No. 2 of the BMC Headquarter where the 15 participants first

meet. After a 10-minute briefing on the BMC building and CST, about why they were constructed and how, the batch is taken inside the building.

Here, the participants get an opportunity to walk through the historic structure, the majestic staircase, see the heritage dome, the courtyards of the building, BMC commissioner's office, Mayor's chamber, etc.

According to a MTDC personnel, the response has been overwhelming as tickets have been sold for all the tours in February. Two guides take each group of participants through the heritage walk.





## Healing power of hands...

In times when staying healthy has become everyone's talking point, **Ravi Valluri** shows how the ancient practice of *mudra pranayama* can do the needful

**P**ranayama can be broadly divided into two segments. *Prana* implies the vital source of energy (the subtle life force) and *Yama* is the control or extension or expansion. Therefore, *pranayama* can be enlarged as the extension of this dimension of *prana*. When our energy/*prana/chi* levels are low, we feel enervated. This invariably occurs when we eat in gargantuan proportions rather than partaking small morsels, either sleep excessively or do not have adequate rest. In all such cases, there is a significant expenditure of the vital life force. Energy can nevertheless be replenished through the regular practice of *pranayama*, yoga and meditation. This fortifies the flow of *prana* in the *Nadis*, the energy channels in the human body. The depletion of energy takes place on account of disruption in our lifestyles, dietary indiscretions, emotional upheavals, or lack of physical exercise apart from the human mind undergoing overwrought and stressful conditions. Strangely enough, through the regular practice of *pranayama* and breathing techniques such as *Sudarshan Kriya*, the mind gets entrenched in the present moment. The human body is powered by five primor-

dial elements — earth, water, fire, air and space. These are all extremely important, interwoven and interrelated but it is *Vayu* that sustains our life. Our *rishis* have succinctly opined that *Pranayama* is nothing but the worship of *Vayu Devata* or the Wind God. The powers of *vayu* are immense and this was known to our ancestors and *rishis*. No wonder we pray to Lord Hanuman during our trials and tribulations. He is the closest to Narayana, who nourishes and sustains us and strengthens our bodies physically and mentally. *Pranayama* is the fourth principle of *Ash-tanga Yoga* as delineated by Maharishi Patanjali. *Pranayama* should be coupled with mindful eating and breathing. **Yogic science of mudras** Lord Krishna in the *Bhagavad Gita* says, "there is nothing as sacred as knowledge". Knowledge can be acquired by the human mind through the 5 D's: Dedication, determination, dynamism, devotion and discipline, and one H — Humility. The human mind can harness this potential only if it is in the present moment and not in a fragmented state. By practicing proper breathing techniques, like *Sudarshan Kriya* and *Nadi Shodhan Pranayama* and through

regular meditation the mind becomes wakeful and alert to delve deep into this knowledge. It is indeed profitable to learn about *mudras*. Practice of *mudras* is not just in the domain of dancers, painters and artists, even stock individuals who have nothing to do with the art world ought to learn about *mudras*. The science of *mudras*, is intrinsically related to the esoteric knowledge of yoga and which can be further segregated into the five elements, the five life forces (or subtle forces of energy called the *pranas*) and the three *doshas*. The five elements are namely — *Akash* (ether or space), *Vayu* (air), *Agni* (fire), *Jal* (water) and *Prithvi* (earth), and the five life forces or *Pranas* are *Prana*, *Udana*, *Samana*, *Apana* and *Vyana* and the three *Doshas* are *Vata*, *Kapha* and *Pitta*. Humans unconsciously practice *mudras*. For instance, the *Namaste Mudra* or a young child begins learning to walk with his thumbs raised which is called the *Meru Dand Mudra*. An infant in a deep slumber, his index finger would involuntarily touch the thumb and the other three fingers are on the base of the palm (*Chinmaya Mudra*). The universe in its auto-mode conjures these processes to take place about which we

are totally oblivious to the occurrence. Some other *mudras* which need to be practised are:

**(a) Jnana mudra**

This is performed to increase brain power, improves memory and for the removal of negative thoughts and thereby one attains peace and bliss.



**(b) Prithvi mudra**

This helps in balancing the five sense organs, improves blood circulation and enhances our energy levels. Practicing of this *mudra* assists in increasing our alertness.



**(c) Apana mudra**

This facilitates in an improved elimination process, revitalising the digestive system, improving the gums and strengthens immunity.



**(d) Prana mudra**

This *mudra* addresses the problem of fatigue; it also provides essential vitamins to the body besides increasing stamina and vigour to the human body. It also helps in maintenance of the health of our eyes.



**(e) Dhyana mudra**

Essentially, this *mudra* helps in making us mindful and wakeful and we are at peace with ourselves. Over a period of time we attain peace of mind.



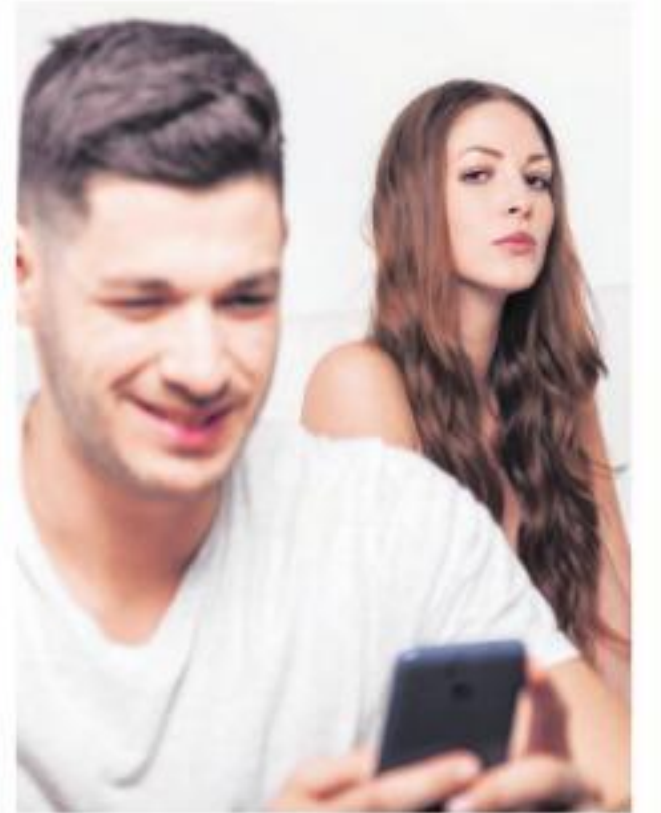
**(f) Shunya Vayu mudra**

Practice of this *mudra* helps in combating problems of flatulence and gastric ailments. The gut houses our solar plexus, which is also referred to as the second brain. We need to take adequate care of our abdomen as a majority of human ailments arise from this part of the body. Therefore, there is enormous merit in the adage, 'Health is in your hands'.



SEX AND THE CITY

# Serial sexter!



*I caught my husband sexting and planning to fly down a girl from Ukraine for a rendezvous in Goa. He apologised in front of the entire family, called it a 'mistake' that he would never repeat. A year later I caught him with another phone, where he has been sexting various models and hookers and inviting them for office parties for his foreign clients. He again apologised and promised to never stray again. Now I can't trust him. I have lost my sleep, lost weight and feel depressed all the time. I don't know what to do.*

**Ans:** The same manner in which the crossfire between two warring factors leads to inevitable civilian casualties, it is common for a person to become an emotional casualty when he/she gets caught between a partner who lies and an ulterior or morally dubious secret agenda. You are witness to your husband's philandering ways and you are understandably disturbed by it. A facade in any relationship can quickly turn into a recurring fable that could invite frowns and keeps the truth off the table. What's really going wrong between you both? Be honest with yourself. This is a question that is easier to ask than to answer. If your husband is fibbing and cheating through a committed relationship with you, it's probably because he's looking for something that he isn't finding in his relationship with you.

Has he ever mentioned not finding sex as exciting anymore with you? Are there certain other emotional issues at large that have driven a wedge between both of you? Such reasons need to be investigated and discussed so that his mind space and yours can be better understood and a negotiation can perhaps even be facilitated under the guidance of a counsellor. Many people are unlikely to easily part with information that could compromise their leverage in any situation or relationship.

Anything that makes your husband look desperate, greedy and uncertain will significantly destabilise him and the narrative he is building and portraying. This is probably why he chooses to lie and pat things down repeatedly. Defensiveness and false promises are made by both genders if they are afraid of losing their leverage and privileges by conceding too much or talking too much or changing too much. Relationships are nuanced collaborations but are essentially lived out as unfortunate power games where the ideal of collaboration often takes a backseat to pave way for a sort of competitiveness between the husband and wife. Score keeping begins. Despite the temptation most people have to label behaviour as good and bad, let's steer away from such simplifications to keep our judgement as neutral.

Would you say that your husband is a selfish man or someone who doesn't care about your needs? Has he been living this double-life for as long as you've known him? These answers will inform you in part about his agendas. It's important to be able to understand what is truly important to him and what choices he is prepared to make to get what he wants (even if it means hurting you in the bargain). In every relationship, we have to give something up to gain something since no relationship can solely work on one-person's terms. Your weight loss, depression, sleeplessness is indicative of the fact that you are unhappy.

To address the issue with him and find happiness again, some mediation will be necessary because getting emotional may further prompt him to improve the quality of his lies to keep you in some kind of 'fool's paradise' while the extra-marital affairs continue. See a marriage counsellor to set priorities as a couple and find a way out of this together.

**Dr. Aman Rajan Bhonsle**, Ph.D Consulting Relationship Counsellor & Youth Mentor

# Kick out that pain in the butt!

Sciatica is a type of pain that runs through hips, buttocks and legs, and sometimes also occurs in feet and toes. Know how Su-Jok, acupressure and mudra yoga can provide much-needed relief

**D**on't be such a Sciatica! Confused what it means? You may have heard a variation of this phrase as an everyday common banter. It means — don't be such a pain in the butt! Jokes apart, experiencing sciatica or pain in the buttocks is very common nowadays, as our daily routine has become more and more sedentary — especially for those living in urban areas. Most office goers have jobs that require them to sit all day long, resulting in many muscles growing chronically tight. The vertebrae discs then degenerate and herniate compressing the sciatic nerve. Luckily, there are home remedies to reduce symptoms and beat sciatica. Today, I'm going to explain what sciatica is and share tips on how to heal sciatica.

The sciatic nerve, also called ischiadic nerve (Nervus ischiadicus in medical language) is one of the largest nerves in humans and animals. Beginning in the lower back region (L3 to S3) — the part where most disc herniation's occur — and runs down along your legs, all the way down to your limbs. The term "Sciatica" is not a diagnosis. It does not explain the cause of the pain. In fact, it is used to describe multiple symptoms that doctors cannot find one direct cause for — because there could be multiple reasons. Whatever the cause may be, when you are having sciatic pain it means that the sciatic nerve is irritated or compressed. The medical term for sciatica is "Radiculopathy", which means that the nerve is compressed at its roots in the lower back. **Symptoms of Sciatica**

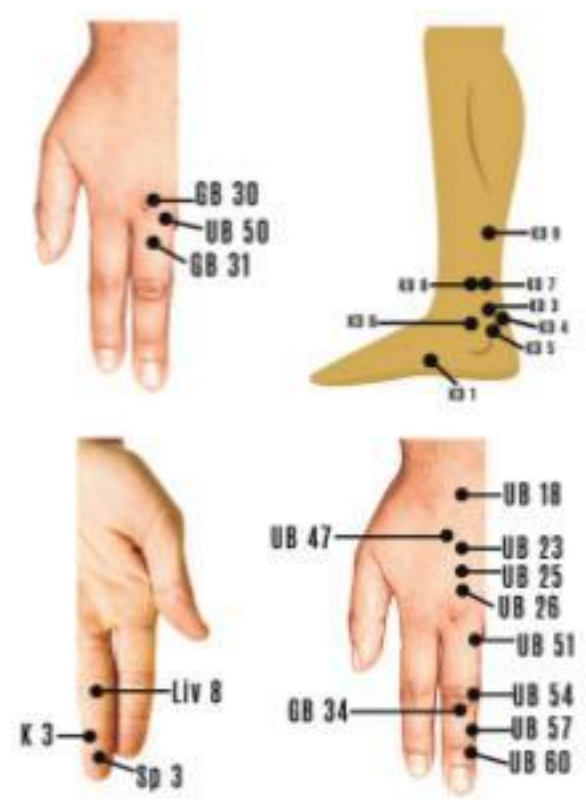
- Pain in one buttock, especially when sitting on it.
- Pain could be accompanied with sensations of burning, tingling



- One could experience a "dull ache" one that cannot be pinpointed to easily with reference to a region where the pain occurs.
- Weakness or numbness of the leg or foot.
- A sharp pain when standing up or walking for a longer time. You can find a small muscle called "piriformis" in the part of the lower back where the sciatic nerve has its roots. It is part of the deep hip muscles and has various function for external and internal rotation of the leg. While human anatomy is the same in all individuals in its basics, the exact position of the sciatic nerve, how thick it is and the position of the piriformis muscle is different for everyone. Thus, some people might never experience sciatica because there is enough distance between the piriformis muscle and the nerve. However, in some people, this distance is very small. On top of that, most people's piriformis muscle is very weak. In fact, the piriformis muscle is often referred to as the 4th gluteal muscle. Sitting all day and hardly moving will cause this muscle to get chronically tight and weak. When this muscle tightens up, it gets dangerously close to the sciatic nerve. If it is so tight that it starts to put pressure on the nerve, causing sciatica to begin. A tight piriformis muscle can be found in nearly all patients dealing with sciatica. The same principle as for the tight piriformis muscle applies for spinal disc herniations as well. Unfortunately, most herniations occur in the lumbar region, L3-L5, which is exactly the root of the sciatic nerve. Thus, once the disk is herniated, it will start to compress the sciatic nerve. One of the main symptoms of patients with a herniated disk is the sensation of numbness and weakness in the leg. If the cause is not treated right away, your muscles of the leg will weaken, and the nerve gets damaged. Another form of compression of the sciatic

nerve. Spinal stenosis is one of the most frequent reasons for back pain in older generations. Should you have a herniated disc, or suspect you have one, it is highly recommended that you visit your doctor to explain all your symptoms. There are several yoga and stretching exercises for single or herniated disc, but surgery may be the only answer if you suffer from multiple herniated discs. This is different for each individual, so make sure to assess the reasons. As a majority of patients with sciatica (herniated disc or not) also have a very tight piriformis muscle, the following tips and stretches will not only relieve your pain but also help you to prevent sciatica in the future. According to acupressure sciatica pain radiates down to leg from back. The pain may also occur in the leg without affecting the back. This is also a type of sciatica pain. **Chronic lower lumbar ligament strain:** When the back muscles fail to protect the ligaments in maintaining posture, the pain is usually better with rest and worse on exercise. For treatment, focus on the following points, Sp 3, GB 34† (see images on the right) **Spondylosis:** This is ankylosis of vertebral joints. There is back pain which becomes worse with movement. There is tenderness in the affected joint. The movement of the joint is restricted, and spinal muscles are stiff and under spasm. The synovial joints with cartilage and ligaments are affected. For treatment, focus on the following points, GB 34, Liv 8 UB 18 ↓ (see images on the right) **Spinal Osteoarthritis** Spinal osteoarthritis includes the following: (i) Degenerative changes of vertebrae bodies (ii) Narrowing of the disc (iii) Hypertrophy of the bone at the joint margins which leads to formation of Osteophytes (iv) Osteoarthritis of the spine can be very serious without causing any symptoms. (V) In most cases it causes a

pain which is worse on exertion and in the morning. (Vi) There may be feeling of stiffness in getting up from the sitting position. For treating severe Sciatica, focus on these points: UB 25, 26, 47, 51, 54, 57, 60, GB 30, 34 ↓ ALL (see images below)



**Ayurvedic acupressure** Sciatica generally is of 10 types, as it is made by the ten divisions of the sciatica nerve branches. To find which branch is affected, can be diagnosed through Toe Touch Diagnosis (TTD) by applying slight pressure and according to the related toe number. The Treatment is given by applying Chakra Magnet or 5 — star magnets. If more than one Toe is found to be affected, find the inference using chakra magnet and based on that the different points on the RMM should be sedated/toned, with chakra magnet. Since various nerves connect the Spinal Cord to the different organs in chest and abdomen, this treatment cures not only sciatica but also the various parts of spine and the attached organs simultaneously. Sciatica could also be treated through *Mudra* therapy. *Gyan, Vayu, Pankaj, Apana, Pran* and *Meru Dandh* are the mudras that are effective against Sciatica. (From increasing metabolism to overcoming physical problems. Prof Luthria speaks about the art of self-healing through simple techniques. For more information on treatments and remedies, visit www.artofselfhealing.in)



Rapid use of technology has proved to be a boon during the pandemic, as a few have started unique online groups that are helping in these times in more than one way.

## Group talk

Pune-based Satish and Mohini Khot run The Book Club Pune. Satish is the Vice Chairman of Public Concern for Governance Trust, Pune, while Dr Mohini Khot is a Professor of Literature. Satish reveals, "Readers will agree that there is only one other thing as good as the experience of reading a good book and that is being able to talk about it with another perceptive reader. My wife and I thought it would be great if we could get a group together to discuss books we had read. Another purpose was definitely to popularize reading."

They got a neutral meeting point — The Poona Club's Reading Room where the monthly informal free club had people talk about books they read/liked, authors talk about their books or what the Khots suggested. Soon, the sessions saw 100+ attendees at times. "Our modus operandi is that the speaker 'presents' the book. Thus, even if you have not read the book, you can still participate in the discussion on the basis of what you have heard. Our accent is on getting to know about a book rather than interaction with a few. We are open to every kind of written word and visual media."

In 2014, the club integrated into Gyaan Aab, a literature and culture centre. Satish mentions, "The same principles

continued. In March 2020, we started meeting online. We often celebrate authors on their significant dates and also our popular annual Shakespeare celebrations in April. We have presented films, adaptations and parodies on stage."

Mumbai-based consulting clinical dietitian and sports nutritionist Aditi Prabh started an online group — Dietitians Pandora for qualified Indian dietitians and nutritionists. "On July 23, 2020, a colleague known only through Facebook used its room options. It intrigued me and during our conversation, I proposed the idea of creating a group for dietitians to network."

Along with two colleagues, Aditi started the group. "We have daily topics wherein we post about them that day and in turn bring out constructive and healthy conversations and discussions."

Gaurav Singh, Founder-CEO, Cynsure PR & Communications, mentions MediaBuddies, a WhatsApp group for media professionals. The pandemic and resultant lockdown saw many media houses shut shop. "I wanted to help my media friends but staying in touch with everyone individually was tough. In May after discussions with my fraternity friends, we launched MediaBuddies aimed at helping people find jobs in media and allied sectors."

Currently, two groups share job opportunities in media and allied fields through various digital platforms. "We connect with job

# The digital connection

With pandemic still creating havoc, technology is throwing up attention-grabbing online groups that are useful in more than one way. **Sapna Sarfiare** finds more

applicants and companies/individuals looking to hire. By getting them to a common platform with the right target audience, we have been able to give companies the right talent and job applicants an easy, free and niche job source."

## Benefits galore

Going digital has been indeed a boon. Aditi reveals, "Doing online consults, attending/conducting webinars, etc., was pretty new. Yet the situation pushed us out of our comfort zone.

This group gave people a platform to interact, conduct

learning sessions on vital topics and teach skills."

Gaurav has seen recruiters use Facebook and LinkedIn Jobs more to get applicants close-by. "Job applicants do not have to pay for reaching out to recruiters through job sites/print classifieds. The otherwise dormant groups also started monitoring content through admins to make it profitable content wise. They definitely provided a free ground for a demand and supply cycle."

For the book club, Zoom proved to be a lifesaver. Mohini adds, "Because the mood was so dependent at first,



there was a request for weekly meetings. We are so happy that we have been able to present a book a week. We are booked till the end of April — four months ahead! Rain or shine we continue! We use email and WhatsApp to send out information about upcoming events."

## What it really means

Gaurav feels groups for similar thinking genuine people can surely become profitable. "A lot of home-grown brands, MSMEs, bootstrapped start-ups, etc. could find their target audience at their convenience. They also understand how their target audience is behaving."

For Satish, the eye-opening situation saw various participants from India and outside connect and share perspectives comfortably. "One can't pretend that an online meeting is as satisfactory as a face to face meeting but it serves the purpose."

Aditi divulges, "I've seen members openly sharing their communication issues and some kind members step in to help them out or encourage them to be more vocal. In fact, we encourage peo-

ple to share their issues so we can together work on them."

## Digital issues

The WhatsApp privacy saw many raise security issues and panic. Gaurav dismisses things and reveals, "WhatsApp doesn't collect any personal information from individual's private or group chats and all such chats are end-to-end encrypted including locations that one user might share with another on the group. WhatsApp clarified that only B2C chats are the only ones that can be read for marketing purposes."

Since his group revolves around genuine job opportunities for journalists, he adds, "Hence, we do not have added any businesses within the group that might send promotional posts. They (users) are perfectly aware that there is no privacy threat with the new policies."

## The future

Mohini feels online meets will continue due to convenience. "Any group, however niche and however unusual their area of interest, has excellent chances of succeeding simply because they can glean their members from around the whole world."

To create such groups, Aditi suggests keeping 'a clear idea/reason/vision' and ways to make the group bloom. "The more meaningful interaction more successful you are. Take care of your group as a family and it will flourish like one."



## 'I don't regret choosing medicine as my profession'

Dr Richa Negi speaks about volunteering as a frontline warrior amid COVID-19 pandemic, love for dance and creating content, as Simran Khan takes notes

Mumbai-based doctor and digital content creator, Richa Negi rose to fame after a video of her grooving to Nora Fatehi's *Garmi* in a PPE suit went viral on the internet. The video crossed 2.04 crore views and was shared by actors Varun Dhawan, Nora Fatehi, singer Badshah and even Union Minister Smriti Irani. The 25-year-old, who works with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), also left Australian cricketer David Warner impressed with her choreography to a Punjabi song. Excerpts from the interview:

**What inspired you to take up volunteering during COVID-19 pandemic?** I had already worked in the hospital that I volunteered at and I knew they needed more doctors to help in this situation. I felt that there wouldn't be a better time to live by my Hippocratic Oath.

**Has dance always been something you loved?**

Always. I have been dancing ever since I was a kid. It's such a happy feeling. But I don't regret choosing medicine as my profession. It defines me now.

**Tell us more about the viral *Garmi* video.** Never did I think it would break the internet. Unlike every other dance I put so much thought into, this was an impromptu non-choreographed video. I shot it in our changing room, while we were stuffing into our PPEs. Actually, just kept my phone on the window sill and took a single take video.

**As a doctor, what was the hardest part of your job during the pandemic?** You would think it's probably the long hours and staying away from our family, but the worst part is actually seeing the patients suffer so much. Not just as doctors but as human beings... we can't be happy when someone is suffering right in front of us. You form a bond with them, and seeing them suffer every day was the most difficult thing, I'd say.

**Has a patient ever recognised you as Richa Negi, the Instagram influencer?** Yes, a few times. It gets a little embarrassing. Then I tell them to speak to



**I have been dancing ever since I was a kid. It's such a happy feeling. But I don't regret choosing medicine as my profession. It defines me now.**

me after work. **How do you manage to make time for content creation?** It's been too hectic, double the efforts because pursuing post-graduation isn't a piece of cake. I get very less time now. But, whenever I get free I make sure I go to the studio and shoot because dance is a therapy in its own and helps me de-stress.

**Apart from dancing, how else do you manage to stay positive during the lockdown?**

Oh, I put out my creative style totally, experimented with so many new recipes, did a whole lot of canvas paintings, read a couple of books. **You've received shout-outs from Smriti Irani, Varun Dhawan and other celebrities. How does it feel to receive so much love from people?**

Oh, it's the best feeling ever. To know that so many people appreciate you is sometimes really helpful, especially when you face a bad day at work! And I'm so grateful to everyone who messages or says kind things to me. They make my day better. **What are your plans for 2021?** For 2021 my only plan is to grow more as an individual; actually that's the only motto I follow each year.

## The 'tea bombs' explosion!

Shikha Jain talks about the recent beverage trend that is pretty, yet healthy

Step aside, hot cocoa bombs. Tea bombs, beautiful herb-filled delights, are taking over the drinking scene. They are cute, they are cozy, and they are breaking the Internet! "Tea bombs are a great treat to our eyes, it's so colourful, glittery and as the hot water is poured on it, it starts to pop up and the magic unveils...releasing the fragrance and flavours of the edible flowers, herbs and tea. It is not only eye appealing but is healthy too. And yes it depends on what tea bombs do you actually choose to consume," says Culinary Expert and Chef Consultant Reetu Uday Kugaji.

## How to make it?

Tea bombs are made with melted sugar or isomalt that's placed in silicone moulds to make the ball shape. After the sugar is completely set and hardened, you can fill one side with loose tea, tea bags, or flowers before bringing the two sides of the bomb together. And just like hot chocolate bombs, pouring hot liquid over these will melt the exterior shell to give way to a dreamy cup of tea. Experiment with different flavors and shapes...or just order some pretty ones online; that's totally allowed too. But part of the fun of this trend seems to be not just the pleasure of drinking tea, but of making the colourful, creative spheres. Food bloggers have taken it up a notch with flowers and all sorts of fancy ingredients to make their tea look stunning.

## Health benefits

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, many people on social media are coming up with tea bombs that feature immunity-boosting herbs like chamomile, hibiscus, turmeric and peppermint. "Depending on the ingredients used to prepare the tea bombs, they can be great for burning calories too. For example fruit tea bombs help boost metabolism. Chamomile is known for its calming effects, helps in relieving stress. Try making Sheer Chai / Kashmiri Noon Chai tea bombs and ease the stomach bloating; make Kahwa tea bombs and witness the benefits one can attain from consuming it," recommends Chef Reetu. Tea bombs have antioxidant properties too so it will boost heart health and help reduce blood pressure.

Talking to the Ex Chef, Anurag Ashok Singh at St Regis we found out that these healthy tea bombs contain



less than 15 calories in a single tea and one can even count them as we are the ones to make it.

## Trend or fad?

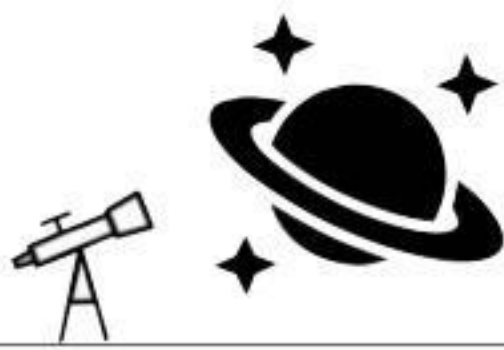
People are loving tea bombs. They are so excited that the hot chocolate bombs trend has led to something for tea lovers. But Chef Anurag feels people will get bored of it after a point of time as it takes time and effort to prepare these cute little spheres. "It's same as Dalgona coffee, people used to be so crazy when it came, but eventually

went back to normal coffee and forgot Dalgona."

Chef Reetu has a different opinion about it. She believes, "Time, its popularity and health benefits will decide whether it is here to stay or fade away. But one thing is that it can be super beneficial, if prepared with the right ingredients, because it will help our body and mind to be in a healthier state. I think it is here to stay. My view is that when a trend witnesses a lot of trust and proves to be beneficial it stays. Tea Bombs might be visually beautiful and delicious in taste but everything has its pros and cons."

"According to me it is only a fad and as a nutritionist we don't recommend these types of hacks in our diet plan because our biological requirements are completely different. The more we depend on packaged or processed food, lesser will be our life span," points out dietitian Sarika Mishra.





## Samsung, LG unveil home appliances that take care of your pet

SEOUL: South Korean home appliance makers are releasing products that highlight pet care features, industry insiders said on Saturday, as they target the growing number of consumers who live with companion animals. LG Electronics earlier this week introduced a washer and a dryer that come with steam functions that remove allergens. LG said using pet care cycles on their new clothing care appliances will kill dog allergen or cat allergen by 99.99 per cent in

clothes. Samsung unveiled its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered vacuum cleaner, the JetBot 90 AI+, at all-digital Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2021 last month. Using the robot cleaner's camera and sensors, Samsung also introduced SmartThings Pet, a companion animal care service where people can monitor their companion animals remotely through the company's Internet of Things (IoT) platform. —IANS

### Amazing Ayurveda

**Somkalk**  
**Key property:** It is effective against all types of breathing problems.  
**Ingredients:** Somlata (Gerard Jointfir)  
**Quantity:** 1 to 2 grams. Mix it with Dwadashaang or Gohiwadi Kwath, strain it properly and drink it as a kadha. Drink it 2 times a day or as per directed by the physician.



ins in tummy, gas and bloating.  
**Ingredients:** Ginger powder, chilli, sacred fig, coriander, makoy (Black nightshade), taj, roasted asafoetida, nimbu satva (lemon juice), white cumin seeds, rock salt and sugar.  
**Quantity:** M2 to 3 grams. It should be taken after having a meal or as per directed by the physician.

### Agnisandipan Churn

**Key property:** This ayurvedic powder is best for all kinds of digestive problems. It promotes digestion and can help people suffering from anorexia. It can also help combat inflammation, tox-

(To know more about Shri Mohita Ayurvedic Rasayanshala, call on 0151-2523227/ or reach at mohtarasayanshala@gmail.com)

**Disclaimer:** The description of the above-mentioned products is an excerpt from a booklet, Sankshipt Aushad Parichay Patrak. Please consult your doctor/ or contact the clinic before taking them.

# Bust your skin's stress with these easy tips

Apart from the physical and mental health, everyday stress can also wreak havoc on your skin leading to acne, rashes, and what not! But with strict skincare routine along with healthy diet, know how you can say adios to unwanted skin troubles

AGENCIES  
New Delhi

Staying at-home has resulted in a lot of stress for people – of being stuck indoors for week on end; the uncertainty has taken a toll on people's mental well-being. Stress cannot be hidden; it shows on your face. The first tell-tale signs reflect on your face as pale skin and mild eruptions on the surface.

Stress causes hormonal imbalance which leads to acne, rashes, hair thinning and fall, and various other skin break-outs. It is imperative that people follow good skincare routine while they're indoors. Staying inside does not necessarily mean you can forego or overlook skin and hair care. These are prone to more damage owing to stress. One should follow a strict, if not elaborate, skincare routine, which involves cleansing, toning and moisturising. Geetanjali Shetty, Consultant Dermatologist and Cosmetologist shares most important of all, keep



yourself hydrated with water and lots of liquid!

### SIDE EFFECTS OF STRESS – OILY SKIN & ACNE

Acne and oily skin are the most common side effects of stress. When our body is stressed it releases cortisol which is our fight or flight hormone. The cortisol (stress hormone) weakens the skin's immune system, leading to oxidative (free radicals) stress, which manifests itself as wrinkles, lines and lack lustre skin. It also increases inflammation in the body and conditions like eczema, rosacea

### PREVENTION

For skin, stress is quite evident in various forms like redness of skin, acne, etc. If there are skin breakouts and eruptions – It is better to avoid exfoliation and stick to cleansing your face thrice daily. Similarly, those with skin on the drier side should aim to wash their face only twice a day with a foaming cleanser. Should your skin need a little boost, indulging in Vitamin C to help combat the loss. If you know you're about to enter a stressful pe-

riod, try to make time for the activities that will help you feel calm and rested – your skin will thank you.

### HOME REMEDIES TO FIGHT ACNE

It is highly imperative to discover what one is getting exposed to and when. Stick to your skincare routine – cleansing, exfoliating, and moisturising, and keep sunscreen handy for the times that you may have to make a quick dash to the grocers. Even if you're not wearing make-up, your face still gathers sweat, sebum and dirt build-up throughout the day. Lastly, it's important to stay away from fried and spicy food. Vitamin E is a superfood for your skin – you can apply it topically or you can choose to consume it through vitamin E rich foods like almonds, corn oil, cod-liver oil, hazelnuts, lobster, peanut butter, safflower oil, salmon steak, and sunflower seeds. The most essential thing to bear in mind is to keep yourself hydrated – drink lots of water, juices and liquids. —IANS

## AI predicts whether you'll die from covid!



AGENCIES  
Copenhagen

Using patient data, artificial intelligence can make a 90 per cent accurate assessment of whether a person will die from COVID-19 or not, according to new research at the University of Copenhagen.

Body mass index (BMI), gender, and high blood pressure are among the most heavily weighted factors. The research can be used to predict the number of patients in hospitals, who will need a respirator and determine who ought to be first in line for a vaccination. The results of the study were published in the journal Scientific Reports – Nature.

Artificial intelligence is able to predict who is most likely to die from the coronavirus. In doing so, it can also help decide who should be at the front of the line for the precious vaccines now

being administered across Denmark.

The result is from a newly published study by researchers at the University of Copenhagen's Department of Computer Science. Since the COVID pandemic's first wave, researchers have been working to develop computer models that can predict, based on disease history and health data, how badly people will be affected by COVID-19.

Based on patient data from the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand, the results of the study demonstrate that artificial intelligence can, with up to 90 percent certainty, determine whether an uninfected person who is not yet infected will die of COVID-19 or not if they are unfortunate enough to become infected. Once admitted to the hospital with COVID-19, the computer can predict with 80 percent accuracy whether the person will need a respirator. —ANI

## Grapes may protect you from sunburn

AGENCIES/ New York

Eating grapes can help protect against sunburn and ultraviolet (UV) skin damage and natural components found in the fruits known as polyphenols are thought to be responsible for these beneficial effects, according to a new study.

The results revealed that participants in the study showed increased resistance to sunburn and a reduction in markers of UV damage at the cellular level. "Grapes may act as an edible sunscreen, offering an additional layer of protection in addition to topical sunscreen products," said lead researcher Craig Elmetz from University of Alabama, Birmingham in the US. The results showed that grape consumption was protective as more UV exposure was required to cause sunburn following grape consumption, with MED increasing on average by 74.8 per cent. —IANS

## Chhota chameleon! This tiny creature may win the title of smallest reptile

AGENCIES  
Berlin

It fits on a human fingertip, but this chameleon could make a big splash. Scientists from Madagascar and Germany say a newly discovered species of chameleon is a contender for the title of world's smallest reptile.

Frank Glaw, who was part of the international team of researchers that classified the new species and named it Brookesia nana said the body of the male specimen appeared to be just 13.5-millimetres long (a little more than a 1/2-inch.) That's at least 1.5 millimetres smaller than the previous record holder, another member of the Brookesia family. Glaw, a reptile expert at the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology in Munich, said the tiny male and a slightly larger female were spotted on a mountainside by a local guide during a 2012 expedition. —AP



"You really have to get down on your knees to find them," Glaw told The Associated Press.

"They are obviously camouflaged and they move very slowly," Glaw and his colleagues performed a CT scan of the female and discovered that it harboured two eggs, confirming that it was an adult. For the male, the researchers took a close look at its "well-developed" genitals, which in chameleons come in pairs known as hemipenes.

They found that the genitals of the Brookesia nana specimen were almost one-fifth of its body size, possibly to allow it to mate with the larger female. "I have few doubts it's an adult male," Glaw said. "If we had a pair mating it would obviously be better proof." Confirming Brookesia nana as the smallest reptile species will require finding more of them, which might take several years, he said. —IANS

## Zinc may help with fertility during pandemic

AGENCIES/ New York

Researchers have reported that zinc supplements for both men and women attempting to conceive either naturally or through assisted reproduction during the pandemic may prevent mitochondrial damage in young egg and sperm cells.

According to the researchers, including Husam Abu-Soud from the Wayne State University in the US, zinc supplementation of up to a maximum of 50 mg per day for all adults could also be beneficial in enhancing immunity and fighting the viral disease process of Covid-19.

For the study the researchers reviewed the pathophysiology of Covid-19, particularly in relation to reproductive function.

They found that zinc depletion in connection with the cytokine storm – the overreaction of the immune system that causes inflammation, tissue damage and possible organ failure in fighting Covid-19 – can cause mitochondrial damage and an accumulation of reactive oxygen species in the immature egg and sperm.

The result could prevent reproduction and conception, the researchers said. The use of zinc could improve embryo quality and potentially lessen some pregnancy complications, he added. —IANS

While cortisol helps our bodies respond to stressful situations, it is actually a double-edged sword. It is usually secreted throughout the day according to a circadian rhythm, peaking between 6am and 8am and then gradually decreasing into the afternoon and evening.

"But in people who suffer from stress-related diseases, this circadian rhythm is completely thrown off," said one of the researchers Adrian Ionescu, head of Nanoelectronic Devices Laboratory (Nanolab) at Ecole polytechnique federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. "And if the body makes too much or not enough cortisol, that can seriously damage an individual's health, potentially leading to obesity, cardio-

## Now, detect signs of burnout in your sweat

AGENCIES/ New York

Researchers have developed a wearable device that can be placed directly on a patient's skin and can continually measure the concentration of cortisol, the main stress biomarker, in the patient's sweat.

The patch contains a transistor and an electrode made from graphene which, due to its unique properties, offers high sensitivity and very low detection limits. The graphene is functionalised through aptamers, which are short fragments of single-stranded DNA or RNA that can bind to specific compounds. The aptamer in the EPFL patch carries a negative charge; when it comes into contact with cortisol, it immediately captures the hormone, causing the strands to fold onto themselves and bringing the charge closer to the electrode surface. The device then detects the charge, and is consequently able to measure the cortisol concentration in the wearer's sweat. —IANS

vascular disease, depression or burnout."

Blood tests can be used to take snapshot measurements of patients' cortisol levels. Ionescu's team at Nanolab decided to focus on sweat as the detection fluid and developed a wearable smart patch with a miniaturised sensor.

The patch contains a transistor and an electrode made from graphene which, due to its unique properties, offers high sensitivity and very low detection limits.

The graphene is functionalised through aptamers, which are short fragments of single-stranded DNA or RNA that can bind to specific compounds. The aptamer in the EPFL patch carries a negative charge; when it comes into contact with cortisol, it immediately captures the hormone, causing the strands to fold onto themselves and bringing the charge closer to the electrode surface. The device then detects the charge, and is consequently able to measure the cortisol concentration in the wearer's sweat. —IANS

## GUIDING LIGHT Learning how to Live – The Mother, Sri Aurobindo Ashram

To live in the right way is a very difficult art, and unless one begins to learn it when quite young and to make an effort, one never knows it very well. Simply the art of keeping one's body in good health, one's mind quiet and goodwill in one's heart – things which are indispensable in order to live decently – I don't say in comfort, I don't say remarkably, I only say decently.

Well, I don't think there are many who take care to teach this to their children. If at a tender age, when you are taught, for instance, how to squat, if one was taught at the same time not to think or to remain very quiet or to concentrate or gather one's thoughts, or... all sorts of things one must learn

to do, like meditating; if, when quite young and at the same time that you were taught to stand straight, for instance, and walk or sit or even eat – you are taught many things but you are not aware of this, for they are taught when you are very small – if you were taught to meditate also, then spontaneously, later, you could, the day you decide to do so, sit down and meditate. But you are not taught this.

You are taught absolutely nothing of the kind. Besides, usually you are taught very few things – you are not taught even to sleep. People think that they have only to lie down in their bed and then they sleep. But this is not true! One must learn how to sleep as one must learn to eat, learn to do any-

thing at all. And if one does not learn, well, one does it badly! Or one takes years and years to learn how to do it, and during all those years when it is badly done, all sorts of unpleasant things occur.

And it is only after suffering much, making many mistakes, committing many stupidities, that, gradually, when one is old and has white hair, one begins to know how to do something. But if, when you were quite small, your parents or those who look after you, took the trouble to teach you how to do what you do, do it properly as it should be done, in the right way, then that would help you to avoid all – all these mistakes you make through the years.

## KALA GHODA COMES HOME!

From music, art, books and talks, catch all the fun of one of Mumbai's most iconic festival, Kala Ghoda Festival, from the comfort from your home as the fest is going to be a virtual affair this year. Here we have picked some events to look forward to...

### Kashish @ Kala Ghoda Art Festival

WHAT: KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, South Asia's biggest LGBTQIA+ film festival joins hands with Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, one of the oldest festivals in India, to bring an exciting line-up of gay, lesbian and transgender focus short films as well as a panel discussion. The ongoing 31st Kala Ghoda Arts Festival will showcase the Best of KASHISH – International program of 6 short films that showcase the diversity of global LGBTQ experiences. This will be followed on the same day at 12 noon with a panel discussion titled 'Trans Representation in Mainstream Media', by bringing together actors and content creators to discuss how has been the representation of transgender women in feature films released recently in theaters or OTT platforms.



WHEN: Ongoing till February 8, 10 AM onwards  
 FOR MORE DETAILS/ TO REGISTER: <https://insider.in/>

### DIAL M For Films with Tahira Kashyap Khurana and Smriti Kiran



WHAT: Dial M For Films is an online knowledge series that is part of the MAMI Year Round Programme. Curated by Artistic Director Smriti Kiran, the series focuses on breaking down what lies behind the moving image through sharply curated, specific, live conversations with top of the line film talent. This time they have Tahira Kashyap in conversation with Smriti Kiran.  
 WHEN: Today, 5 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>

### Global Hindi by Leslee Lewis

WHAT: He was responsible for some of the greatest Indi-pop hits in the 90s! And in 2021, he is ushering a new sound once again. 'Global Hindi' is Leslee Lewis' latest musical offering with original tracks which are groovy and futuristic. Catch him perform a mix of his greatest indi-pop hits and Global Hindi tunes at this in-studio virtual concert!  
 WHEN: Today, 8 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>



### Come, see the sound! A podcasting workshop



WHAT: Ever wanted to have your own podcast? Are you a budding writer and dream of writing characters for the audio medium? Join Mantra Mantra, curator/founder, MnM Talks, creators of Bhaskar Bose, the popular audio detective series and let them teach you how to create characters for the audio medium on this live podcasting workshop.  
 WHEN: February 9, 3 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>

### PEN@KGAF with Ranjit Hoskote feat. Ruth Padel, Shubha Mudgal, Jeet Thayil

WHAT: Ruth Padel with her new collection, Beethoven Variations, Shubha Mudgal has the hub of art and culture in the city. In this talk, Jeet Thayil elaborating on the rhythm of Rock, allow the audience an entry into the creative confluence of poetry and music.  
 WHEN: February 12, 5 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>



### Unlocking Heritage: A virtual walk of Girgaon



WHAT: Before the Jehangir Art Gallery transformed the Kala Ghoda precinct into Mumbai's arts district, Girgaon was the hub of art and culture in the city. In this talk, heritage evangelist Dr. Mrigank Warriar recounts the stories of these men and women who pioneered a diversity of art forms in the city – from painting, sculpture and music to theatre, film-making and more.  
 WHEN: February 12, 12 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>

painting, sculpture and music to theatre, film-making and more.  
 WHEN: February 12, 12 PM onwards  
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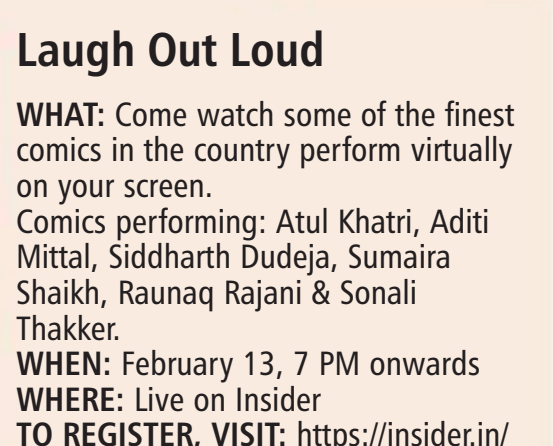
### Peek-a-Book with Anand Neelakantan

WHAT: Best-selling author and screenwriter Anand Neelakantan tells the tales of 'Very Extremely Most Funny Naughty Asuras' published by Penguin India.  
 WHEN: February 12, 5 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>



### Laugh Out Loud

WHAT: Come watch some of the finest comics in the country perform virtually on your screen. Comics performing: Atul Khatri, Aditi Mittal, Siddharth Dudgeja, Sumaira Shaikh, Ranaq Rajani & Sonali Thakker.  
 WHEN: February 13, 7 PM onwards  
 WHERE: Live on Insider  
 TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://insider.in/>



## YOUR DAY

**ARIES:** Your colleagues may compare themselves with you which may give a rise to feelings of jealousy. Do not eat outside food. Gains are on the cards.

**GEMINI:** People associated with the entertainment and advertising sector may get lucky on the financial side. Domestic life is likely to improve.

**LEO:** Married life will be blissful. Happiness, positivity and joy will surround your family life. There will be gains through relatives.

**LIBRA:** You might face health issues today. Strictly stay away from street food. Today, you may get a piece of good and as well as bad news.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Avoid getting too emotional on the relationship front. Find out what your partner is expecting from you. It's a favourable day for those in business and politics.

**AQUARIUS:** Health may be troublesome, consult a doctor and do not neglect any kind of health issues. Unexpected financial gains are likely.

**TAURUS:** At work, you may have to make a few compromises. You may not get opportunities as per your satisfaction. Those in politics will get the support of their associates.

**CANCER:** In business, new business contracts will help recover previous losses. Think twice before making any commitments in terms of professional life.

**VIRGO:** Pay attention to domestic problems before they turn into a serious matter. Promotions or rise in income is on the cards for some natives.

**SCORPIO:** If you are thinking of starting a new business/venture then go ahead. Do not worry about your financial status. Today, luck will follow you.

**CAPRICORN:** You will have many options to choose from, so choose wisely. Those in politics will get a stronger hold on the public and would overpower their opponents.

**PISCES:** You will get success in your important work by virtue of your hard work. You will get on well with the people around you and in the society.

By Nilikash P. Pradhan



## 'Musicians should not be secondary to actors'



Music maestro **Bickram Ghosh** says just like the West, India too needs to give equal importance to artistes

SHOWLI CHAKRABORTY

**H**aving performed for more than a decade with genius Pandit Ravi Shankar, music maestro Bickram Ghosh is also a stalwart in Indo-fusion music. He has also done four albums that were nominated for Grammys including George Harrison's *Brainwashed*. Excerpts from a chat about his latest independent collaboration:

**Tell us about your collaboration with Hariharan...**

We have just completed an album of six songs where the music and compositions are mine. Hariji has sung all the songs. This is an important project because it is an independent music project. We don't have such independent music scores happening anymore. The budget was quite huge and almost as much as a feature film's budget. Sufiscore is handling it. They support independent music big time and have done some great work in this area.

**Why is it that the independent music scene in India isn't as hyped as it is in the West?** India as a country is very filmy! Our music originated from stage performances, *jatra*, etc.



Bickram Ghosh with Hariharan

The song and dance is a staple in our cultural scene. So when cinema came into the picture, that same routine took shape in cinema. But slowly things are changing. What was happening in the late 1990s is happening now all over again. That was the time Indie music burst into the scene and my work from that era began to be noticed because the role national television played in the scenario. Now again with the internet and the fact that cinema is not really living up to its expectations with good music of late, the independent music scene has got a huge space to grow. And grow fast! You don't need a big label to promote you anymore and anyone can put up a video on YouTube! I am very hopeful that independent music will finally break free of the shackles of cinema and come up with great legacy!

**What are your thoughts on musicians who solely work in films?** I feel no artiste should ever be dependent on films. That is because in a film, music is never the focus. The focus is always on the actors. So, that sort of takes away the credibility to a large extent! Musicians should not be secondary to actors. In the West, Michael Jackson as a musician is a bigger star till today than anyone in Hollywood will ever be. But in India

that is not how things are! The independent music movement is going to change all that in a big way.

**Recently a lot of musicians in Bollywood, especially Abhijeet, claimed that musicians lose out on good work because of the coterie they don't cater to...**

Coterie are there in every profession. It has always been there. But people should concentrate more on music than politics; eventually good music will always be noticed irrespective of where it came from! Musicians have moved away from Bollywood now because earlier there used to be 8-10 songs in a Hindi film. These days there are barely two or three. Of that only one is properly shot while the others come at the end. So, films have no security blanket for musicians. I have done 38 feature films. But as a musician that is not what I want to do. I want to play in a live concert. For composers film is a mainstay, but not for musicians.

**During the lockdown you were conducting online music classes. Is it actually possible to learn music online?**

During the pandemic students in my academy all shifted online. But we did meet up once or twice a month to jam together. So, it has to be a combination of both. Only online is not good enough because there are certain nuances one will tend to miss unless one watches something happening right in front of him.

**Has political interference hampered the music scene in India?**

Not in music per se, but definitely in content especially dialogues! Unless of course you make a song that is provocative, then it will immediately get flak. But that is silly. I think social censorship is slightly scary, in the true sense of the word. If differences arise, they can always be sorted out amicably!

**“Musicians should not be secondary to actors. In the West, Michael Jackson as a musician is a bigger star till today than anyone in Hollywood will ever be. But in India that is not how things are! The independent music movement is going to change all that in a big way.”**

## Mumbai as muse: Kavish Seth

ADITI ALURKAR

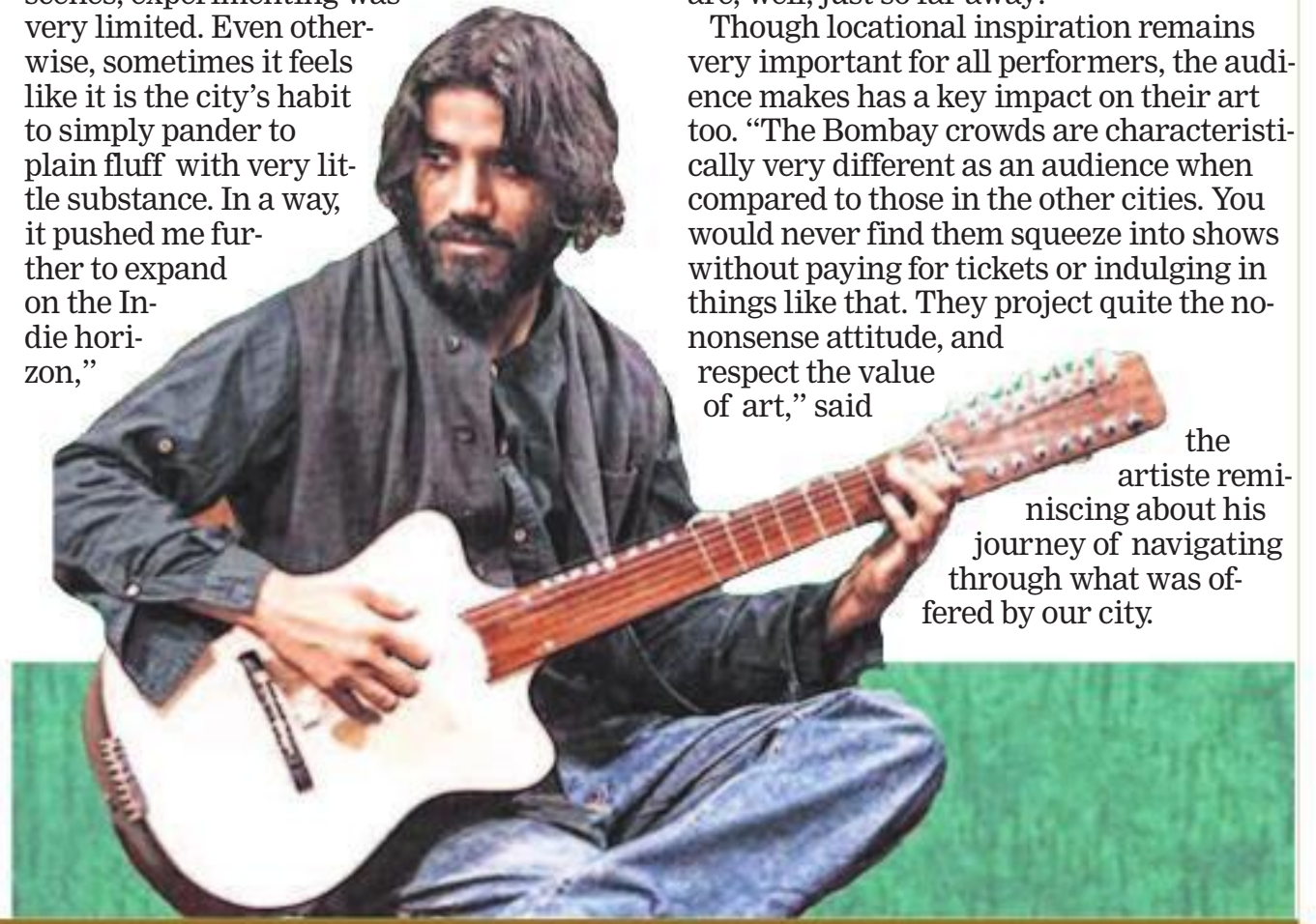
**I** first came to Bombay in 2006," explained Kavish Seth, an independent musician and the creator of the recently-patented musical instrument, Noori, which means lighting the path ahead. The instrument has 14 strings, with a kind of all-encompassing timbre, that allows it to play Western, Indian classical as well as Arabic music.

The IIT Bombay alumnus is also the founder of Zubaan, a project which aims to create a platform for all the independent music artistes from different parts of the country, and binds different music into collaboration. Before going live with their music and stories, in lieu of restrictions, Kavish travelled a great deal around the country to understand and discover indie music. Out of the many cities he had been to, he managed to develop quite the love-hate relationship with Bombay.

"During the period after my JEEs, I started learning guitar and developed an instant liking for music and composition," says Kavish. "Hence, to further expand the prospects of this venture, and to gain substantial exposure about the same, I chose to attend the IIT in Bombay," he explained how that decision would prove to be the turning point in his life...

But the initial days weren't easy and the ground realities of the city of dreams were very different from what Kavish had expected. Things were especially tough for independent musicians who were trying to steer clear of the Bollywood route. And, Kavish was definitely one of them. By the virtue of being the son of a renowned singer, Kavita Seth, Kavish had chances to witness the inner workings film industry and was not particularly smitten by it.

"After the demise of my father I had to take on the position of my mother's artist manager while I was still in college, for my parents essentially functioned as a team. During those times I dropped in on several mainstream projects and recordings, where I had a chance to observe them closely. I knew right away it was not my cup of tea, it at times was a very murky, script-oriented, and a commercialised space behind the scenes, experimenting was very limited. Even otherwise, sometimes it feels like it is the city's habit to simply pander to plain fluff" with very little substance. In a way, it pushed me further to expand on the indie horizon,"



the artiste reminiscing about his journey of navigating through what was offered by our city.

he said. For his music, he then frequented some initial gigs in places like Hard Rock and The Hive. Through these he realised how limited the profession could get. "With the kind of engulfing competition that is prevalent here, only so many places would offer people like me an opportunity to play our own compositions every month and pay for it. I wondered if there were ways to ensure more sustainable and dependable incomes for the non-commercial musicians in the city. That is how the concept of house gigs called *Ghar Ki Baat* thrived."

These house gigs would round up people at someone's house, where Kavish performed along with other artistes like him. It would provide these musicians with opportunities to portray their talent, and the audience was encouraged to pay by choice. "I first experimented with this at a friend's house in Powai, and immediately this trend caught on with others as well. Some of my seniors from college heard about it too and got involved in it." It acted as a means to provide several talents a stage.

Delving into the memory lane, Kavish reminisced some of his cherished niches of the Mumbai muse. "Worli Fort has to be one of my favorite places in the city. The place overlooks towering commercial buildings, charming Koli houses, the sea link, all with the wind, and the ocean. It is almost everything one would associate the city with."

"This is also where I came across one of the most interesting collaborations for Zubaan, with the Koli performer, Chintamani Shiwadikar." With him, the project has released one of their most fun songs called *Paletuwaali*. "Since the collaboration, we often go to the Koli houses where we are treated as their own, and every so often we jam and experiment with music, with genres like reggae too."

Revealing his prized corners of Mumbai, Kavish continued. "Apart from this I am fond of the Juhu Wharfs, they are quite peaceful and allow me to walk closer towards the ocean. Then there is Brews and Bites, the IIT café, where I hung around with my friends, my seniors, and then the professors. We even went for walks around the campus, it was very fun. I like going to Prithvi Theatre as well, the ones in the city are, well, just so far away!"

Though locational inspiration remains very important for all performers, the audience makes has a key impact on their art too. "The Bombay crowds are characteristically very different as an audience when compared to those in the other cities. You would never find them squeeze into shows without paying for tickets or indulging in things like that. They project quite the non-sense attitude, and respect the value of art," said

## Utsav Lal goes 'raga' over piano!



VERUS FERREIRA

**I**ndian pianist/composer Utsav Lal, often known as the 'Raga Pianist', is recognised as one of the most talented musicians of his generation. Choosing to perform ragas on the piano, an instrument that has traditionally been considered unsuitable for Indian classical music, Utsav's creative musical genius, unfailing clarity of technique and rhythmic virtuosity has led him to an impressive career performing at leading global venues like Carnegie Hall (NYC), Southbank Centre (London), The Kennedy Centre (DC).

From his debut album *Piano Moods of Indian Ragas* on Times Music (2008), Utsav has come a long way with six subsequent releases that include a historic solo recording on the world's first ever Fluid Piano, *The Fluid Piano Album* (2016).

Utsav recently released *Visangati* his seventh record of pure Indian Classical music on piano. "Visangati means quite a few things all at the same time, but actually it's a Hindi-Sanskrit word, in English it literally means Anomaly, a deviation from the norm. Visangati as a word reflects an integral poly-semantic and ambiguous quality. It sometimes also hints at absurdity or illogicality. When attempting to play Indian classical music on the piano, it is impossible to not acknowledge the contradictions at play in this endeavour," says 28-year-old Utsav in a telephonic chat from New York where he's based.

The first three tracks in this record are dedicated to exploring the beautiful *Raga*

*Lalit*. This is followed by two tracks where Utsav is joined on tabla by the renowned Nitin Mitta (of Vijay Iyer's "Tirtha" trio). The rhythmic incisiveness of Nitin joins hands with the inspirational improvisations of Utsav to create a meaningful acoustic dialogue and *Raga Lalit* is presented with two beautiful compositions set to a *Vilambit Teental* (16-beat-cycle) and a *Drut Ektaal* (12-beats-cycle).

The record includes a track on the romantic *Raga Bihag* composition *Lat uljhi suljha ja re balam*, which brings forth how much *Khayal* and *Thumri* styles have been an inspiration for Utsav and how particular care has been given to translating the decay and nuance of tone of the instrument in his playing. He adds, "The last two tracks are an original rendition of two well-known traditional songs *Neer Bharan Kaise Jaon* (Shubha Mudgal) and *Yaad Piya Ki Aayi* from the Bollywood film *Prahaar*."

Both compositions are very clearly based on ragas, but are explored by Utsav with much leniency in form and development reflecting his musical training at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and New England Conservatory of Music. Originally from Gurgaon, Haryana, Utsav grew up in Dublin, Ireland, and was part of an alternative rock band while in school. Utsav, who has played many shows in India and abroad, leaves you mesmerised with his repertoire of music compelling many to think how the piano, which is considered the backbone of western music can be used for Indian raags.

## Parineeti Chopra unfazed by comparisons

**P**arineeti Chopra says she was not apprehensive about reprising Hollywood star Emily Blunt's acclaimed role in the official remake of *The Girl On The Train*. She claims she was always unfazed about the comparisons people would eventually make.

"I have to say that I didn't approach *The Girl On The Train* with the apprehension of being compared to Emily Blunt. She is a towering actress and I knew that since I was doing the official Indian remake, comparisons were bound to happen. Actually, I relished the challenge to deliver this role at par with the earlier film," Parineeti says.

Parineeti maintains that she has performed the role in her unique style and not tried to stay true to the original film. —IANS

## Rajkumar Rao doles out tips for aspiring actors

**R**ajkumar Rao, noted for his nuanced performances, says cinema is changing and aspiring artistes must prepare first before coming to Mumbai. "I often tell budding actors (don't do it) just because your friends believe you can mimic and you have good looks and you should go to Mumbai. Do not come to Mumbai unprepared, especially now, when cinema is changing. We need talent out here now. So train yourself first and then come to this city, as there are so many wonderful opportunities. The only talent I had was not to give up and keep chasing my dream without having any plan B," said Rajkumar, while interacting with the media during a book launch. The actor will next be seen in Abhishek Jain's *Hum Do Humare Do* with Kriti Sanon, Hardik Mehta's *Roohi Afzana* with Janhvi Kapoor, and Harshvardhan Kulkarni's *Badhaai Do* with Bhumi Pednekar. —IANS



## Manoj Bajpayee starts shooting for Despatch

**M**anoj Bajpayee on Saturday shared the news that he has commenced the shoot of his upcoming film *Despatch*. The thriller tells the story of what goes in the underbelly of crime journalism. Manoj posted a picture on Instagram from the set and captioned it: "Back to where it feels like home. *Despatch* commences shoot."

The film is directed by Titli fame director Kanu Behl, and will be released directly on a digital platform. It is produced by Ronnie Screwvala and will be shot in London, Delhi and Mumbai. Besides this, Bajpayee will also be seen in the second season of *The Family Man*, which is set for a summer release this year. —IANS



## Vipul Amrutlal Shah has a chock-a-block schedule

**D**irector-producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah, who recently announced two new projects, a web series titled *Human*, and a movie called *Sanak*, has already started working on the two simultaneously. While *Human* is an emotional drama about the underbelly of the human drug testing and the world of medical scam, *Sanak* is an intense, emotional, action film. The filmmaker is working round-the-clock to ensure both the projects are shot and completed on time.

*Human* features Shefali Shah and Kirti Kulhari as lead. *Sanak* will see Vidyut along with Chandan Roy Sanyal, Neha Dhupia and Rukmini Maitra (who is making her Bollywood debut). —CJ Desk



## Renuka Shahane: Total Recall

From Marathi films to television and then Bollywood, the actor who recently made her directorial debut with the Netflix film *Tribhanga - Tedhi Medhi Crazy*, recalls her journey in the industry

Sunday Read

VINTA NANDA

Renuka Shahane started her career with the Marathi film *Hach Sunbaicha Bhau*. She then worked as one of the two anchors of the vastly popular Hindi language TV show produced and co-anchored by Siddharth Kak, *Surabhi*, a series, which made her a household name in India. Her charming smile won over people's hearts and made Renuka one of the most popular Indian television personalities ever. At the peak of her popularity she acted in the movie *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*. The film was a huge hit and it is considered to be the highest grosser of Hindi Cinema.

Today, Renuka is an actor, writer and director. *Tribhanga - Tedhi Medhi Crazy* is her first Hindi directorial debut starring Kajol, Tanvi

Marathi/Hindi amateur theatre scene in Mumbai. At that time television was at a nascent stage. *Hach Sunbaicha Bhau* was my first Marathi film directed by Purushottam Berde who I knew from theatre. But before that I had already faced the camera for TV in 1987 for a breakfast show called *PC Aur Mausii* starring Farida Jalalji, Pankaj Berry and I. After that I got the opportunity to assist Dr Vijaya Mehta in the TV serial *Lifeline*, in which I acted as well. During this time I was studying for my BA degree in Psychology from St Xavier's College, followed by my MA in Clinical Psychology from Kalina University. At the end of my MA I decided to take a gap of a year before going on to do my PhD. But I got cast in *Circus* and Aziz uncle (Mirza) insisted that I should continue acting professionally instead of going back to my PhD. I took his advice and the

subjectively but to discuss them objectively. I apply this to my own acting, writing and directing as well. I am terribly honest and critical of my own flaws vis-à-vis my work.

So, when it came to the film *Rita*, I chose to explore that angle in the novel, which was most important to me subjectively but then I wrote it in an objective manner. This is important to do because subjectivity clouds reason and balance. Adapting a novel into a screenplay is a difficult task because there are many parts of it one has to leave out. The screenplay has a different structure than a novel.

How has your marriage to another actor (Ashutosh Rana) influenced you personally and creatively? Marriage to Ranaji has been very gratifying. The fact that we are extremely great friends makes marriage very comforting. Personally it has been life changing. Both of us are very surprised and thankful at how our lives have complimented and enhanced each other's personalities. Both of us had never imagined that marriage would suit us so much. Professionally it is a huge advantage to have your partner know the rigors and stresses of our line of work. My mother and he are the first ones I brainstorm with — I discuss ideas, read out first drafts. In terms of acting, I discuss whatever acting assignments I am offered, with him. There are times when things don't go as planned and he always brings in his drive and passion about acting to help me with my doubts. Both of us are very creative people and we also respect each other's need to have space to think.

How do you juggle your work and your personal life while bringing up your two beautiful sons?

To tell you frankly, I have not been able to balance my work life and personal life. My being a mother is my full time occupation and work life has often taken a back seat when it comes to my family life. It is very challenging being a mother today because one has to face the onslaught of what children are constantly bombarded with on the net, on TV, on OTT platforms. I have to think of their security and at the same time teach them to be fearless, trusting, sensitive individuals.

There are so many isms that have to be introduced to them, many that were unheard of in my growing years. I have to be with my buddy and yet try to discipline them. It is a tightrope walk. They have taught me so much about myself, patience being one of the best virtues I have learnt out of the experience of being a mother. It has widened my vision and that reflects in all the work I do, all the stories I want to tell.

Lastly — where to from here? What is it that you dream of doing and why? I am writing a book. Hopefully, I'll be able to finish it by the end of this year. I'll also continue to work as an actor in interesting projects, write screenplays and make them into films. Nothing concrete that I can discuss right now.

(This article is a part of collaboration with The Daily Eye.)

Weekend Binge List



A still from Bliss

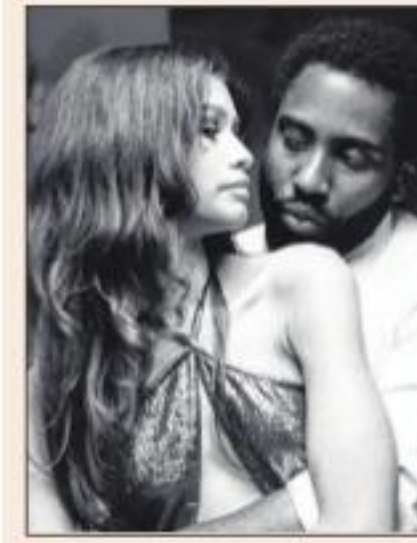
## A roller coaster ride of emotions!

Fresh out of the creative ovens, the content churned out this week is intriguing, fun as well as thought-provoking. Blood-churning crime, revenge and thrillers still top the charts, rip-rolling comedy is a close second, while poor romance crawls a wee bit behind.

Here's the pick for the week

SUMITA CHAKRABORTY

Title: *Malcolm & Marie*  
Platform: Netflix  
Language: English



It's indeed an emotional roller coaster ride as the film showcases a gamut of taut happenings and secret revelations. The performances of its lead players, Zendaya and John David

Washington. The simple narrative tells the tale of a filmmaker and his girlfriend returning home after the premier of his movie. But the aftermath spotlights the re-coiled tensions, hidden resentments and revelations that send the couple reeling towards a romantic finale.

Title: *Lahore Confidential*  
Platform: Zee5  
Language: Hindi

This is a typical spy thriller Zee5 loves to dabble in, with a stellar cast including Richa Chadha, Arunoday Singh and Karishma Tanna. Richa plays an Urdu-speaking RAW agent sent to Pakistan on a mission and what follows is a fast-paced thriller, which is interesting more so as the performances are good and the script taut.

Title: *Krack*  
Platform: Aha  
Language: Telugu

*Krack* is a typical action romantic thriller starring Ravi Teja and Shruti Hasaan but the director's nuanced treatment of the film is unique more so as his minute attention to the details. It's a must watch! Director Gopichand Malineni is planning *Krack*

in Hindi too as the story of the film is out-of-the-box.

Title: *The Last Paradiso*  
Platform: Netflix  
Language: English

Set in 1950, it's about a dreamer who believes in free thinking, love and dreams. This free spirit doesn't care about restrictions or moral limits until a forbidden love affair pops up threatening to blow the entire world of dreams into smithereens. Will the wings of freedom be sheared or can this free spirit fly into a world of no limits?

Title: *Revenge Prank*  
Platform: Voot Select  
Language: English

*Revenge Prank*, a series hosted by Pauly D and Vinny Guadagnino, features prank victims who are given the chance to exact revenge on the friend, family member or loved one who embarrassed them. Each episode pairs DJ Pauly D or Vinny with a target of a viral internet prank who is seeking payback.

Title: *Bliss*  
Platform: Amazon Prime  
Language: English

This sci-fi which will appeal to a lot of bingers who enjoy the genre. *Bliss* is about Greg (Owen Wilson), a typical corporate guy who lives a mundane life living. His life steers on a one-way track between his office and home until he meets a beautiful mysterious woman (Salma Hayek), who shows him a new exciting world. She tries to convince him that they were living in a parallel simulated reality and he had the power to choose between the two worlds. Does Greg follow his heart? Or is he tied down by the dilemma that everything is perhaps a dream?



Renuka with Kajol



In Surabhi with Siddharth Kak



A still from Hum Aapke Hain Koun



Actor Ashutosh Rana with sons, Shouryaman and Satyendra

Azmi, Mithila Palkar among others. Known to be an artist who invests herself deeply in her work, she has offered a story that busts the clutter and positions itself as a genre of its own. Excerpts from an interview:

What was it like working with powerful actors like Kajol, Tanvi and Mithila — as a powerful actor yourself, where were the lines drawn by you personally?

I was really happy to have such a fantastic group of actors for *Tribhanga*. A spontaneous, intense, instinctive actor who gives her all once she decides to play a part. She also has a wicked sense of humour and we've had a blast working together. Both Tanvi and Mithila, I've been fond of for a long time. So we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. I think my actors have a relationship of trust with me since I've been an actor myself. There are also certain tweaks or tricks I could suggest to enhance their already wonderful performances.

From the Marathi film *Hach Sunbaicha Bhau* to *Surabhi*, and then *Circus*... how did this part of your journey unfold? Acting in front of the camera happened for me as an extension of my being part of the

next assignment to come my way was *Surabhi*. The popularity that I got with *Surabhi* sealed the deal and I never went back to my PhD. At that time I got the offer for a Gujarati film called *Hun Hunshi Hunshilal*, directed by Sanjeev Shah and produced by Sanjeev Shah and NFDC, where I played a mysterious, romantic lead to Dilip Joshi's *Hunshi*. I then received an offer for the Telugu feature film called *Money*, which was directed by Siva Nageshwar Rao under Ram Gopal Varma's banner. *Hach Sunbaicha Bhau* came after both these films. Immediately after that I got the epic offer of the blockbuster *Hum Aapke Hain Koun* and both *Surabhi* and *Hum Aapke Hain Koun* have been my most remembered and loved works.

Tell us about your directorial debut with the film *Rita*, which was an adaptation of your mother Shanta Gokhle's novel. How did you balance the subjectivity and objectivity?

Maintaining the objectivity was very easy. My mother who is such a good critic of the performing arts has taught me to look at my own work in a brutally honest way. As a child I was always encouraged to analyse books, films or plays, which I had read or watched with an objective eye. I learnt to experience everything

## B'wood Birthdays this week

Picking out celebs whose birthdays fall today and in the following week, astrologer Pradeep Kiradoo makes yearly predictions for our Bollywood stars

**Sophie Choudry** (Born: February 8)

Ruled by the planet Saturn and number eight, you can cleverly improve your competitive position. Work needs commitment and pride from your side. While you are sensitive, you are also very aware of your reputation and image, and you will rise to most challenges.

With the Sun and Moon in harmony in your Solar Return chart, the year ahead should be satisfying and balanced. You are in demand, and you will be able to achieve a decent balance between personal and professional life. Your confidence and positive attitude will bring rewards!

**Amrita Singh** (Born: February 9)



You are a true artiste at heart, creative and sometimes nervous if do not channel your considerable artistic talent constructively. Bravery is in your soul, which helps you fight all odds. A Full Moon in your Solar Return chart makes this a year of personal significance, when major new beginnings, endings and activities occur. Time to take advantage of your transparency and focused vision. You will be highly motivated regarding your work and personal interests.

**Rahul Roy** (Born: February 9)

You are a person who is very committed to what you believe in, and sometimes very stubborn about it too. It is important that you finish the projects you start, which is not always easy

**Rajat Kapoor** (Born: February 11)

Strong, success-oriented, and possessing tremendous personal presence and appeal, there is very little that can stop you from achieving your dreams in life. You also have the power to influence and inspire others. Your perspective is unique, sometimes to the point that you rarely feel understood. By the second half of the year you will sound mellower than before. Time will heal all wounds. Chuck out your innocence and learn to play some politics.



**Kunaal Roy Kapur** (Born: February 13)

Your insatiable hunger for achieving goals will make you a great person. You have a reserved, respectable character with quiet charm. You have an unusually strong awareness and compassion for others' suffering. You will get what you want. The number of people who admire you will increase, and for this you have to traverse a long passage. During this time you will experience everything — love, sacrifice, provocation, disengagement and peace. Learning from your experiences will always bring the desired results.



for you, in order to feel content and satisfied. You will have a chance to heal old wounds with regards to love this year. You are also bound to find new ways of making money. Unwanted illness might come and go. Encasing months are September and October.

## CinemaScope

# Capturing Partition on screen: *Gadar*, *Boota Singh* and *Freedom At Midnight*

Released in 2001, *Gadar - Ek Prem Katha* created a storm at the box office breaking many previous records in terms of ticket sales and foothold in the theaters. Despite releasing along *Lagaan*, another successful milestone creation, *Gadar* won over the masses in an unprecedented manner, creating its own noteworthy stature in the history of Indian cinema.



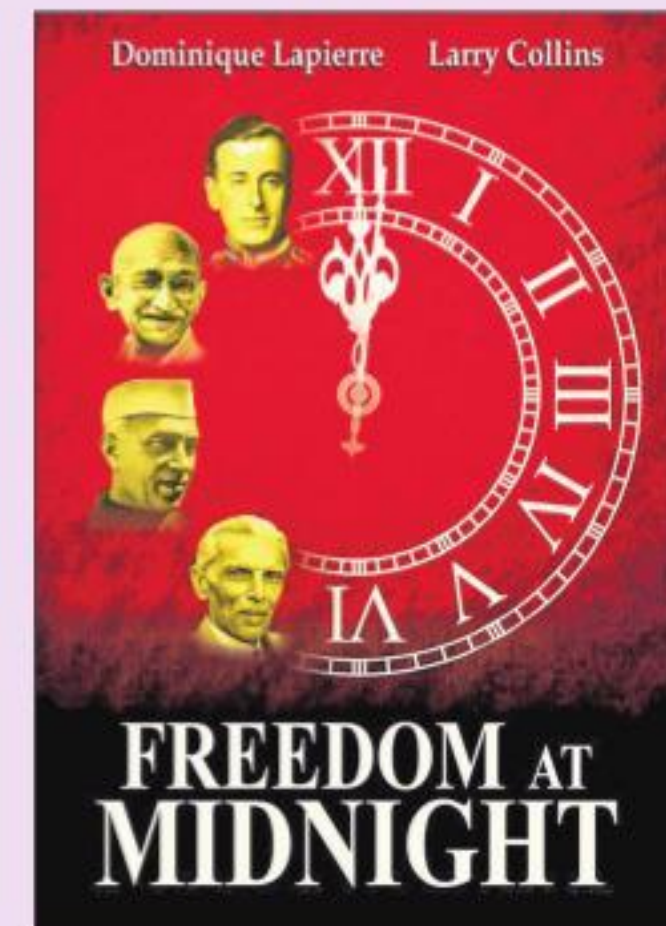
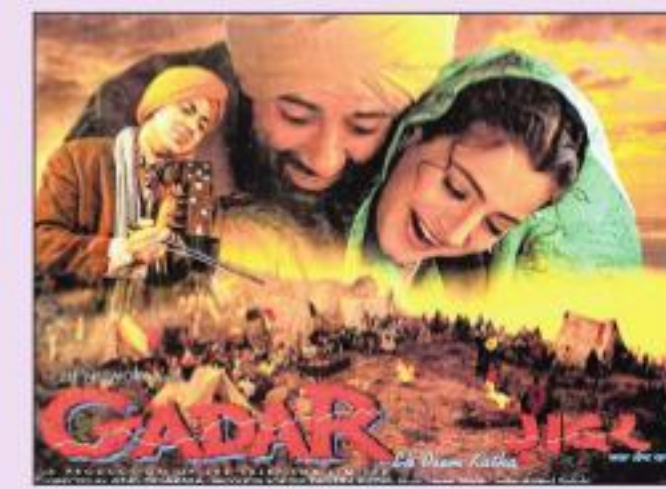
BOBBY SINGH

As shared by the director Anil Sharma in one of his detailed interviews, the film's storyline was actually conceived as a major subplot of his another venture being written on the plight of Kashmiri Pandits, aptly titled *Kashmir*. But while developing the same, he got deeply moved by the characters with the backdrop of partition and decided to present the tragic story as a complete film instead, scrapping the other project.

Adapting the events related with *Boota Singh*, he took inspiration from *The Ramayan*, presenting the saga in the new era with references to the two neighbouring countries. In his words, "After the Kargil conflict, what better Lanka would I find than Pakistan? And that's the reason why, at interval point, Amrish Puri takes Sakina back to Pakistan! *Gadar* was a modern depiction of a story deeply embedded in every Indian. The film had to be a hit."

The above rarely-revealed interpretation by the director actually enlightens us about a fact, that how many times we — as viewers — have no idea how a director had conceived his film, based on what kind of theme or basic plot! But then that's what is called creative vision of a director and his depiction on screen, creating an entire world of his own.

Interestingly, just around the time Sharma was making his magnum opus, the same story of *Boota Singh* had already been adapted as a Punjabi film in India as *Shaheed-e-Mohabbat Boota Singh* produced by Manjeet Maan and directed by Manoj Punj, released in the year 1999. The film, featuring Gurdas Maan and Divya Dutta in the lead was written by Suraj Sanim and its soundtrack by Amar Haldipur also includ-



tion of India and Pakistan in 1947-48. Co-written by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapiere, the book was published in the mid-seventies and included a detailed reference of the real-life story of Boota Singh, his love interest and how his unexpected death created a serious political scenario in Pakistan.

Interestingly, the tragic story also inspired an English film made in 2007 with the title of *Partition* directed by Vic Sarin. A decade later, Gurinder Chadha made her historical drama in English as *Viceroy's House* in 2017 based on the events stated in two books, one of them being *Freedom at Midnight*. The film also got released in its Hindi dubbed version as *Partition: 1947*.

Coming back to *Gadar* and its on-location experience recalled by Anil Sharma, a major sequence of the film was shot on the same platform of Amritsar station where the actual train with the corpses had arrived in 1947. The station was given the authentic look of the 1940s with all the advertisements and equipment replaced, besides shooting with the real crowd of locals and actors together recreating the dark-day of our history.

As stated by the director (post the scene got over), "One old Sikh gentleman was banging his head on the platform chair and howling." When I told him "Papaji, the shot is over," he looked up slowly with tears in his eyes and said, "It was more than 50 years ago when I was about 10 and I have myself witnessed this very same scene in real life. Today, it was as if everything was happening again in front of my old eyes."

No response of any kind could have provided some comfort to the crying old man, as everyone duly understood what his few words meant to him, bringing back those ugly memories after more than half a century. Such was the impact of the realistic scene shot on the witnesses there on the location.

A similar impact was seen again as the film got released in the theatres. Today, in the present digital era, that euphoria can easily be summed up as the sheer magic of cinema.

(The writer is a critic-columnist, an explorer of cinema and author of 'Did You Know' series on Hindi films also active at bobbytalkscinema.com)



## SPORTS CAFE

### Shubhankar misses cut by one shot

**KAEC (Saudi Arabia):** Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma struggled with his putting as he missed the cut by one shot in the Saudi International at the Royal Greens Golf and Country Club. Sharma, who shot one-under 69 in the first round, returned a second round of 2-over 72.

### Sydney Sixers win 2nd successive BBL title

**SYDNEY:** James Vince's blistering 95 and disciplined bowling helped Sydney Sixers to beat Perth Scorchers by 27 runs in the Big Bash League (BBL) final at Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday to clinch their second successive title.

### NorthEast looking to get into top four

**VASCO:** NorthEast United have closed the gap on the top four and can momentarily take third place if they beat Hyderabad FC in their next match in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Sunday.

### Pak hold the upper hand against SA

**RAWALPINDI:** The lower order increased Pakistan's lead to 200 runs against South Africa on the third day of the second and final test on Saturday. All-rounder Faheem Ashraf and Mohammad Rizwan were dropped off successive deliveries before featuring in a 52-run sixth-wicket stand which guided the home team to 129-6 at stumps.

### Neymar misses PSG training

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar missed training because of gastroenteritis and his fitness will be assessed later in the day ahead of Sunday's trip to face bitter rival Marseille, the club said Saturday. French champion PSG also said that backup defender Timothee Pembele has the coronavirus and is self-isolating.

### Bangladesh set West Indies 395 target

**CHATTOGRAM:** Captain Mominul Haque hit his 10th Test century and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan continued his good form for Bangladesh on the fourth day of the first Test against West Indies on Saturday. Bangladesh set a fearsome 395 runs target for Windies.

### Hailu's world record ratified

**MONACO:** Lemlem Hailu's world under-20 indoor 1,500m record of 4:01.57 seconds, set last year, has been ratified. World Athletics announced on Saturday. The Ethiopian middle-distance runner clocked her record-breaking time at the World Athletics Indoor Tour meeting in Lievin on February 19 last year, setting her personal best.

### Jamshedpur in bid to boost playoff

**FATORA:** Jamshedpur FC will face a despondent SC East Bengal in a bid to qualify for the playoffs of the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Sunday. The equation is simple for Jamshedpur FC and Owen Coyle.

### Smith wins third Allan Border Medal

**MELBOURNE:** Former captain Steve Smith claimed his third Allan Border Medal while Beth Mooney bagged her maiden Belinda Clarke Award, the top two honours of the Australian Cricket Awards. While Mooney bagged the recognition in the Australian women's game for the first time.

### Johnson within 1 shot of lead at Saudi

**KING ABDULLAH:** No. 1-ranked Dustin Johnson was just one shot off the lead after completing his second round of the Saudi International early Saturday. Ryan Fox and Stephen Gallacher shared the lead on 10 under overall heading into the third round later Saturday.

### Korea's Lee stays in title hunt at Open

**ARIZONA:** Chasing a maiden PGA TOUR victory, Korea's KH Lee fired a second successive 5-under 66 at the Phoenix Open to lie two strokes behind leader Xander Schauffele on Friday. Lee, enjoyed a strong finish with four birdies over his closing five holes.

### Liverpool sign teenage star Gordon

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool have completed the signing of 16-year-old Derby County midfielder Kaide Gordon, the Championship club confirmed on Saturday. Derby said that the two clubs have reached an undisclosed compensation agreement for the England youth.

### AIFF League Committee meets for IWL

**NEW DELHI:** All India Football Federation (AIFF) Senior Vice President and League Committee Chairman Subrata Dutta chaired AIFF League Committee Meeting held via video conferencing on Friday.

### Arjun Tendulkar registers in IPL auction

**MUMBAI:** Sachin Tendulkar's son, Arjun Tendulkar has registered for the Indian Premier League (IPL) players' auction scheduled to be held on February 18 in Chennai. He has a base price of Rs 20 lakh. The seamer made his debut for Mumbai senior team in the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament last month and picked two wickets in two matches.

### Starc opts out of IPL auction

**NEW DELHI:** Australia pace bowler Mitchell Starc has not registered for the Indian Premier League (IPL) players' auction scheduled to be held on February 18 in Chennai while teammate Steve Smith, who was released by his former IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals has entered the auction with a base price of Rs 2 crore.

## WHAT'S ON

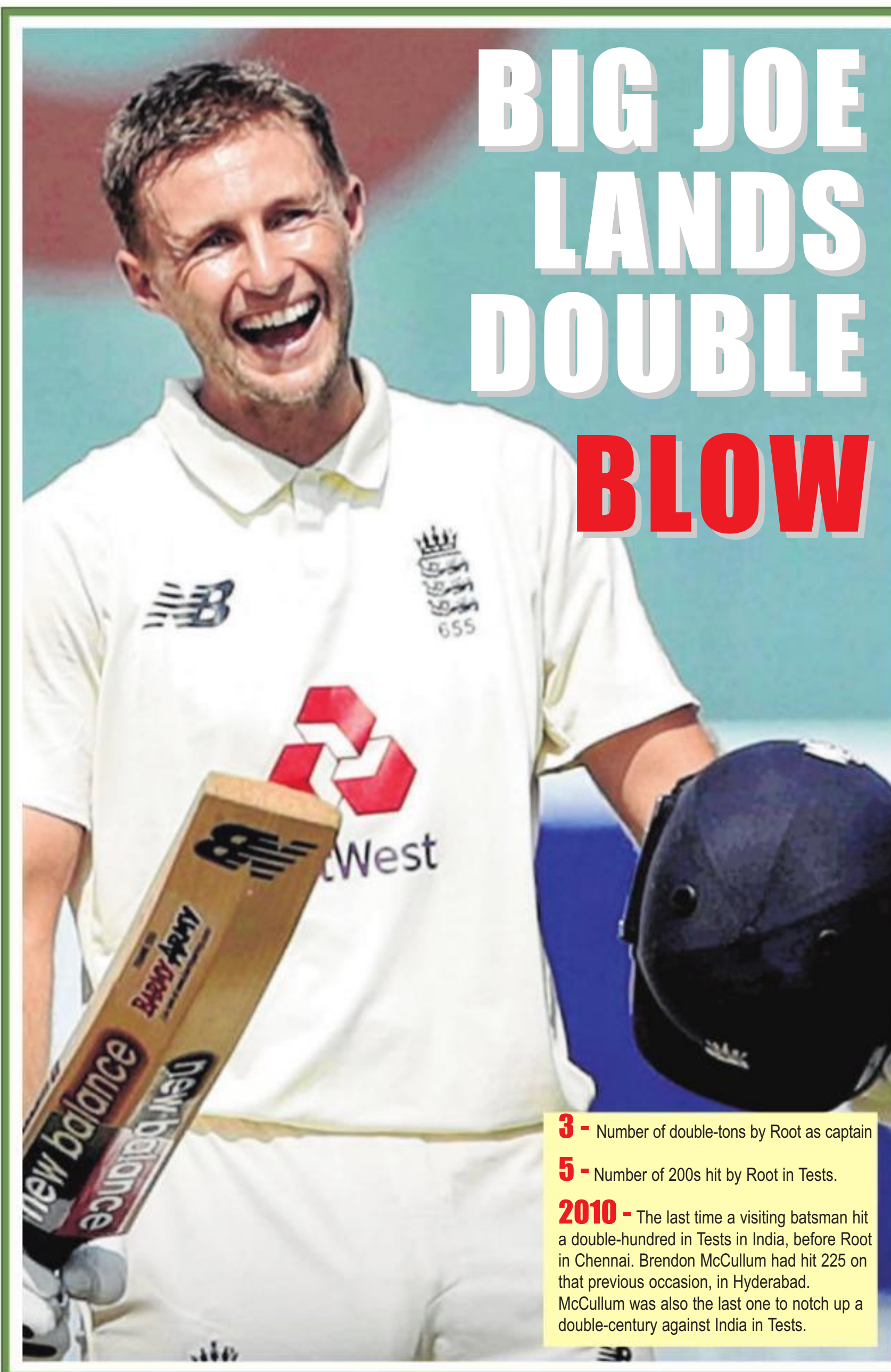
06.30: UFC Fight Night; Overeem vs Volkov | Sony Ten 2  
10.00: India vs England 1st Test; Star Sports 1  
10.30: Pakistan vs SA; 2nd Test; Sony Ten 2  
17.30: English Premier League; Star sports 2  
19.30: ISL; Jamshedpur vs NorthEast; Star Sports 2  
19.30: Serie A; Udinese vs Verona; Sony Ten 2  
20.00: WWE Blockbusters; Sony Ten 1  
22.30: Serie A; Parma vs Bologna; Sony Ten 2  
01.15: Serie A; Lazio vs Cagliari; Sony Ten 2

## 1999 THIS DAY, THAT YEAR

A day Anil Kumble will never forget. He became only the second man after Jim Laker to take all ten wickets in a Test innings, against Pakistan in Delhi. His 10 for 74 - all ten came in a spell of 18.2 overs for 37 runs - swept India to their first victory over Pakistan in 23 Tests, dating back to 1979-80.



With India in a comfortable position, Mohammad Azharuddin instructed Javagal Srinath at the other end to bowl wide of the stumps; he was twice called for wides as a result.



# BIG JOE LANDS DOUBLE BLOW

**3** - Number of double-tons by Root as captain  
**5** - Number of 200s hit by Root in Tests.  
**2010** - The last time a visiting batsman hit a double-hundred in Tests in India, before Root in Chennai. Brendon McCullum had hit 225 on that previous occasion, in Hyderabad. McCullum was also the last one to notch up a double-century against India in Tests.

## As Virat Kohli-led Indian attack gets 'Root'ed to reality on Chepauk wicket

FPJ NEWS SERVICE  
Chennai

**S**kipper Joe Root had made it clear when the stumps were drawn on Day one, that over 500 runs is what they were looking. And it was proved as he with a double hundred led the visitors to post 555 for eight on the second day of the first Test, here on Saturday.

Root continued to torment the Indian spinners with a majestic double century that placed England in a commanding position and scuttled home team's chances of enforcing a favourable result.

England ended the day two at an intimidating 555 for eight, built around Root's 218 that was result of a near nine-hour effort in which he faced 377 balls. Root became the first cricketer to score a double hundred in his 100th Test but more importantly it was an innings that will be archived for future generations as a ready reference on how to play spin on Indian pitches.

The pace of his innings on the second day was a bit in contrast to how he played on the first day when he was the enforcer and Dom Sibley the grafter.

On the second morning, it was Ben Stokes who entered the stage and made it his own with big hitting. He smashed 82 off 118 balls with 10 fours and three sixes and let Root rotate the strike in their 124-run stand.

Worse, England didn't declare after being well past 500 which was like driving home a point and piling on the misery on an Indian team which has now been shaken up on a track where nothing happened for two days.

While Root will be lauded for sure for his second double hundred in last three Test matches, it was Stokes, whose counter-attack deflated the home team.

He started by coming down and lofting Ravichandran Ashwin over long for a six and then used the giant stride to slog sweep the senior off-spinner for a boundary.

In fact, Ashwin (2/132), who was brilliant over two days, was only a bit rattled when Stokes gave him the charge. Although, Root hit Ashwin for two sixes, the second one bringing up his fifth ca-

reer double hundred for the England captain, it was Stokes who gave him and the other spinners a big charge.

Also the only one who played Ishant Sharma with some degree of confidence was Stokes. While Root defended well against the pacer, it was Stokes, whose on-drive and square drive off successive deliveries from the pacer did change his complexion, which remained grumpy for the most part of the day.

Ishant (2/52) bowled as best as he had in any unfavourable conditions, something that the scoreboard wouldn't perhaps tell.

The pacer of 98 Tests finally got a couple of wickets at the flag end of the day but his performance with old ball on one of the flattest tracks will be remembered for a long time.

The pace never dropped even when he was well past bowling his 20th over as the tattered old ball would consistently tail in.

But Ishant, Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah (2/81)'s good work was undone once again by rookie Washington Sundar. And Shahbaz Nadeem (2/167) for all his experience at the domestic level for a decade and half, probably understood that he probably is a bit less-skilled when facing a team full of quality players of spin.

### England 1st inn (Overnight 263-3)

Joe Root lbw b Nadeem	218
Ben Stokes c Pujara b Nadeem	82
Ollie Pope lbw b Ashwin	34
Jos Buttler b I Sharma	30
Dom Bess batting	28
Jofra Archer b I Sharma	0
Jack Leach batting	6

Extras: (b-2, lb-16, nb-19) 37  
**TOTAL: (180 overs) 555-8**

**FoW:** 1-63 (Rory Burns), 2-63 (Dan Lawrence), 3-263 (Dom Sibley), 4-387 (Ben Stokes), 5-473 (Ollie Pope), 6-477 (Joe Root), 7-525 (Jos Buttler), 8-525 (Jofra Archer)

**BOWLING:** Ishant Sharma 27-7-52-2, Jasprit Bumrah 31-4-81-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 50-5-132-2, Shahbaz Nadeem 44-4-167-2, Washington Sundar 26-2-98-0, Rohit Sharma 2-0-7-0

## Aston Villa stun Gunners



Arsenal's English midfielder Emile Smith Rowe (L) vies with Aston Villa's English midfielder Jacob Ramsey during the match at Villa Park in Birmingham, on Saturday

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Birmingham

Aston Villa maintained its push for a finish in the European qualification positions by beating Arsenal 1-0 in the Premier League thanks to a goal after 74 seconds by Ollie Watkins on Saturday.

Bertrand Traore pounced on a loose pass by Cedric Soares and crossed to Watkins, whose first-time shot from a central position took a deflection off Rob Holding and squirmed into the net past Mat Ryan - an Arsenal debutant in goal.

Emi Martinez, a goalkeeper sold by Arsenal

in the last offseason, preserved Villa's win with several fine saves, notably from a free kick by Granit Xhaka that was heading into the top corner.

Villa moved into eighth place and only five points behind Liverpool, which came into the 23rd round of games in fourth place. Villa has a game in hand, too, after missing two fixtures early in the new year because of a coronavirus outbreak in the squad.

It was a second straight loss for mid-table Arsenal, which was beaten 2-1 by Wolverhampton on Tuesday when it also had goalkeeper Bernd Leno and defender David Luiz sent off.

## Kohli fails review test

AMIT GUPTA  
Mumbai

It hasn't been a happy return to captiancy for Virat Kohli. He lost the toss, made the questionable call of not picking china-man Kuldeep Yadav in the playing XI, watched Joe Root become the first man to score a double hundred in his 100th Test match, Ben Stokes makes an attacking 82, saw his bowlers deliver a dozen no-balls and fielders drop catches. One might argue that Kohli, the captain, that some of these things, like the no-balls and dropped catches were not in his control, but he certainly can't get away with totally messing-up the use of Decision Review.

In the post-Covid-19 era, the International Cricket Council has given the luxury of three unsuccessful player reviews instead of two that were allowed below. This has been done to cover the fact that no neutral umpires are being deployed during the Tests these days. There was a time when the reviews available were restored after 90 overs but that rule was done away with when the teams started retaining reviews on Umpire's Call.

Let's look at the three occasions that Skipper Virat Kohli messed-up

**Over Number: 107.4**  
**Batsman: Ben Stokes on 31**

**Bowler: R Ashwin**  
**England's score: 313-3**



India was desperate for a wicket as Stokes was taking the game away from them. Stokes brings out the reverse sweep and the ball hits his gloves and lands safely. But the Indians think that the ball had hit the pad first before hitting the gloves. Kohli asks for the review. The replay confirms that it's glove first. Stokes survives and India lose their first review. Surely, keeper, Rishabh Pant should have played a bigger role in convincing Kohli not to take the review.

**Over number: 108.2**  
**Batsman: Joe Root on 147**  
**Bowler: Shahbaz Nadeem**  
**England's score: 313-3**



Just four balls later Kohli chose to go to the third umpire once again. This too is for lbw against Root. Nadeem is in the middle of a good spell and he hits Root on the front pad as he tries to defend. Nadeem thinks that he has had his man and almost forces Kohli to consult the third umpire. Everything is fine, the ball has pitched in line, it has not taken the bat's edge and it is hitting in front of the stumps. The

trouble is it according to the ball-tracking technology it is bouncing above the stumps. And it's another review lost.

**Over number: 138.6**  
**Batsman Ollie Pope on 11**  
**Bowler: R Ashwin Pope 11**  
**England's score: 416-4**



The desperation has grown further as they have now spent 139 overs in the field.

Pope is looking unsettled but somehow surviving. He goes for a sweep but is early into the shot. The ball hits something and pops to leg-gully. Indians think it has hit the glove and go for a review. But according to the third-umpire the ball has missed the glove or the bat and hit the pad. So it's not a catch. The umpire checks for an lbw but the ball is bouncing over the stumps. Great call from on-field umpire Anil Chaudhary. And India loses all three reviews available in an innings.

**Post-script:** India should have a wicket in the 164.3 overs when Washington Sundar did find an edge of Jose Buttler's bat. But Chaudhary gave it not-out. As the replays showed, the Indians were right the ball did catch an edge. They pleaded and pleaded but Chaudhary had made his call and India had no review left. Such is life!

## Day's feature wears an open affair

JOE WILLIAMS  
Mumbai

With a blend of debutantes lining up for the Gool S Poonawalla Million (Gr3), the prestigious race hangs in balance as it is an open affair; the main event of the Mumbai meeting, to be held on Sunday.

Catalina is the lone contender with a winning bracket, which she did on her debut in a maidens' set at Hyderabad. Considering the bunch she beat, her success there is not convincing enough to root for the filly, but yes, she surely merits

strong consideration. Among those that have run, Fast Rain and Multien-crypted have fared reasonably well having finished second in their respective races, the latter finding one better on both his starts. These two stablemates could well brace up for a showdown with the former a touch better off on his latest track work as he has looked the more pleasing of the two. Among the debutantes, Rafaelo is the pick and he has been dishing out some noteworthy gallops in the mornings. The line-up is an interesting one and although the

numbers are just eight in the fray, the race is likely to provide a thrilling finish.

**First Race: 1.00pm**  
**Selections:**  
**1. The Bourbon King Plate Div II (1400m):** 1. Tomorrows Golden Era (3), 2. In It To Win It (1)  
**2. The General Obaidullah Khan Trophy (2400m):** 1. Golden Era (3), 2. In It To Win It (1)  
**3. The Preceived Value Plate Div I (1200m):** 1. Gold Member (2), 2. Sacherorte (1), 3. Gandalf (13)  
**4. The Bourbon King Plate Div I (1400m):** 1. Shamshir Sword (3), 2. Rays Of Sun (4),

3. Marvin (8)  
**5. The Colombiana Plate (1200m):** 1. Leopard Rock (3)  
2. Castilian (1), 3. Agrami (5)  
**6. The Pleasure Hunt Plate (1400m):** 1. Miracle (12), 2. Supreme Runner (8), 3. Nishk (6)  
**7. The Gool S Poonawalla Million Gr 3 (1200m):** 1. Fast Rain (2), 2. Multien-crypted (4), 3. Raffaelo (5)  
**8. The Warsaw pact Plate (1200m):** 1. Endeavour (5), 2. Pense'e (3), 3. Costa Rica (4)  
**9. The Perceived Value Plate Div II (1200m):** 1. Arabi-an Storm (2), 2. Divija (5), 3. Golden Crest (3)  
**Day's Best: Leopard Rock**

FPJ NEWS SERVICE  
Mumbai

Nineteen team will vie for honours as the action on hockey turf is said to unfold, with the Winter Rink Hockey Tournament, at the St. Dominic Savio, Andheri East hockey Turf on February 12. Thirteen teams in the boys and six in the girls will be seen in action in this two-day championship which has been approved by Hockey India, as hockey resumes in the

city after covid-19. This championship is under-14 & 16 for boys and girls, besides the men and the women teams

Teams (Men): Bombay Republican, India Rush, UK United, WR, CR, Union Bank, Savio Sports Club, Income Tax, Ave Maria, Mansi Foundation, United Bandra (yet to confirm), Sea View and Mumbai Custom

Women: Bombay Republican, WR, CR, BSA Bhilai, India Rush, SAI Women.





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