



# Afternoon<sup>TM</sup>

VOICE

VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 14, Issue: 7

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



## Bookies forecast BJP's big win in BMC elections, no betting offer for NCP-Congress

This year BJP elections will be very interesting. BJP, Shiv Sena (SS), Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, NCP and Congress fighting over 237 seats, ten more than 2017 polls. The BJP is expected to achieve a comfortable victory over at least 120 seats, and the tally is expected to go to 130 seats as per the trends. Eknath Shinde will add extra advantage to BJP in these elections. Bookies are ready to pay ₹1 over and above every ₹1 bet

on the BJP winning 120 seats in the BMC polls. For betting on BJP's win over 100 seats, the bookies will pay 0.25 paise over every Rupee. For 110 seats the odds are 55 paise over a Rupee. Lower payout ratio on the number of seats suggests that bookies are confident of the political party comfortable winning that many seats

In the present scenario ShivSena is expected to win between 10 to 30 seats, for which, the range from 10 paise to

62 paise over a Rupee. But if the SS wins 40 seats, the bookies have declared to pay ₹2.5 over and above every Rupee. Bookies are less confident of SS winning 40 seats. After the resignation of Uddhav Thackrey and Shinde joining hands with BJP, would put the SS to test.

Bookies believe that Raj Thackeray-led MNS could manage to win 5 to 15 seats, for which, they are willing to pay 22 paise to 85 paise over a Rupee.

Since the political scenario in the state is not in favor of Uddhav Thackrey, Raj Thackrey is expected to make inroads into the Maharashtra votebank this time. For nearly 10 years now, Raj has been neglected by Maharashtra votes. Bookies say that some of the SS votes going for the BJP would now go to the MNS. Bookies have no openings for Congress and Sharad Pawar-led NCP at present.

### BMC election would be the tough task for Shiv Sena

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

On a very tragic note Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackrey had to step down as CM and since then nothing seems to be going well with Shiv Sena, even the party symbol is at stake. Eknath Shinde has made many changes in BMC because forthcoming elections are very crucial for him. Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray slammed the civic administration over ad hoc transfers and reversal of orders in the BMC. Aaditya said that never in the past had the city witnessed random transfers, especially while in the middle of the monsoon and approaching festivals. Aaditya said that due to the series of transfers, Mum-

bai's governance was being treated in a poor way. Over the last one month, soon after the CM Eknath Shinde faction and BJP government came to power, close to a dozen officials had been shunted out and given new postings, but in some cases their orders were changed or reversed within days. Senior civic officials said such ad hoc transfers especially during the monsoon are hampering civic works in the city.

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# Editoritis

# BMC ELECTION WOULD BE THE TOUGH TASK FOR SHIV SENA

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*Satta Bazar, the illegal betting market for elections in India, suggests that the change in power factor may tilt in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party and hurt the Shiv Sena in the BMC polls.*

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The BMC is the Sena's heart. Shiv Sena is not like other parties; it is first a sanghatana (organisation) and then a paksh (party). The Sena's real assets are its grassroots networks built around the shakhas and shakha pramukhs. MLAs come and go but shakhas remain Shiv Sena has already identified the second rung functionaries and leaders who were sidelined previously since the MLAs were controlling appointment of office bearers in their home districts. Now that the MAs have rebelled, many secondrung leaders have approached the party to work. These appointments will be made soon so that there is no vacuum ahead of the BMC polls

Meanwhile, trends in the political corridor suggest the anti-incumbency factor may tilt in favour of BJP in the BMC polls. Satta Bazar, the illegal betting market for elections in India, suggests that the change in power factor may tilt in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and hurt the Shiv Sena (SS) in the Mumbai municipality (BMC) polls. The BMC elections are important for political parties since it has a budget of around ₹50,000 crore and cash reserves of over ₹80,000 crore.

BMC elections will see four main political parties in Mumbai, including the BJP, Shiv Sena (SS), Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, NCP and Congress fighting over 237 seats, ten more than 2017 polls. The BJP is expected to achieve a comfortable victory over at least 120 seats, and the tally is expected to go to 130 seats as per the trends.

With the MVA government falling and Eknath Shinde taking over in alliance with the BJP, former CM Uddhav Thackeray faces an uphill task for the BMC polls. Unless Thackeray decides to mend fences with Shinde and the rebels, it will be a much-diminished party under his leadership that will clash with BJP to retain its biggest bastion-Mumbai-which it has held for three decades. Civic polls in the city are slated for September/October 2022.

Shinde's role will be crucial in the BMC polls, especially if his faction decides to tie up with the BJP. While it will be hard for Uddhav Thackeray to accept the rebels back, it may be one of the options if the Uddhav camp wants to retain the BMC. The perception is that unless Thackeray accepts Shinde back into the fold, he will find it hard to withstand a rejuvenated BJP.

In the 2017 polls, Sena won 84 seats, while BJP had 82. Later six from MNS and some independents joined Sena. Total number of electoral wards in the BMC is now up from 227 to 236 following redrawing of ward boundaries. The other option for Uddhav is to form an alliance with Congress and NCP to take on the combined might of the BJP and the Shinde camp. After losing 2/3rds of MLAs including all elected cabinet ministers to Shinde's camp, the contest will be seen as a make-or-break for Uddhav's Sena.

Even though Eknath Shinde is a Thane-based leader with little presence in Mumbai, since Uddhav has lost power, the momentum will be with the BJP. Shinde's group won't have much say in the BMC so it will be a clear Uddhav versus BJP fight. Many Sena corporators will also rebel and fight on tickets from the Shinde camp, some may even join the BJP. Sena MLAs like Sada Sarvankar (Mahim), Prakash Surve (Magathane), Yamini Jadhav (Byculla) and Mangesh Kudalkar (Kurla) have already joined the Shinde camp and could dent Thackeray's prospects unless he agrees to accept them back.

Volume No. 14 | Issue No. 6

Afternoon VOICE RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332 VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Provision of Transportation Safety

In Delhi, in looking at ongoing problems with students, the Government has begun the provision of transportation safety. This can be considered the biggest tragedy in the country. About 59.8% of the women and Girls suffer from many violence during this period. This fatality must be provided on a large scale. This fatality will bring those parents ahead who do not want to send their daughters outside for getting a better education. It will bring many transformations to society.

Anushka Pawar

### Bilkis Bano rape case

The government of Gujarat has granted remission to 11 people convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family members during the 2002 Godhra riots. What a shame it is not only for India but for the whole world.

The release of those convicted in the Bilkis Bano rape case is disheartening. The crimes committed in the wake of the 2002 Gujarat riots shocked not only India but the whole world. Those guilty of such heinous crime should not have been released before time.

One wonders if the assembly elections in Gujarat scheduled for this year played a part in the decision-making process.

Jubel D'Cruz

### Promote Breastfeeding

No other milk in the world can match mother's milk to a child. Mother's milk promotes the child's nutritional and immunological development as well as the mother's physical and mental wellbeing. Breastfeeding should be promoted in all hospitals (both private and public) across the nation with posters and also with statues mandatorily. Even in backside of Indian currency notes and postal stamps etc., since modern lifestyles making mothers go milk less finally leading to breast cancer or some other diseases especially in cities. so dissemination of the same is substantial at present.

Vijaykumar H.K.

### The dragon is furious

After nearly twenty-five years, the visit of a major American leader to Taiwan has come as a surprise to the whole world. China tried many ways to prevent US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi from visiting Taiwan, but China failed. Also, China has closed ongoing talks with the US on the issues of defense and climate change. Nancy Pelosi and her family have been banned from entering China. According to China, the issue of Taiwan is an internal issue of China.

However, Nancy Pelosi has asserted that she is determined to maintain Taiwan's autonomy. However, China has said that the US intervention in Taiwan is an attempt to threaten China's "One China" policy. Overall, the Chinese dragon's expansionist program has been shocked and the Chinese dragon. As a result, China has stopped the military talks, maritime dialogue agreement, and defense talks with the US and China has registered its non-cooperation or protest by stopping the primary talks and dialogues with the US. Now only the future can tell what will happen in world politics. The dragon is furious.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

# Social media has its advantages and disadvantages



Social media today has become an auspicious element in the internet bound sector. When communication has become internet based from one part of the world to other, social media is an inevitable part for the tech savvy present generation. Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, youtube are some of the familiar social media which are used frequently.

In present day Facebook is used to let the friend circle know about the present status of the concerned person about where he/she is roaming, his/her selfie and portraits, photographs are uploaded, also political campaigning is done through this facebook, where in cheap and easy method it can be reached to the target audience, spectators about the publicity of gaining political mileage.

Whatsapp is also used for the same purpose as well as instagram is used.

Youtube is focused by the youtuber or blogger who focuses on their field of interest such as politics, weather report, health, cooking different recipes, focusing on car driving learning, elementary cooking, education, technology, travel, history, home decoration etc. Youtube is a source of income for the reputed bloggers who earn through their blogging as they blush their subject interestingly to their target audience through cooking, elementary cooking, home decoration, technology knowhow on different modern cameras, mobile phones, and laptops.

The technology blogger highlights upon the latest peripherals interestingly and in an attractive way.

Home decor bloggers represent their home impressing on space management and use of furniture placed in different sizes of rooms. Cook bloggers

insist on the ingredients of cooking materials gaining healthy progress, flavorful and tasty food their viewers can have after they successfully taste it in their home.

Travel bloggers impress their viewers to travel on new sites where attractive sights can be viewed in a cheap, comfortable, safe journey to their destination, be it a short or long tour.

Education bloggers make their time and space for the students who are spectators as learners, advance learners. They try to make their lessons useful for every sphere.

- Rathin Kumar Chanda

Writer

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

Column

# MUMBAI MILLS ONCE UPON A TIME -PRIDE OF BOMBAY - ITS TEXTILE MILLS



**B**ombay Had The Pride and Privilege Of Being a Top Manufacturer Of Cotton Textile Fabrics Till the Early 80s or So.. Many Huffing and Smoke Emanating Chimneys Is A Standing Testimony Of the Glorious Days and Times Of This Industry.. Leading Textile Mills Such As Century Textiles, Bombay Dyeing, Mafatlal Group, Khataus, Thackersey Group (Hindoostan Mills), Morarjee Mills, Dawn Mills, Shri Ram, Tata Textiles, Finlays, Gold Mohur, Kohinoor And Many Other Leading Names Employed Thousands Of Workers- Both On Permanent And Badli (Contract) Basis. These Factories Worked In 3 Shifts And Had A Disciplined and Efficient Labour With A Great Management Ensuring Profitable Business In Its Heydays !

With Passing Times And Increasing Competition, Some Of the 60 Odd Mills Started Feeling the Heat of Slowdown In Business and Were the First To Be Affected, and This led To Government Intervention of Take Over Of Ailing Mills. So It Was That Mills Like Western India in Kalachowki Became a State Run Enterprise , (Under MSTC) and India United Mills in Lalbaug, Kalachowki and Cadell Road, Prabhadevi, Kohinoor Mills, Finlays Etc Managed By NTC. The Big Private Names Continued their Modernisation, Producing Not Only Cotton But Later the Polyester Blended Varieties Too And To This Day Elder

Members Will Fondly Recall That They Once Shopped In The Thronging Show Rooms Of Century, Bargain Basement of Bombay Dyeing at Ballard Estate, Tata Textile ShowRoom etc..

These Retail Outlets Situated At The Entrance Of the Big Mills Also Offered a 10% Discount, Was an Added Factor To Shop In those Days ! A Discount Coupon for ShareHolders Or From The Mill Management Was Also An Attractive Incentive To Buy These Well Known Fabrics ! And Now These Great Names Have Either Relocated Or New Ones With Best Latest Machines Functioning From Other States and Producing The Finest Fabrics- For The Country As Well As the World ! But Our City Will Surely Stand Out Forever For Contributing So Immensely For The Textile Production And Its Sheer Variety !

Vijay Singh Madhavji Merchant pronunciation (help·info), real name Vijay Madhav Thackersey (12 October 1911 – 27 October 1987) was an Indian cricketer. A right-hand batter and occasional right-arm medium pace bowler, Merchant played first-class cricket for Bombay cricket team as well as 10 Test matches for India between 1929 and 1951. Behind his limited Test appearances, he dominated Indian domestic cricket – his batting average of 71.64 is the second highest first-class average in history, behind only that of Don Bradman. He is

regarded as the founder of the Bombay School of Batmanship, that placed more importance on right technique, steely temperament, and conservative approach rather than free flow of the bat, a tradition broken and remoulded only after the arrival of Sachin Tendulkar. His international career included two tours of England upon which he scored over 800 runs. English cricketer C. B. Fry exclaimed "Let us paint him white and take him with us to Australia as an opener. His brother, Uday, also played first-class cricket. Besides cricket, he was also associated with the Hindoostan Spinning & Weaving Mills (Thackersey Group).

The most memorable one was office in Mumbai. In 1979 after India's memorable draw at the Oval against England as we missed the bus by just 9 runs under Srinivas Venkataraghavan captaincy. Instead of continuing with his captaincy for the next series against Australia, he was shown the door and Gavaskar became captain and the announcement of change in captaincy was announced by the pilot of the plane carrying the Indian team. In a raid talk Vijay Merchant was consoling Venkat and made a scathing comment about his observations. He did call me for an audience, but I could talk to him only about building life. However, that was the best of the best because I came across a legend driving his car after suffering



**C.K. Subramaniam**

an attack and getting operated upon. What grit and determination. His batting average of 71.64 is the second highest in first class history behind that of Sir Don Bradman.He played in 10 Test matches for India.

Vijay Merchant did his best for the Mill workers at his M/s Hindoostan Spinning and Weaving Mills. Hindoostan Mills Ltd. is one of the oldest textile companies in India manufacturing cotton and blended greige and processed fabrics of the highest quality which are being sold in the domestic and export markets. We have an integrated manufacturing facility for yarns and fabrics which helps us serve unique customer requirements and strictly adhere to committed quality and delivery schedules. In addition, we strive to serve large and small customers with the same level of service and quality. The Company employs dynamic and talented individuals and has a continuous focus on the ever changing needs of the market. As a cricket lover, Vijay Merchant did a lot for the game and for his mill workers but he failed in family relations and was chucked out of his house by his daughter and he suffered an early death.



# Srilanka is waiting for the response from China amid the economic turmoil

While Sri Lanka awaits a response from China over Colombo's request for debt restructuring amid the economic turmoil, Beijing has downplayed these critical requests and instead put ahead the agenda of human rights in the island nation. This comes ahead of the next session of the United Nations Human Rights Council to be held in September. In the op-ed which was disseminated from the Chinese embassy in Colombo, the Chinese focus turned on something entirely different where it shared its views on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. This comes ahead of the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

In a detailed Op-Ed by Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong, he failed to address the debt restructuring of loans it has provided to Sri Lanka since it makes up more than

40 pc of the total Government to Government (GtoG) debt the country owes. The Chinese side sugarcoated its statements by diplomatic words such as "extending support to the Sri Lankan government to relieve it from the economic crisis" but nothing more substantial so far, a diplomat lamented, reported Sunday Times. In a hard-hitting response to the remarks of Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said on Saturday that his views were a violation of basic diplomatic etiquette and may be a personal trait or reflecting a larger national attitude. The High Commission, which made a series of tweets, also referred to Qi's remarks on the visit of a Chinese spy vessel to Hambantota port in Sri Lanka and said his imputing a geopolitical context to the visit of a purportedly scientific research vessel is a giveaway.



The High Commission also referred to reports of China's debt-trap diplomacy and said "opaqueness and debt-driven agendas are now a major challenge, especially for smaller nations". It said Sri Lanka, which is facing an unprecedented economic crisis, needs support, not unwanted pressure or unnecessary controversies to serve another country's agenda. "We have noted the remarks of the Chinese Ambassador. His

violation of basic diplomatic etiquette may be a personal trait or reflect a larger national attitude. His view of Sri Lanka's northern neighbour may be coloured by how his own country behaves. India, we assure him, is very different. His imputing a geopolitical context to the visit of a purportedly scientific research vessel is a giveaway," the Indian High Commission said. "Opaqueness and debt-driven agendas are now a major

challenge, especially for smaller nations. Recent developments are a caution. Sri Lanka needs support, not unwanted pressure or unnecessary controversies to serve another country's agenda," it added.

India had earlier rejected insinuations by China that it had exerted pressure on Colombo to defer the visit of a high-tech Chinese research vessel to Hambantota port and said Sri Lanka is a sovereign country and makes its own independent decisions. "We reject the insinuations in the statement about India. Sri Lanka is a sovereign country and makes its own independent decisions," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said at a media briefing. Bagchi said India will make the best judgement about its security interests and it takes into account the prevailing situation in the region, especially in border areas.

## US is sending more weapons to Ukraine by sea: Reports

The US Defense Department has started sending the shipment of weapons to Ukraine by sea, according to The Washington Post citing US defense officials.

Ships are able to transport large quantities of cargo, despite being slower than aircraft, which could allow Kyiv to build up a bigger weapons arsenal, the newspaper said on Saturday (local time).

The Pentagon started sending weapons to Ukraine by sea "a few weeks" after Russia started its special military operation at the end of February, but maritime shipping has been broadened significantly this spring, US defense officials told The Washington Post.

"Once we started to provide them howitzers, we knew that we were going to need more ammunition," said Army Col.

Steven Putthoff, the deputy director of operations at US Transportation Command. "So, we could plan ahead a little bit

more, and then we could start to use more sealift to provide that support and to get it there sometimes even ahead of the request," he said, as quoted by The Washington Post.

The US Defence Department had earlier announced that it would provide a new USD 775 million in additional military assistance to Ukraine, including HIMARS missiles, artillery, and mine-clearing systems.

Earlier this week, the United States announced a new USD 2.98 billion package of military aid for Ukraine, which includes six additional National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS), from the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI), which finances the US defense industry to boost production of certain weapons.

Most of the previous security packages for Ukraine were presidential drawdown packages that sent weapons and equipment from the US national defense stockpile.

## Afghan refugees consisting of 324 people in a plane from Pakistan landed in Winnipeg, Canada

As part of the evacuation of Afghan refugees, a plane carrying 324 people from Pakistan landed in Winnipeg, the capital of the Canadian province of Manitoba.

The flight consist of interpreters and others who had worked with the Canadian forces and allied institutions, Khaama Press reported citing the Canadian Immigration Service.

Following the fall of the Afghan government to the Taliban, the federal government committed to resettling 40,000 Afghans in Canada. This charter is a part of that commitment.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) figures, 17,655 Afghan citizens have been relocated to Canada since the evacuation process began.

This process is still ongoing, and this department says that efforts are being made to relocate thousands more.

Through a humanitarian effort and a special immigration

program for Afghans who supported the government, about 17,600 Afghans have been welcomed to Canada thus far, according to Khaama Press.

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan on August 15, 2021. Since then, Afghanistan has seen the world's "worst" humanitarian crisis, with millions of people struggling to get food on the table while losing basic rights for women and girls.

Taliban have imposed policies severely restricting basic rights—particularly those of women and girls.

The group decrees prohibit women from travelling unless accompanied by a male relative and require women's faces to be covered in public—including women TV newscasters.

Moreover, the Taliban dismantled the system to respond to gender-based violence, created new barriers to women accessing health care, blocked women's aid workers from doing

their jobs, and attacked women's rights protesters.

The Taliban has also detained women and girls for minor violations of discriminatory rules and contributed to a surge in child, early and forced marriage rates in Afghanistan.

Several rights groups have called out the Taliban to implement major policy changes and measures to uphold the rights of women and girls.

The Taliban had previously promised an inclusive society and equality during their first press conference after the takeover of Afghanistan, however, their actions reflect a different picture.

There are restrictions on movement, education and freedom of expression of women posing a threat to their survival.

According to locals, the Taliban has prevented women from using smartphones, and the Women's Affairs Ministry often extorts money for providing essential protection.

# TWIN TOWERS CONSTRUCTED AS PER BUILDING PLAN APPROVED BY NOIDA AUTHORITY: SUPERTECH ON DEMOLITION

As the twin towers in Noida were reduced to rubble on Sunday, Supertech maintained that the building plans of the project including the two towers were “approved by the Noida Authority in 2009, which was strictly in accordance with the then prevailing Building Bye-laws announced by the State Government”.

The real-estate developer said that while it respects the order by the top court, no deviation from the building plan was made and the building was constructed after making full payment to the Authority.

“The building plans of the Project including the two towers were approved by the Noida Authority in 2009 which was strictly in accordance with the then prevailing Building Bye-laws announced by the State Government. No deviation from the Building Plan was made and the Building was constructed after making full payment to the Authority. However, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has not found the construction satisfactory on technical grounds and accordingly issued orders to demolish the



two towers. We respect the orders of the Apex Court and are committed to implementing the same,” the statement issued by the developer said. It further said that the work of demolition has been awarded to a “world-renowned agency”.

The Supreme Court had, in its order reaffirmed the order of the Allahabad High Court which stated that Supertech has to demolish the towers at its own expense.

“We have awarded the work of demolition to a world-renowned agency, Edifice Engineering who have expertise in carrying out safe demolition

of high-rise buildings,” it said. However, Supertech assured the home buyers that the order of the Supreme Court will not affect any other ongoing project and that all other projects will continue. “And we are committed to complete construction and delivering the flats to the allottees as per the scheduled time,” it said.

In 2011, the Residents Welfare Association filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court. It was alleged that the UP Apartment Owners Act, 2010 was breached during the construction of the towers.

The homeowners claimed

that the two towers had less than 16 metres of distance between them which was in violation of the law. The original space designated for the garden in the original plan was allegedly used to erect the twin towers.

In 2012, the Authority approved the new plan proposed in 2009, ahead of the commencement of the hearing in the Allahabad High Court. In April 2014, the Allahabad High Court delivered the judgment in favour of the RWA while also passing an order to demolish the twin towers.

It asked Supertech to demolish the towers at its own expense and also refund the money of the homebuyers along with 14 per cent interest. In May 2014, the Noida Authority and Supertech moved to the Supreme Court stating that the construction of the twin towers was according to the regulations. In August 2021, however, the Supreme Court affirmed the order of the Allahabad High Court and ordered to demolish the towers while also stating that the construction had been made in violation of the

regulations.

Meanwhile, the Supertech twin towers came crashing down within a span of nearly nine seconds after the use of 3,700 kg explosives on Sunday, thus ending a nine-year-long legal battle.

The towers, Apex (32 floors) and Ceyane (29 floors), which are taller than the Qutub Minar in the national capital, were 100 metres tall and were brought down with explosives weighing at least 3,700 kg, in the biggest ever planned tower demolition bid. Soon after the explosion that took place at the press of a button, the towers came crashing down, generating a cloud of massive dust and thus polluting the atmosphere around.

However, the Environment Department of the Uttar Pradesh government has installed six Special dust machines at the demolition site to monitor pollution levels. “Pollution levels will be recorded before, during and after the explosion. The amount of PM 10 and PM 2.5 will be checked through this machine. Its report will come in the next 24 hours,” said a technician, Umesh.

## India logs 9,436 new cases of Covid-19 in past 24 hours

India recorded as many as 9,436 new cases of Coronavirus in the last 24 hours, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Sunday.

India’s active caseload stands at 86,591, which accounts for a total of 0.19 per cent of total cases.

The recovery rate currently is at 98.62 per cent. As many as 9,999 recoveries were made in the last 24 hours, thereby taking the total recoveries to 4,37,93,787.

On the COVID-19 vaccination front, the government data informed that over 211.66 crore vaccine doses had been administered under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

The Union Government is committed to accelerating the pace and expanding the scope of

COVID-19 vaccination throughout the country. The nationwide COVID-19 vaccination started on January 16, 2021.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on 16 March 2022. So far, more than 4.02 Cr (4,02,51,855) adolescents have been administered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Similarly, the COVID-19 precaution dose administration for the age group 18-59 years also started from 10 April 2022 onwards.

In the new phase of the universalization of the COVID-19 vaccination drive, the Union Government will procure and supply (free of cost) 75 per cent of the vaccines being produced by the vaccine manufacturers in the country to States and UTs.

## Water levels of Yamuna, Betwa rivers increase in Hamirpur, create flood-like situation in UP

Water levels of Yamuna and Betwa rivers in the Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh have risen, causing a flood-like situation in the area.

“Hamirpur is in the middle of the Yamuna and Betwa rivers. Yamuna river’s water levels have risen more than that of last year,” Hamirpur DM Chandra Bhushan said.

He further said, “Our workers are present in 20 villages as



8,000 to 9,000 people have been affected by flood and they have

been shifted to higher altitude. The rest 3,000 people have been shifted to shelter campus arranged by us.”

“The water of Ganga and Yamuna is still rising slowly in Prayagraj. Dharma roads in low-lying areas are flooded. The Baluaghat and Shivkuti localities are filled with the water of Yamuna on one side and Ganga on the other, a flood victim said.

## PANDYA POWERS INDIA TO LAST OVER WIN AGAINST PAKISTAN

Indian all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja were at their absolute best as India avenged their T20 World cup 2021 loss against the arch-rivals with a hard fought 5-wicket win at the Dubai International stadium. After Pakistan made 147 all out in 19.5 overs, India needed 59 off the last six overs on a two-paced pitch.

From there, Pandya (33 not out) and Jadeja (35) shared a stand of 52 runs off just 29 balls. Even though the left-handed Jadeja fell in the final over,



## Many of daily-need products Mumbaikars buy online through unrecognised apps are fake



able online are cheaper compared to genuine products.

"This year we have seized duplicate copyright products like floor cleaners, make-up items, branded shoes, iPhone mobile accessories, single-touch diabetic machine, salt, jeans etc. The duplicate consumable products include palm oil, paneer, milk, lubricants used in bikes, watches, e-cigarettes and other items," the official added.

He advised people to go to nearby shops, malls, and departmental stores to purchase products after checking their expiry date and the company name.

"Such duplicate products and eatable items are not only causing losses to the government exchequer but are also hazardous to the health of people. We are keeping a close watch on such fake copyright sales and duplicate products, and will deal strictly with such people," the official added.

The investigation by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has found that many of the daily-need products Mumbaikars purchase online through unrecognised apps are duplicates.

The EOW has seized fake copyright items and edible products used as daily needs worth Rs five crore in the last eight months and arrested 61 people, officials said.

An EOW crime branch (CB) control unit official said 14 cases related to the copyright products

and 11 cases regarding other duplicate products have been registered in Mumbai.

"The accused persons own shops and many of them sell products online. During the probe, we found that people in Mumbai are using online platforms to purchase daily-need products, but they should be aware that 99 per cent of these products purchased through unrecognised apps are fake and duplicate," an EOW official said.

He said people fall prey as the rates of the merchandise avail-

## Activist appeals to Ganesh mandals in Maha to help eradicate discriminatory widowhood practices

The upcoming Ganpati festival should create mass awareness about eradicating from society the "evil practices" related to widowhood, a social activist spearheading the campaign in Maharashtra said on Sunday.

Pramod Zinjade, who has been demanding a law for providing respect and protection to widows, said Ganesh mandals should organise events and put up banners to create such aware-

ness during the 10-day Ganpati festival beginning on August 31.

Zinjade said he has circulated his appeal to a WhatsApp group of sarpanchs (village heads), appealing that they circulate the request to all Ganesh mandals in their villages.

The activist has been campaigning against practices like wiping 'sindoor' (vermillion) from a woman's forehead after her husband's death, breaking her bangles, removing her toe rings

and preventing her from participating in social and religious functions.

Notably, Herwad in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district May this year became the first village in the country to pass a resolution banning the discriminatory rituals against widows, and several gram sabhas have followed suit since then.

The state government had on May 17 asked all villages to follow the Herwad model.

## Ahead of festival, construction of 120-feet high replica of Ayodhya's Ram temple underway in Maharashtra

Ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, a 120-feet high replica of Ayodhya's Ram Temple is being constructed in Thane's Dhamankar Naka area in Bhiwandi.

Earlier, the first look of the Chinchpokli Chintamani idol of Lord Ganesh was unveiled in Mumbai amid a huge crowd.

Meanwhile, preparations for Lord Ganesh's clay idols are in full swing in Assam's Dibrugarh



ahead of the festival.

Some visuals also came from Odisha where markets of Bhubaneswar have become vibrant

with Lord Ganesh's idols.

Preparations are in full swing in Bhubaneswar to celebrate the Ganesh Chaturthi festival with pomp and grandeur after two years of restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a long wait, people rushed to shops to purchase Lord Ganesh's idols to celebrate the festival. Pandals are also going to be decorated ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi.

### CITY IN BRIEF

#### Woman held for killing paramour in Goregaon

A 30-year-old woman was arrested on Saturday for allegedly strangling her paramour in Goregaon in Mumbai, a police official said. The incident happened in the afternoon near Tapeswar Temple in Goregaon East, the Aarey police station official said. "The accused woman and the man often fought. On Saturday afternoon, she strangled him with a stole and left the body in an autorickshaw. She then surrendered. Both are Powai residents," he said.

#### Mumbai's iconic double-decker buses all set for comeback in electric avatar

Mumbai's iconic double-decker buses are set for a comeback in an electric avatar with a Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking official stating that their numbers will match the highs of the 1990s by next year. (PTI)

#### RPF personnel foil woman's suicide attempt at Byculla station

A suicide attempt by a 22-year woman was aborted due to presence of mind of a Central Railway motorman and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at Byculla station on Saturday evening. As per information, the woman made two suicide attempts by standing in front of the train at Byculla. The first attempt was made at 5.55pm on Kurla-bound slow tracks. However, passengers forced her to vacate the track after they heard incessant honking by the motorman of the on-coming train. She was brought on platform no. 1 but immediately began to run towards track where CSMT-bound train operates. She stood there for the on-coming train to run over her. However, the motorman began honking as well as applied emergency brakes after witnessing the scenes on the track. When the woman showed no signs for clearing the tracks, assistant sub inspector Ravindra Sanap, who had rushed on the track to alert the motorman, pushed her away to safety. Fortunately, the train managed to stop a few inches ahead of her.

#### Have completed 500 slabs for PMAY housing complex in 489 days, says CIDCO

The Maharashtra government's City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) on Sunday said it had completed the casting of 500 slabs for tenements under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in just 489 days. The residential complex for which these slabs have been cast is coming up in Taloja node of Navi Mumbai, an official said. We have been able to cast over one slab per day at this site using modern technology, he said. Earlier, CIDCO had come in for praise for constructing a 12-storey building comprising 96 apartments in 96 days.

#### 2 girl's dies in gas cylinder blast while inflating balloon in Maharashtra

A two-year-old girl was killed after a gas cylinder exploded while inflating a balloon which her grandfather was buying for her in Maharashtra's Amravati district, a police official said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday evening at Shindi village in Achalpur taluka, about 150 km from Nagpur, when the child had gone with her grandfather to the Tanha Pola festival, celebrated to acknowledge the importance of bulls and oxen in agriculture and farming activities, the official told PTI.

# Entertainment

## HRITHIK ROSHAN WAS SEEN TOUCHING FEET OF HIS FAN ON A VIDEO "FANS CALLS HIM HUMBLE"



One of the most loved celebrities, Hrithik Roshan continues to rule the hearts of millions with his charm, down-to-earth nature, and great screen presence.

The actor enthralled the netizens with his cute gesture with a fan in the viral video. A video of the 'Krrish' actor that has surfaced over social media in which during an event a fan touched the actor's feet on stage instantly the Krrish actor touched the fan's feet in return and also gave him a hug.

Hrithik could be seen wearing a neon-green t-shirt that he teamed up with white joggers and also wrapped up neon coloured around its waist.

He opted for a pair of white sports shoes, black shades and a white cap. Hrithik's fan club shared the video of the event on Twitter

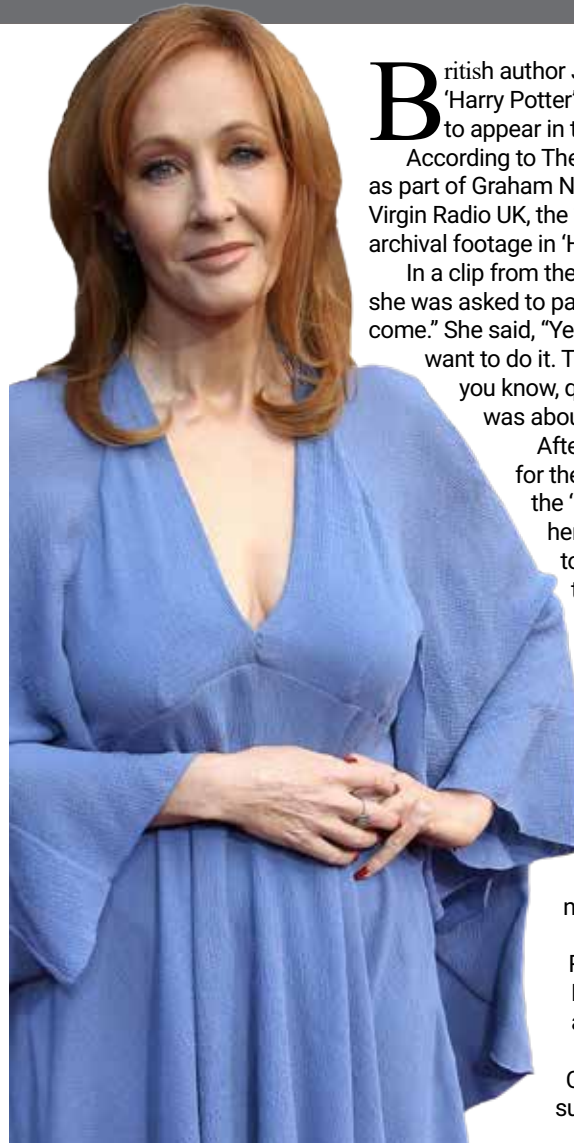
After the video got viral, netizens completely impressed by his humble gesture, chimed into the comment section. One of the users wrote, "Humble person, Hrithik Roshan touching his fan feet".

The teaser from the film makes for a wholesome tease into the world of Vikram Vedha.

The teaser is packed with whistle-worthy dialogues, large-scale action sequences and high-on emotional drama backed with very catchy background music. Overall, the teaser promises 'Vikram Vedha' to be a complete entertainment package. 'Vikram Vedha' is an official Hindi remake of a Tamil film with the same title, which starred R Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi in the lead roles.

The story of 'Vikram Vedha' is full of twists and turns, as a tough cop Vikram (Saif Ali Khan) sets out to track and chase a dreaded gangster Vedha (Hrithik Roshan).

What unfolds is a cat-and-mouse chase, where Vedha – a master storyteller helps Vikram peel back layers through a series of stories leading to thought-provoking moral ambiguities. Soon after the makers unveiled the much-awaited teaser, excitement among the fans could be seen for the film.



British author JK Rowling has addressed her absence from the 'Harry Potter' reunion special, stating that it was her choice not to appear in the show that aired on January 1.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, in an interview on Saturday as part of Graham Norton's 'Radio Show Podcast', which airs on Virgin Radio UK, the 'Harry Potter' author clarified her absence beyond archival footage in 'Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts'.

In a clip from the podcast, Rowling noted that despite speculation, she was asked to participate in the reunion and that "no one said don't come." She said, "Yeah, I was asked to be on that and I decided I didn't want to do it. Thought it was about the films more than the books, you know, quite rightly. I mean, that was what the anniversary was about."

After it was confirmed that Rowling would not appear for the reunion as part of the retrospective marking the 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' release, her absence was speculated by many to be due to the controversy around her comments about transgender people.

Those comments have been condemned by a number of LGBTQ+ rights groups, including GLAAD, the Human Rights Coalition and The Trevor Project. Though the star author had not previously commented on her absence, sources told Entertainment Weekly that her team believed the author's archived comments which were shown in the reunion "were adequate" and also denied that Rowling's comments about the trans community played a part in her decision not to appear.

Several of the Harry Potter stars like Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson have opposed Rowling's views and made public statements against them.

Other actors, like Ralph Fiennes and Robbie Coltrane, have come out with statements supporting Rowling.

## AUTHOR JK ROWLING TALKS ABOUT HER ABSENCE FROM THE "HARRY POTTER" REUNION

Hollywood actor Dwayne Johnson, on Sunday shared a cute and fun video with his daughter. Taking to Instagram, the 'Jumanji' actor shared the video which he captioned, "Only a daddy fool like me, keeps falling for the same old 'daddy close your eyes' trick EVERY SINGLE TIME.

Peanut butter and shaving cream palm smash to the face. Some fools never learn (I'll stay this fool for as long as my babies smile and laugh this big;).

In the video, Dwayne could be seen standing with his eyes closed, and his daughter smashes his face with peanut butter and shaving cream mixture. Soon after the 'San Andreas' actor shared the post, fans flooded the comment section with red heart emoticons and funny reactions. "You're a good dude, Rock!" a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "Everything about you is good, to your core. I admire the human you are." Dwayne is the father of three daughters, Simone Alexandra, Jasmine and Tiana Gia Johnson.

Actor and Businessman Dwayne Johnson enjoy a massive fan following on social media, with over 327 million followers on Instagram, he is one of the most followed celebrities in the world. Meanwhile, on the work front, the 'Fast 6' actor will be next seen in DC Comics' dark superhero film 'Black Adam' which is slated to release on October 21, 2022.

## ACTOR DWAYNE JOHNSON WAS SMASHED WITH PEANUT BUTTER BY HER DAUGHTER SHARED BY HIM IN A VIDEO

