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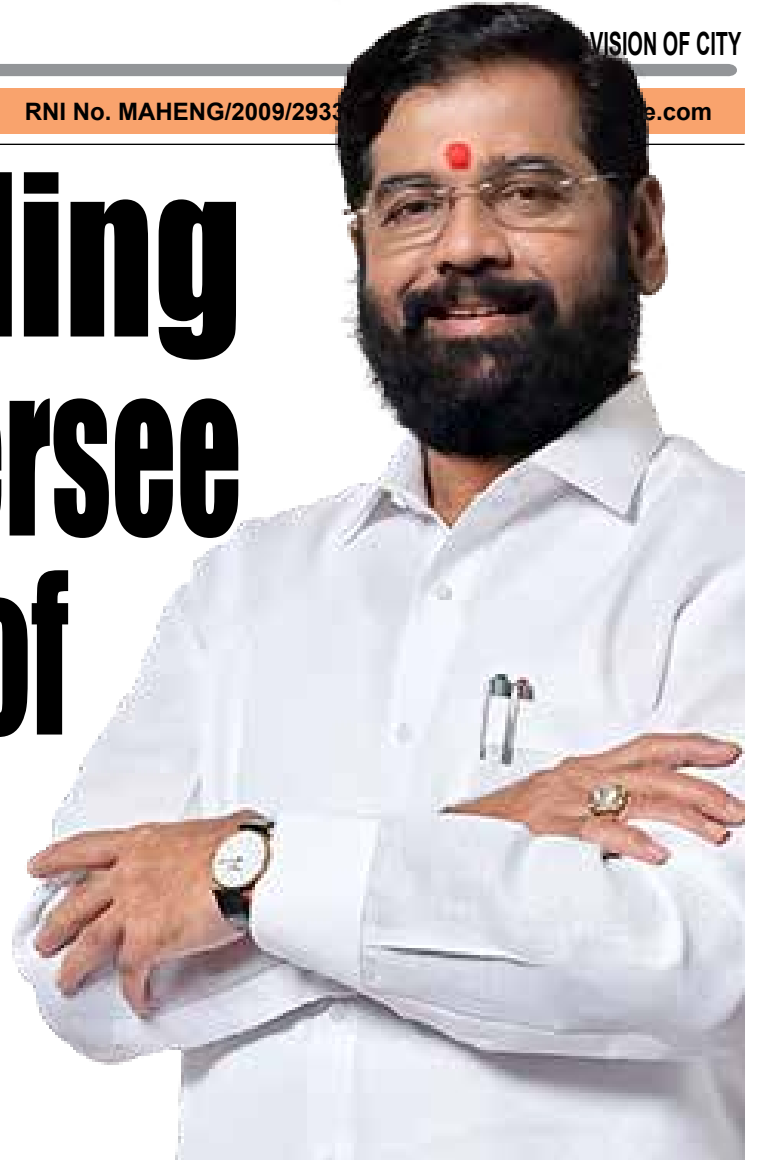
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CM Shinde heading the committee to oversee the implementation of schemes for the Dhangar community



AV Team

The Maharashtra cabinet on Tuesday formed a high-power committee to oversee the implementation of schemes meant for the Dhangar community. The state government has announced a total of 13 schemes for the Dhangar community, for which Rs 140 crore allocated was made in August 2019. The commit-

tee is authorised to present new schemes if needed and will oversee the implementation and control of the schemes. The committee is authorised to present new schemes if needed and will oversee the implementation and control of the schemes. Dhangars form an important part of ruling BJP's support base and the community has been demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status from its existing OBC status.

"In one of the housing schemes meant for Dhangars, not a single beneficiary could be identified since the scheme was never publicised or taken to the public. One of the reasons is also lack of follow up from the administrative level," said an official from the OBC welfare department.

While delivering the budget for the year 2023-24, the then Finance minister Devendra Fadnavis had announced that

the funds will be made available and a high-power committee will be formed to oversee the implementation of the schemes. The committee will include the finance minister, OBC Welfare minister, Tribal Development Minister, Rural Development Department minister, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries development minister and one non-government member from each of the revenue divisions belonging to the Dhangar community.

There are many interstate gangs bullying people with bank fraud

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The financial cybercrime is on rise and above all there are some Interstate gangs that are targeting citizens at ATMs. The Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar (MBVV) police in Maharashtra have detected 16 cases with the arrest of four persons who distracted people at ATM centres and stole their money. But telephone money scams are yet to be controlled. In a crackdown on ATM frauds across Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli and nearby areas, the anti-extortion cell of Thane police arrested four members of an inter-district gang after solving eight such cases. The accused used to trick women, senior citizens and teenagers on the pretext of helping them at the ATM centers and replace their ATM cards, get its PIN and use it to withdraw money.

The gang had managed to withdraw lakhs of rupees from the ATM centers in this manner. A total of 101 ATM cards were seized from them by the police. The police have recovered ₹ 70,000 in cash and ₹ 4.06 lakh-worth of vehicles and other items used by the gang to carry out the crime. The commoners are gullible targets and the police are sometimes most helpless. There was one television series called Jamtara – Sabka Number Ayega, it showed how these group of small-town young men run a lucrative phishing operation, until a corrupt politician wants in on their scheme — and a cop wants to fight it.

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Editoritis

There are many interstate gangs bullying people with bank fraud

▶▶ PAGE 1



In real life too there are youngsters who trap their targets through social engineering. There are a bunch of small-town young guns that operate a successful phishing racket.

Phishing attacks, where a cybercriminal sends a deceptive message that's designed to fool a user into providing sensitive information such as credit card numbers or to launch malware on the user's system, are on the rise.

Fraudsters send messages over email, text or social media, posing as trusted organisations to trick people into handing over money or personal details.

In real life too there are youngsters who trap their targets through social engineering. There are a bunch of small-town young guns that operate a successful phishing racket. Phishing attacks, where a cybercriminal sends a deceptive message that's designed to fool a user into providing sensitive information such as credit card numbers or to launch malware on the user's system, are on the rise. There was a 61% increase in the rate of phishing attacks in the six months ending October 2022 compared to the previous year.

The attacks are also getting more sophisticated, and are spreading beyond emails to text messages and other forms of personal communication. Phishing is on the rise, and anyone who uses email, text messaging, and other forms of communication is a potential victim.

Fraudsters send messages over email, text or social media, posing as trusted organisations to trick people into handing over money or personal details. But who is most at risk, and what can we do to protect ourselves? New data have revealed half of adults reported receiving a "phishing" message in the month before being asked. Those aged 25 to 44 years are most likely to be targeted, according to results from the Telephone-operated Crime Survey of England and Wales (TCSEW).

Traditionally sent via email, phishing involves messages from fraudsters posing as legitimate organisations to extract personal information, or money, from the victim. They have exploited significant events, including the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the rising cost of living, to target victims. There is also evidence of fraudsters taking advantage of widespread behavioural changes because of the pandemic, such as the rise in online shopping.

This includes a nine-fold rise in "advance fee fraud" (victims making upfront payments for goods or services which then do not materialise) and a 57% rise in "consumer and retail fraud" from pre-pandemic levels. Advance fee fraud is significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels

An October 2022 study by messaging security provider SlashNext analyzed billions of link-based URLs, attachments,

and natural language messages in email, mobile and browser channels over a six-month period, and found more than 255 million attacks. That's a 61% increase in the rate of phishing attacks compared with 2021. The study revealed that cybercriminals are shifting their attacks to mobile and personal communication channels to reach users. It showed a 50% increase in attacks on mobile devices, with scams and credential theft at the top of the list of payloads.

One of the iterations of phishing that people need to be aware of is spear phishing, a more targeted form of phishing that often uses topical lures. While it is not a new tactic, the topics and themes might evolve with world or even seasonal events. During regional tax seasons, threat actors might similarly try to exploit users in the process of filing their taxes with phishing emails that contain tax themes in the subject line.

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Tips for Preparation of CAT for Non-Engineering students



- Vijay Garg

The Common Admission Test is a highly competitive and prestigious entrance exam in India that opens the door to enrol in renowned management colleges in the country, including the IIMs.

Also, while there is a common belief that the examination is primarily for individuals from engineering backgrounds, students from diverse academic backgrounds can also ace the exam and achieve remarkable results with the right strategies and preparation.

Let us delve deeper into the effective tips and approaches that students from non-engineering backgrounds can embrace to enhance their chances of cracking the exam:

1. Cultivating the Right Mindset: A significant number of non-engineering students often find the Quantitative Ability section to be very challenging. However, it's necessary to approach this section with a positive mindset and confidence. Keep in mind that it's possible to achieve the sectional cut-off with only a few correct answers. Hence, maintaining a positive attitude is crucial for success here.

2. Mastering Fundamental Concepts: Prior to commencing your preparation for the QA section, it is vital to review fundamental mathematical concepts. Focus on arithmetic topics like percentages, profit and loss, ratios, and proportions, as well as algebra. A firm grasp of these elementary principles will provide a solid foundation for tackling more complex problems in the QA section.

3. Recognising areas of Improvement: Some students may face challenges with certain topics covered in the QA section. These could include geometry, number systems, or any other topic. It is, therefore, necessary to identify your weak points early on in your preparation and dedicate ad-

ditional time to enhance your knowledge of these topics. With consistent practice and a focused approach, you can overcome these challenges and improve your performance.

4. Effective Time Management: Effective time management is an essential aspect of preparing for the CAT exam, especially in the Quantitative Aptitude section. In this regard, consistent practice with time-bound exercises can enhance your speed and accuracy. Furthermore, practising with a timer can mimic exam conditions and boost your time management skills.

5. Identifying areas of Strength: The sections on Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension and Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning can considerably add to your overall percentile. Hence, students are advised to focus on practising and improving performance in these sections to enhance their overall score.

6. Embracing Shortcut Methods: When working on quantitative problems, it's advantageous to learn shortcut methods and tricks. There are often multiple methods to solve a problem, and students are advised to familiarise themselves with these shortcuts as they can save them the necessary time during the exam. However, it is essential to note the underlying concepts as shortcuts are meant to optimise your knowledge, not replace it.

7. Focussing on Selective Topics: Lastly, while it is necessary to cover all the topics in the CAT syllabus, it is equally important to allocate more time and effort to areas that hold more weight in the CAT exam. Students who don't have an engineering background should lay emphasis on topics like arithmetic and algebra as they are likely to be included more often in the question paper.

Letters to the Editor

Great diet for students!

Nutritional food is provided to the students of classes 1 to 8 in government schools in the state. The state government has now decided to include eggs and bananas in this diet. Accordingly, students will get eggs twice a week in their diet. Eggs cannot be adulterated. Moreover, it has a lot of nutritional value. So it is a good diet for students. Farmers doing poultry business will also benefit from this. It is good that the government is focusing on providing more nutritious food to school students. At the same time, it is expected that the government should pay attention to the educational progress of the students!

Sudhir Kangutkar

Proud Moment

India's women's hockey team performed brilliantly and brought glory to the country by defeating Japan 4-0 in the final of the Women's Hockey Asia Cup in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The Indian women's hockey team performed brilliantly in

this tournament and entered the finals by defeating strong teams like South Korea and Malaysia. The Indian hockey team has been performing consistently well since the Tokyo Olympics 2020, in which India finished fourth. Recently, India also had a great performance in the Asian Games, in which India got the bronze medal.

The Indian women's team has secured the ticket for the Paris Olympics by winning the final match in the Asia Hockey Cup played in Ranchi. This is also a big achievement. The Indian women's team is at eighth place in the ranking, but now India's ranking will also improve and with new confidence it will perform brilliantly in the 2024 Paris Olympics. In this tournament, the Indian men's hockey team also performed brilliantly and secured the ticket for the Paris Olympics by winning the gold medal. In this way, India's women's and men's team performed brilliantly on which India is proud.

N. Ashraf

Spirit of the game is important but so is respecting the rules!

Spirit of the game is important but so is respecting the rules of any sport. Angelo Matthews became the first ever

batsman in international cricket to be 'Timed Out' but it is good for the future of cricket as no batsmen will indulge in time wasting tactics from hereon. Fielding teams falter & lag behind in overrate for which they are often penalized. Shakib Al Hasan was within his right in appealing against Angelo Mathew though he may have been trolled for his actions.

Winning is all that matters at the end in a professional sport & today's sportsmen earn in millions and should be aware of the rules of sports they play. Unfair play is if one tries to 'cheat' & the much talked of decision of Umpire declaring a batsman 'Timed Out' was fair play & respecting the rules of the game!

S.N.Kabra

Deepfake challenge

Recent deepfake videos of actors Rashmika Mandanna and then Katrina Kaif showed us how helpless we are, as dupes and victims of AI. It is alarming how people are misusing technology. How do they get these ideas from? Even a celebrity is no exception, so imagine what can happen to a normal girl or a boy. The cyber cell needs to be more proactive. The cyber cases should be stricter with their policies. Social media

needs to filter out certain things or else it will be a menace for people, businesses, and governments.

Jahangir Shaikh

Zika Virus, A New Virus

India is continuously dealing with several viruses, first Coronavirus then Nipah and now one more virus namely Zika virus is arousing. The virus was spread by the Aedes mosquitoes and ... was usually harmless. Its first infection was reported on October 30 and after that a medical camp was organised in the area on November 1 during which 24 samples were collected and sent for testing. However, it affects pregnant women and can cause birth defects such as microcephaly in the foetus. The Health Department advised that children and the elderly should be especially careful not to get bitten by mosquitoes. Nevertheless, all should be careful, use all necessity precautions for it and act upon issued directives.

Mohammad Taukir

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

UBT Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray slams CM Eknath Shinde over issue of pollution, says "This work is a scam"

Four contractors who are yet to start cement concretisation work on Mumbai's roads must be blacklisted and probed, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray said on Thursday. He alleged Chief Minister Ekanth Shinde was initially hesitant to sign the termination order of Rs 1600-crore road cement concretisation work given to a contractor but did so late at night. "For the last 11 months, I have been saying this work is a scam," the MLA from Worli in Mumbai said. The contract given to five entities was "bogus tendering" on which he had spoken in the past, Thackeray said, adding "it is an open and shut case of corruption".

The Shinde government had forgotten to give bonus to Bri-



hanmumbai Municipal Corporation and civic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport undertaking staffers but announced bonus of Rs 26,000 just six to seven hours after he put out a message on social media, Thackeray claimed. Attacking the government for the deteriorating air

quality in the metropolis, Thackeray alleged every move of the Shinde government was "contractor driven", which may benefit the CM but not the citizens.

The state government must show strength to act against builders who are violating air pollution norms, Thackeray said.

People must send photographs of such violations to the BMC and its chief, the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader added. The air quality of Mumbai is "terrible" and multiple guidelines issued by the BMC since January this year in connection with pollution have not been followed, he alleged. "Every time

there is terrible air quality, the BMC comes together and tries to help a new contractor,"

Thackeray said and alleged the CM is pushing his illegal contractor friends. The state has an industries minister but no industry is getting set up nor is investment coming in, he said. There is an agriculture minister but Maharashtra sees the highest number of farmers' suicides, Thackeray claimed.

Shinde is busy trying to save his government and no is listening to the citizens of the state, he added. The Bharatiya Janata Party lost in Karnataka and is on the way out in MP (where Assembly polls will be held on November 17) and, similarly, the Shinde government will also be unseated soon, Thackeray asserted. PTI

Ten policemen were injured while arresting the alleged criminal at Thane district



Ten policemen from Mumbai were injured after they were attacked with stones and other projectiles while trying to arrest an alleged criminal in neighbouring Thane district, an official said on Thursday. On

the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, a team of cops from Mumbai's Andheri police station reached the Irani Basti area in Ambivali near Kalyan to arrest a man involved in a serious crime, he said. As the news of police

presence in the area spread, several locals, including women, pelted stones and other objects at them.

The station house officer of Khadakpada police station in Kalyan said the cops were taken by surprise as they were not familiar with the area. At least 10 policemen suffered minor injuries, he said. The official said many police parties have come under attack in the past at Irani Basti when they attempted to arrest alleged criminals from there. A case was being registered in connection with the attack on the police team, he said. PTI

Air Pollution: CM Eknath Shinde said, "Govt is working to curb pollution by washing roads and clearing debris"

The Maharashtra government will work on a war-footing to curb pollution by washing Mumbai's roads and clearing debris from construction sites, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Thursday.

Talking to reporters after chairing a review meeting on the issue, Shinde said he had detailed discussions with the environment ministry, civic chiefs, collectors from other parts of the state on ways to tackle rising pollution levels. "I have given instructions to concerned authorities to take up



the task of curbing pollution on a war-footing. The BMC has been asked to use more manpower to clean roads using water and hire tankers for the purpose," the CM said. The CM said foggers (devices that create fog through intense spraying) must be used at construction sites, while the administration has been asked to focus on urban deforestation. PTI

Police seized 29 stolen mobile phones from Navi Mumbai, 4 held

Police have arrested four persons from Navi Mumbai and seized 29 stolen mobile phones from their possession, an official said on Thursday. With these arrests, the police have detected 17 offences of mobile phone thefts registered in Panvel taluka, Kamothe, Taloja, Panvel town, Khandeshwar, Kalamboli, Kharghar and CBD police station areas in Navi Mumbai, senior



police inspector Umesh Gavli said. After analysing CCTV footage and based on intelligence

and technical inputs, the police on Wednesday arrested the four persons, all habitual offenders in the age group of 19 to 24 and hailing from Jalna, Hingoli, Yavatmal and Satara, he said. The accused were working as masons in Navi Mumbai, the official said. The police have seized 29 stolen mobiles and a motorbike collectively worth Rs 5.02 lakh from the accused, he added. PTI

Railway Police arrested two persons for throwing stones at train

The Government Railway Police have arrested two persons for allegedly throwing stones at a CSMT-bound AC local train in Maharashtra's Thane district which left a woman commuter injured on Thursday, an official said.

A GRP official said that the AC suburban train was on its way from Titwala to CSMT in Mum-

bai when stones were pelted at it between Thakurli and Dombivali during the morning peak hours. The stones damaged a window and injured a 28-year-old woman on the train, he said. The GRP went through the footage of CCTV cameras installed on railway premises in the area and nabbed two persons, he said, adding that a probe is underway. PTI

Nation

Manipur: Government extends mobile internet ban till November 13



The Manipur government on Thursday extended mobile internet ban across the state by five more days till November 13, officials said. The ban, however, will not be enforced in the four hill district headquarters which have not been affected by ethnic strife, officials added.

The state government said the decision to extend the ban was taken "as there is apprehension that anti-social elements might use social media extensively

for transmission of images, hate speeches and video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the state."

A home department order said, "There is imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public private property and widespread disturbances to public tranquility and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and rumours, which might be transmitted/circulated to the

public through social media." "To thwart the designs of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours through various social media platforms," the order added.

The order also said, "the state government had already opened few mobile towers in few district headquarters which had not been affected by violence in the first instance and is considering to open and operationalise more mobile towers in other district headquarters on a trial basis." On Tuesday, the Manipur government lifted mobile internet ban in the district headquarters of Ukhrul, Senapati, Chandel and Tamenglong, which are Nagamajority areas, on a temporary basis. ANI

Tamil Nadu: Police seized 300 kg ganja, 8 held

Tamil Nadu police have arrested eight people and seized 300 kg of ganja in Nagapattinam district which was meant to be transported to Sri Lanka via maritime route, police said on Thursday. According to officials, the police in the Nagapattinam district on Wednesday seized 300 kg of ganja, which was brought from the Andhra-Odisha border and intended to be smuggled to Sri Lanka via the ocean route.

The police seized two four-wheeler vehicles, a Hyundai Creta and a Volkswagen Taigun, and three two-wheelers from the accused, Nagapattinam Superintendent of Police Harsh Singh said while speaking to ANI. He said that the total value of today's seizure stands at 55 lakhs, with about 30 lakhs worth of Ganja products weighing 300 kg and the remaining 25 lakhs worth of vehicles that were seized, including



ing the two four-wheelers.

According to the police official, this incident is similar to an incident that happened two months ago in September when the police seized 300 kg of ganja from the same border, which was intended to be smuggled to Sri Lanka. So, in the last two months, the Nagapattinam district police have seized a total of 600 kg of ganja, SP Singh added. ANI

Delhi Air Pollution: Environment Minister Gopal Rai held a review meeting over increasing levels

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday held a review meeting with his cabinet colleagues amid prevailing concerns over the rising levels of pollution in the National Capital. The meeting was attended by Finance and Revenue Minister Atishi, Health Minister Saurabh Bhargava, Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot, Social Welfare Minister Rajkumar Anand and Food and Supply Minister Imran Hussain.

Speaking to ANI after the meeting, Rai said, "...Senior officers, secretaries and department HoDs have been asked to be on-ground to monitor the pollution situation. As per the weather department, there may be clouds next two days". "It is expected the wind speed will remain the same as today till the next week. In this situation we need to control the sources of pollution," He added. Speaking with ANI, Minister Saurabh Bhargava suggest-

ed inducing artificial rain through cloud seeding to "bring down" the smog suspended in the air.

"Delhi has such a geological position that some big cities along with it get polluted during this time of the year and the AQI reaches 'Severe' level. One option is artificial rain through cloud seeding to settle down the smog suspended in the environment," he suggested. He further said that they had a meeting with experts at IIT Kanpur and the government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with them.

According to the data issued by the System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR-India), AQI in Delhi University was recorded at 392 (very poor category), while Dhirpur area the AQI stood at 456 (severe category) at 3 pm today. The air quality at Lodi Road was recorded at 360 (very poor category), while NOIDA stands at 464 (severe category) at 3 pm today. ANI

Madhya Pradesh: Rahul Gandhi accuses PM Modi over different tones on the issue of caste

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of speaking in different tones on the issue of caste and noted that caste census can be the basis to tackle unemployment in the country. Addressing a rally in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Rahul Gandhi said Congress will make farmers, labourers and small shopkeepers the foundation of the state and the party will waive off loans of 27 lakh farmers.

Rahul Gandhi said a Con-

gress government in the state will go for caste census. "There's a misunderstanding that MP and MLAs run the government. I've seen the government from within. The Indian government is being run by 90 senior officials along with PM Narendra Modi. These 90 officials allocate the budget of India...PM Modi says that it's an OBC government and out of these 90 officials how many are OBCs?" he asked.

The Congress leader stated that PM Modi said a few days

back in his speech that there's only one caste in India and that is "poor". "On one side he says that his name is Narendra Modi and he's OBC and on the other side he says that there's only one caste that is 'poor'...I met lakhs of youth and when I asked them if they are unemployed what's their caste, they used to say that they are Dalit, OBC or Adivasi...If there are 50 per cent OBCs in the country then to run the government, their share in the government should be the same," Gandhi said. ANI

Jammu and Kashmir: A terrorist was killed in the encounter at Shopian district

A terrorist belonging to The Resistance Front (TRF) was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Kathohalan area of the south Kashmir district following inputs regarding the presence of a terrorist there, a

police spokesman said.

As the search team personnel approached the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon them, which was retaliated effectively, he said. In the ensuing encounter, the terrorist, identified as Maiser Ahamd Dar alias Adil, a resident of Vishroo Payeen, was killed and his body was retrieved from the site

of the encounter, the spokesman said.

He was linked with the proscribed terror outfit TRF. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation, the spokesman added. PTI

World

US: Indian student stabbed at a fitness centre, dies, attacker held

Varun Raj Pucha, the 24-year-old Indian student who was stabbed at a fitness centre in the US state of Indiana, has succumbed to his injuries, the university where he was studying has said. Varun, a Computer Science student at Valparaiso University, was stabbed in the head with a knife by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on October 29 for reasons that the authorities are still investigating.

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Varun Raj Pucha. Our campus community has lost one of its own, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Varun's family and friends as we mourn this devastating loss, Valparaiso University, a private university in Valparaiso, Indian, near Chicago said in a statement on Wednesday.



Following the incident, the attacker was arrested and is facing charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted murder. The university continues to be in contact with Varun's family, and we will continue to offer assistance and support wherever possible as they

navigate this extremely difficult time. We ask that you join us in keeping them in your thoughts and prayers, the university said. A service of remembrance and memorial for Varun is being planned on campus for November 16.

Our university gives the family and friends of Varun Raj Pu-

cha our deepest condolences. Our thoughts are with his family, and we pray for their healing, said the university. Varun had been pursuing an MS in Computer Science and left for the US in August 2022. He was expected to return home (Telangana's Khammam) after completion of his course

next year. His cousin told ABC7 Chicago that his condition did not improve after the incident. He only had movement on one side of his body and remained unconscious at a hospital in Fort Wayne before his death.

Anile Balleboyne is one of just a couple of relatives the student had in the US as his parents and the rest of the family are in India. She said he came to Indiana about a year and a half ago in hopes of getting a good education. "It's very difficult because no one would expect this kind of situation for their kids. He has many dreams. He came with many dreams, to financially and emotionally support his family," Balleboyne said. By Wednesday, the North American Telugu Society had raised USD 90,000 through GoFundMe for Varun's family. ANI

Africa: Ethnic groups in Sudan are being targeted by RSF



African ethnic groups in the Sudan Darfur region have been rounded up by members of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and other Arab militants according to videos and images verified and geolocated by CNN. Multiple videos emerged over the weekend, one of them was located in Ardamata, an outlying district in El Geneina city in West Darfur state. In the videos racist slurs are heard to be said, in reference to the captives as "dogs" whilst telling them to "gather here", CNN reports.

In another cut of the video, the same men in fatigues can be seen whipping the men. At one point the men appear to be forced to run down the street. A man fires shots. In another video, filmed less than a five-min-

ute drive from the first video, the RSF logo appears visible on the uniforms of some of the men dressed in light-coloured fatigues who appear to be controlling the men huddled together on the ground. The word "liquidation" is mentioned and the words "slay them".

According to witnesses and aid groups operating in the region, ethnic-related killings have intensified since fighting broke out in mid-April between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF. The United Nations' human rights body (UNJHRO), said that in September it had received reports of at least 13 mass graves in El Geneina believed to contain civilians from the ethnic Masalit tribe, the civilians were allegedly killed during attacks by the RSF and Arab militias. ANI

Amid ongoing war between Israel-Hamas, IDF says "They have destroyed 130 tunnels since beginning"

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have said that the combat engineers are working continuously to destroy Hamas terrorist infrastructure and added that they have destroyed at least 130 tunnels since the beginning of the war. The Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel through land, sea and air, as they carried out the October 7 assault, killing innocent people, which included not only men and women but also the elderly and children as

well.

In a post on social media platform X, the IDF wrote, "IDF combat engineers are currently working to expose and destroy Hamas terrorist infrastructure in Gaza, including tunnels." "Water and oxygen storage discovered inside the tunnels indicates Hamas' preparations for prolonged stays underground. 130 tunnel entrances have been destroyed since the beginning of the war," it added. Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has once again said there will be no ceasefire without the release of hostages by Hamas. "There will be no ceasefire without the release of our hostages," the Israeli Prime Minister wrote on 'X' on Thursday. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Wednesday, "We won't let Hamas' win, we will rebuild our communities in southern Israel and we will continue to live our lives." ANI

Israeli strikes pounded Gaza City, PM says "Any temporary cease-fire would have to be accompanied by the release of hostages"

Israeli strikes pounded Gaza City overnight into Thursday as ground forces battled Hamas militants in dense urban neighbourhoods from which tens of thousands have fled in recent days.

Israeli troops were around 3 kilometres from Shifa Hospital in the heart of downtown, the hospital's director said. Israel has been vague on troop movements, but officials say Gaza's largest city is the focus of their campaign to crush Hamas following its deadly October 7 assault inside Israel.

Amid a drumbeat of inter-

national concern over dire conditions inside Gaza, mediators were closing in on a possible deal for a three-day cease-fire in exchange for the release of around a dozen hostages held by Hamas, according to two Egyptian officials, a United Nations official and a Western diplomat. The deal would also allow a small amount of fuel to enter the territory, which is currently reliant on generators for electricity, for the first time since the war began.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said any temporary cease-fire would have to

be accompanied by the release of hostages. Israel has said around 240 hostages are currently held in Gaza. Their plight has galvanized Israeli support for the war despite growing international concerns.

Western and Arab officials gathered in Paris on Thursday to discuss ways of providing more aid to civilians in Gaza, a day after the Group of Seven wealthy democracies, which includes close allies of Israel, called for the "unimpeded" delivery of food, water, medicine and fuel, and for "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting. ANI

Expression

Dhanteras Festival of Prosperity, Happiness and Joy



Lalit Garg

Columnist

Dhanteras is the festival of Prosperity, Happiness and Joy that can boost economic growth. Literal meaning of Dhanteras is qualitative correction of the economy. On this day, lamps of hope are decorated in homes and in markets currency is exchanged. It is believed that things purchased on this day increase manifold. It has been told in the scriptures that by taking some measures on this day, the wealth of the grain is filled eternally in the house and the grace of Mother Lakshmi remains forever. According to the Indian system, all the worship is coordinated behavior of these three forms i.e. physical, spiritual and semi-spiritual. According to religious beliefs, in this festival Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped physically in the form of gold, silver, coins etc., and spiritually by accepting the relationship with the Divine Lakshmi.

The decoration of houses with flowers, diyas, rangoli patterns etc. is done to reveal the beauty of Lakshmi's spiritual form. The worship of Goddess Lakshmi i.e. abode of wealth and happiness and prosperity is done in this festival in the above three ways. When we meditate on wealth, we thank the universal soul for its abundance. We also pray for more so that we can become more prosperous. This prosperity is not only of gold and silver but also of knowledge, joy, confidence, peace and love. Gold silver is only an external symbol. Wealth is within us. There is a lot of love, peace and joy within. What more do you want than this? Knowledge is real wealth. Your character, your peace and self-confidence are your real wealth. When you move forward in union with God, there is no more wealth than this. This royal idea comes only when you are united with God and his infinity. When the wave remembers that it is associated with the sea and is part of the ocean, it gives immense power.

Dharma (Righteousness), Artha (Prosperity), Kama (Pleasure) and Moksha (liberation) have been the objectives of life in Indian culture. There have always been efforts to achieve them. Along with them religion has also been given equal importance and the need to coordinate between the two has also been expressed, but

whenever their efforts to coordinate are weakened, then there is an imbalance and chaos in the society. It has been said in the scriptures that the meaning of wealth is only when the life of a person is full of virtues. But in recent years, our society's mindset and standards regarding prosperity have changed. Today, prosperity has come to mean only financial prosperity. Human values and ideologies have been marginalized in the society and earning money and wishing money is becoming the biggest goal. Why did this happen? Are these the seeds of this trend in our traditions or is it a result of market pressures? Where will this kind of mentality take society? These are some important questions, which need to be churned on a holy festival like Dhanteras.

Lakshmi's form is trident. She lives in body, mind and money. There are five types of happiness - body, mind, wealth, wife and children. There are eight forms of Lakshmi. Adya Lakshmi or Mahalakshmi (Virgo), Dhan Lakshmi (wealth, wealth, investment, economy), Dhanya Lakshmi (food), Gajalakshmi (animal and natural wealth), Sanatana Lakshmi (good fortune, health, age and prosperity), Veera Lakshmi (heroic) Lakshmi means Defense, Security), Vijaya Lakshmi (Digdiganta Vijay), Vidya Lakshmi (Knowledge, Knowledge, Art Science), these eight forms combine to form the festival of Goddess Mahalakshmi. Diwali means Festival of Lights. Wherever there is light of these eight forms, the spirit of Diwali definitely exists. Lakshmi's adobe is not restricted to a small unit. She resides everywhere. The richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor are entitled to the light and prosperity. This means that Lakshmi resides in mind. She is the confirmation of body, mind, wealth, family and children.

May this Dhanteras our prosperity be qualitative, but the new outlook that is flourishing in the name of prosperity is not only fatal but also a serious sign of danger to human existence. Capitalism riding on the back of imperialism has increased the richness of the rich on one hand and on the other hand, poverty has also increased. The gap between richness and poverty is increasing rather than decreasing, as a result of which we can see the horrors of war, terrorism, communalism, which have the consequences of violence, hatred, malice in society, Greed, fierce competition, relationship cracks etc. Most impacts have emerged as environmental imbalances and pollution. Due to limited prosperity in a few hands, not only large and so-called affluent people, but a



large section of the country has fallen victim to zero degeneration due to ill-humanism.

Many evils came home without being called. Like world wars between Israel-Hamas and Russia and Ukraine. We Created terrorism. Man-to-man has become insecure. Prohibitive rites such as violence, lies, theft, rape, collection have caught man. Not only the faces have lost their identity but also the character. The centers of policy and loyalty have begun to change. The foundations of faith have begun to weaken. The blind race of meaning connected the individual with collection, convenience, pleasure, luxury and selfishness.

The problem that appeared was - the less the substance, the more the consumer. Individualistic attitude awakened. In the struggle for selfishness, injustice and exploitation started happening. Everyone feels alone. Surely there is an error in our worship of our wealth and the worship that is being done to achieve it. Our attitude towards money is dissonant. In this process, how is the true spirit of Diwali and Dhanteras celebrated? Because all the social beliefs, human values, dignities are being considered as the standard of success, whatever the amount of money collected, politics, literature, art, religion are all being weighed on the scales of money. This trend is leading to very dangerous results.

Prosperity has been the dream of every era and has been included in the essentials of life. In a relative view, prosperity is not bad, but bad is the mindset in which some people are distinguished by the basic needs of a large number of people by virtue of their exploitation. Bad is that glorious display of prosperity that opens opportunities

for crime to flourish. There is bitterness in the relationship between your loved ones, drawing the lines of distinction.

There is more competition for collections than necessary. Uncontrolled demand and sensory incontinence has risen. Rituals of violence and attachment awakened. With prosperity, a person's habit, aptitude, aspiration, and many more are affected by upscale and taken the wrong direction. The person makes false appearances in the glare of fashion. Drinks, intoxicated by drugs. Breaks the dignity of food and drink. The so-called modern lifestyle of prosperity has led to a dislike for life values. The changing meaning of prosperity can become welfare only when character loyalty and morality are maintained along with prosperity. It is important to adopt pure means, so that the means obtained in the form of prosperity are used with the right goal in the right direction. Awaken the consciousness of immersion with the collection. Desire is substantive restraint, moderation along with enjoyment is also necessary.

The changing patterns of prosperity give rise to formations, give creativity to the ideological outlook, and stop the evils that flourish with modernity, move forward by building faith and humanity. Where have you been safe today - with the ideal of prosperity reaching man with faith? Who moderates their facilities? Who does the immersion of goodness? Who is able to give restraint to selfishness? Even if we do not have a car or other luxuries we must have the ability of character qualities because on the strength of this ability, we can make ourselves super powerful,

Entertainment



Director Maneesh Sharma talks about the weapons used, says "We wanted to make action sequences that people can't stop talking about"

Salman Khan is all set to light up the silver screen with his latest release 'Tiger 3' this Diwali. Helmed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' is the fifth film in the YRF Spy Universe after Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda Hai, War and Pathaan.

After revealing that Salman has a 10-minute long entry scene in the film, Maneesh Sharma opened up about the weaponry used by the actors.

"When we were making this film we had one thing in mind - scale. We have used so many tanks, choppers guns ballistic missile bazookas lacs of bullets and more in a single action sequence. While enjoying this bombastic Tiger moment we've also striven to use weaponry used by elite armies of the world. So it's crazy and big and fantastic but it's also very real," he shared. "We wanted to make action sequences that people can't stop talking about. When you see what Salman Khan aka Tiger is up against I think you'll understand just how high our ambitions were for the action! I hope sequences like these get audiences riveted to their seats when they see our action spectacle on the big screen on Sunday," Sharma said. 'Tiger 3' also stars Emraan Hashmi and Katrina Kaif. **ANI**

Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'The Archies' unveils its trailer

And the wait is over. The trailer of Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'The Archies' is out. The Netflix film marks the acting debut of Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan, producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda.

'The Archies', a coming-of-age musical, follows the lives of Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead, Reggie, Ethel and Dilton who will take audiences to the fictional hilly town of Riverdale. The film explores friendship, freedom love, heartbreak and rebellion.

The trailer unfolds a musical narrative led by seven charming characters from the beloved Archie comics, steering through the retro alleys of love, friendship, and youthful aspirations. The trailer signs off with a profound message – 'You are never too young to change the world.' Expressing excitement about the film, Zoya Akhtar said, "Having spent a lot of my childhood living in an Archie Comic, I'm thrilled to introduce Riverdale to this generation. **ANI**



Sci-fi action film Venom 3 is all set for its release



Sony Pictures has pushed back the third 'Venom' movie to November 8, 2024. The announcement came the same day that Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) approve a tentative deal to end the 118-day actors strike, according to Variety. Previously, makers of the sci-fi action film have announced the official release date of the film as July 12, 2024.

According to Variety, the third installment of the 'Venom' series, which is untitled at this time, was originally set for a July 12, 2024, release date. Kelly Marcel, who wrote and produced the first two "Venom" movies, directs the upcoming superhero film from a screenplay she wrote. Marcel and Hardy developed "Venom 3's" story and produced alongside Avi Arad, Matt Tolmach, Amy Pascal, and Hutch Parker. **ANI**

Hollywood actor Zac Efron says, "He would be honored to play Mathew Perry in a biopic"

Hollywood actor Zac Efron remembered his late '17 Again' co-star Matthew Perry while walking the red carpet for the world premiere of his new film 'The Iron Claw' in Dallas, Texas, reported People. He told People that he would love to play Perry, who died last month at the age of 54 in a future biopic as Perry previously expressed he would want Efron for the role.

"I'm honored to hear he was thinking of me to play him," Efron said. "We'll see. I'd be honored to do it." Noting that he is "devastated" by Perry's loss, Efron also recounts fond memories he has of filming the 2009 comedy '17 Again' alongside the 'Friends' star. "He was a mentor to me, and we made a really cool film together," he says. "I looked up to him, I learned comedic timing from that guy. I mean, when we were filming 17 Again, it was so surreal for me to look across and have him be there, because I've learned so much from him, from his whole life." **ANI**

