shortstories

MAN ARRESTED WITH ₹42-LAKH BANNED NOTES

THANE: A man from Nalasopara was arrested with banned notes worth Rs42 lakh at Mumbra on Friday. Ahmed Mohammed Shoaib Shaikh, 42, works in a private firm. The police said that they got a tip off about Shaikh, who was about to come to Mumbra railway station to exchange the banned notes at a commission. He was caught red-handed.
HTC

Autorickshaw driver held for kidnapping woman

DOMBIVLI: An autorickshaw driver was arrested for allegedly kidnapping a woman in Dombivli on Friday. Shankar Vilaswath, in his 30s, is a resident of Dombivli. The woman is a local BJP leader in the area. She was heading to Dombivli station with a few others and hailed Vilaswath's vehicle. He refused to ferry them. An argument ensued and the man grabbed the woman's hand and pulled her into the rickshaw. He drove off, but was chased down by locals and handed over to the police.
HTC

Officials arrested for graft in 3 separate incidents

KOLHAPUR: A circle officer from the revenue department was arrested by the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) for accepting a bribe of Rs20,000 to update land documents for a farmer. Another woman officer was arrested for accepting bribe of Rs7,000 to update documents. In another incident, the canal inspector of the irrigation department was arrested while accepting a bribe of Rs10,000.
HTC

This Ganpati, mandals all set to promote organ donations

NOBLE ACT 10 mandals in Thane and Kalyan, 20 in Andheri will organise acts and drives on donation

bappa beat
CITY'S FAVOURITE FEST

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MUMBAI: This year, many Ganesh mandals across the city and the suburbs will spread awareness on a noble cause through its festivities. Around 10 mandals in Thane and Kalyan, 20 in Andheri and a few in Vasai plan to spread awareness on organ donation.

'We will have a small act running for our visitors. It will show how a person who died while clicking a selfie is blessed with a heavenly abode because he donated his organs,' said organisers from the Ganpati mandal next to Vasai court.

"We have written to the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation and Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation to draft a letter to the Municipal Commissioner and get us an approval, so we can run the campaign during festivities. We will receive permission in a day or two," said Prakash Desai, secretary, Jan Jagruti Creation Sanstha, in Andheri.

On the other hand, Dr Kamakshi Bhate, associate professor, department of preventive and social medicine, King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital, said that they had spoken to assistant commissioners of all 26 wards, and around 200 pandals have been informed about the campaign.

"There are around five lakh people who die every year because they do not receive organs. So, the civic body grants permission to spread the message for organ donation during these festivities," she said.

A few days back, Lalbaug Sarvajanik Utsav Mandal, known for its support to social causes apart from its famous Ganpati, organised a blood donation drive. It was supported by the State Blood Transfusion Council, and the National AIDS Control Programme. Approximately 20,000 people donated blood, and 15,248 bags passed the tests and were taken to blood banks.

"The day the drive ended, around 2,000 bags were airlifted to government-run hospitals in Nagpur, Gondia and Chandrapur. We also donated 1,500 bags to Military Hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir and some to various districts in Aurangabad," said Balasaheb Kamble, president of the mandal. The mandal also runs a dialysis centre all year round, where patients are provided treatment and snacks for Rs 100.

Kanmanagar Vikhroli Sarvajanik Ganesh Chaturthi provides physiotherapy services to the needy all year round.

MANDALS CELEBRATE, BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Around 10 mandals in Thane and Kalyan, 20 in Andheri and a few in Vasai plan to spread awareness on organ donation this year

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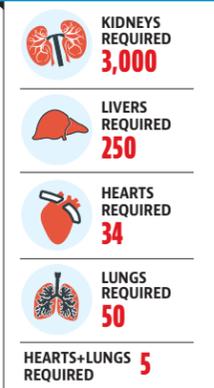
The mandal also runs a dialysis centre all year round, where patients are provided treatment and snacks for Rs 100.

Kanmanagar Vikhroli Sarvajanik Ganesh Chaturthi provides physiotherapy services to the needy not only during the festival, but all year around.

(With inputs from Shasta Kaul)

▪ A Ganpati idol made from auto spare parts at Goregaon on Friday. SATISH BATE/HT

5 LAKH PEOPLE DIE WITHOUT DONATION EVERY YEAR

KIDNEYS REQUIRED	3,000
LIVERS REQUIRED	250
HEARTS REQUIRED	34
LUNGS REQUIRED	50
HEARTS+LUNGS REQUIRED	5

Declare results of papers checked: State govt to MU

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MUMBAI: The state government on Friday asked the University of Mumbai (MU) to declare the results for papers that have been assessed so far. The move comes in the wake of the delay in declaration of exam results that has put MU in the spotlight.

The decision was taken in a review meeting between Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and other senior officials at Raj Bhavan on Friday.

Further, directives were issued to start the re-evaluation process immediately to avoid delay in issuing revised mark sheets. Moreover, MU has been asked to extend the deadline to submit mark sheets for admission to post-graduate courses. The state higher and technical education department will issue a notification to all universities except MU, to allow provisional admission to candidates based on the online result. The academic calendar will also be revised.

Vinod Tawde, state higher and technical education minister, who attended the meeting, said MU's Board of Examination and Evaluation has been asked to check if some results can be declared without waiting for the entire assessment process to be completed for each course.

"The university can declare results for a course by holding back a maximum of 10% of the unchecked papers. If the exam board allows, the university can declare almost 96% results," said Tawde, but refused to reveal a deadline for completion of assessment. Of 477 results, MU declared 354 results till August 17.

Sources privy to the development said that delay is likely to extend as there were many technical glitches. For instance, the varsity didn't have a standard mechanism to assign unique numbers to the question papers.

"A result grievance redressal cell will be set up by the university to resolve issues," said Tawde.

The university's Board of Examination and Evaluation, in a recent meeting, decided to partially declare the results of courses whose 90% papers have been assessed. "Declaring results with missing data is not good. We are speeding up the process," said Arjun Ghatule, in-charge director of the board.

Calling it a scam, Shiv Sena has demanded a thorough probe into the delay and appointing administrator for the MU. Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray said, "A harassment case should be filed against all those who are responsible for this mess," he said.

With inputs from Musab Qazi

SC RAPS STATE

'Ulhas, Waldhuni rivers dying; govt to blame'

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MUMBAI: The Supreme Court (SC) rapped the state government for allowing the Ulhas and Waldhuni rivers to degrade gradually because of pollution.

A court order from August 14, which was published on Friday, said that there was 'absolutely no coordination between authorities to protect the rivers'. The court asked the principal secretary, state environment department and member secretary of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to be present in person during the next hearing on September 18.

"We require their presence because the order passed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) shows that there is absolutely no coordination between authorities to protect the Ulhas and Waldhuni rivers," read the order passed by the court. "It is clear in the order that these rivers are more or less dead due to pollution."

The western bench of the NGT passed an order in July 2015 held Dombivli Industries Association (DBESA), Ulhas Nagar Municipal Corporation, the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation, the Ambarnath Municipal Council and others guilty of polluting Ulhas river with untreated effluents. The judgement imposed a penalty of Rs96 crore to restore the river.

The SC, however, said that the penalty amounts may not be deposited at this stage.

The court also ordered the two state government officers to appear before the court only after taking stock of the revival plan for the rivers after consulting the director, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, concerned authorities from the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and the National Institute of Oceanography.

In 2012, NGO Vanashakti filed a petition with the NGT to direct the MPCB to shut all industries discharging untreated effluents into the Ulhas river.

The apex court on July 17 said that the civic bodies and the industries could either file a review in NGT or take the matter to SC. The respondents chose the latter.

The current order was in light of a special leave petition filed by Vanashakti in the SC, challenging the HC's decision.

WHAT ACTIVISTS HAD TO SAY

"We are thankful that the SC has realised the seriousness of the problem and how authorities have been passing the buck. The tactics will come to an end. After a five-year struggle, the river will get a new lease of life,"
Stalin D, director, NGO Vanashakti

▪ Ulhas river HT

AUTHORITIES SPEAK

"Rejuvenation of both rivers is underway. Our priority is to treat the sewage in these rivers. NEERI and IIT-B had submitted draft plans for restoration. The final plan will be issued soon,"
P Anbalagan, member-secretary, MPCB.

RESPONDENTS SPEAK "We are happy that SC has stayed the penalty as of now. We will present our version of revival and restoration during the next hearing and hope for relief," said a senior official from Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation.

HIV treatment centres face shortage of viral testing kits

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MUMBAI: Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) treatment centres in Mumbai are facing a shortage of viral load testing kits, said sources.

Viral load testing is znecessary to understand the status of an HIV patient's infection. The test indicates the number of HIV particles present in the patient's blood sample. The higher the viral load, greater the risk of the patient falling ill.

The tests and treatment are provided for free at anti-retroviral therapy (ART) centres in major public hospitals in Mumbai and Maharashtra.

The shortage of testing kits came to light owing to a 33-year-old HIV patient undergoing treatment at Sir JJ Hospital's ART centre. Eldred Tellis, from Civil Society Mumbai AIDS Forum, said the woman is also a multi-drug resistant TB patient. "Her CD4 — a protein — count has dropped to 245. This means that her immunity is low. She was advised to undergo a viral load test urgently, however, doctors at Sir JJ Hospital's ART centre said they have no kits left," he said.

"Currently, the viral load samples that have been collected are stored. There is a huge backlog. We do not have reports of viral load samples collected from May till date," said the centre's nodal officer, replying to a complaint filed by the foundation.

A 14-year-old HIV-positive girl, whose haemoglobin levels dropped to 3.5 grams per deciliter, was urgently advised to undergo viral load testing. She underwent the investigation but is still awaiting results.

However, Dr Srikala Acharya, additional project director of Maharashtra District Aids Control Society (MDACS), a body that implements the National Aids Control Programme, said the shortage ended last month. She added that officials were now testing all pending samples.

"MDACS has fast-tracked these cases," she said.

Ganesh Acharya, an HIV activist, said NACO needs to ensure that centres do not run out of viral load kits as they are a crucial part of treatment.

HOW MANY PATIENTS IN CITY?

FIRST LINE	SECOND LINE	THIRD LINE
34,901	2,891	194

SHORTAGE OF INVESTIGATION KITS

In July, 2015, Lawyers Collective had sent a legal notice to NACO on behalf of Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust, in which they had complained about the repeated stock-outs and shortages of viral load testing kits.

In their reply from October, 2015, NACO said that they were in the process of scaling up viral load testing for all patients on ART in a "phased manner" in accordance with 2013 WHO guidelines.

THE TESTS:

In 2013, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) testing guidelines released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that patients undergoing anti-retroviral treatment (ART) must undergo two important tests- viral load and CD4 count test.

While the viral load test counts the numbers of HIV virus particles in the blood, the CD4 cell count test counts the numbers of T cells which provide immunity against infections.

In India, however, the treatment of patients undergoing first line ART at National Aids Control Organsation (NACO) supported centres continues to monitored, only on the basis of the CD4 count test. Doctors said that the CD4 test by itself is an unreliable indicator of measuring the success or failure of ART.

THE TESTS AND TREATMENT ARE PROVIDED FOR FREE AT ART CENTRES IN MAJOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE CITY AND STATE

Activists say civic body is flouting RTE act, ask for probe

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MUMBAI: Nearly six years after the Right to Education (RTE) Act was enforced, activists in Mumbai have accused the civic body of depriving students of elementary education.

The act mandates free education for all students between six and 14 years of age. Activists demanded a probe against the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) education department for flouting it.

Activists said although the act mandates education till class 8, over 600 schools under the BMC ran only till class 7. This forced students to shift to private schools in class 8 or drop out if they could not afford it.

In their complaint to education minister Vinod Tawde, activists said that more than 10,58,000 students have been deprived of elementary education in the past eight years because these schools do not offer education after class 8. "We want the government to find out why the BMC did not upgrade all schools up to class 8. He has assured us an inquiry will be conducted," said Ghanshyam Sonar, activist with the Campaign against Commercialisation of Education Association.

RTI QUERY FINDS

No HoDs, few professors in Mumbai's only vet college

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MUMBAI: The city's only veterinary college does not have heads in five departments and also lacks professors, found an right-to-information (RTI) query.

Bombay Veterinary College (BVC), a 131 year old establishment, is struggling with staff shortage. Officials said the issue started with retirement of senior professors and associate professors, but will soon be sorted because the hiring process was underway.

Responding to an RTI query, BVC said that of 363 posts across Class I, II, III and IV, 162 were vacant. For Class I and II employees, posts for all five head of the departments, 15 of 18 professors' and 17 of 31 associate professors' positions are yet to be filled.

The query does not say for how long the posts have been empty. Dean of the college, Dr Aashish Paturkar, said that the issue was temporary and would be resolved in 10 to 15 days.

"In fact, we have the highest number of employees and there is no shortage. The sudden vacancy resulted from the retirement of all senior employees. It takes a while to find suitable replacements," said Dr Paturkar.

The animal activist who had filed the RTI said that the issue was recent but grave, since a lot of departments could be affected because of the absence of specialists.

"Absence of professors and associate professors can directly affect animal welfare and treatment because every faculty attends to one particular subject. If the post is vacant, someone with no specialty in the field will teach students," said the activist.

> We have the highest number of employees and there is no shortage.
> AASHISH PATURKAR, Dean, BVC

Why are teens committing suicide? Study finds clues

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MUMBAI: Unhealthy competition, child abuse, peer pressure, romantic relationships, and poor time management leading to last minute academic pressure are the major causes of stress among teenagers, a study has said.

The report, released in Mumbai by an educational group, was done after the recent incidents of suicides by teenagers in the city - one of which was attributed to the online Blue Whale Challenge that goads players into harming themselves and finally committing suicide.

"Teen stress is the result of enduring worry and anxiety that adolescents sometimes experience ... Although everyone goes through it, some are affected more than others," the paper authored by teachers at Podar World School said.

The report lists ways to help teenagers with stress. Enough sleep and physical activity, support from parents, a healthy diet, activities that make you happy, simple conversation, a focus on the positive aspects in life will help with the stress. It also says that regular exercise, having good friends, sorting out your life, and stress management activities help alleviate anxiety. This includes breathing exercises and freeze dance.

HOW YOU CAN RECOGNISE STRESS

- **Increased anxiety** or nervousness
- **Feeling overwhelmed** or inability to cope
- **Different eating** and sleeping habits
- **Trouble** in concentrating
- **Inability** to switch off from a task
- **Increased irritability**
- **Sensitivity** to criticism
- **Social withdrawal**

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from our inbox

WORLD MUST GET TOGETHER TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Terror is spreading all over the world and there is no joint effort to put a break on it and it is time we make a unilateral effort to curb terrorism (13 killed in van attack in Barcelona, August 18). The Barcelona attack opened up the Pandora's box about lack of world security. Terrorists pick tourist spots as they did when they attacked CST in Mumbai to cause maximum damage to human life and property. This is the 10th such attack in recent times and unless timely measures are taken with Indian government's assistance the matter will blow hot in the days to come at the hands of terrorists.
NICKIL A KRISHNAN

▪ Terrorists pick tourist spots like they did in Mumbai to cause maximum damage to life and property. HT

JOURNALIST STALKING CASE IS SCARY

It is horrifying that a journalist was stalked by two perverts (Unsafe Mumbai: Bikers harass woman on her way back home, August 18). What is most scary is that the bikers were giggling while being photographed by the woman. Despite stalking, passing lewd remarks the two perverts had the audacity to block her way. Good that she informed the police instantly. This reminds us of the Chandigarh case in which the BJP Haryana unit chief's son allegedly molested and stalked DJ Varnika Kundu. It raises pertinent questions on safety of safety of women while travelling to home or office.
DEEPAK CHIKRAMANE

IT'S WRONG OF MURTHY TO WASH INFOSYS' DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC

Narayan Murthy's malicious campaign against Infosys Board in general and Vishal Sikka in particular which resulted in the CEO's resignation has wiped out the company's market cap by over 3 to 4 billion dollars in a single day to the shock of all shareholders (Three directors told me Sikka is CTO, not CEO, material: Murthy, August 18). Washing dirty linen in public is not how you settle company matters and Murthy should have used a proper forum like court or the Company Law Board if he believed Infosys was mismanaged by Vishal Sikka. Infosys in fact revived under Sikka's leadership in a period which was extremely difficult for the IT sector. Hope better sense prevails and Murthy either comes back to run the show or lets the new leader who replaces Sikka run the company without any interference.
SN KABRA