

## Lenders to auction Kingfisher Airlines properties today

Mumbai: Kingfisher Airlines' two prime assets, Kingfisher House in the city and Kingfisher Villa in Goa, will be auctioned on Monday by banks to recover their loans to the long-defunct airline started by defaulter businessman Vijay Mallya. While Kingfisher House will be put under the hammer for the fourth time after three failed attempts, Kingfisher Villa is being put on sale for the third time.

# Mega 'River March' to save natural streams of the city

Over 12,000 people gathered for a campaign to spread awareness about the natural streams

● SAGAR PILLAI  
Mumbai

More than 12,000 people gathered for a two-day campaign to spread awareness about the sad state of the four natural streams of the city- Poisar, Oshiwara, Dahisar and Mithi River.

Participants of the campaign, known as the 'River March', toured these four rivers holding placards, signs and banners that expressed their displeasure and anger towards the authority's failure to address environmental problems.

Students of 30-40 schools participated in the march with residents, activists and environmentalists who raised various slogans like, political leaders participated in the march and have ensured that the



rivers will be cleaned and the illegal encroachments will be removed. Dignitaries like Gopal

Shetty, Member of Parliament and Yogesh Sagar, Member of Legislative Assembly were present at the event and have ensured the participants that the project of concretisation of the Poisar River will be scrapped.

The environmentalists and activists said, "The nullah is cleaned once a year before the monsoons. The civic body is now trying to concretise the river bed which is nothing but wasting taxpayers' money. They have cited irrelevant reasons for concretising the river bed.

Instead of cleaning and preventing waste materials from entering the river, the civic body is concretising the river bed which will further affect

the river."

Once known for its clean water flow, the rivers now have turned into unhygienic nullahs. Waste like construction debris, solid waste and industrial waste are dumped into these rivers.

According to the activists, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has failed to maintain the natural streams of the city. The activists have alleged that the civic body have shown a lethargic attitude towards issues of the rivers.

"The river is filled with all kinds of waste. The inclusion of sewerage line into the Nullah, dumping of debris and industrial waste has escalated the pollution of the river.

# Scientists find microbes that grew on mobiles

● PALLAVA BAGLA  
Pune

Scientists here have identified three new species of microbes that flourished on mobile handsets. How grimy are the ubiquitous mobile phones?

Reports from Western nations have suggested that mobile phones are more often dirtier than toilet seats, with some smart phones even known to harbour deadly drug resistant bacteria.

The startling finding is by scientists of the government-owned National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) here who have been able to identify three new species of microbes from screens of mobile phones.

Two bacteria and fungus, never before reported in scientific literature, were identified by this laboratory funded by the Department of Biotechnology.

Earlier a study done in 2015 by William DePaolo,



an assistant professor in the Molecular Microbiology and Immunology Department at the University of Southern California, found that toilet seats usually contained three different types of bacteria but mobile phones on an average housed some 10-12 different types of fungi and bacteria.

Mobile phones since they are carried in almost all human environments from the kitchen to the public transport harbour a larger diversity of micro-organisms.

These microbes grow well on the sweat and grime left on the phones as humans carry them around.

In Pune, Yogesh S Shouche and his team from the Microbial Culture Collection group of the NCCS collected samples from 27 mobile phone screens and they were able to isolate 515 different bacterial types and 28 different fungi.

These microbes are friendly to humans and usually thrive on our bodies, says Praveen Rahi, a co-investigator for the work. -PTI

# 'Suicide abetment case can't be quashed on settlement ground'

Mumbai

The cases of abetment of suicide cannot be quashed merely on the ground of settlement between the parties involved, the Bombay High Court has said.

A division bench of Justices A S Oka and Anuja Prabhudessai made this observation on Friday while dismissing a petition filed by city resident Mohammad Asgar Choudhary.

The petitioner sought quashing of a case registered against him for allegedly abetting his girlfriend's suicide. The case was filed against Choudhary by the deceased's father.

Choudhary, in his petition,

claimed that he has settled the case with the complainant and has also given monetary compensation to the victim's family.

The deceased's father submitted an affidavit in the HC claiming that he was in a state of shock after his daughter committed suicide and hence, filed the complaint. The affidavit further said that the victim was suffering from depression from a long time. The bench, however, refused to accept this argument. "Cases under IPC section 306 (abetment to suicide) cannot be quashed on ground of settlement since the victim of the alleged offence is no more," Justice Oka observed. -PTI



Women participate in All Women's Rally in painted and colourful cars to mark International Women's Day in Mumbai on Sunday.

# Doctored maps: FIR filed against builder, no arrests

● SURESH GOLANI  
Mira-Bhayandar

More than three years after a Mira Road-based developer and his architect managed to secure permissions for their building project in the Navghar area of Bhayandar (east), both are now under the scanner of investigations for their alleged involvement in tampering and submitting forged maps to the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC).

While an FIR for cheating and forgery has been regis-

tered against them, no arrests have been made so far in this connection, police said.

It should be noted that complaints in this context was registered with the civic body in the year 2015, by members of a housing society in Bhayandar.

Following hearings and cross verifications with the Land Record Department (Thane), the MBMC's town planning wing found anomalies in the submissions made by the developer and finally filed a cognisable complaint at the Navghar police station against Rash-

mi Properties and its architectural firm Tejas Consultants.

The matter relates to a building permission and transfer development rights awarded by the MBMC in 2013 to the developer on the basis of maps he has submitted which later turned out to be tampered.

However, no arrests have been made so far in this connection as the police are investigating the matter and are in the process of cross verifying the documents with the competent authority.

# Munde corners Sena-BJP with online campaign

Mumbai

A day after BJP opted out of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) mayoral race, NCP MLC Dhananjay Munde on Sunday launched an online campaign to "expose" the opportunistic politics of the saffron allies (Sena and BJP).

Munde, who is also the leader of opposition in the Maharashtra legislative council, started the campaign with hashtag #DoYouRemember aimed at cornering both the Sena and BJP who indulged in mudslinging against each other during the recently concluded polls but called it a truce

ahead of mayor's election scheduled for March 8. "My point is very clear in this campaign. The language used by the BJP and the Shiv Sena leaders against each other during the BMC polls was indecent and harsh. "With CM Fadnavis paving way for Shiv Sena mayor in

the BMC... it is nothing but engaging into some kind of arrangement with the party (Sena). It is the same party with which BJP was fighting fiercely a few weeks back," Munde told PTI on Sunday.

"Through this campaign, I want to expose and point out the hollowness in their big talks," said Munde. -PTI

# Pakistani national arrested for killing live-in partner

● KAINAZ CHOKSEY

Mumbai: The Ulhasnagar police arrested a Pakistani national for killing his live-in-partner since she did not divulge to the accused that she was an HIV patient.

Suraj Prem Seeju (22), a Pakistani national was arrested by the Ulhasnagar police on Saturday. He was produced at the Magistrate court and remanded to police custody of four days. Seeju worked as an autorickshaw driver at Ulhasnagar. Seeju had moved to Ulhasnagar from Pakistan in 2014.

According to Shakeel Shaikh, Senior Police Inspector, Ulhasnagar police station, "Seeja was not aware that Jagtap was an HIV patient. Once he found out that he had contracted the disease, he fought with her frequently. In August last year, Seeju had found out that Jagtap was already married and had two children. Due to which fights escalated often between them."

On Monday morning, Seeju called Jagtap on her mobile phone number and asked her to meet him at Gol Maidan at Ulhasnagar. He slit her throat with a sharp knife and then fled away from the scene.

"We had received a tip-off that Seeja would be visiting Shanti nagar at Ulhasnagar at Thane. We laid a trap and nabbed him."

"During interrogation, Seeju confessed to his crime. We recovered the murder weapon from him," said Shaikh.

Seeju has been arrested for murder under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.

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**Plan to have a panel discussion on**

"WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION – JUSTICE FOR WEAKER SECTIONS"

on  
**8th March, 2017**  
(This is also International Women's Day)  
at Y. B. Chavan Centre,  
Opp. Mantralaya,  
Nariman Point, Mumbai.  
**10.00 a.m. onwards**

Guest of Honour and Keynote address by  
**Shri Ramdasji Athawale**  
(Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment)

This will be followed by a panel discussion with experts

(in an alphabetical order)

**Ms. UVL Ananda,**  
(Head Stakeholder Affairs & Head CSR, South Asia, Bayer Group)

**Dr. Geeta Ibrahim,**  
(Principal, College of Home Science, Nirmala Niketan)

**Ms. Neera Saggi,**  
(Chairperson, Care India)

**Ms. Rupa Shah,**  
(Educationist & Former Vice Chancellor, SNDT University)

**Ms. Jayanti Shukla,**  
(Chief Executive Director, United Way)

MODERATOR: Mr. R.N. Bhaskar, Consulting Editor, Free Press Journal

RSVP:

Ms. Trishla Dosi; Tel: 022-2282 1413 Email: trishla@iaccindia.com

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