

Business & Entertainment

Living with the virus

Two years after the pandemic broke out, a Covid-weary world finds itself at the crossroads. Even as China and Hong Kong continue to enforce tough restrictions, some European nations are preparing to live with the virus in a business-as-usual way. In the UK, mask-wearing in public places and Covid passports will not be mandatory from January 26, with PM Boris Johnson declaring that the latest wave has 'peaked nationally'. Early next month, France will lift the cap on the number of people allowed to attend indoor and outdoor events, while masks will no longer be a must in public. In Portugal, which boasts of one of the world's highest Covid vaccination rates, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has announced

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that the country has moved into an endemic phase. Spain is making plans to treat the next surge not as an emergency but an illness that is here to stay. 'Covid-19 must be treated like other illnesses,' says Dr Salvador Trenché, head of the renowned Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine, adding that 'normalised attention' by health professionals would help reduce delays in treatment of ailments not related to the coronavirus.

What these approaches have in common is a forceful argument: the fear and paranoia surrounding Covid-19 have to go. We have had enough disruptions — making the already battered economy suffer even more is nothing but a recipe for disaster. It's an indisputable fact that while the cases are soaring, hospitalisations and deaths are not rising at the same rate, thanks to wide coverage of vaccination in many countries and the Omicron variant's lesser severity.

Is India ready to bite the bullet and adopt the new Covid playbook? The Maharashtra Government has taken the lead by announcing the reopening of schools for physical classes from January 24. The Centre has highlighted that unlike the destructive second wave, the current surge is not getting out of hand due to comprehensive vaccination. This trend should make the Central and state authorities confident of the robustness of their pandemic response and not destroy livelihoods, come what may.

AGS Transact Technologies Limited Initial Public Offer to open on January 19, 2022

AGS Transact Technologies Limited ("AGS" or the "Company"), plans to open its Initial Public Offering (the "Offer") on January 19, 2022

Udaipur: AGS Transact Technologies Limited ("AGS" or the "Company"), plans to open its Initial Public Offering (the "Offer") on January 19, 2022. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹166 to ₹175 per Equity Share of face of ₹10 each (the "Equity Shares"). Bids can be made for a minimum of 85 Equity Shares and in multiples of 85 Equity Shares thereafter. The Offer consists of Equity Shares of face value of



₹10 each of AGS Transact Technologies Limited aggregating up to ₹6,800 million (the "Offer") through an offer for sale of Equity Shares by Mr. Ravi B. Goyal (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder") aggregating up to ₹6,775.80 million, Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹7.63 million by Mr. V.C. Gupta, Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹5.97 million by Mr. Shailesh Shetty, Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹4.64 million by Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹2.98 million by Mr. Nikhil Patiyat and Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹2.98 million by Mr. Rajesh Harshadrai Shah (collectively, the "Other Selling Shareholders"). The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended (the "SCRR") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Offer shall be allocated on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") (the "QIB Portion"), provided that the Company and the Promoter Selling Shareholder may, in consultation with the BRLMs, allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the "Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds only, subject to valid Bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price.

Further, 5% of the QIB Portion (excluding the Anchor Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, and the remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from the Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs.

- PRAMOD SHRIVASTAVA

Unacademy Announces fourth edition of 'Unacademy Prodigy'

Mumbai: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform today announced its fourth edition of the National Flagship Scholarship Test - 'Unacademy Prodigy'. The test is open for all aspirants of JEE, NEET UG and Learners from class 7th - 10th. Toppers from Unacademy Prodigy will be given an opportunity to win a college grant of up to ₹20 Lakhs for their UG or PG education along with exciting rewards.

Unacademy Prodigy was established to extend support to the brilliant minds of tomorrow and ensure that their aspirations are fulfilled.

Through Unacademy Prodigy, aspirants will get a chance to identify their weak learning areas with a detailed scorecard provided by Unacademy experts. Moreover, they can get their doubts resolved through video solutions provided on the platform.

Hindustan Zinc Observes National Youth Day

Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc, India's largest producer of Zinc, Lead, and Silver, celebrated "National Youth Day" with great zeal and enthusiasm, under their skilling project, to honour the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's greatest leaders and believers in the potential of youth. Various activities such as quiz competition, skit, poster making contest, portrait making contest, career file making contest, alumni meet, motivational session with poet Mrs. Chanda Prashar, and others were held both online and offline while adhering to all COVID guidelines. The events were attended by youths living in the vicinity of the company's operational locations in Debari, Dariba, Chittorgarh, Ajmer, Bhilwara and Pan Nagar. The celebration welcomed over 280 trainees and provided them with crucial and motivating career guidance.

Individuals participated in many innovative and creative competitions during the fun and entertaining sessions for the youth. A virtual alumni meet was held where all of the participants recounted their training experiences and insights learned, as well as their employment experiences in various organisations and how the skills they learned at the Hindustan Zinc Skill Development Centre have helped them improve their performance.

Mr. Suresh Kumar, Project Coordinator of the Dual VET Project, gave a virtual guest lecture to the trainees on the theme of Freedom from Fear and encouraged them to make small but meaningful efforts toward their goals.

Unemployment is one of the primary difficulties confronting young people living in rural regions. Individuals lack opportunities for growth and development, and as a result, they miss out on the chance to shape their future. Hindustan Zinc recognizes the magnitude of the problem and has been working to address it through



its core CSR initiatives, such as the Skilling Project. The project supports both male and female candidates in becoming self-reliant and independent by acquiring and developing industry-relevant skills and securing employment in their respective sectors. The program's target age range is 18-35 years old and includes school dropouts, unemployed youth, and those who are already employed but want to improve their skills and expertise.

The various trades and skills offered as part of Hindustan Zinc's skilling effort include Entrepreneurship Development Programme, General Duty Assistant, Microfinance Executive, Assistant Electrician, Unarmed Security Guard, Retail Sales Executive, Data Entry Operator, Customer Relationship Management, Food and Beverages Services, Front Office Associate, BFSI-Business Development Executive, Auto Sales

Consultant, Auto Service Technician (Commercial and Passenger vehicles) and Automotive Service (Two-Wheeler and Three-Wheeler). Based on market demand, the firm intends to expand the project to include numerous different trades, and the target for youth development will be extended to reach about 10,000 individuals over the next five years. In addition, the company aims to prioritize innovation and digitization.

The company partnered

with Ambuja Cement Foundation and Tata Strive, which are at the forefront of skill development in rural areas. The organizations undertook a need assessment study to determine the types of career opportunities available for local youth along with their areas of interest. Based on this analysis, the Hindustan Zinc Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Institute was established in Dariba and Agucha in 2019-20 with the goal of providing short-term intensive training. Currently, Ambuja Cement Foundation has started four additional centres in Kayad and Debari, while Tata Strive is in charge of implementing the initiative in Chanderiya and Pan Nagar. Since its establishment, around 2500 trainees have been trained in various crafts, with a 35% female participation rate, and more than 1900 of them have been placed in various organizations in their relevant fields or have been self-entrepreneurs.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Launches the New Camry Hybrid

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the launch of the New Camry Hybrid with refreshing design changes to amplify the power, luxury,

style, and elegance

Udaipur: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the launch of the New Camry Hybrid with refreshing design changes to amplify the power, luxury, style, and elegance of the intelligent and intuitive sedan. On the outside, a new design Front Bumper, Grille and Alloy wheels further enhance the bold and sophisticated looks of the Camry Hybrid. The interiors also see design changes in line with evolving customer choices,



with a Floating type bigger 9-inch Infotainment System compatible with Android Auto & Apple Carplay complementing the aesthetically designed instrument panel. The design

of the ornamentation has also been refreshed with a black engineered wood effect film with a composite pattern.

Further, the popular self-charging hybrid electric sedan

is now available in a new exterior color of Metal Stream Metallic in addition to the existing colors of Platinum White Pearl, Silver Metallic, Graphite Metallic, Red Mica, Attitude Black, and Burning Black. Speaking about the launch of the New Camry Hybrid, Mr. Atul Sood, Associate Vice President, Sales and Strategic Marketing, TKM, said, "The Camry Hybrid is an amazing amalgamation of power and luxury that has been designed to provide seamless driving experience to our customers. At the same time, it has been designed for a greener and

sustainable future as the self-charging hybrid technology delivers a unique combination of exemplary dynamic performance, acceleration, and lower emissions.

Over the years, it has endeared itself to thousands of customers and we are confident the New Camry Hybrid will attract many more with its carefully thought-out design and luxurious features. Since its introduction in 2013, the Camry Hybrid is well established in the Indian market and is a testament to Toyota's unwavering efforts towards a carbon neutral environment."

GAIL has provided support under CSR to Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samit

Jaipur: Public sector unit Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) has provided support under Company Social Responsibility (CSR) to the makers of the Jaipur Foot, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) to rehabilitate 475 disabled.

R K Agarwal, the Chief Executive Officer of the BMVSS, who is a former IAS officer said that under this CSR support programme Gail would support the rehabilitation of 475 disabled. Agarwal said that under this project 380 disabled would be provided with artificial limbs and 95 persons would be provided with crutches to enable them to walk.

DR Mehta, the founder and the chief patron of the BMVSS thanked the GAIL for its support under the CSR. He said a number of public sector units including the nationalised banks and various public sector manufacturing units are supporting the BMVSS in its endeavour to rehabilitate the disabled. He said that the GAIL would also provide such support in future also.

Bhupendra Mehta, the secretary of the BMVSS said with the support of the GAIL, the BMVSS will undertake the task of rehabilitating 475 disabled from all over the country by providing them with artificial limbs and callipers and also crutches between January 2021 to March 2022. Bhupendra Mehta said that under this project the rehabilitation programme has started in the BMVSS centre in Jaipur

Veteran Film Director N Chandra to be Awarded 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

Jaipur: The 8th edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) will be organized by RIFF Film Club from 25-30th March 2022 and will also celebrate Rajasthan Diwas. Somendra Harsh, Founder & Festival Director of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) stated that this year the Life Time Achievement Award will be given to the renowned Writer, Producer and Director Chandrashekhar Narvekar (N Chandra) at the 8th Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF). This award is given to such a person

ality in the film industry who has dedicated his whole life to the cinema.

Chandrashekhar Narvekar (N Chandra) is an Indian producer, writer and director who is known for crisp realism in his early Dark and Loud films. His most successful commercial films are 'Ankush' starring Nana Patekar, 'Pratighaat' starring Sujata Mehta and Nana Patekar, 'Tezaab' starring Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit and 'Narasimha' starring Sunny Deol and Dimple Kapadia. The filmography of N Chandra also includes films like 'Humlaa', 'Yugandhari', 'Tejaswini', 'Bekaaboo', 'Wajood', 'Shikari', 'Style', 'Xcuse Me', 'Kagaar: Life on the Edge' and 'Ye Mera India' etc.

Anshu Harsh, the Managing Trustee of RIFF Film Club said that "In this 8th edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) Short, Documentary, Animation, Feature, Regional, Rajasthani films as well as music albums can be submitted by visiting the website www.riiffjaipur.org and also by filmfreeway. The next deadline to submit the film is 31st January 2022."

Vikram Gokhale makes Corona-inspired Short, casts international actor-Miss India Tourism Rupali Suri

In Bollywood, it is said that if the beginning



is good, then the journey becomes easy, and if the journey is interesting, then the path often lead to the top. Actor Rupali Suri is one of those who worked in an international feature film 'Dad Hold My Hand' with actress Ratna Pathak Shah in the beginning of her career and was very much appreciated globally. Now, under the direction of veteran actor Vikram Gokhale, Rupali will be seen in the short film 'Kuch Seekhe'.

Rupali Suri is also very excited to work with Vikram Gokhale. This is her second with the veteran actor after Organic Dosti that celebrates the friendship between a young

woman and a senior man.

"Vikram sir is an institution. You learn so much. I am lucky that my break has been with veteran actors who share their learning without holding back. This forms the base of growth of us actors who grow their wings."

Adds Vikram Gokhale, "Rupali is a good actress, good student who asks, listens, understands and follows when you guide. She will do wonders in the future and is surely an actress to watch out for".

Shivangi Sharma's new Hindi romantic song 'ROSHNI' is out now

The track is peppy, soulful, and has something magical about it that can't be described but only felt in the recently released Roshni. Sung by the uber-talented and charismatic Shivangi Sharma and co-produced by See Saw Entertainment. Roshni is a Hindi romantic song, i.e., bound to leave you with butterflies inside. And as the music is gaining traction, we decided to get some word on it from them.

Here is what she said.

Shivangi said that she was thrilled with the fantastic response her song, Roshni, has received so far. It has been a long journey - one that started nearly ten years back. She takes immense pride in her journey and accomplishment and is grateful for all her found support. She had always thought of herself as an introvert, and it was the stage that made her realise her potential.

Today, she has done shows globally in places like the US, Europe, and Singapore. Of all the people she has worked with, she is most grateful to Aslam Khan, who was critical in getting her a break in the industry and first major hit in "Sexy Saiyaan." She has worked with legendary singers like Daler Mehndi and Arijit Singh, and Rahul Vaidya continues to be her frequent collaborator. She enjoys interacting with her fans and considers their feedback a major source of motivation to continue doing what she is doing.

Following some words from Shivangi Sharma, we requested Aslam Khan to share some highlights behind Roshni.

Aslam Khan added "Roshni is everything Shivangi Sharma represents. Hard work and dedication to her craft. I'm just glad I get to share parts of this beautiful journey. She is an exceptional talent, and people love her for that. I wish her to keep growing and delivering hit-

makers like Sexy Saiyaan and now Roshni. What more can I say? Just keep supporting us."

This love song is just one of those tracks that catch the listener's ears from the moment you hit play.

Airtel Payments Bank and Park+ collaborate to offer FASTag based smart parking solutions

Udaipur: Adding to its growing range of digital payments and financial services solutions, Airtel Payments Bank, one of the leading FASTag issuers in India, today announced a collaboration with Park+ to offer FASTag based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across the country. Park+ is the market leader in automating parking spaces through FASTag and the majority of parking FASTag transactions in India are currently being processed through Park+ systems.

The collaboration aims to leverage the deep distribution reach and digital payment stack of Airtel Payments Bank to digitize the Parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle. Park+ will offer its entire suite of FASTag services including issuance, acquiring, recharge, and technology support to Airtel Payments Bank. Airtel Payments Bank is among the top five issuers of FASTag in the country. The bank's digital-first approach has helped it become a leading player in the FASTag segment. Customers can easily purchase a FASTag in a matter of a few clicks from the banking section of the Airtel Thanks App. Park+ access control systems are installed at 1500+ societies, 30+ malls, and 150+ corporate parks across the country. Being the largest parking aggregator in the country, Park+ is capitalizing on this asset to help deploy more than 10,000 EV chargers at these locations. Beginning with the parking fee payments, both partners are working together to enable automatic cashless payment deduction from the valid FASTag associated with the vehicle. With cashless payments, visitors will save time and will no longer not have to wait in a queue to make parking payments. The service is already operational at a South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) parking site, and will soon be made available at Aurangabad Airport and 32nd Avenue (32nd Milestone) in Gurugram.