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OCCUPANCY RATE IN CITY REMAINS HIGH AS SYMPTOMATIC PATIENTS MATCH ADDED BEDS

One-month data shows that while the number of COVID beds in city went up from 5,119 on May 25 to 9,511 on June 24, number of symptomatic patients in same time went up from 5,732 to 11,641

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COVID-19 hospitals in Mumbai doubled beds in their ICUs over the past 30 days so as to accommodate more patients, but over 90 per cent of them still remain occupied. The reason — a two-fold increase in number of symptomatic cases in the city. As on May 25, the city had 5,732 symptomatic cases, which rose to 11,641 as of June 24. » P02



Health workers take a COVID-19 patient inside KEM Hospital. FILE/PC/SURESH KAIKERA

HERE'S WHY COVID PATIENTS IN CITY ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND ICU BEDS



ICU beds in city's private hospitals to increase by 100



mid-day's reports on June 13 and June 23

North Mumbai numbers dip

BMC's day-wise figures show a marginal reduction in positive cases in the suburbs



Locked residences and an empty lane in Kandivli. PIC/SATEJ SHINDE

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THE new hotbed of COVID-19, North Mumbai seems to be witnessing a reduction in cases. Amid strict lockdowns, the doubling rate of cases in wards which were on high alert is slowing a decreasing trend. Also, due to heavy enforcement and massive screening, residents have been taking the pandemic more seriously. » P08

'We had arranged mass screenings and surveys, it has resulted in awareness as well as spotting patients. This drive will continue till we notice a flattening of the curve' A BMC official

3 Days since some wards have not registered a single COVID-19 case



MAHA SEES 4,800+ CASES

As state witnesses huge 24-hour spike, city too records 1,300+ cases » P02

FIRST DAY, FIRST SHOOT

Inside account from sets of some shows that got rolling yesterday » P12



108
No. of ICU beds available in city

37
No. of ventilators available in city

'The number of symptomatic patients has increased, but the main question is: do they need ICU or ventilators? The needy patients have to get these on priority basis' Suresh Kulkarni, additional commissioner of BMC

'Though the occupancy rate [now] is the same as last [month end], the distress of getting a bed for a COVID-19 patient has decreased' A BMC official

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Kandivli colony slammed for its maids' policy

Residents allege that a doctor living in the 300-home housing society has been prescribing COVID tests for maids, claiming they have had fever for a week



The resident of Oberoi Gardens has also said the society discriminates between maids and other people. PIC/SATEJ SHINDE

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THE pandemic is forcing residential societies in the city to become overly cautious about allowing outsiders in. So much so, that they are telling house-help and drivers to produce

health certificates. Oberoi Gardens in Kandivli has allegedly told house-helps to provide negative COVID-19 test reports. A society resident has complained to BMC saying a doctor on the premises gives prescriptions for such tests 'without even examining the maids.' » P03

'He issued a false prescription for the maid's COVID-19 test to me. It wrongly mentioned that she was suffering from fever for the past 7 days and that tests for dengue and malaria had already been conducted, which wasn't true as he had never met our maid.' The complainant

MUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



COVID-19 cases in city see surge again at 1,350

COVID-19
TICKER

1,47,741
TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MAHARASHTRA AS OF TODAY

A CORRESPONDENT
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WITH more than 4,800 new COVID-19 cases registered in the state on Thursday, Maharashtra's tally crossed the 1.47 lakh mark. While Mumbai has recorded 1,350 of the total number of cases, it reached the 70,000 cases mark. The state's death toll has almost hit the 7,000 mark with 192 deaths added to the tally on Thursday, of which 309 happened in the last 48 hours.

State health department officials said Kalyan-Dombivli had 391 new cases and 477 infections were reported in Pune. Of the total cases, 53,342 patients are currently being treated and more than 3,000 patients were discharged on Thursday after full recovery. According to the state health officials, the state's recovery rate

stands at 52.41 per cent while civic officials say Mumbai's recovery rate is 55 per cent. The average daily growth rate for the city currently stands at 1.31 per cent and the average doubling rate is 41 days. Of the 192 deaths that took place in the last 48 hours, 58 were in Mumbai, 17 in Pune, 10 in Aurangabad, five in Jalgaon, four in Pimpri-Chinchwad, three in Thane, two each in Akola and Vasai-Virar and one each in Navi Mumbai, Bhamburda, Mira-Bhayandar, Rajgad, Satara and Buldhana. Two other COVID-related deaths were residents of other states. Of the total 192 deaths added to the tally on Thursday, 98 occurred in Mumbai and civic officials said while 69 of the patients were suffering from other ailments, 51 of them were senior citizens. The mortality rate among COVID-19 patients in the city stands at 4.69 per cent.

According to the civic body, only two administrative wards, including T ward (Midland) and K Central ward (Bohri) have an average daily growth rate higher than 3 per cent. Among the 24 wards, K East continues to have the highest tally with 4,903 cases while G north has 4,581 cases. The new cases continued to trickle in with 11 new cases in Dharavi, 27 in Dadar and 36 in Mahim.



Youngsters take photos at Chowpatty beach near Worli-Kesherwani Road in South Mumbai on Thursday. PIC/BIPIN KOKATE

Oxygen, ventilator beds availability also low

The occupancy rate of ventilator beds in COVID-19 hospitals across the city stood at 95 per cent as on June 24, with only 37 available

Continued from page 01

THE increase in symptomatic patients has kept most of the ventilator and oxygen equipped beds, which were also increased over the past month, occupied too. As of June 24, 5,901 of the total 7,382 oxygen-equipped beds and 730 of the 767 ventilator-supported beds remained engaged.

As most beds remained occupied in the city's private hospitals last month, the BMC had asked them to not admit walk-in asymptomatic patients, but that has marginally brought down the number of vacant beds.

According to the information provided by the BMC, 3,462 out of the total 5,119 ICU, oxygen and ventilator beds at the dedicated hospitals in the city were occupied as on May 25. By June 24, the hospitals had increased the number of beds to 9,511, but only 1,626 of them were vacant.

The occupancy rate of ICU beds stood at 92 per cent on June 24, with only 108 beds vacant across the city, and occupancy rate of ventilator beds stood at 95 per cent, with only 37 available.

Between May 15 and June 24, the number of active patients increased by 34 per cent [from 22,359 to 30,063], but the number of symptomatic patients rose by 20.3 per cent [from 5,732 to 11,641]. There has been a slight increase in the number of critical patients.

"The number of symptomatic patients has increased, but the main question is: do they need ICU or ventilators?"

"The needy patients have to get ICU and ventilator beds on priority basis, and the BMC's war rooms at ward levels are looking after it," said Suresh Kankal, additional commissioner of the BMC.

Another civic official told mid-day, "Even the occupancy rate [now] is the same as last [May end], the struggle of getting a bed for a COVID-19 patient is less."



COVID-19 patients being transported to a hospital. FILE PIC/SURISH KARNER

How pvt hospitals are adding ICU beds in city

As BMC ramps up measures to ensure adequate facilities, private hospitals have added 33 beds, while adding around 200 per cent the beds used for COVID-19 patients.

mid-day
REPORTS BY
SUDHAKAR K. K. | LALIT KUMAR SINGH

mid-day's reports on June 23 and June 1

AS STATE RELAXES LOCKDOWN. DOES CITY HAVE ENOUGH BEDS?

As the state relaxes its lockdown, the city's health system is under pressure to handle a surge in COVID-19 cases. The BMC is working to ensure adequate facilities, but the city's health system is still under strain.

COVID-19 patients and occupancy data, a month apart

Details of (beds + patients)	May 25 (occupancy rate)	June 24 (occupancy rate)
Total beds	11,021 (81%)	18,392 (96%)
General beds	7,904	8,881
ICU beds	644 (96%)	1,362 (92%)
Oxygen beds	4,116 (63%)	7,382 (80%)
Ventilator beds	359 (68%)	767 (95%)
Active patients	22,359	30,063
Asymptomatic patients	15,809 (75%)	17,459 (62%)
Symptomatic patients	5,732 (25%)	11,641 (38%)
Critical patients	818	963

ICU patient is less.

"To ease their distress, the civic health team call up the patients and ask for their choice of either

municipal or private hospital, so that they patients or their relatives don't have to call or go everywhere for help."

Hair salons can open from June 28; train service cancellations extended till Aug 12

Hair salons in Maharashtra will be allowed to reopen from June 28, after over three months of closing shutters, a state minister said on Thursday. State Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Wadetiwar said that during the state cabinet meeting held on Thursday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray agreed to allow the salons to reopen with adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs) about hygiene and cleanliness.

"The hair salons will reopen.

However, the use of sanitisers and face-masks will be mandatory for the hairdresser and the customer," he said. As many as 12 barbers have committed suicide in the last three months due to financial losses suffered due to the lockdown, Wadetiwar added.

Trains stay cancelled

Indian Railways, on Thursday, extended the cancellation of all regular time-tabled trains till August 12, 2020. The ones already running (230 passenger trains) and

local services for essential workers will continue to function as they are. Those who have booked tickets for the passenger train services between July 1 and August 12, will get the full refund, the railway ministry said in a statement.

"Regarding suburban services: the selected suburban services [for essential staff as identified by the State Government] will continue to operate and further updates about special suburban services will be informed in due course of time," CR chief PRO Shivaji Subar said.

'He issued prescription without checking maid'

Continued from page 01

BASED on the complaint sent to the B South ward office and the chief minister on June 24, the resident said the managing committee members of the society were only allowing full-time maids who could produce negative COVID-19 test reports to prove that they were not infected. In the letter, the resident claimed the committee was discriminating between maids and other people, saying while part-time maids weren't allowed, technicians for repair work were allowed based on health certificates even though the risk of the infection spreading was the same. The society has about 300 flats.

'It is unethical'

The complaint told mid-day that since a prescription was mandatory to get a test, she approached Dr. Prakash Gupta, who lives in the society. "He issued a fake prescription for the maid's COVID-19 test to me. I wrongly mentioned that the maid was suffering from fever for the past seven days and that other tests for dengue and malaria had already been conducted, which wasn't true since he never met our maid. This is unethical and he charged ₹500 for it," she said.

Another resident of the society confirmed that the maids were asked to produce COVID-19 test reports and that they were "fed up" with the society's rules. "In many societies, maids are allowed after taking precautions like wearing masks, checking oxygen levels and temperature. Then why should our society ask maids to get COVID-19 tests done? We have been paying them for three months and we need their help now. At some point, we will have to let things get back to normal," he said.

Confirming that they had received the complaint, assistant municipal commissioner Sanjay Kurbade said that it was the same problem in many societies. "Issuing such prescriptions for COVID-19 tests to asymptomatic people is not legal. We will inspect the society to verify it and will issue a notice to the doctor if this is found to be true," he said.



The complaint says that while part-time maids are not allowed in the society, technicians for different repair work are being let in based on health certificates. **PCS/SATEJ SHINDE**

When contacted, Dr. Gupta rebutted the allegations and said he doesn't issue prescriptions without examining the patients. "I have never issued such prescriptions and I examine all patients without fail. I am a responsible doctor and have been practicing for 40 years. In case of doubtful cases, I refer the patients for rigorous examinations before recommending them tests," he said. He added that he examines the relatives of patients at home and sends their certificates to the gate.

When asked whether the society was asking for a negative COVID-19 test report from maids, society secretary Raj Kumar Tiwari said, "Earlier we were asking for it since there were no guidelines. But now we are following rules issued by the Housing Federation." He added that they have a proforma that maids have to fill out to declare that they were not coming from a Contaminated Zone and that they don't have symptoms. The maids have also been asked to download the Aarogya Setu app.

'It's discriminatory'

Speaking against the stand taken by both Oberoi Gardens as well as the Housing Federation, Shambhuk Rao, president of Mahanastha Gharu Kanga Union, said regulations had no legal basis. "Why should a maid be told to live in the society or get a COVID-19 test done? The residents are all going to office every day. Are they asked to produce a negative test report?" asked Rao.

He added that the union opposed the regulations since they were discriminatory. "If maids are allowed to live inside, the same rule should apply to plumbers, electricians and drivers. The government has not made these rules and people should complain against it. We are dealing with an illness and all we have to do is take necessary precautions," he said.

Declared dead on social media, doc recovers from COVID

Family of senior general practitioner, Dr Vasant Shenoy, was flooded with several condolence messages after he was rushed to the hospital

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DECLARED dead by the social media, a doctor residing in the western suburbs has come back to life, having successfully recovered from COVID-19 after a nearly three-week battle with the virus. While doctors fought to save him, his family had to deal with the flood of condolence messages.

The ordeal for the Shenoy family from Santacruz started on the evening of May 28 when 62-year-old Dr Vasant Shenoy tested himself for oxygen levels and found them to be alarmingly low. Dr Shenoy is considered as one of the highest qualified general practitioners in the city.

"I was totally fine, but to get a second opinion, I called up a few of my doctor friends. They all told me to not worry. My friend Dr Abhishek Bhargava diagnosed a suspected 'Happy Myxoma' — a rare and deadly form of COVID-19 where a patient displays zero symptoms. Dr Bhargava advised me to rush to the nearest speciality hospital," said Dr Shenoy.

The next three-and-a-half hours were a frenzy of calling hospitals and trying to find a bed for Dr Shenoy, his wife and daughter. Panicked, Dr Shenoy then messaged local MLA Ameet Satam for help. Satam arranged for a BMC ambulance and a hospital bed within half-an-hour at Brahma Kumar's Global Hospital & Research Centre, Andheri West.

"I can only imagine the plight of the common man. My wife and daughters, both bring doctors, went left to making frantic calls to find a hospital bed and I, a doctor with over 40 years of experience and a former president and secretary of the Indian Medical Association, could not do anything either. Soon, rumours of my demise started spreading and people started pouring in condolences on social media, adding to my family's mental trauma," Dr Shenoy said.

Dr Shenoy's daughter, Dr Priyanka, later had to send a message to everyone informing about his health. "As you all know, my father, Dr Vasant Shenoy has been admitted in the hospital. As of now, he is stable and responding well to treatment. At no point was he on a ventilator, since everybody has been assuming this," the message read. When Dr Shenoy switched on his mobile phone after his hospital stay, he too received several condolence messages.

Rushed to the ICU, after the primary tests, the doctors prescribed an urgent course of five injections of the drug Tocilizumab. Five doses of the drug are given intravenously through saline over a period of one hour. This is to avoid a critical situation called Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

However, there was no stock of the drug available and the family had to once again call Satam for help. He managed to get hold of a chemist in Ghatkopar, who delivered the medicine worth nearly ₹35,000 for a full dose.

"During my stay, I witnessed Dr Girish Valgaonkar, the ICU in-charge and Dr Jeyson Mettler, both managing a team of medical professionals who were diligently working in double shifts since four of their own were down with COVID-19," said Dr Shenoy. Back from the hospital on June 17, he has been advised bed rest at home. He wants to resume his practice at the earliest.



Dr Vasant Shenoy

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UNMASKED!

BMC doctors and health workers threw caution completely to the wind while conducting check-ups of residents of IC Colony in Borivli on Thursday during a Medical Fever Camp, organised at the Samaj Kalyan Ground. A resident said the camp was a farce. "The doctor had not worn the PPE kit, cap and goggles. His team members were also seen only wearing a mask, one member was not even wearing a mask." During a check-up, the residents said the doctor was seen speaking on his phone, talking to other people, taking blood pressure readings and drinking tea at the same time. Residents, however, came wearing masks and were seen following rules of social distancing and other protocols. **PCS/SATEJ SHINDE**

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@swyaditi: I spend 70 mins a day on Twitter out of which 40 are spent contemplating if I should unfollow food and baking Twitter and then following some more food and baking accounts before I log off.

How to COVID-proof your restaurant?

National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) has launched an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) and safety guidelines to COVID-proof restaurants in order to help them prep for service when they are given the green signal to resume service. Designed by Releki, a Bengaluru-based skill-tech company, it also offers training using short video lessons with guidelines for all departments. Topics include building procedures, issues with social distancing, reducing touch points, receiving and handling of



goods and general health sanctity of employees. Praveesh Pandey, founder of Releki and director-partner of Byg Brewski Brewing Co, said, "Nearly 65 per cent of the industry is unorganised, and so, my intent is to help them get organised through training support. The course will be available in six regional languages from expert instructors," he shared. This SOP, combined with visual training aids, is an important tool to win back customers, according to Anurag Katriar, president of NRAI. "Hygiene and safety will be key differentiators during post-



REPRESENTATION PIC

pandemic restaurant operations," said Katriar. The course is available for download on the Releki App on Google Play Store and on the NRAI website.

View from the top

The lockdown has led us to do many things we've never done before — even if it's observing the mandate or pondering in silence. For Rajan Jayakar, veteran High Court solicitor and convener of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage's (INTACH) Mumbai Chapter, that means capturing the gorgeous silhouette of Victorian Gothic buildings against the rising sun every day from his terrace that overlooks Oval Maidan. "This is a habit that started during the lockdown on my morning walk as earlier I would



PICTURE BY RAJAN JAYAKAR



walk at Marine Drive from 5 am to 7 am. I also stare at the cloud formations and come up with different interpretations — they could sometimes resemble dragons — and share them on social media. People love to see it," Jayakar told this diarist.



SKY'S THE LIMIT

A stunning burst of colour at Mahim Beach as monsoon clouds paint a pretty picture against the Bandra Wari Sea Link in the backdrop. PIC/SHADAB KHAN

The vow factor

Extra-marital affairs are less of a no-no in India than they were in the past, according to a recent survey that a dating site has carried out. It was conducted among 1,000 respondents from major metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi. Interestingly, 68.2 per cent said that when they enter a relationship outside of marriage, they are looking for a long-term union than just a flaky fling. Nearly 37 per cent are willing to forgive their partners without condition for cheating. "In India, family comes first; the connection that one has with the spouse, as well as the willingness to preserve it, is often stronger than love or intimacy. These can be found elsewhere," Solène Pollet, marketing director, Gooden said.



REPRESENTATION PIC

The young and driven

An eight-year-old resident of Carmichael Road and student of Aditya Birla World Academy, Arsh Kagzi, has been raising funds for COVID-relief since March. "He has been compassionate about raising funds for daily wagers who have been facing difficulty during the pandemic. First, it was hassle on WhatsApp where he encouraged his friends to buy tickets and contribute, now it is paintings that he wishes to sell," Prachi Kagzi (Arsh's mother), told this diarist. "The proceeds from the sale will go to city-based Annam Foundation that works in the space of nutrition security for



children and has been running a COVID-relief programme," Kagzi added. Log on to facebook.com/covidartfundraiser to contribute.

Quarantine gets a film fest

Today will see the opening of the Quarantine International Film Festival (QIFF 2020) that will host screenings, Q&A sessions with directors and more for the next two days. Featuring films that have been shot and produced entirely in quarantine, the festival will be screened on YouTube. "Many around us don't have a lot to do during the lockdown. Several actors and directors in the industry have been going through a difficult phase, both with work and mentally. This was a way to encourage them and make them come out and

create something while they also divert their mind," Shyam Kishore, festival director, QIFF 2020, told this diarist, adding that the jury includes names like Anurag Kashyap (of Anurag fame), documentary filmmaker Anwar Jamal and director Vinay Nanda, among others. Filmmaker Hansal Mehta and poet Ashok Lal are on the advisory board of the festival.



IIT-Bombay to go fully online for the next semester

Announces it will require donations to ensure students from all socio-economic backgrounds are able to join in; says will require ₹5 cr for this

PALLAVI SMART

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WHILE several schools and colleges are yet contemplating ways to go completely online in view of the COVID-19, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has decided to go completely online for next semester.

The premier technology institute from Mumbai becomes the first IIT to take this decision formally. While the

institute is to declare a detailed plan in the near future for the students, it has also announced that it will require donations to ensure that students from all socio-economic backgrounds are able to join in.

The technology institute took the decision in the Senate meeting held on Wednesday. The institute has also addressed the concern of non-accessibility to the required facilities for the pur-

poses of online learning. The institute has issued an appeal to its alumni and others to help students continue learning amid the pandemic, in terms of laptops and internet connectivity. As per the institute's estimates, it will require

a sum of ₹5 crore to ensure not a single student misses out on online learning.

It will be the first time that the institute will begin its new academic year without students on its Powai campus. IIT-Bombay becomes the

trend setter by taking such a decision while other IITs are likely to follow suite.

"We took the first step in India in concretely deciding how we must bring a closure to the current semester to help our students. The given

the current condition of the pandemic, how do we plan for the next semester for our students? Again, after a long deliberation in the Senate, we have decided today that the next semester will be run purely in the online mode so that there is no compromise on the safety and well-being of the students," reads the statement by Director of IIT-Bombay Prof Subhasis Chaudhuri, shared on the official social media page.

'The next semester will be run purely in the online mode so that there is no compromise on the safety and well-being of the students'

Prof Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director of IIT-Bombay, in a statement

Three major fires in industrial areas of city

A CORRESPONDENT

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THREE major incidents of fire were reported in different industrial areas - Andheri, Nariman Point and Parel - on Thursday from midnight till morning. While no one was injured, the fire did a severe property damage in the area.

The first fire broke out in Nand-Dham Industrial Estate in Marol at Andheri East at around 12:49 am. As per the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) official information, the fire was confined to two godowns. While no one was injured, in the incident, MFB declared it level 2 fire on the scale of one to five. According to the official from MFB, "The fire was under control at 4 am and doused off at 4:49 am and five fire engines, foam tender and seven jumbo tankers were deployed."

The second incident happened at a bank in Jolly Maker Chamber on Jambhaji Bajaj Marg at Nariman Point early morning. "We received a call at 5:20 am and reached the spot with five fire engines within 25 minutes. It was a level 2 fire," said an officer with MFB. The fire was confined to equipment of server room in the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait located on the ground floor.

Fire officer tests COVID-19 positive

A deputy fire officer fainted during fire fighting at Marol. The officer was immediately hospitalized in Nanavati Hospital where he positive to COVID-19. According to sources, the officer's condition is stable and is under observation.

The fire was extinguished at 4 am. The fire fighting system of the building and fire alarm system in the bank was in a working condition but the sprinkler system was not activated," Prabhat Rahangade, chief of MFB said.

At around 9:30 am, a third fire broke out in P 2 buildings at Raghunandan Mill. Eight fire engines with six jumbo tankers and thermal imaging camera used by the MFB were deployed to bring the blaze under control. The MFB declared it level 2 call. However, the blaze continued to spread rapidly and subsequently, it was declared level 3 at 12:15 pm and level 4 at 1:22 pm.

The fire was brought under control at 4 pm and 14 fire engines, nine jumbo tankers, one aerial ladder were used in the operation.



The fire in Marol was confined to two godowns

'My last wish was not to be put on ventilator support'

Shatabdi hospital chief medical superintendent shares with mid-day how she emerged victorious in her battle against the novel Coronavirus

VINDO KUMAR MENON

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OVER 2,000 civic employees, including health workers, on the frontline in the war against the novel Coronavirus pandemic have contracted COVID-19 over the past few months, with close to 1,000 still undergoing treatment.

"So far, 2,028 civic staffers, including technicians, clerks, sweepers, have tested positive for COVID-19 and 1,103 of them have recovered, while 925 are still undergoing treatment. Unfortunately, 78 succumbed to the disease," highly placed BMC officials told mid-day.

mid-day spoke of chief medical superintendent, Shatabdi hospital, Gowandri, to understand the struggle of the front-line workers. Dr Alka Mane, 56, who was working round the clock amid the COVID-19 crisis, got herself tested late May and her report came back positive two days later.

Dr Mane emerged victorious in her fight against COVID-19, despite having comorbidities. She is still on high doses of steroids to improve her lung health. A patient of hypertension for the past 28 years, she narrates her battle with the virus, while speaking to mid-day from her Seawoods apartment.

"Shatabdi, Gowandri, was handling routine cases, including deliveries, in March and April. Though five to six mothers tested positive for COVID-19, none of the newborns showed any symptoms. The mothers were sent to dedicated COVID-19 hospitals for treatment."

Later, a decision was taken to suspend the maternity services at the hospital. But, being



Dr Alka Mane (centre) outside the Jogeshwari Trauma centre after being discharged in the first week of June

an administrative in-charge, I continued to interact with other patients and their relatives. Soon, the entire hospital was converted into a 100-bed COVID facility, sans ICU, for swab collection. Patients were referred to Rajawade Hospital in Ghoshpore or Shabha Hospital in Kurla when their reports would come back positive.

We all woke up with fever

With the hospital handling the COVID-19 crisis, Dr Mane temporarily moved in with her brother and his family at Chembur. "On the wee hours of May 26, my brother, who had undergone an angiography four years ago, my 17-year-old niece and I woke up with high fever," she said. "We got ourselves admitted at Shatabdi hospital. We felt

better in a couple of days," she added. "But, on May 25, I could feel respiratory distress. I immediately got an x-ray done, which confirmed that I had bilateral pneumonia. The condition of my brother and niece improved."

"The sign of bilateral pneumonia was not good and I needed to be shifted to ICU. The team looking after me spoke at Jogeshwari Trauma hospital. On the way there in an ambulance, I could sense the heartbeat as I struggled to breathe and was put on oxygen support," she recalled. "A CT scan confirmed the bilateral pneumonia and I was shifted to the ICU. I had only one request to the treating doctors, under any circumstances, they should not put me on ventila-

tor support, and that should be considered my last wish." "I was put on a non-invasive ventilator support, pumping almost six litres of oxygen into my body. Luckily, I was out of the ICU the next day itself. I was then put on oxygen support and steroid treatment was started, along with breathing exercises," she said. She was discharged in the first week of June.

Lesson learnt

This battle with COVID-19 made me realise that only the civic body could have managed to handle such a pandemic, with the existing infrastructure and team of dedicated staff, she said. "All the subsequent COVID-19 tests have come back negative. It is difficult to avoid getting infected, but it can be prevented by taking adequate safety measures," she said.

"Also I learnt about my enzyme deficiency while being treated for COVID-19," she said. "Never get scared if you get a test positive for COVID-19 or if you develop symptoms. The more you get nervous and worried, the more difficult it becomes to recover from the ailment. The best way is to keep a positive attitude and remain calm, it does wonders."

"COVID-19 will be with us, hereafter, as it is a new virus, and even health experts and healthcare workers' bodies are not immune. It is deadlier than H1N1 or any other viruses.

'I owe my rebirth to only the staff and treating doctors at Trauma Centre, Jogeshwari, who saved my life in the nick of time. I am fortunate to have survived... I strongly feel that people should not take the pandemic lightly, they need to wear facemasks and maintain the highest level of hygiene' Dr Alka Mane, chief medical superintendent, Shatabdi hospital, Gowandri



Radio City
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RANJEET JADHAV
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THERE'S some good news for the wildlife lovers who have been wanting to visit the tiger reserves. Maharashtra Forest Department has decided to open Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) and Pench Tiger Reserve for tourists from July 1 with certain restrictions.

Talking to mid-day, a senior Forest Department official said, "We are partly opening the TATR and Pench from July 1 with certain restrictions and all the precautions will be taken as per the government institutions."

₹2,200

Amount tourists will have to pay for one safari

Tadoba, Pench to open from July 1, but with restrictions

Tiger safaris to be allowed only in buffer zones; masks, sanitizers made mandatory for everyone

Welcoming the move, wildlife conservationist Redar Gore from The Corbett Foundation said, "If they are opening buffer zones, then there is no problem. In fact, this will help in providing livelihoods to local communities who have been associated with wildlife tourism."

A letter by Chief Conservator of Forest and Field Director of TATR states, "The Chief Wildlife Warden and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) has given orders to open the tiger reserve from July 1. The time of the safari will be from 6.30 am to 10.00 am and from 14.00 am to 17.30 pm. Fee for each safari will be ₹2,200 while the guiding fee will be ₹350 and



As per the new rules, six vehicles will be allowed through each buffer zone.

the entrance fee per gypsy will be ₹1,000."

"Six gypsy vehicles will be allowed through each buffer zone. Body temperature of tourists will be checked before allowing

through the entrance," states the letter.

It will be mandatory for tourists to wear masks before entering the reserve. Tourists without masks will not be allowed to

FILE PIC/PRADEEP DHANU

enter under any circumstances and they will have to get their own masks and will also be responsible to dispose of the used masks, gloves, water bottles. Gypsy owners will be re-

Tourists without masks will not be allowed to enter under any circumstances and they will have to get their own masks

quired to keep sanitizers for tourists in their vehicles before arriving at the entrance. Owners too shall have to wear masks during the safari. Furthermore, they will be responsible for disinfecting the gypsy after each safari. "From the viewpoint of wildlife, limited vehicle entry will do no harm, provided park authority instructions are strictly followed. But for safety, visitors and guides will need to take extraordinary precautions," said wildlife conservationist Ritesh Solanki, sanctuary nature foundation.

Re-imagining street markets after lockdown

Bandra-based architects and urban planners create six modules that could help address issue of public spaces; work began on first phase almost a fortnight ago at Grant Road's Bhaji Galli

GAURAV SARKAR
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ABOUT six weeks ago, a group of architects and urban planners belonging to the Bandra Collective created six modules that could help address the issue of public spaces post the COVID-19 lockdown. In its first phase, the collective, which designs public spaces pro bono with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMCL), re-imagined street markets with a single aim: maintaining safety in the early period post the lockdown.

Work began a fortnight ago on the implementation of the first module that comprises

physical distancing circles — painted yellow on the road adjoining shops at Grant Road's Bhaji Galli. The circles allow people to effortlessly maintain physical distancing, even in crowded markets. The circles also show them how to move, where to queue for shops and vendors, and keep safe from vehicular movement. The circles can also be implemented at other public spaces such as bus stops, railway ticket counters, kids play areas and hawkker zones.

Circular grid to help

"At Bhaji Galli, we are looking at implementing a strategically designed circular grid,

The designers and architects believe that to ensure maximum efficiency, all six of the modules will help maintain law and order

with additional demarcated walking space in between, complemented by effective signage that communicates its usage to the pedestrians," said Samir D'Monte of SDM Architects. He added, "In the coming weeks, we aim to scale it up in D ward as well as implement it at August Kranti Maidan and at Napeansea Road and Walkeswar. We are

also in touch with Asif Zakaria, Municipal Councillor of H West Ward, and will implement it at Pali Market in the coming week. Pali Market, with a similar context as Bhaji Galli, will follow a similar strategy for implementation."

Alan Abraham of Abraham John Architects said, "To just put out signs with text is hugely ineffective. Instead, we believe that simple tactical design measures are more communicative in guiding people and have based the design of the modules on this understanding."

The designers and architects believe that in order to ensure maximum efficiency, all six of the modules, along with effective monitoring, will help maintain law and order. As of now only one module i.e. the circles has been implemented.

Going in circles

Speaking to mid-day, Prashant Galikwad, assistant municipal commissioner of D Ward, said, "These architectural designs will help since we are in the unlocking phase now and people need to be reminded of the social distancing norms. As of now, people are following social distancing at Bhaji Galli, we are also planning on implementing the circles idea at Gligsom Chowpaty."

"To just put out signs with text is hugely ineffective. We believe that simple tactical design measures are more communicative and have based the design of the modules on this understanding"

Alan Abraham of Abraham John Architects



The circles painted at Bhaji Galli, Grant Road

Uddhav writes to PM, wants doctors' PG exam delayed

CM wants exam to be held in Dec as absence of resident doctors would create a shortage

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IN view of the dire need for medical professionals in COVID-19 hospitals, the state government does not want the resident doctors to write their final year PG examination next month. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has dashed off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to postpone the exam to December 2021, saying that the residents' absence would lead to a serious shortage of trained doctors.

"The final year (senior resident-3) doctors, who are required to take the examination, are currently working in all government and municipal medical colleges assisting in the clinical management of COVID-19 patients. If this examination is held as per schedule, there will be a serious shortage of trained doctors," the CM said. The CMD's Twitter handle posted the letter late Wednesday night, strangely a week after it was written and sent to the PMO. The CM also wants the entrance examinations for super-specialty courses — DM/MCh — postponed. The final year MD (Doctor of Medicine) and MS (Master of Surgery) students have been put into service in government and civic hospitals. A final year

MD/MS student, also known as Resident-3, is considered to be a backbone of public hospitals because s/he not only manages patients but also leads a team of junior residents and fresh graduates. In view of the pandemic, the residents of non-clinical courses have also been involved in COVID-19 management.

Considering the crisis that might arise if the residents were absent from next month, December 2021, Thackeray requested PM Modi to direct the Medical Council of India (MCI) to postpone the exam organised by Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS), Nashik. Earlier, MUHS had postponed the PG exam and later rescheduled it as per the MCI guidelines.

The state government has decided to give final year students of non-medical professional courses the option of taking or skipping exams and urged their national governing body to approve the proposal. "I would request your intervention to direct the Medical Council of India to postpone the MD/MS examination till December 2021. I would also request for the postponement of the entrance examinations of super-specialty (DM/MCh) to a date subsequent to December 2021 i.e. after the conclusion of the final year MD/MS exams," Thackeray said.



One of the beaches to get the shacks is the Aare-ware beach in Ratnagiri district. PIC/RATNAGIRI TOURISM

Eight Maharashtra beaches to have Goa-like shacks

DHARMENDRA JORE
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EIGHT beaches in Maharashtra will soon have Goa-like shacks. The state Cabinet approved the proposal by the Tourism Department on Thursday.

Tourism minister Aaditya Thackeray had tabled a proposal to allow construction of

shacks on a temporary basis at Gehagar, Aare-ware, Rusalleshwar, Tariketi, Varsoli, Divsagar, Kelva and Bardi. These eight beaches are spread along the 720-km coastline running through five districts.

The pilot project at the eight tourist spots will be the basis for expanding the shack policy to the remaining beaches in a

phased manner by next year.

The policy will allow 10 shacks per beach. Local people will get 80 per cent job reservation in the enterprise to be run only by a local person, group of persons or company. The parties interested may apply for a three-year operating license through the state government's official website. The application

costs ₹15,000 and a license fee of ₹45,000 for the first year, ₹50,000 for the second year and ₹55,000 for the third year. A refundable deposit of ₹50,000 will also be taken.

Shacks may operate between 7 am and 7 pm. Installing CCTV cameras will be mandatory. No information was given on serving alcohol.

In another decision, the Cabinet allowed the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to develop its land and existing property in partnership with private players in the tourism industry. In the first phase, the MTDC resorts at Gopurghate, Matheran, Mahabaleshwar, Haribanshwar and Mithnav will be developed.

'Must start all over again' after 35 years

Court dismisses 1985 landslide victim's plea as he hadn't sent notices to accused society and civic body while filing case

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MORE than three decades after the incident, families of the 29 people who died in the landslide tragedy at Carmichael Hill continue to wait for justice. A Sessions Court recently disposed of the case of Arvind Boricha, 56, who lost seven members of his family in the tragedy. The court while dismissing the case said that Boricha had not sent a notice to the BMC leading to disposal of the case.

The incident took place on June 25, 1985, owing to torrential rain in the city that brought down a portion of the hill near the plush Usha Kisan building on Carmichael Road along with the retaining wall of the building's swimming pool. The mud and water killed 19 residents living below the MP Mills Compound.

"I was just 19 when I lost my mother, brother, two sisters and three very young nieces and nephew. My family was sleeping inside when the pool wall collapsed and fell down on the chawl," said Boricha who filed a case against Usha Kisan building in 1988. This building's swimming pool wall was illegal, an RTI later revealed. "I have spent more than ₹20 lakh on the case in the past 35 years," he added.

HC to Sessions Court

In September 2012, the High Court transferred the case to the Sessions Court which disposed of the case saying that the construction, repairs and maintenance of the wall was the society's duty. A notice under Section 164 of Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act (Notice necessary in suits in matters of business of society) should have, therefore, been given to the society and under Section 527 of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act (negligence to the BMC.




'I don't have knowledge of law. My case has been dismissed simply because I could not send a notice to the BMC. My ₹20 lakh have been wasted'


Arvind Boricha, plaintiff in the case

'Lakhs wasted'

Boricha further said that the BMC too had a building on the site. "It was made to re-house the chawl dwellers. If we had been given possession at that time, maybe this tragedy would have been avoided," said Boricha who now has to file a new application in the HC and "my case will restart because of this small issue (notice to the society)". He said, "I don't have knowledge of law. My case has been dismissed simply because I could not send a notice to the BMC. My ₹20 lakh have been wasted."




Government of Maharashtra



26th June
Rajarshi
Chhatrapati
Shahu Maharaj
Birth
Anniversary



Salutations to the Great Social Reformer!



Uddhav Balasahob Thackeray
Chief Minister

Ajit Pawar
Deputy Chief Minister

Balasaheb Tharal
Minister, Revenue

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Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, Government of Maharashtra

Ward officials hopeful of cases reducing to 0

Continued from page 01

NORTHERN suburbs of the city such as Malad and Dahisar, especially the slum pockets there, had been witnessing a surge in cases post the Unlock 1.0. The spike was such that Mumbai police imposed lockdown in many areas, literally blocking the movement of people. The result of this action is evident in the COVID-19 cases showing a decreasing trend. In many wards, the doubling rate has gone beyond 15 days.

"This is a joint effort of BMC officials and Mumbai police. Coordinated attempts were made, surveys were done and checkpoints were raised to tackle the crowd." The result of this action is evident in the COVID-19 cases showing a decreasing trend. In many wards, the doubling rate has gone beyond 15 days.

"This is a joint effort of BMC officials and Mumbai police. Coordinated attempts were made, surveys were done and checkpoints were raised to tackle the crowd." The result of this action is evident in the COVID-19 cases showing a decreasing trend. In many wards, the doubling rate has gone beyond 15 days.

Ward watch

Corporate of R North ward Sanjay Ghosh said that areas like Ashok Van, Sanskar Nagar, Kawaipada, Sahaj Nagar, Deshmukh residency, Hanuman Tekdi, Choughvale Nagar, and some parts of Kankari Pada had many cases. "With 117 cases there was absolute chaos in the ward with people not following rules. The numbers are decreasing now. Also, around six deaths also made the people more serious. If this continues, numbers are expected to reach zero," Ghosh said.

In a South ward, Corporate Karanesh Yadav said that there are areas like Lalji pada,

"Coordinated attempts were made, surveys were done and checkpoints were raised to tackle the crowd. People were not observing social distancing. Many weren't wearing masks. After we started cracking down and booking people, things improved"

A senior police officer



BMC health workers do a door-to-door check in Kankari Nagar at Akuli road Kankari. PIC/SATE/SHINDS

Ganesh Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Beta Nagar, Azad compound and Nilkanth Nagar. "After Unlock 1.0, numbers crossed 100. Surveys were carried out by drones, photos and videos of those were circulated on social media groups and people were warned of penalties for violations. All shops were closed and movement of people was restricted. Massive screening camps for residents were arranged resulting in the decrease. For the past three days, no cases have been reported. Active cases are five," Yadav said.

Sanjay Karhade, the ward's assistant commissioner said, "If we compare cases of May and June, the numbers haven't varied. But cases in slum pockets have decreased. During the lockdown, there would be around three cases in slums and one to three in buildings per day. We have conducted camps and screening. Also many people were quarantined so there is no increase."

R Central ward's former corporator, Shiva Shetty said that the ward comprises Yogi Nagar, old MHZ colony, Goral and Goral Village. "I know how much this disease can cost. I lost my brother and mother to COVID-19. I am urging people not to venture out unnecessarily. In our ward, 140 cases have been reported, they went up sporadically after Unlock 1.0. Everyday, there are 10 to 12 cases, this needs to stop. We need strong enforcement of BMC and police. Also awareness among residents is necessary," Shetty said.

The ward's Assistant Commissioner Bhagadree Kapre



Wards and daily cases since June 17

R Central (Borivli)
June 17 (80), 18 (66), 19 (58), 20 (61), 21 (81), 22 (72), 23 (63)
Doubling rate: 19 day

R North (Dahisar)
June 17 (54), 18 (59), 19 (64), 20 (32), 21 (28), 22 (40), 23 (30)
Doubling rate: 22 days

R South (Kandivli)
June 17 (62), 18 (59), 19 (55), 20 (58), 21 (73), 22 (50), 23 (36)
Doubling rate: 27 days

P North (Malad)
June 17 (13), 18 (99), 19 (113), 20 (130), 21 (98), 22 (87), 23 (63)
Doubling rate: 24 days

said that it is too early to comment on the decrease. "What I can say is that the rise is less than what we expected. We expected around 200 cases per day. Today, 77 cases have been reported. Maybe in 10 days, we can firmly comment on trends."

In the P North Ward, areas like Madh Island, Akka, Dharoli village and Ambhujwadi in Ward no. 49 had many cases. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Sutar said that the ward has registered 90 cases, though most were reported on Thursday. "Around 10,000 fishermen, who had gone out to sea to fish, returned and it resulted

in a surge. Also, many people were visiting the fish market in Madh from outside."

Sutar added that in the past two days, the situation is improving. "BMC is doing door-to-door visits, fever and oxygen levels are being checked, which results in finding out asymptomatic cases as well," he said.

Police action a deterrent

Between June 13 and June 24, 1,311 cases related to not wearing masks, keeping shops open, and traveling without reason were registered by police in the North Region. This also helped deter people.

Students wait for flight out of Russia

State students stranded for three months desperate to return; Maharashtra BJP leader urges defence minister to help

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STATE BJP president Chandrakant Patil on June 24 requested special intervention through an e-mail letter from Defence Minister Kananth Singh, currently in Russia, to enable the return of stranded students from the country to their homes in Maharashtra.

Lauding the recent 'Vande Bharat' mission, Patil's letter says that Indian students from universities in Russia, mostly pursuing medical courses, are stuck in Russia for close to three months now. Their families back home are worried, he said.

Vishal Narayan Ghule from Ahmednagar, a third-year MBBS student from Mari State University in Yoshkar-Ola told mid-day, "I live in a flat and have been stuck here since mid-March when classes closed down. We gave online exams but are waiting for flights home. My flatmates have left for their respective homes, I am longing to come back."

Patil's letter said, "I am certain that the Indian Mission in Moscow has details of all the students. This coordination will need great cooperation from Russian authorities as many of these places are over 10 hours away from Moscow by road. While there was a successful flight from Moscow to Nagpur just last week, ferrying 145 students from across India, many more such efforts are needed from our embassy in Moscow. It may be prudent to specially request the official Russian carrier Aeroflot to run flights from Moscow and St Petersburg to Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur."

The route

Santosh S Bhargava, 22, another medical student in Yoshkar-Ola said there is going to be a flight from Moscow to Nagpur on July 4 but "I do not know if I will get a seat on that." Bhargava lives with three flatmates from Rajasthan and Haryana, one of whom has left and the other two are set to leave by the month-end. He said, "I will be alone after that." Students rue that there are skeletal flights to Mumbai even if flights land in Nagpur, Ahmednagar is at least 400 km from there.

It will be a little less than half the distance from Mumbai. "There are many more flights to Nagpur, but landing there will mean making a long road journey from there while landing in Mumbai is much easier



Vishal Narayan Ghule



Santosh S Bhargava

but I think there has been only one flight to Mumbai to date," said Bhargava.

Patil's letter goes on to state, "It would be of great help if you could take up this issue during your discussions with officials of the Russian Federation. I understand that it is not under the protocol to discuss matters other than those pre-decided between the two countries. However, when the world has come together to help each other fight COVID-19, India and Russia must leave no stone unturned in their quest to help citizens of both nations."

Fare fear

Sanket Anasabehn Bhoge, studying for an MBBS degree, said, "There are a couple of us living in the University hostel. We are afraid that somebody may contract COVID-19 because of the common toilets and bathrooms. I have heard there are many applications for a forthcoming flight to Nagpur," but the ticket prices, students said, are daunting at ₹50,500 which is, "three times the normal fare."

Mumbai's Agnivesh Mhoykar from Mari State University said, "There has been just one flight for Mumbai and Nagpur each so far. The Nagpur flight accommodated a number of Chhattingah and Madhya Pradesh citizens. About 15 students have gone to Mumbai from our University, the rest are stuck here with little information."

Youngsters and families are praying for political intervention in such a scenario, and Patil's letter, also marked to the Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Civil Aviation may be a helpline.

China erected structures across LAC against mutual understanding: MEA

NEW DELHI: China has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since early May and the conduct of the Chinese forces has been in complete disregard of all mutually agreed norms. India on Thursday said, holding Beijing responsible for the eastern Ladakh standoff.

At an online media briefing, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Amritha Srivastava gave a rundown of the events along the LAC in the eastern Ladakh region and held China responsible for the Galwan Valley clashes of June 15.

In early May, he said, the Chinese side took action to hinder India's "normal, traditional" patrolling pattern in the Galwan Valley area while it sought to change the status quo in other areas of the Western Sector couple in mid-May.

"We had registered our protest on the Chinese actions through both the diplomatic and military channels, and made it clear that any such change was unacceptable to us," he said.

Subsequently, senior commanders met on June 6 and agreed on a process for de-escalation and disengagement



Chief of Gupak's Karni Sena, Raj Shukla (centre) along with activists at an anti-China demonstration in Ahmedabad. PIC/APP

along the LAC that involved "reciprocal actions", he said. Srivastava said both sides had agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity to alter the status quo.

"The Chinese side departed from these understandings in respect of the LAC in the Galwan Valley area and sought to erect structures just across the LAC," he said. "When this

attempt was foiled, Chinese troops took violent actions on June 15 that directly resulted in casualties. Thereafter, both sides remain deployed in large numbers in the region, while military and diplomatic contacts are continuing," he added. Srivastava said the Chinese side has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC since early May. It was not in accordance with the provisions of various bilateral agreements, especially the key 1993 Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the border, he said. **Agencies**

'Ban on Chinese goods not feasible'

A blanket ban on import of Chinese products is not feasible, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations said while calling for imposing a cess on raw material exports to the world's second largest economy. There have been growing calls to shun Chinese products after a border clash in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

In a first, fresh COVID-19 cases in India touch 17K

Maharashtra, Delhi, TN have contributed to 62 per cent of it in the past 24 hours, health ministry data says



A policeman gestures in front of a barricaded commercial street lined with shops and business establishments, which was closed by the authorities in Bangalore on Thursday. PIC/APP

COVID-19
TICKER
4,73,105
TOTAL NO. OF CASES IN INDIA AS ON MON

NEW DELHI: India witnessed its highest spike of almost 10,000 fresh COVID-19 cases, with Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu contributing more than 62 per cent of it in the past 24 hours taking the total in the country to 4.73 lakh, data from the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry revealed on Thursday.

A total of 16,922 new cases added to the tally to 47,31,055 so far as India continued to be the fourth worst hit country by the pandemic. According to the Health Ministry data, in the

past 24 hours 418 new deaths were reported taking the total tally of fatalities to 14,894 in the country.

Over 1,000 cases more were recorded in 24 hours than what we saw on Wednesday, when 15,968 new COVID-19 cases were reported.

Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu continued at the top contributing almost 62 per cent of the total spike of the COVID-19 cases.

There are currently 1,46,514 active cases and 2,71,660 recoveries. The number of patients recovering from COVID-19 continues to rise. The recovery rate has further improved to almost 57.42 per cent.

"We have not yet lost control. But, still in the last few days there has been a spike in COVID-19 cases. If you don't want Bengaluru to be sealed once again please cooperate and maintain distance." BS Yediyurappa, Karnataka chief minister

10,884
Total no. of cases in Andhra Pradesh

14,894
Total no. of deaths due to the virus in India

Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state in the country with a total of 1,42,900 cases, including 6,759 deaths. It recorded a spike of 3,890 fresh cases with 208 deaths in last 24 hours. **Agencies**

Std X, XII exams cancelled: Centre

The Centre and the CBSE on Thursday informed the Supreme Court (SC) that they have decided to cancel the Std X and XII examinations scheduled from July 1-15 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and they would be conducted later. A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar was apprised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that a scheme has been formulated to assess the performance of Std XII students on the basis of their performance in last examinations.

No leaves for Guj police officers

The Gujarat Home Department has asked the state DGP and other senior officers not to grant any leave to the police personnel, saying that their presence was necessary for the effective implementation of Unlock-1. A notification issued on Thursday by the Home Department said that the presence of all the available police force was necessary for the implementation of the Centre's guidelines for the phased re-opening of the Coronavirus-induced lockdown or Unlock-1 that came into effect from June 1.

'Private sector to be part of ISRO'S planetary exploration'

NEW DELHI: In a major reform in the India's space arena, the private sector will now be allowed to carry out space activities like building of rockets, satellites and providing launch services. ISRO chief K Sivan said on Thursday.

Terming this a "major reform", Sivan said the private sector can also be part of the inter-planetary missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Cabinet on Wednesday approved participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities, including planetary exploration missions. "The private sector will



ISRO Chairman K Sivan. PIC/PTI

be enabled to carry out space activities like building of rockets, satellites, providing launch services on a commercial basis. "The private sector can also be part of interplanetary missions of ISRO. This is being planned to be done through announcement of opportunities," Sivan said in an online briefing. **Agencies**

He added that ISRO's activities are not going to reduce and it will continue to carry out space-based activities including advanced research and devpt, inter-planetary and human space flight missions

Emergency mindset still remains in Congress: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah came down heavily on the Congress on Thursday, saying the interests of one family prevailed over the party and national interests, and questioned why the 'Emergency mindset' still remained in the Opposition party. On the 45th year of the imposition of Emergency in the country, Shah claimed leaders were feeling suffocated in the Congress and the party's disconnect with people keeps widening.

"On this day, 45 years ago one family's greed for power led to the imposition of the Emergency. Overnight the nation was turned into a prison. The press, courts, free speech... all were trampled over. Atrocities were committed on the poor and downtrodden," he said in a series of tweets.

Former PM Indira Gandhi had imposed Emergency on June 25, 1975 and it continued till March 21, 1977. The home minister said due to the efforts of lakhs of people, the Emergency was lifted, democracy was restored in India but it remained absent in the Congress. **Agencies**



Union Minister of State for Home, G Kishan Reddy and BJP MP Vijay Goyal at an 'Excess of Emergency' exhibition in New Delhi. PIC/PTI

1975
Year Emergency was imposed by former PM Indira Gandhi

Is reopening without cure a mistake?

Surge in infections and deaths soon after countries ease their COVID-19 curbs to resume businesses indicates so; cases are climbing rapidly among young adults in several US states where bars, stores and restaurants have reopened; Australia, Israel, Europe, which recently eased restrictions, also see cases spike

SYDNEY: About a dozen different vaccines are in various stages of testing worldwide, including in Britain, China and the US. Though experts believe a vaccine against COVID-19 will be available by the end of this year or early next year, there has been nothing concrete to cure the deadly respiratory disease.

In the absence of any treatment, many countries emerged from lockdown hoping to resurrect their economies, but new cases rose to dire new levels in many places, potentially wiping out two months of progress.

'US letting disaster unfold'

US states were re-imposing virus restrictions and Brazilian experts were warning the country was sending people "to the slaughterhouse." More than 76,000 people were re-assessed with COVID-19 in the US and in Brazil alone on Wednesday, with 34,700 in the US, the highest in two months. Hospital administrators and health experts have warned desperately that parts of the US are on the verge of becoming overwhelmed by a resurgence of the COVID-19, lamenting that politicians and a trend of being "cooped-up" public are letting a disaster unfold.

Cases are climbing rapidly among young adults in a number of states where bars, stores and restaurants have reopened — a disturbing generational shift that not only puts them in greater peril than many realize but poses an even bigger danger to older people who cross their paths. In Oklahoma City, church activities, fitness classes, weddings and funerals resumed in-



Britishers flood a beach near England, just days after curbs ended (right) people arrive for the partial reopening of Eiffel Tower on Thursday, as France eases lockdown. **PCSA/MP**



1MN
No. of new cases
per week, globally
— WHO

fections among people in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Meanwhile in Australia, health workers began door-to-door testing of over 1 lakh residents in a COVID-19 hot spot in Melbourne that is threatening to undo the nation's success in battling the virus. Victoria state on Thursday reported 33 new cases, the highest daily number in over two

months. Australia had managed to stem the contagion, with just over 2,500 cases, including 104 deaths. Israel, which eased the curbs end of May, witnessed a surge in infections. According to the Times of Israel, the Health Ministry on Wednesday night said 537 new cases were confirmed in the past 24 hours. The government has approved the reopening of a controversial tracking system administered by domestic security agency.

'In 11 of the affected nations in Europe, accelerated transmission has led to significant resurgence that if left unchecked will push health systems to the brink once again' Hans Kluge, WHO's regional director, Europe

"We may have opened too quickly. The public is not disciplined or wearing masks," Sergei Sostetky, the head of public health services at Israel's health ministry, said. The World Health Organisation's regional director, Hans Kluge, said cases surged in Europe since countries started lifting lockdowns, reported the Guardian. In Turkey, which reopened at the start of June, daily infections were "higher than anticipated". The government still isn't considering re-imposing the lockdown. The health minister has blamed the spike on widespread complacency and failure to comply with physical distancing.

Worldwide, COVID-19 has infected over 9.4 million people, and killed nearly 5 lakh.

Agencies

Cough, fever most prevalent symptoms, study confirms

A persistent cough and fever have been confirmed as the most prevalent symptoms of COVID-19, according to a major review of 348 separate studies that identified fatigue, loss of smell and difficulty in breathing among other major symptoms. The study, published in the journal PLoS ONE, ratifies the list of symptoms issued by the World Health Organisation at the start of the pandemic.

Scores of migrants in Somalia haven't heard of COVID-19

A half-year into the most momentous pandemic in decades, scores of migrants arriving in Somalia tell United Nations workers every day that they are unaware of COVID-19. In the week ending June 20, just over half — 51 per cent — of the 3,471 people tracked said they had never heard of COVID-19, a program manager with the UN agency told The AP.

'Julian Assange conspired with hackers of Anonymous'

WASHINGTON: Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder, sought to recruit hackers at conferences in Europe and Asia who could provide his anti-secrecy website with classified information, and conspired with hacking groups LulzSec and Anonymous, according to a new Justice Department indictment announced Wednesday.

The supervening indictment doesn't contain additional charges beyond the 38 counts the Justice De-

partment unveiled last year. But prosecutors say it underscores Assange's efforts to procure and release classified information, allegations that form the basis of criminal charges he already faces. He also worked with

hacker, 17, who gave him information stolen from a bank and directed the teenager to steal additional material, including audio recordings of high-ranking government officials, prosecutors say. **Agencies**



Julian Assange

Polls for vote open to extend Putin's rule till 2036

MOSCOW: Polls opened in Russia on Thursday for a week-long vote on constitutional changes that would allow President Vladimir Putin to stay in power until 2036.

The vote on a slew of constitutional amendments, proposed by Putin in January, was initially scheduled for April 22, but was postponed because of the pandemic. It was later rescheduled for July 1, with polling stations opening a week earlier and staying open for seven days in an effort to avoid crowds on the main voting day.

The proposed amendments include a change in the con-



A woman casts her vote in a ballot on constitutional reforms. **PCSA/MP**

stitution that would allow the 67-year-old Putin, who has ruled Russia for over two decades, to run for two more six-year terms after his current one

term expires in 2024. Other amendments talk about improving social benefits, define marriage as a union of a man and a woman, and redistribute

executive powers within the government, strengthening the presidency. The changes have already been approved by both houses of parliament, the Constitutional Court and were signed into law by Putin. He insisted that they be put to a vote, even though it is not legally required, in what many see as an effort to put a veneer of democracy on the changes.

Holding the vote in the middle of a pandemic has elicited public health concerns, because Russia is still reporting over 7,000 new virus cases daily and has 6,06,000 confirmed infections in all. **Agencies**

comment

THOUGHT
FOR THE DAY

No oppression is so heavy or lasting as that which is inflicted by the perversion and exorbitance of legal authority — Joseph Addison, English writer

Talk of health futile when govt can't maintain a dump

It is every breath you take, for residents of eastern suburbs, who have been complaining of foul stench from the Kanjurmarg dump yard. A report in this paper detailed how residents have been unable to sleep because of the overpowering odour. An environmental non-profit has got into the matter talking about how the dump was a huge health hazard and problems are being compounded as the days pass and monsoon has hit the city.

Infact, the odour has been stronger because of the monsoon season. Activists have asked local authorities to visit the dump and see first hand all the problems it is creating for locals closest to its periphery.

It would do little harm in investigating whether complaints have men-
E. Since residents claim they have been writing letters to authorities apprising them about the problem, it is up to authorities to respond by at least starting to look at the site.

visiting it, gauging the extent of the problem, and then deciding how to tackle it.

It is important that the first step is taken, which is an acknowledgement of the complaint at the very least.

Monsoon will bring with it, a host of health problems like every season does and suffering locals should not have to bear with this too.

It is also vital that many experts have suggested that people keep their windows open as far as possi-

ble, to enable natural light and air circulation, for it is beneficial in these times of the pandemic. The smell then, will not allow people to follow these guidelines. Instead, they have to spend a majority of their time in closed rooms, spraying air freshener and burning incense sticks to dissipate the bad smells.

Let us see movement on this dump and a solution. Talking health is useless when we cannot clean up our own backyard.

LETTERS

Good decision by BMC chief on PPE kits

Apropos 'BMC lets private hospitals buy PPEs at base rate', it was heartening to read that at last the BMC chief has suggested that private hospitals buy kits from civic body at lower rates so that they can pass on the benefit to the public. Kudos to mid-day for highlighting the plight of the patients during the pandemic. Taking undue advantage of the present situation is unjust. Strict action must be taken soon against such hospitals.

KATY MARFATIA

People's carelessness will be our undoing

This is with reference to 'People don't wear masks, ignore home quarantine'. The government had lifted the lockdown to ease the situation for the people but it seems to have backfired as people are no more scared of the virus and have taken the safety factor for granted. Carelessness will prove too costly for us.

SUDHAKAR GS

Is Ajoy Mehta the best the CM could find?

Apropos 'Ajoy Mehta will be CM's principal adviser', this decision has highlighted the poor choice of the state government by appointing someone notorious for his laxity and worse when he was the commissioner of the Bad Management Corporation - BMC. Apparently, the welfare of the state does not seem to be the prime concern of the government. Surely, there are scores of competent people in the state who will be comparatively better than Ajoy Mehta.

PERVYIN KAVARANA

have your say!



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View from the other side

LA VIE EN ROSA



Rosalyn D'mello

As the world tries to find its bearings in a post-pandemic world, I think of those dealing with stressed or violent domestic lives and separate truth from fiction in the news coming from back home

It was disorienting to re-emerge after having been in self-isolation for 14 days, during the span of which our horizon was limited to the vineyard-sprawled hill in our backyard atop which lies the little church dedicated to Saint Jakob. Except for one afternoon when we had wandered through the vines and perched ourselves at a point from where we could glimpse the town of Tramin and the neighbouring Kaiser See, we had responsibly confined ourselves indoors until the very end.

The day we were slated to leave our tiny but cosy rental apartment at the Perlehof Pfaffenlohn farmhouse, I saw for the first time this summer, a patch of Lavender in full bloom. I looked out into the valley like a virgin visitor to the Alps. There was a newness to the experience of guiltlessly inhabiting the outdoors that was disorienting. We took our time loading the car and marvelled at every little thing we saw on our three-minute drive home. It was exhilarating. We had finally arrived where we were meant to be.

We spent the rest of the day unpacking our suitcases, readying ourselves to settle in. After dinner, we went for a long walk. We were clearly lucky to be back at a time when things were returning to what they were before the country was the first in Europe to go into complete lockdown. We walked through vineyards and apple fields and realised, along the way, this was the longest stretch we'd walked in months. In Delhi, our movements rarely ever extended beyond our apartment and the local market, where we'd go to fill our bottles at the milk dispenser. The next day, after lunch, we set out to eat ice cream and go swimming and hiking. We had our first restaurant dining experience since February. Who would have thought we'd ever have the opportunity to experience eating out as a novelty. It definitely felt like one.



Sakora Zargis, a pregnant woman and a student of Jamia Millia University, was arrested in April in relation to the riots in Delhi in February. FILEPIC

The lack of any kind of informed leadership capable of steering the country through the humanitarian crisis is enraging. Never before in my lived memory has the oppressiveness of patriarchal governance been more vaingloriously on display

Ask anyone about the last three months, which is referred to here as 'Coronavirus-time', and you are greeted with the same traumatised look. But of course, all over the world, women were hit the hardest, irrespective of the developed or third-world status of the country.

In Siddhant there was a clear spike in incidents of domestic abuse, as it was back home in India. When these mothers, whether coupled or single, speak about the level of multi-tasking they had to engage in, I feel relief

at being child-free. Between taking care of an infant to homeschooling the more grown-up child to managing one's own workload and trying to maintain one's sanity through it all, it's easy to slip into despair. So many have held it together.

I wondered if any of their accounts will ever be articulated; if, one day, we might be able to access a compendium of all the tribulations of domesticity? The media was quick to pick up on trends about people comfort-baking bread or obsessively making Dalgona coffee, but I've yet to read about the immense impact the lockdown had within the realm of the home. How did couples in hetero-normative relationships find equilibrium? And those non-hetero-normatively coupled, what was life like for them? Or for those who are single?

Many of my friends who have been coping with depression for years found this time to be more stabilising, because it wasn't infested with

the usual humdrum of societal expectations. Some of them are, in fact, apprehensive about the return to normalcy. I wonder about all of these small details that are not considered matters of national importance. What fundamental truths might they reveal about how we functioned as a society during the Pandemic, as well as the unprecedented psychological nature of its impact.

Among the harder it aspects of my 'new' life is relating to the alarming nature of the news that I receive from back home. When I was there in Delhi, it was easier to ascertain truth from fiction. Now that I'm away and more heavily dependent on newspapers to inform me about present conditions, it's harder to tell the difference. Some headlines feel shockingly absurd. The news about activists being held by the state on trumped-up charges while actual criminals go scot-free remains distressing.

The lack of any kind of informed leadership capable of steering the country through the humanitarian crisis is enraging. Never before in my lived memory has the oppressiveness of patriarchal governance been more vaingloriously on display. The collective blindness towards the deep connections between right-wing fundamentalism and patriarchy is something I'm unable to fathom.

Never before has it been more crucially imperative of citizens to demand better. It feels like our democracy is crying for life-support but is unable to find a bed with a ventilator. We still have the power to prevent its total collapse into a comatose state. Every act of resistance restores the oxygen levels within its blood. We have a moral duty to keep it alive.

Deliberating on the life and times of Everywoman. Rosalyn D'mello is a reputable art critic and the author of A Handbook For My Love. She tweets @RosaDms

Send your feedback to mailbag@mid-day.com

hitlist

SO IS THE BUZZ

DESI FARE TO GO ONLINE?

With Star World slated to go off air, sources say Indian originals to directly stream on Disney+Hotstar app

IN the wake of Star India pulling the plug on its English entertainment channel, Star World, questions have arisen over the fate of some Indian originals. Sources inform that most shows commissioned by the channel will now stream directly on Disney+Hotstar, the digital arm of the media network, which will creatively co-produce the offerings. It is learnt that the decision to axe the channel



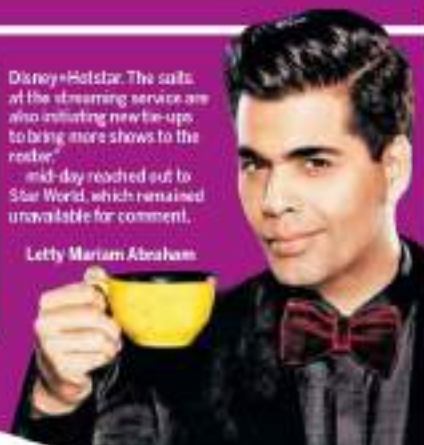
was prompted by its poor performance following the OTT boom in India. A source informs, "With many of Star World's international series available on Amazon Prime Video and Netflix, the viewership had dropped

considerably. Now that Disney has entered a joint venture with Star, changes are being made to the content slate. The top brass of Hotstar are in talks with the producers of Indian originals, including Koffee with Karan and MasoorChef India. While the next season of Karan Joha's chat show is not slated until next year, the upcoming edition of the cooking reality show will stream directly on

Disney+Hotstar. The calls of the streaming service are also including new tie-ups to bring more shows to the roster."

mid-day reached out to Star World, which remained unavailable for comment.

Letty Mariam Abraham



Koffee with Karan; left: MasterChef India

'People feel the show is an eye-opener on marriage'

Ekta proud that Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain 3, centred on extra-marital relationship, has been welcomed by viewers without moral judgment



UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN
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The fourth season of Ekta Kapoor's Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain will apparently be based on a Bollywood star wife

EKTA Kapoor knew she was going against the grain when exploring the idea of finding love outside marriage with Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain. But, with

great risks, come great rewards. The positive response to the third season of the Koffee with Karan, Mousa Singh and Gurodeep Kohli starrer has boosted her confidence to experiment with similar mature subjects.

"The response to the show has reinstated my faith in tackling subjects that appeal to the audience. People have told me that the show is an eye-opener when it comes to topics of rela-

tionships, love and marriage," states Kapoor.

The producer believes that the ALUbalaji series' was lies in its sensitive writing. "The writers have done a splendid job by showcasing the central characters in a balanced light. The show delves into complex emotions, and we have tried to justify each character and his/her actions. With the final episode set to drop on July 1, our social media timeline is flooded with fans sending their dearest end to the story," she enthuses.

In an earlier interview to mid-day, Kapoor had revealed that the fourth edition would be loosely based on a Bollywood star wife. Quiz her on the development, and all she is willing to let on is, "We always try to improve our craft as compared to our previous work. The fourth season will be a notch above."



The crew on the Uthirakudi set of RadhaKrishn; (below right) vehicles are fumigated before being allowed on the set; (bottom) actors Akshay Kulkar and Akshita Mudgal maintain social distancing while shooting for Bhakarwadi in Mira Road

First day, first (few) shoots

As TV industry returns to work after three months, mid-day brings dope from sets of Bhakarwadi, Santoshi Maa, RadhaKrishn about shooting in post-COVID world

MOHAR BASU, LETTY MARIAM ABRAHAM AND UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN
letty@mid-day.com

ON Thursday, actor-producer JD Majethia drove down to the all-familiar set of Bhakarwadi in Mira Road after 100 days. The joy of returning to work was tinged with an unusual sense of caution. Majethia — who, as the chairman of the TV & web wing of the Indian Film & Television Producers' Council (IFTPC), played an active role in enabling television producers to resume shooting — arrived

on the set, with Deven Bhanu, an hour before the cast and crew to ensure the shoot kicked off on the right foot.

Day One began with the producer reiterating the



'Before entering the set, the unit has to wear the slippers provided by us' Bhakarwadi producer

guidelines to the team. Majethia had called only 30 per cent of the original crew, comprising actors Bhujari, Akshay Kulkar, Akshita Mudgal and Pooja Ganatra, and a handful of technicians. As a safety measure, the studio had lockers installed at the entrance. "Before they enter the set, they have to remove their footwear and wear the pair of slippers provided by us. We have provided un-



brethias that everybody walks around with, thereby ensuring that social distancing is followed. We have marked everyone's position, and the actors and technicians have to sit in the designated areas. As per the guidelines, we also have a nurse on the set who checked everyone's temperature before letting them in," explains Majethia. While the actors had to mask-up, the technicians sported them all day long. The handful of spot boys present on the set wore PPE kits provided by the production house.

Continued on page 14



have you heard?

REPRISED
VERSION

Composer duo Sachin-Jigar have recreated the chartbuster Maeri for a digital music reality show. It was originally recorded by Palash Sen and his band Euphoria for their album *Phir Dhoorn* in 2000



SSR film to release digitally

Sushant Singh Rajput's last Bollywood outing, *SSR* Bechara, will release on Disney+Hotstar on July 24. To honour the late actor, the streaming platform is making the movie also available to non-subscribers. *SSR* Bechara is the official remake of the Hollywood

romantic drama, *The Fault in our Stars* (2014), which was based on John Green's novel. Rajput's co-star is newcomer **Sanjana Sanghi**. The movie proved to be a disappointment for SSR's fan groups, who were lobbying for a theatrical release for their cine idol's last project.



Wear it right

Shilpa Shetty Kundra shared a picture wearing a mask in support of the BMC's Mask Up Challenge. The initiative is to protect people from the virus as lockdown restrictions ease. The actor reiterated the need to not only wear the mask when stepping out, but to also wear it right — cover the nose and the mouth.

In the eye of the storm

Memes and trolls targeting **Divya Khosla Kumar** flooded Twitter throughout Thursday as she faced flak for replying to the allegations levelled by Sonu Nigam against husband Bhushan Kumar. Netizens were not exactly convinced with Divya's accusations against the singer as they continued extending support to Nigam. They found it amusing that she made their cook Sheru, who has been working with them since 1988 to speak against the singer.



Atif Aslam song pulled down



Pakistani singer **Atif Aslam's** version of the *Eintra* song track from *Marjaavaan* (2019), which was uploaded by T-Series on their YouTube channel has been removed. The Chitrapat Sena of the MNS warned the music company of "major action" if it did not pull it down. T-Series claims the "track was erroneously uploaded last week by one of their employees who was unaware of his actions". The All India Cine Workers Association had announced a ban on Pakistani artistes in India in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack last year.



PEHCHAAN KAUN?

Looks like **Madhan Shaji's** friends failed to recognise her. They did a double take and realised it was the actor only after she had lowered her mask. They were papped in one of **Bandra's** bylanes. **PC/NTA, NAMBLE**



Karisma turns 46

On Thursday, **Karisma Kapoor** celebrated her 46th birthday. Sister **Karisma Kapoor Khan** wished her on Instagram and referred to her "as my second mother, my best friend and the ultimate diva". The two catch up every morning over a phone call. **Belbo** added, "Hope our chats last forever."

Bonnie Amrita Arora Laddu and **Malaika Arora** took to their social media handles to wish Laddu on her big day. They hope to party in better times.



The long wait

Last seen in *Stanhia Mirch*, the lockdown seems to be getting to **Rajkumar Rao**. He is missing work and is waiting to hear the director say, "Action." The actor, who has *Ludo*, *Rooftop Aliens*, *Chhalaang* and *The White Tiger* lined up, took to Instagram to say that he is counting the days to his return on the set.

At it again

After taking on the power players in the industry, **Abhay Deol**



has now taken a dig at Bollywood, saying, "one could make a film about the doings of the industry folk." While recalling the shoot of his 2012 film *Shanghai*, which revolved around corruption in politics, he wrote, "An extremely relevant subject even today. Looks like these days one could make a film about the corrupt practices of Bollywood."

WEDDING BELLS

Wedding bells

Manish Raisinghani and **Sangeeta Chaudhary** will tie the knot on June 30. The *Ek Shringaar* — *Swaahitanam* co-actors met on the set of the show. It is said that they have been dating for two years. The wedding will have only family members in attendance.



Govinda's son sustains minor injuries in accident

GOVINDA'S son Yashwardhan Ahuja met with a car accident on Wednesday night in Juhu, at around 8.30 pm. Reports suggest that Yashwardhan was in the car along with his driver, when the vehicle collided with another car. No one was seriously injured.

The actor confirmed the news to a portal, stating that his son sustained minor injuries. He added that since the car belonged to Yash Raj Films, a production house he shared an "old relationship" with, they would not be pressing charges against the driver, who apologised to them at the instance.

The actor reportedly rushed to the spot and interacted with witnesses.

Agencies



Govinda reportedly said that since the car belonged to Yash Raj Films, a production house he shared an "old relationship" with, they would not be pressing charges against the driver.

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STAY HOME
STAY SAFE

Stay in to
Slay it.

Take pride in staying at home till
the lockdown is lifted.

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'We share sanitisers'

Continued from page 12

A QUICK look at the set revealed posters reminding one of the virus that looms large. "We have introduced a concept called share a sanitiser. Earlier, people would share gulkha, and moles on sets. Now, we have banned them, they are only allowed to share sanitisers," adds Majethia. At lunch, the unit was served packed food and were required to eat at their designated positions, thus avoiding crowding.

Rhojani reported to the set with complete makeup and in costume. "All our make-up rooms were sanitised before we came in the morning. A make-up kit was delivered to me two days ago, which I promptly sanitised. I have learnt to do make-up during the lockdown. So, we came to the set ready for the camera," he narrates.

Even as they clocked nine hours of work, from 9 am to 6 pm, productivity on the first day was below par. "We did rehearsal and then shot. The work is definitely slow, as everyone is careful," says Majethia.

Molloy crew shoots for mythological

Miles away, in Umergaon, actors Sumeth Mudgalwar and Bhasit Bhasit received their roles of Krishna and Balrao in Siddharth Kumar Tewary's RadhaKrishn. A source reveals that a 20-member cast and crew was taken to Umergaon a week ago, following which they practised the mandatory self-quarantine.



Two sanitisation tunnels have also been built on the set as a precautionary measure.

Actor Kushak Vaidya, who plays Arjun in the mythological show, says, "The producers have looked after every aspect — from calling us a week in advance and keeping us in isolation to having a sanitisation regimen frequently during the day. The moment we are done filming a shot, we are required to san-

itise ourselves and wear our masks."

Colors TV's offering Chaiti Sandaani is expected to roll today while Star TV will take their daily soaps on floors by June 28. Among the shoots that started yesterday also included the Grace Singh-fronted Sanshodh Maa. A technician from the crew, on condition of anonymity, reveals that the makers have let go of a chunk of the crew to avoid crowding on sets.

"On the basis of the guidelines, they've decided that some of us are not needed anymore at work. But as daily-wage workers, we are all in a trying situation," he laments.

Not just television

In Versova, actor Adah Sharma ventured out for the shoot of a commercial for a popular coffee brand, accompanied by her make-up artist and hair stylist. She stuck to the beds, and says they were vigilant to not flout any rules. "My hair and make-up team were given instructions to not touch anything on set. I was conscious to not touch surfaces, and kept washing my hands at frequent intervals. After every scene, I would get back in the vanity van and wash my hands, as did my hair and make-up team."



Temperature checks were taken on the set of RadhaKrishn (still on right), as shooting resumed yesterday. (top) still from Bhakawadi

'Will bring my own vibe to character'

Well abreast that Karan Singh Grover has already established a place in viewers' hearts as Mr Bajaj in Kasautii Zindagii Kay, Karan Patel on taking over the baton of iconic character

LETTY MARIAM ABRAHAM
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FOLLOWING a brief hiatus after his six-year long series Yeh Hai Mohabbatein came to a close, Karan Patel is back to the grind with Ekta Kapoor's Kasautii Zindagii Kay. In what could arguably be among the few instances of a lead telly actor replacing another in a prime-time TV show, Patel takes over the baton from Karan Singh Grover to play Richabh Bajaj in the Parth Samthan and Erica Fernandes-fronted offering.

"I look forward to playing

Mr Bajaj. We begin shooting next week. It's going to be fun to do so after almost three months," says Patel, who was selected following a fair share of scouting by Kapoor.

Stepping into the shoes of the small screen's blue-eyed boy, who brought his own charm to a role popularised by Ronit Roy in the original, can't be a mean feat. Patel plans to successfully bring about this transition by not emulating Grover. "Karan added his bit to the role. I come with my own understanding of the character. Since we all

come from different schools of thought, with respect to acting, I'm sure I will pull it off and give a different vibe. Mr Bajaj is an iconic character. When the role was offered to me, I believed I could add my nuances to it and lift it higher."

The offering will pair him with Erica Fernandes for the first time in a role that could perhaps explore their chemistry. "Romancing someone on screen is my forte. [I haven't done it] for a while, but [one can't deny] that it is something I do best," informs Patel.

He begins shooting next week after the makers design a new look for his character.



Karan Singh Grover



'Karan added his bit to the character. I have my own understanding of the role'

MS FILMS & PRODUCTION PRESENTS

COMING SOON...

POSTERMAN

MAIN

MULAYAM

SINGH YADAV

A FILM BY SUVENDU RAJ GHOSH

PRODUCED BY MEENA SETHI MONDAL

SCRIPT: NAGENDRA KUMAR WIPRODESH M. HOLI EDITOR: RAJ SINGH SINGH MAKE UP: ARUN SHANKARANAG SIRE COSTUME: SNIGDHA GHOSH, NAMINI GHOSH NIC NODESH MACHHORA, INDIALE
SOUND DESIGNER: GAJANAN NAG MUSIC: SHARIF & TUSHI CASTING DIRECTOR: ARJUN NARAYAN PRODUCTION CONTROLLER: AJIT KARAN DEV PATEL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: HUNTAI GHOSH DASTIDAR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: SUVENDU NAGHAR, SANMAN SIDDHARTH HAMBLE CHIEF ASSISTANT: ANSHAY ANANT KHADKAR LINE PRODUCERS: SUJAT HALIBAS MAHATE, DIPANE, NIRPAL SINGH, CHANDRANATH
EXECUTIVE PROMOTION: PREMANHUR BOSE DI COLORIST: VAISHAV WAMAN AUDIO ENGINEER: SUMIL, RUMAR ABAHWAL STYLING: ADARSH SANJAY MEDIA MAKEUP: CONCEPT VEG MEDIA PUBLICITY DESIGN: MILIND NARVAE

CLEARING THE AIR, STEPPING INTO BEING FUTURE READY

BIHARTI DOBEY

A *doos-ka-dos* article for the first time Priyanka Anra declared that everything written about her during her absence was false where she declared every single allegation bogus, false and baseless, stating all of it was a lie. She said there was a conspiracy that was hatched against her and had no standing whatsoever anywhere. She candidly spoke out because she was all set to restart her work and needed to clear things out. She set the record straight by saying that Kriaj had successfully produced and released the films *Rastam*, *Toilet ek Prem Katha*, *Padman*, *Pari* amongst others. Post August 2017 Pooja Films collaborated with Kriaj and took up the distribution of *Pari* along with a set of other films that followed. Below is a glimpse of what she said on the various fronts questioned on.

What happened between Vishu ji and you?

What happened between Vishu ji and me was because of somebody else. This somebody conspired to ruin Vishu ji and my professional relationship to such a huge extent that our relationship became acidic. Kriaj has never done any wrong, wrong happened to Kriaj in that event. Vishu ji who was associated with Kriaj at that point also suffered the brunt of somebody else's wrong doings, some from outside the industry and some within.

I deeply regret not listening to Vishu ji's advice on few things then, everything was in front of my eyes. I came across as an insensitive person in his eyes and lost his support but I was suppressed by immense fear and something very ugly which had happened. I kept quiet and that is something I regret, it became an act of selfishness and I became the bad person in front of Vishu ji. To top it few of my rivals who hated me and conspired against me took full advantage of the situation. It ruined our professional relationship which could have been repaired, ruined it to such a huge extent that it created a black hole between us, there was a huge misunderstanding and the truck was hidden. Today I sincerely and deeply apologise to Vishu ji, it's never too late to ask for an apology if you feel the need for it, I'm sure now he is also aware of the truth, he is a senior and respected producer of the industry, jaane-ajane mein unki feelings ko hurt karna hai and once again I want to deeply and sincerely apologise to him.

What do you mean when you say there is a lobby working against you?

From the day I arrived, there were a lot of people who wanted me to fail, but I have really worked hard to make some of the biggest hits and National Award films, I do agree that I finished when I took up a lot of films and did a market deal and that is when things started going wrong for me. I was new to the film industry, I am bound to make mistakes, but there was an one to lead support or guide me or show kindness towards me. During my lean period, a lot of people took advantage and tried to break me, but I stood like a rock, I did not give in and announced a set of four films under the banner of Five Elements, which included Karan Lalk, Radh Kya Geet Main Kya Kaala and Woh Kya Thi. I was ready to roll all over again, I didn't run away anywhere, so that means there has to be something I was doing right. I am passionate about movies, but I got backstabbed. The tragedy that happened with me made my partners in Five Elements and me suffer huge losses and all our hard work went down the drain. Right now, I can only say there is a political name involved in the problem I faced in the last one year. I am not going to name anyone here, because there is family pressure, but I will speak out at the right time and the right place. The whole episode that happened with me was life threatening, and if it were not for my family who supported me and kept me from doing anything wrong I would not have had the strength to come back. They encouraged me to come back and fight it out and I am doing exactly that today.

You are making a comeback with the announcement of two films. What about the films that you had announced before problems came into your life?

Those projects are parked for now, I'm starting some new projects as a Creative Producer under the banner of Marudaa Entertainment Pvt Ltd, which is headed by Reshahb Saraf and my close people and close confidantes. The backbiting and lobbying against me will start all over again, but I am determined to restart work without any fear as I have done no wrong.

“Sushant was a true artist and at the same time, a man who had so many dreams. From whatever I saw of him in those two years, he definitely had leadership qualities, but a sensitive guy jo harr baat ko dil pe laga leta tha...”



Prerana Anra

wrong was done to me. I will be fearless and without hesitating I will seek help and make my voice as loud as when required. If anyone tries to diminish me by talking about the past, I will not hold back at all, I will openly show my bank statements which is my biggest weapon they say no dhadh ka dhadh para ki para. My victory lies there. Till Pari there was perfection. post that I worked on trust and kind faith and paid a very heavy price and suffered immensely because of trusting people blindly.

Going forward if required I will opt for a media trial and reach out to everybody but not live in fear at all. What happened to me was never about money, also there were losses that no one even counts. As a producer I have always given and if taken, taken what? Have I robbed anything of you? Krraji did business of more than 400 crores. When you do such big numbers, having a debt of nearly 15 crores is basic. There is a huge amount of money, in crores, still pending to be collected from individuals within the film industry. I have kept my dignity unlike others. We are announcing 2 films next week, both are in collaboration with 2 prominent actors as co-producers. One of them is a thriller and the other one is a psychological horror. Keeping in mind the given pandemic we are making small films. I want to keep quiet and do my work as they say 'soap ke karte hue ko rasi ne bhil dar lagin hain.' I have a simple principal "Live and let live." I never meet someone else's comfort zone and this time I will not let anyone cheat mine.

Did you go through a phase where you wanted to take your life?

Who wouldn't think of it? A young girl, who had a great life and was doing extremely well in her career, start ke kuch mein chhota diva jaise hai... Mind you, I was dealing with such powerful people. I was a complete outsider who didn't really network, I wasn't part of any party, dinner groups. My only focus was my work and making/producing/ presenting excellent cinema with no Guddi to watch over me.

My father who had just recovered from a kidney surgery and returned from the death bed which most of the industry is aware of, this ugly mishap that took place in my life changed my father as a person. He turned to alcohol in a state of complete shock/ trauma and helplessness. Every time I thought of ending my life, I knew my family will also collapse the same day and only that thought kept me going. I knew I had to live for them. I held on to God. My family has suffered immensely and I had a lot of suppressed anger in me that turned into clinical depression. I have started praying a lot more now and with God on my side. I believe I am the Prhalad of Lord Naraina and if need be Lord Naraina will come down and tear apart all who intentionally wronged me.

U We are announcing 2 films next week, both are in collaboration with 2 prominent actors as co-producers. One of them is a thriller and the other one is a psychological horror.

Were you made to feel like an outsider all the time?

Being an outsider was always a challenge, but all my films became super hits and things changed for me. So it's success that matters here in this film industry. You have to go through the grind, where you'll find people who don't want you to come up. They don't want anybody to come up, for that matter. They may be sweet to you on your face, but will mock you behind your back. I got to see the amount of hatred people have during my lean period. People would say, yeh toh khaman ho jayega before every film of mine and at any given point, there are at least 50 people wanting to see your film flop. Problems began when I took up a lot of films, but none of them have got shelved. I always kept my films before me. I went down, but didn't let anyone down. There are good and bad people everywhere. When I started my career with Akshay Kumar, I was safe. Anushka Sharma too was a thorough professional. I should've stopped at Pari and taken a break as understood the industry better, but I thought everybody is Akshay Kumar and that was my fault. I rubbed a couple of actors the wrong way, and that's when the buzz campaign began. All got together and attacked me, but I preferred to keep quiet and continue to work.

What is that one lesson you have learnt with your experience in the past?

Keep your mouth shut and work. Another important lesson was that I wanted to be a man in a man's world, but now I want to be a woman and seek help when needed. I prefer not reaching out to associations and bigwigs, including a superstar who was ready to intervene but refused for the fear of getting misinterpreted. I am a changed person today and have no hesitations to go out and ask for work. Besides producing a film, I would even ask to give me a chance to write and direct too, but please don't try to strangle my talent. If I didn't have talent, I would not have made so many good films, including a National Award winning film.

You have worked with Sushant Singh Rajput on *Redmarch*. What was your reading of the actor?

I shared a good rapport with him and could relate with him. He was a small town boy with huge aspirations. Like all of us, so we really had a lot of things in common. I was completely in awe of him as he was a superbly intelligent actor, who discussed astrophysics to quantum physics and was not in all film. He was a true artist and at the same time, a

man who had so many dreams. From whatever I saw of him in those two years, he definitely had leadership qualities, but a sensitive guy jo harr baar ko dil pe laga leta tha...

The director of *Chanda mama*, Sushant and me were a trio and were very close to each other. At one point I was going to be associated with the film and so we had long chats and really gelled with each other. I feel a lot of pain for him and what happened to him has shaken me more to now speak and not to suppress my feelings. In my prayers I ask God to give his father the strength as he is not from the industry. My dad learnt from the industry and knew nothing about my work. I wish I had told him everything.

Did you sense any kind of restlessness in him?

I knew that he was obsessed with the film *Chanda Mama Door Ke*, which had a super close to his heart. As we all know, astrology was his favourite subject and studied it for the film too. I don't know if he was depressed, but he did seem hurt. I don't know what or who hurt him.

Do you think that the outsider syndrome will continue to haunt the newcomers in the film industry?

There is a mindset that only these few powerful barriers can make your career or launch you, so new producers, directors and actors will always have a tough time.

Having said that real talent cannot be throttled or stopped by the big ones and those encouraging nepotism, as it is the audience that makes you what you are because of the talent in you. Talent can never get wasted, and if you have your luck supporting you and the timing is right, there is no stopping you.

Having said that, I must add I had become arrogant and was not listening to my well-wishers, I had become over-confident and thought I had reached the pinnacle of my success and can do anything and everything myself. *Mera dimaag, khush ho gaya cin*. The biggest mistake I

made was when I stopped listening to people, who were my well-wishers. I started believing that they were my enemies and those who were actually my enemies, I considered them my well-wishers.

I also remember Rishi Kapoorji, I knew him before Ranson and thereafter, has always encouraged me and my work and was one of my biggest critics, but advised to go slow, which I didn't pay heed to. He will remain most special and I still can't believe he has left us, for me he is the biggest superstar and will live forever.

When did you get a reality check that is where you have gone wrong?

During the lockdown period, when you are left in isolation and everything comes back to you, your past and present. You also start seeing the mask fall off of all those who didn't stand by you. We have won family unka chhad ke blang gya. It is during this period, you start looking at things beyond yourself. Prime Minister Modi has been my inspiration and gave me the courage to stand up again.

Where is your partner Arjun N Kapoor?

Lot of discussions and conversations are pending between him and me. I have parked it as I'm recovering mentally from a depression. Everything stands still for now. Will pursue it.



Arjun N Kapoor with author Anshu Gupta

since I'm better about everything. Krraji remains where it is and will start working on a soon.

What's next now that you are all set to take on the world?

I will stand up for myself and challenge people who try to mock or question my statement. I pledge to pull them out by releasing the bank statement and it is going to be through a media trial. I am Priya Arora and I would like to say that in the way, Sir Shah Rukh Khan said in a film, 'My Name is Khan And I am not a Terrorist'. Last but not the least, if you try to push me to the wall I will take the help of the authorities. I strongly believe that my final destination is politics as I believe there is nothing better than serving the nation, serving the people of your country.





World Digital Premier On 21st July 2020



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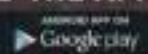
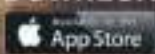


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Dabba goal

With people returning to work being advised to carry their own food, here are simple, innovative recipes to rustle up

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WE are at that point in the pandemic when we are neither here nor there. It's like a baby learning how to walk, but not run yet. On one hand, we are being told that offices can reopen with limited staff. But on the other, the bustling societies of most of these staff members are refusing to allow domestic help. So, they try with the little they can. People have to make their own dabbas, what with there still being a bit of a question mark over take-away food. But that doesn't mean you have to make do with just dal, chawal, roti and sabzi, day in and day out. Honey Thaker, head nutritionist at online platform parentnutrition.me, suggests these two recipes to adding to your tiffin, ensuring that taste and health go hand-in-hand.



Protein-packed sandwich

Wheat flour and bean add the protein component to this roti sandwich, with jeera, ajwain, hing and the mint in the green chutney making it easier to digest. "Enjoy it guilt-free," Thaker says.

INGREDIENTS

- Sattu/bean flour - 1.5 tbsp
- Millet flour/wheat flour - 30gm (2 tbsp)
- Tomato - 1 small, finely chopped
- Onion - 1 small, finely chopped
- Green chilli - 1, chopped
- Coriander leaves - 2 tsp, finely chopped
- Salt (can add pink salt) - To taste
- Jeera - 1/4th tsp
- Turmeric powder - 1/4th tsp
- Ajwain - 1/4th tsp
- Red chilli powder - 1/4th tsp
- A pinch of hing

METHOD

Add the tomato, onion, green chilli and coriander

leaves. Mix water to give it a dosa batter/paste-like consistency. Knead the wheat flour (or any millet flour like nachli or jowar) with water and a pinch of salt into the dough to make a roti/paratha. Flatten it into a roti (5-6 inch) and cook both sides on a flat pan/tawa (leftover roti can be used too). Apply the bean paste on one side of the roti, covering it entirely, and place it on the tawa greased with a tsp of ghee. Allow the bean to cook; meanwhile, apply the remaining paste on the top side of the roti. Put a lid on it to cook under steam. Apply a tsp of ghee/oil on the uncooked top side and place it on the tawa to let it cook. Once both sides cook well, cut it into four or six parts and serve with green chutney (coriander and mint) or curd.



Honey Thaker

Store these tips for your tiffin

- If you're using plastic boxes to store your food, check the quality of the plastic. It's best to stay away from them completely and use glass or steel containers instead.
- Instead of aluminium foil that is known to have cancerous properties, use butter paper to pack food in your dabba.
- Avoid items that can spill, like buttermilk or watery gravies, in your dabba.

Chilli baked eggs

This recipe is a tasty and effortless one, since it doesn't need any special ingredients. Thaker adds, "It's the perfect low-carb, moderate-fat and high-protein meal."

INGREDIENTS

- Oil - 10 ml
- Ghee - 2 ml for greasing
- Garlic - 5 gm, finely sliced
- Onion - 20 gm, chopped
- Hot chilli flakes/crushed dry red chillies - 15 gm
- Tomatoes - 100 gm, chopped
- Eggs - 2
- Cheese - 50 gm
- Salt and pepper - To taste

METHOD

Add oil to a pan and heat. Sauté garlic, onion and chilli flakes and cook until it's light brown. Add tomatoes and simmer it for about 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and pour the mixture into a baking dish that is greased with ghee. Crack the eggs one by one into the dish. Sprinkle the grated cheese on it and season with salt and pepper. Bake it at 200 degrees Celsius for approximately 15 minutes. Remove the baking dish from the oven and let it settle for a couple of minutes. The dish can be eaten with brown bread or roti.



For the little one and you

Check these digital platforms for ideas to keep mum and baby happy

THE GUIDE TEAM
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KEEPING the little ones engaged remains quite a task for parents across the globe. And it gets especially tougher if the toddlers you are dealing with. City-based influencer and designer Simone Khambatta knew she wasn't alone when she needed to shop for her children and found no way



The event will involve gaming ideas for kids



Simone Khambatta with her children

to. At the same time, she knew brands were bleeding and could do with a way to sell products to their target audience. This came together the idea of an on-

line pop-up, MamaSays, which would cater to both. Over this two-day event, toys and gaming ideas, baby essentials, furnishings and healthy snacks for kids, will all find a new home. "We are also trying to keep it current and essential, and avoiding party clothes and such items that may not be usable in the near future," Khambatta says. Also on offer will be services by professional child photographer Poojai Khanna. "In the absence of photo shoots, she will help recreate long distance options with backdrops," she explains.

ON June 26 and 27
LOG ON TO mamasayspopup.in

Also check out

Arts Crafty Moms Created by Shruti Acharya-Bhat, this is a one-stop-shop for parents scouring craft and activity ideas on the web. LOG ON TO: artscraftymoms.com

Momscribe Created by Uma Maheswari Anandane, this site ensures there's a dedicated learning space besides tips on nutrition, creative exercises, product reviews and a lot more. LOG ON TO: momscribe.com

Are you game?

The second part of an action-adventure game set in a post-apocalyptic world has made a timely release. A gamer shares what's it like to navigate a pandemic

SUKANYA DATTA

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A FUNGAL pathogen called the Cordyceps has turned humans into aggressive creatures, or the Infected, who have ravaged the United States. The world is divided into quarantine zones, cities are filled with marooned buildings, overgrown weeds carpet the roads, and humanity is back to its hunter-gatherer roots. Sounds like a foreseeable future? Well, this is the post-pandemic world of game developer Naughty Dog and publisher Sony Interactive Entertainment's latest release — *The Last of Us Part II* — which has created quite a buzz, thanks to the eerie similarities with our current predicament.

"The game comes seven years after part one. I finished playing the first part the night before the second one released. I had got an idea of the second part thanks to the

'Ellie's anger seeps into the gameplay making it a mix of stealth and frantic action'

Kartik Bhardwaj

spoilers, but still wanted to follow Joel and Ellie's story," says Sanctorus-based Kartik Bhardwaj, a 24-year-old media professional and an avid gamer. Bhardwaj, who took 30 hours to finish the stealth game, gives us the lowdown on the adventures of the protagonist Ellie.

A weak plot

The story picks up from the first part, with Joel, the smuggler, and Ellie, a teenager he rescued from the Infected and other hostile groups, living in Jackson with the former's brother Tommy. "Adapt with skills to kill the Infected, Jackson residents frequently go out to cities and jungles to gather supplies. People are trained to kill [the Infected] from an early age," says Bhardwaj, adding that an unfortunate incident leads Ellie and her partner Dina on the path to coverage against this group called the Washington Liberation Front, which has

overthrown the government in the Seattle quarantine zone. "You play as Ellie initially. The developer, Neil Druckmann, has tried to experiment with the plot, but has ended up with a clichéd storyline. However, what works is Ellie's anger that seeps into the gameplay, making it a mix of stealth and frantic action," he adds.

Stunning visual design

The gameplay graphics and the cut-scenes meld like a charm with a dominating grey hue and a looming hopelessness, feels Bhardwaj. "It inherits the minimalist legacy of its predecessor and refines it. The characters feel more personal with cinematic close-ups of each punch. There are multiple non-playable characters and one can explore the landscape more, which lends variety. The suspense-filled soundtrack works well, too," says the player, describing the visual design as "stunning". He elaborates, "Especially, the open areas with bombed buildings, abandoned restaurants and the perfectly swaying grass. It has one of the best art direction experiences with heart-like fragility, a realistic shooting recoil and gut-wrenching stabs," he tells us.

A mirror of our times?

Does it feel odd to play a game centered in a post-pandemic world, while living through



In between lending off her oneies, Ellie, the protagonist, often plays the song Future Days by Pearl Jam

one? "COVID-19 led to a lockdown, which in turn, led to empty streets and police patrols. This sort of mirrors the environment of the game, too," Bhardwaj explains. "The game tells the story of a world that's back to the jungle law — where

you kill or get killed. There is no moral ground and nobody flinches before slicing a throat. Although our sunny skies due to low-vehicular emissions are in stark contrast to the dark zombie-infected corners of the game, COVID-19 has led to

a lot of economic losses. There is a palpable fear. I can only hope that our reality doesn't match the unreal fiction of the game," he concludes.

LOG ON TO: playstation.com
COST: ₹3,999



Footie matters

SIGN UP

DID YOU know that a lot of girls drop out of sports because their coaches don't know the dos and don'ts during periods? In order to break the stigma associated with menstruation and to spread awareness, Thane City FC is organising a webinar with a gynaecologist, social scientist and a football coach.

ON: Today at 6 pm LOG ON TO: Thane City FC on YouTube

Steps to excellence

A new interview series featuring 11 maestros of Indian classical dance digs deep into what truly makes them great

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I NEVER wanted to be a great copy. I'd rather be a bad original," Aditi Mangalkar asserts. Watching the Kathak exponent converse with Odissi dancer Madhur Gupta in a virtual interview is a deeply enriching experience not only because she makes sense of her life and art but also because the touches upon crucial definitions. For instance, what constitutes the "classical" and "contemporary"? Mangalkar beautifully explains the two terms with an analogy of an ever-flowing river.

The interview is part of a series called In Pursuit of Excellence, curated by Gupta's Sangeet Vidya Naitan and hosted by Sahapedia, the

Delhi-based encyclopedia of arts and culture. The series features 11 classical dance maestros from India.

The first video was released on June 18 with Mangalkar and the last of the series is an interview with acclaimed Bharatanatyam artiste Alamel Valli. "When the pandemic struck, social media was flooded with webinars on COVID-19. It kept getting sadder. I thought about how people need inspiring stories and also, this is a time to excel at your art," Gupta says. That's why the series is centred on excellence, as through people who have achieved

it. It hopes to highlight how excellence isn't achieved overnight.

As a dancer interviewing dancers, Gupta, 26, says that his background helped him eliminate preliminary questions such as the historical context of the art form or a comment on the current scenario. "To talk of excellence is to probe how the brain works — where do artistes look for inspiration? Poetry, literature or nature? I didn't want to keep it too academic. It had to be inspiring for a lay person. So, even in 50 years, if people stumble



Malika Sarabhai (left) Madhur Gupta. PICS COURTESY/NARENDRA DANDEYA AND ANOOP ARORA

this, it will still be something of great value."

It took Gupta three months to put the series together; he had to reach out to the artistes, make a list of topics to be discussed, and undergo tech runs. Since taking up an art form is a struggle irrespective of whether it's during a pandemic or not, Gupta hopes that people will lend an ear to the maestros to understand how they must still keep at their art because, "art has the power to push through anything."

LOG ON TO: Sahapedia on YouTube

Interviews to watch out for

- Malavika Sarukkai Today, 2 pm
The expanding canvas — the need for industry
- Saswati Sen June 28, 2 pm
Dance as a profession
- Malika Sarabhai June 30, 2 pm
Addressing social issues with classical arts
- Surupa Sen July 1, 2 pm
An insight into a choreographer's mind
- Prabhakar Prasad July 3, 2 pm
Role of arts in current scenario
- Showann Narayan July 5, 2 pm
Kathak then and now
- Alamel Valli July 7, 2 pm
Exploring Sangam literature through Bharatanatyam



IMMUNITY AND PROTECTION

Beat Covid19—Boost immunity, practise hygiene

SHAMEEM KHAN

MAINTAINING good general health helps to boost the immune system. This includes:

- Getting adequate sleep.
- Eating a good healthy diet with lots of micronutrients.
- Getting regular exercise.
- Avoid smoking and limiting alcohol helps.
- Avoid stress.
- Vaccinations are an important way to boost your immunity.

Enjoy your favourite exercise

Find your fitness fanda. What do you enjoy doing to keep yourself fit? Is it the morning walk or the treadmill that beckons you or is Yoga or Zumba that suit you fine? For sports enthusiasts, it could be a game of their favourite sport that helps to burn those extra calories while they enjoy the thrill of the game. For some, it could be dancing their favourite dance form or swimming or riding a bicycle. Don't let the idea that conventional exercises like running or going to the gym are the only forms of staying fit. Let that not be a bad excuse for not indulging in physical fitness.

Remain hydrated

Not only does drinking water keep you feeling full which

Adequate sleep, nourishing foods, quality sleep and vitamin supplements is of utmost importance in boosting your immune system. And of course, the golden rule of washing hands frequently and sanitizing the surroundings will go a long way in keeping the Corona Virus at bay. Here's knowing more



helps to avoid overeating. It is also the best option to keep away from drinking sugary beverages. It cleans the system, helps to regulate your bodily activities and gives you a glowing skin. Try drinking warm water at regular intervals. Also tumeric milk at nights is a good option to prevent any kind of congestion. Gargling with hot water and salt is also a good option.

Eat a balanced diet

A diet with all the necessary nutrients is the best meal for

a healthy body and thus an active and happy mind. Try sticking to home-made meals where you can refrain from adding that extra pinch of salt, spice or additional oil which may not be possible with take-aways. Keep an eye on what goes into your plate and you will get peace of mind from unnecessary aches and pains related to nutrition.

Increase intake of supplements

Besides the above-mentioned things, you should boost your

immunity by consuming foods rich in vitamin D to enhance the absorption of calcium. Besides sunlight, sea food like salmon, mackerel and tuna are good sources of Vitamin D. Eggs and mushrooms too can be consumed to get this nutrient.

Intake of citrus fruits like oranges and lemons will help to get the needed Vitamin C which is essential to fight the various infections that attack our body. Fresh fruits and vegetables add the needed vitamins

and minerals needed for the smooth functioning of our body parts and aids in fighting various sicknesses.

Practise Hygiene

By now, everyone is fully aware that it's very important to wash hands when you touch different surfaces, objects or come home from outside. It is also of paramount importance that we maintain personal hygiene as well as the hygiene of our surroundings. According to a report, it's possible for someone to contract

COVID-19 by simply touching a contaminated surface—like a doorknob or light switch. That's why it's essential to clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces often, especially between reservations.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be killed by using the right products. There are several disinfectant products that can be used against COVID-19, including ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes. These products can be effective against viruses that are harder to kill than viruses like the one that causes COVID-19. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water will decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure.

TEAM CLEAN SANITIZER

Now available in the market a liquid based sanitizer, formulated according to WHO recommendations. Made from ethyl alcohol with a strength of 80% and is 10% more stronger than some of the sanitizers available today. It is not sticky and is an effective way to help curb the spread of pathogen transmission. This sanitizer not only sanitizes hands but also other contact points like grocery packets, car keys, shoes, door handles, car steering wheels, motorbike handles etc.

The available Sizes : 90ml, 500ml, 500ml and 5 litres
For more details contact:
info@biolabdiagnostics.com
+91-9820120164

corporate watch

Konkan Rly celebrates International Yoga Day



Konkan Railway celebrated International Yoga Day with zeal & fervour. Due to pandemic of COVID-19 this year, Shri Sanjay Gupta, GM/CRCL, Executive / Non-Executive along with their family members performed various 'Yoga Aarav' at their homes (practising towards a fit India).

Rly ministry completes recruitment exercise

The Ministry of Railways successfully completed what can be called as one of the world's largest recruitment exercise, for filling up critical safety and operational posts. Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) invited online applications against Contractual Employment Notification (CEN) from February 09, 2020, to March 31, 2020, for a total of 3,37,000 combined stations of Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP) and Technicians. A total of 40,46,176 online applications were received. The scheme of selection consisted of 3-stages computer based tests followed by a medical examination which is one of the stringent medical examinations done during the level of distant vision colour vision and stress test equipped from a Loco Pilot and document verification of shortlisted candidates. Jeeving letters were issued to candidates before lockdown but some could not collect their job due to COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown.

CR celebrates International Yoga Day



The 6th International Day of Yoga was also observed on Central Railway in a non-traditional way in the respective homes of participants and with their families. Support MHA, general manager, Central Railway, Rishi Mishra, president, Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation and family paid their jobs at their homes. MHA also extended his wishes to the railway men and said that yoga is globally accepted as a stress reducer and practicing it has a positive impact on general health and immunity enhancement. The art of practicing yoga helps in controlling an individual's mind, body and soul. It is a way of living that

aims towards 'a healthy mind in a healthy body'. 700 officers and staff also observed the day by practicing yoga at their residences.

SCOPE Celebrates International Yoga Day

The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), an apex body of Public Sector, held a virtual yoga session commemorating the 6th International Yoga Day on the theme 'Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family'. Anil Sethi DG, SCOPE, addressed the participants and emphasised that amidst these uncertain present times, practicing yoga can help achieve a fine balance in one's life by creating a harmony of mind, body and soul and therefore it should not be confined to a single day but be practiced regularly. Yoga Ashraya, Senior Secretary of Health, Yoga took the participants through several yoga and meditation practices to accentuate their health.

WR staff donate ₹52 lakh to 'PM Cares Fund'



Western Railway employees have also taken part in this noble cause to fight the ongoing crisis in the aftermath of COVID-19 and help in the nation-building process. In continuation of this, Corporate J.R. Bhasin - General Secretary of WR Employees Union (WREU) handed over a cheque of ₹52 lakh to Alok Khasi - General Manager of WR on behalf of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, towards Prime Minister's National Relief Fund on June 14. Corporate Kajan Prasad Choudhary, General Secretary of WREU, who also present on this occasion, WREU is one of the recognised trade unions affiliated to all India Railways Federation (AIRF) and West Midland Sabha (WMS) (Branch - General Secretary of WREU) appeared on this occasion. In this situation when the nation is reeling under with a big crisis, WREU has decided to



Heroes of Mumbai Western Railway

Over the past few months, during the nationwide lockdown, just as we strive to contain the spread of COVID-19, many people braved adversity and put their own lives at risk to make sure that people are safe. As an ode to these Corona Warriors, Western Railway in association with ST-ART, India Foundation celebrated Asian Points, has featured the valorous hearts of Mumbai railway station in its month title of the 'Heroes of Mumbai'. The mural depicts doctors, nurses, police, vegetable sellers, delivery persons and sanitation workers who have worked tirelessly to keep the country ticking over in such dire circumstances. The mural art has been designed by Rajesh-bhai Shrivastava and was brought to life by maestro Manoj Bhatnagar. Raviinder-Bhatnagar, chief public relations officer of WR said: 'The 'Heroes of Mumbai' Project at Marine Station not only enhances the beauty of the station, but also is an unique way of expressing solidarity and gratitude to COVID-19 warriors.

HUDO organises webinar to mark Int'l Yoga Day



Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) organised a Webinar on 'YOGA for Health and Well-being during COVID outbreak', to mark 6th International Yoga Day. The Chief Guest Shri. Durga Shastri, Minister Secretary, MHA addressed the benefits of traditional Indian medicine systems in boosting immunity and promoting well-being by achieving a healthy balance between mind and body. Shri. M. Nagaraj, CMD HUDCO shared information about the sustainable 'social distancing' health care measures taken by HUDCO to ensure a safe working environment. The key speaker, Dr. D.C. Kulkarni, Joint Advisor, Department of AYUSH, provided tips on self-care protocol to holistic and healthy living.

be a part of the noble cause and contributed ₹2 lakh to Prime Minister's Relief Fund and ₹20 lakh to Maharashtra Chief Minister's Welfare Fund for COVID-19 affected patients relief work.

CARF supports needy patients during pandemic

CARF and Research Foundation is dedicated in its support to the wellbeing of poor and needy patients. As the world is struggling in this difficult time due to COVID-19 many patients who are suffering from various serious illnesses are in distress. CARF is expanding medical facilities to needy patients who are finding it difficult to continue in this situation. CARF has been actively creating awareness among the general public through the digital platform as CARF relies by

the ideas of our Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Maharashtra. CARF has created awareness through digital medium which enables the general public to understand how to be safe and maintain social distance. Shashi Mulla Chairman and Sarda Nathoo, CEO and the chairman of CARF is fully motivated to help all the people who are in need.

Railways observes International Day of Yoga



Eastern Railway recently observed the International Day of Yoga-2020. Officers and staff at headquarters and all formed divisions and workshops of ER participated in yoga practice on this occasion from their home, or elsewhere through digital platform due to the outbreak of COVID-19. This year's theme was 'Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family'. Alok Khasi, general manager of Western Railway motivated the employees with his inspirational speech about yoga. In International Day of Yoga was also celebrated on June 21 by the Western Railway by engaging sessions at home or at work places by observing all protocols of social distancing. The sessions included yoga and pranayama and other practices observed at all the six divisions, Workshop Unit, Railway colonies and Railway institutes etc.

SAIL takes the fight against COVID-19 head on

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been proactive and also proactively dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak on a sustained basis. The Company has implemented several preventive measures

across all its plants, units and corporate office against the spread of COVID-19. As a part of this, a special bed team of doctors from Apollo Hospital was engaged to visit. Equal Bhawan, corporate office on June 15, to carry out a re-assessment of the efficacy of measures such as sanitisation, social distancing, masks, social distancing, barriers, the functioning of air conditioning etc. Recently, the company has also tested a virtual reality platform to establish its knowledge sharing platform to tackle Coronavirus, among SAIL. These novel steps have been taken considering the safety of the employees attending office and working duties.

Sanjay Gupta appointed Chairman, MD at REC Ind



Government of India assigned additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director, REC Limited to Sanjay Kumar Gupta from June 1, 2020. He has been Director (Technical) of REC Limited since October 2015. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from G.B.Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar (Uttar Pradesh). During his last 37 years of experience in the Indian Power Sector, he has worked on large hydropower projects, transmission projects and handled several international assignments while serving in power grid corporation of India and NTPC. Since 2002, while in REC, he has contributed immensely to the power sector infrastructure creation in the country by leading RECs financing portfolio for Greenfield and Non-Conventional Energy Projects, Transmission and Distribution projects.

Include bank staff in essential services

SERC, Maharashtra, vide their communication of 35.06.2020, has requested

Hon'ble Chief Secretary of Maharashtra to arrange to include Bank Staff in the list of essential staff so as to enable them to continue by local teams for attending to their duties and provide banking services to their customers. Recently SBI and CI have remained the selected suburban services over other and suburban areas for essential staff as identified by the State Government.

Modernised equipment in KG Hospital of CLW



Order to provide more medical facilities to all the workers of CLW and their families members. KG Hospital of CLW has provided 14 modernised medical equipment. Shri Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager of CLW inaugurated the modern medical equipments through video conferencing via a screen from the meeting room in the administrative building. Senior officers were present at the opening ceremony in administrative building. Fourteen medical equipment including around ₹1.10 crore investment among them like Operating Microscope for Eye, Female Controlled Oral Contraceptive Pills (Mifepristone) by Jeevanika Clinic, Chemistry Analyser etc. are provided in KGH. Doctors in Seminar Hall of KGH also attended the VC.



NTPC Dadri provides food for COVID-19 affected

At the time of crisis due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), the NTPC Dadri Management has started to extend help to the co-workers of Dadri. Both Nagar. As part of CSR initiative, a truck loaded with 37 cartons of food items through NTPC Prerna South was flagged off and handed over by C. Shrivastava, Group General Manager (Dadri) to Rakesh Kumar-Singh, J. Shrivastava (Dadri) for distribution among COVID-19 needy people through CB Nagar administration. The food items supplied included flour, rice, cereal, salt, cooking oil and ketchup. The senior officials present on the occasion were R.K. Gupta, AGM (HR) and President Prerna Samit, Vijay Lakshmi, Minister (Dadri), AGM (HR) and Secretary, Prerna Samit.

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'The risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low'.

mid-day
Made in Mumbai

The Covid19 impact on the Real Estate Industry

Like all sectors, the real estate sector is also facing its share of challenges owing to the Covid19 Pandemic. We spoke to industry veterans on their take about the same

SHAMEEM KHAN

AS with all sectors, the Covid-19 pandemic has thrown up monumental challenges for India's real estate industry.

Although the sector was struggling with a slowdown for some time, recent times had shown some improvement in the market conditions. But the coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdown has hit the industry from all sides. Be it a dip in sales, a halt in the construction of on-going projects, or postponing of new project plans to a future date.

However, there are some interesting trends that could help bolster

the confidence of the industry in the coming days. Here's looking at a few trends observed in these difficult times.

1. Going Digital

Digital technology is being preferred among developers in this crisis as home buyers are likely to avoid site visits. Developers are taking aid of virtual reality to give home buyers a glimpse of their projects.

2. Demand for ready projects

One of the trends being observed is that there is a rise in preference for ready-to-move-in properties. With uncertainty looming large over when construction activities will

start full-fledged owing to the lockdown as well as absence of migrant labourers who have returned to their native lands, it is ready-to-move in projects that will find favour with the home-buyer in the near future.

3. Time to Invest

With the pile up of inventory and an uncertain economy, builders may need to reduce prices to sell inventory. This is the ideal opportunity for investors to grab good deals.

We spoke to a few prominent developers in the Indian realty arena on their views about the current status of the market and chances of revival



Dr. Niranjn Hiranandani President (National) NAREDCO & Assocham



During the lockdown, it was about shifting some activities to 'remote working' i.e. work from home by leveraging digital platforms. Sales and marketing activities made the changeover to digital, and has been doing well.

From the lockdown, a calibrated restart—amidst challenges like a broken supply chain and labour having

reverse-migrated. Obviously, the challenges are being met, and solutions being worked out, but it is taking time—and the expected support from the authorities has still not happened. The intending buyer has definitely not cancelled; at most we may see a delay in the actual sale. Some transactions have been reported post the reopening, so there's a positive outlook on the future.

The economy will definitely improve. India has a huge domestic market and the economy will be back to near-normalcy soon. What the industry needs is a one-time rollover to restructure debt and also get low cost credit as also last mile funding

REALTY BITES

CREDAI Action Committee files petition to PM

Besides the Covid19 pandemic hitting the industry hard, realtors are feeling isolated with no relief measures from the RBI or the Government. Yet, hopeful of positive outcomes, CREDAI Action Committee has filed a petition with the Government listing demands for the revival of the industry and the economy as a whole. Hot Property spoke to Ajay Ashar - Spokesperson - CREDAI Action Committee in this regard

THERE is a tremendous amount of pain in the real estate industry owing to the lockdown which brought business to a standstill. What added to the agony was that except for a 6-month extension period granted by RERA for completion of the projects, the industry did not get any concessions from the 24 lakh crore stimulus package announced by the Government. There is a feeling that the Government is oblivious to the sufferings of the small-time developers who have to pay rent to the tenants and EMI to the banks too.

That was the time when 14 associations in the MMR region including Mumbai came together to raise a voice. Our belief is that the economy will revive if the real estate industry is revived as many industries are attached to it—the sector supports 250 to 300 industries with a potential to create 6 crore jobs.

Our belief is that the economy will revive if the real estate industry is revived as many industries are attached to it—the sector supports 250 to 300 industries with a potential to create 6 crore jobs.

CREDAI India wrote an open letter to the Honourable PM but failed to get a response. We then approached the ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra—Devendra Fadnis. He was convinced that our demands are just and promised to lead us to the Finance Minister. We tweeted the entire petition to the PM and she re-tweeted back that she will look into it with an open mind.

CHARTER OF DEMANDS FOR: The RBI

1. Our fundamental demand from the RBI is of clear-cut guidelines on one-time debt re-structuring. In the present condition, when there is no cash flow and buying sentiment is bad, even good health developers may go NPA (Non-Performing Asset). To give a boost to the industry and also the economy, a one-time re-structuring is definitely needed.

2. The repo-rate has come down from 6.5% to 4%. Yet the benefit is not being passed on by banks and NBFCs to the developers. They are being charged 15% interest despite actual cost not being more than 6.8% to 8%. We request RBI for

strict norms to pass on the benefit of the reduced repo rate to us.

3. The clear-cut view of the Supreme court is that interest has to be suspended for the moratorium period. Though our businesses have come to a standstill owing to the lockdown, we are still liable to pay interest to the bank. Banks are defending this saying that they have to pay the depositors. But in the current scenario, the depositors are being paid as low as 2% and we are being charged 10%. This matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court. We are hopeful that Govt and RBI will look at this positively.

4. Owing to measures by the RBI, liquidity increased to the tune of about ₹ lakh crores which is lying unused with the RBI. Isn't it time that RBI uses it constructively by encouraging the home loan buyers by bringing down the interest rates down to 5%-5.5% and reviving the economy?

THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Increase the limit of principal deduction on housing loan under Section 80C to ₹. 2.5 lakh.

2. Increase Interest Deduction under Section 24 on housing loan for homebuyers to ₹.10 lakh.

3. Scrub the capital gains tax for residential properties held for a period of longer than one year to allow them time to rework after serious thought.

4. A 2% GST without Input Tax Credit is levied upon us. We ask the customers to pay that. Subsequently, customers don't invest in projects till it is ready to save that 2%. Thus, the entire economy gets jammed. We want some positive steps in this direction too.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

A 6 months extension period for completion of project has been given which we feel is not sufficient enough. Migrant labourers have returned to their villages and procuring raw materials like steel, aluminium is also difficult in these times. It will take of least a year for things to fall into place. Due consideration for the same to be made.

A POSITIVE APPROACH

The petition will be put up by CREDAI-INDIA Action Commit-



Ajay Ashar
Spokesperson-CREDAI Action Committee

tee formed under the leadership of our CREDAI President Satish Magar. More than 150 associations from all over the country have shown support to the petition which mainly concerns the losses of the small developers who will die a natural death—either they will become NPAs or will be forced to sell their proportion in big developers to survive.

If the Honourable PM wishes then these concerns can be fast-forwarded and within 15 days all these policies can be put into place and economy can be on the path of revival.

for stalled/delayed projects.

Architect Ajay Nahar
Nahar Group

The real estate development that demonstrates Agility, Discipline in Business, Decisiveness, Digitization & Responsiveness to Customers, shall reach new heights and make the sector let more resilient, credible, customer & environment centric. It is time to become socially responsible towards the planet and people as our fates are intertwined.

It's time when people need to come out from the 'Work from Home' phase and come to desk and work with taking utmost precautions. As social distancing is the 'New normal', one should take care of all the norms being followed at the site. These include social distancing at place of work, regular disinfection at the site, regular temperature checks,

compulsory wearing of mask, regular sanitization of hands of the staff and labourers working at the site.

At our Flagship Project 'Ecalibre by Nahar' at Mahalaxmi for which we recently received the Occupation Certificate, we have already started completing all pending work.

Post Covid, ready-to-move-in inventory, immediate rental saving or income, seem like an attractive proposition. We anticipate more people will consider investing in property as that is a more stable, long-term asset against the volatility of renting or low yields. The recent losses in stock markets and low returns on fixed deposits have shaken the confidence of many individuals as some sectors may take time to recover. NRI interest has also risen in recent times in ready-to-move-in projects. We have continued from where we stopped by taking the efforts to provide our customer the best viewing experience following the norms.

Basically, we have to evolve and adapt to what is being called 'the new normal'.

Jitendra Mehta
Vice president MCHS-Theta and MD JVM group

Realty industry is facing labour issues, financial crunch among other issues. Buyers also don't seem to be in the right

frame of mind to buy. So, the challenge for the developer is that he has to arrange funds on one hand and ensure construction till December 2020 / March 2021.

Both, Kapda Jari Makaan will always remain in demand and we are hoping that by March 2021, the economy will have revived. That will be the Golden Time for India.

We expect Government of Maharashtra as well as the Central Government to take steps to improve demand for property investments. We are also expecting relief measures like reduction in stamp duty, GST exemption and more deductions in Income Tax.

AVIGHNA GROUP FLIES BACK 58 MIGRANT WORKERS FROM BAGDOGRA TO MUMBAI SITE

SHAMEEM KHAN

REAL ESTATE developers in the city are leaving no stone unturned to get their projects completed in time.

Case in point being SoHo developer Avighna Group who recently flew back 58 workers from Bagdogra on a single Indigo flight.

With the State Government lifting curbs on construction projects, developers are doubling efforts to recommence work at their sites. Nishant Agarwal, Managing Director, Avighna Group said "Despite us paying wages in the workers, they left owing to their sense of anxiety."

But his team who was constantly in touch with the workers got them back at the first available opportunity. "The costs involved

in flying them back is not important; what is important is that the project work should progress on schedule and we should meet the deadline," says he.

Needless to say, the Group is ensuring that proper precautions and the safety protocol is observed at the site to ensure the well-being of the workers.

As for the workers, they are happy to be back to work. "Though we were well taken care of here during the lockdown, we panicked and took the train to our homes in West Bengal. After reaching there we realized that not only did we lose our income, but we were also at a greater risk of contracting Covid-19 there," said Dilip Hal, a supervisor at the West site.

BORIVALI - The suburban charm

Fine infrastructure at affordable rates makes Borivali one of the popular residential destinations in the Western suburbs

BORIVALI has emerged from a conglomeration of a number of smaller towns namely Ekur, Potar, Kandivli, Shirpur, Mand-peshwar, Kanheri, Tulsi, Magadhani and many others.

Borivali east and Borivali West are divided by the Western Railway line.

Today, the locality is known for its trade and urbanisation and has emerged as a major area for real estate, owing to its state of development and ease of connectivity in other parts of Maharashtra.



of Airport is at a distance of 18 km from the locality.

Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) mainly operates the public bus transport in the city. West Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT), Thane Municipal Transport (TMT), and Mumbai BRTS (Bus Rapid Transport System) also provide bus services for intra-city transport.

Taxis are a popular local mode of transport; but one can also hire auto-rickshaws for travelling shorter distances.

Social living conditions

Borivali (E) boasts of amenities that makes for a comfortable social living like good schools, colleges and hospitals. Prominent schools and colleges include St John's School, Seth NE High School, Municipal School, Gokhale College, ISMT Business School, St Rocks College of Commerce

and Science Institute of Management Studies and Junior College, etc. Major hospitals Ankit Hospital, Narindra Hospital, Parmar Hospital, Shalibek Hospital, Metro Polio Hospital, Crystal Hospital, etc. The locality also has several luxurious shopping arcades, such as Indraprastha Shopping Mall, Bhaguleela Mall, Vahini Shivan Mall, V Mall, etc.

The popular entertainment places include Prashadnagar Theatre Auditorium, Ajanta Theatre and Jaya Multiplex.

Why invest in Borivali East?

Borivali East is a well-developed area with excellent connectivity to other parts of the city. The high point of the locality is that development in the area hasn't compromised into the natural space surrounding the locality, which boasts of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and the unspoiled well-maintained parks and gardens. This helps keep the environment serene and the weather pleasant.

Also, considering the increasing price trends in Borivali east and the obvious rise in demand, the locality will definitely prove to be a good investment region in future. Presence of more and more commercial hubs in and around the locality is also making Borivali east a coveted working, as well as a residential destination of Mumbai.

MIRA ROAD - Big dreams, budget prices

Mira Road, located to the North of Mumbai is governed by the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) and is one of the hot spots for residential living

IN the Western suburbs, Mira Road has made its mark as a popular residential destination. No wonder, there is a rise in demand and the subsequent increasing price trends is making it a good investment option. Also, the presence of commercial centres in and around the locality is helping people move towards Mira Road.

Connectivity

Mira Road enjoys good connectivity via the railways which is the lifeline of Mumbai. Spawning of roadways, the Western Express Highway connects Mira Road to various places of Mumbai. Mira Bhayandar Municipal Transport (MBMT) makes its bus service operational in the locality. The nearest airport is the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

Importance of Infrastructure

The increase in population in recent years, owing to its proximity to various employment hubs is adding to the growing number of educational institutions, hospitals and entertainment centres.

The Educational Institution in Mira Road include N L Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vidyalyaya, Holy Cross Convent School, St Xavier's, Royal College and many others. The major hospitals in Mira Road include Seren Eileen Hospital, Thanga Hospital and Bhaktivedanta



Hospital & Research Institute.

Apart from these, it also provides recreational amenities and proximity to various banks and ATMs. The locality also provides its residents with many luxurious shopping centres such as Ramar Mall. Entertainment options include Yachkumar Fantasy and some popular eating joints too. For shopping, the region has places such as Dmart and Star Bazaar. The popular food hubs situated in the locality include Cafe Coffee Day and McDonalds.

The 'realty' scene

With national picks, reputed hospitals, shopping plazas, Cinemax, high schools and colleges, Mira Road is self-sustained to say the least. There's a fine blend of urban living and a serene ambience.

With the infrastructure de-

PROJECTS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN MIRA ROAD: JP Neeth by JP Infra, Sanghvi Ecocity by Sanghvi S3 Group, Avant Garde by ANA Realty, IRIS by JK Developers

velopment and growth, many industries and companies have been set-up there, thus boosting job opportunities in the area.

With its improved social infrastructure, quality lifestyle and steady developments, Mira Road is turning into a preferred destination in the western suburbs for the middle-class.

The rates in Mira Road are in the range of Rs 6,500-8,000 per sq ft, while in Bhayandar it is Rs 4,500-12,000 per sq ft. It is the affordability factor that makes Mira Road a much sought-after destination among home buyers.

PROJECTS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN BORIVALI (E) - Teemurthy Sammit by Shirke Group of Companies, Parijat Hill View by Shirke Group of Companies and Espace Tower by Bhatia Builders & Developers

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Tenders & Notices

Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane

Green Department
 Re-Tender Notice

Online Tender are invited by Thane Municipal Corporation for Development of Garden at R/G plot 107 in ward no 18 C Wagle ward from experience and reputed contractor. Tender document with detailed terms and eligibility criteria, scope of work and other information will be available on the website on www.mahatenders.gov.in from dt.26/06/20 to dt.13/07/20 up to 16:00 hrs. Last date & time for online Bid Submission is dt. 13/07/20 up to 16:00 hrs. The received tender will be opened on dt.15/07/20 at 11:00 hrs if possible. TMC/PRO/Garden/188/2020-21 SDV Dt.25.06.20 Sr. Garden Superintendent [pk visit an official web-site Thane Municipal Corporation www.thanecity.gov.in](http://www.thanecity.gov.in)

WESTERN RAILWAY

PLASTIC BOTTLE CRUSHING MACHINES

e-Tender Notice No. CW/1/Bottle Crushing, 21/06/2020 Date: 24.06.2020 Dept: Commercial Executive, R. D. Desai Road and location. Tender for Supply, Installation, Operation & Maintenance of 30 Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine (PBCM) of 22 stations, one Member (Junior of Western Railway, or self-financing and business basis with opportunity to generate revenue through advertisement spots on both of machine and by sale of Plastic Bottle (Bottles and 1 liter bottles, 2 liter, 3 liter, 4 liter, 5 liter, 6 liter, 7 liter, 8 liter, 9 liter, 10 liter, 11 liter, 12 liter, 13 liter, 14 liter, 15 liter, 16 liter, 17 liter, 18 liter, 19 liter, 20 liter, 21 liter, 22 liter, 23 liter, 24 liter, 25 liter, 26 liter, 27 liter, 28 liter, 29 liter, 30 liter, 31 liter, 32 liter, 33 liter, 34 liter, 35 liter, 36 liter, 37 liter, 38 liter, 39 liter, 40 liter, 41 liter, 42 liter, 43 liter, 44 liter, 45 liter, 46 liter, 47 liter, 48 liter, 49 liter, 50 liter, 51 liter, 52 liter, 53 liter, 54 liter, 55 liter, 56 liter, 57 liter, 58 liter, 59 liter, 60 liter, 61 liter, 62 liter, 63 liter, 64 liter, 65 liter, 66 liter, 67 liter, 68 liter, 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Why does my wife still act childishly?



DR. LOVE

My wife is 35 years old and I am almost 40. I love her very much, but it sometimes feels as if she is still a teenager. She has not matured in the years we have been married. We met in college and she still behaves as if she is stuck in that time. She is childish about all kinds of things, doesn't speak to me for days if we have even a simple argument, and it is tiring to ask her for any help related to financial or other matters because she doesn't even take it seriously. How do I get through to her and ask her to just grow up? Think about why you fell in love with her in the first place. Do you want her to be more mature because you believe you have changed in some way? Does her behaviour damage your relationship in any way, or do you simply want her to be like someone you think

she should be? I am not dismissing your concerns as genuine, but it is important to understand and accept that people in any relationship evolve in different ways, at their own pace. If you must be the more mature one for now — irrespective of how you define what mature means — why not improve how you and your wife communicate? Does she understand your perspective or your expectations from her as a partner?

I was introduced to a guy around 3 years ago who said he liked me a lot. I rejected him at the time because I didn't bother getting to know him better. Since then, I have come to realise that he is everything I want in a partner. I recently found out that he is dating someone, and it is driving me insane. How do I win him back?

You can't do anything except try and get in touch with him. If he agrees to chat, you can try and explain. If not, you may have to accept his decision and move on.

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WORDSEARCH LOYAL

Can you find the words connected in one way or the other with the theme indicated by the title in today's Word Search? The words may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in straight lines. Use a ruler to cross them through as you find them.

Q	P	G	N	I	G	N	A	H	C	N	U	P
Y	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	D	M	A	
B	H	P	I	D	E	V	O	T	E	D	L	T
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MEDIUM SUDOKU

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WHAT TO DO Fill each empty cell with a digit from 1-9, ensuring that no digit is repeated in any row, column or 3x3 square.

FIENDISH SUDOKU

12	10	13	11		9		12
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				25			10
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WHAT TO DO Place the numbers 1-9 exactly once per row, column and 3x3 bold-lined box. Additionally the sum total of the squares in each dashed-line shape must match the total given in that shape, and you may not repeat a number within a dashed-line shape.



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CANCER
The planets are shining down on you favourably today. Targets that others may find difficult to achieve, you shall achieve in a jiffy.



LEO
Thanks to your dynamic personality and innate confidence, you will be able to accomplish a lot today. Rewards can be expected.



TAURUS
Despite the fact that you shall give your work your best, people may try to belittle you. There is no need to get disheartened.



CAPRICORN
Professionals may get a lucrative job offer today, while businessmen too shall be presented with an opportunity to expand.



LIBRA
Too much focus on your profession or business means you will have to neglect your domestic affairs.



SCORPIO
Today you may want to satisfy your desire to taste exotic cuisines, and therefore you may enjoy restaurant food.



SAGITTARIUS
A highly unpredictable day awaits you. To rope, rely on your instincts. Once you do this, you will see that all your actions fall in place.



VIRGO
A day full of pleasant surprises and unforeseen changes awaits you. You may also spend quality time with your beloved.



GEMINI
A new relationship with someone special may blossom today. This shall straight away transport you to cloud nine.



AQUARIUS
The troubled times that you have been encountering lately shall make you lean towards spirituality. This shall give you peace.



PISCES
Meditation may help to quench your thirst for peace and harmony. You may also feel inclined towards spirituality and religion.



'IT'S OUR TIME TO WIN'

Liverpool superstar Mohamed Salah all set to celebrate as Reds notch up their 28th win in 31 league games with 4-0 hammering of Crystal Palace; could regain EPL title after 30 years

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah is preparing for Liverpool's title party after scoring in a 4-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace on Wednesday to move to the brink of winning the English top-flight for the first time in 30 years.

"Two points to go to win the league, it's great," said Salah. "I feel great. Since I came here I said I want to win the Premier League. The city did not wait it for a long time. Last year we had a chance but Man City also played really well and deserved it. It's our time to win the league."

Trent Alexander-Arnold opened the floodgates with a brilliant free-kick as Liverpool looked far slicker than in a 0-0 draw at Everton on Sunday in their first match for three months.

Salah doubled the hosts' advantage just before half-time and goals from Roberto and Sadio Mane after the break rounded off a five-team performance at an empty Anfield.

"For the first game back at Anfield, it couldn't have gone any better," said Alexander-Arnold.

Jürgen Klopp lauded the

fact no fans were in the stands to witness one of his side's best displays of the season. "Imagine how this stadium would have been full today and all the people would have experienced that live," said Klopp. "I don't think the game would have been any better."

But the German hailed his players' ability to motivate themselves without a crowd. "This today was a reaction [from the Everton match], I liked it a lot. 4-0 up, 87th minute and four players are chasing one poor Crystal Palace player like it is the only ball in the world," added Klopp.

"Wonderful result, wonderful game. It was important we showed our supporters we are still here."

AFP



15

No. of EPL goals
Liverpool's
Mohd Salah
has scored at
Anfield this
season

86

No. of points
Liverpool have
amassed from
a possible 93
points this
season

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores his team's second goal against Crystal Palace during their EPL tie at Anfield on Wednesday. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

Ramos's strike sends Real atop La Liga



Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos

MADRID: Sergio Ramos's sensational free-kick helped Real Madrid move back above Barcelona to the top of La Liga as they defeated Real Mallorca 3-0 on Wednesday.

Ramos brushed aside Gareth Bale to take the shot and justified his claim with a curling strike into the top corner after Virginius Junior, 21, had put Madrid in front in the first half.

Madrid's victory at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium means they are level again on points with Barcelona but sit above their title rivals in the table due to a superior head-to-head record. "There are seven finals left," said Ramos. "There will be only one league in the year of COVID-19 and we want to win it for the fans."

Bale has been hardly used since La Liga resumed on June 11 but Zinedine Zidane continued his rotation policy and handed the Welshman his first start since February 16.

AFP

Mallorca's Romero is La Liga's youngest at 15

MADRID: Real Mallorca's Luka Romero made history on Wednesday by becoming the youngest player to play in La Liga, aged 15 years and 203 days.

After training with Mallorca's senior team for the first time on June 1, Romero, who plays as an attacking midfielder, came on as a substitute in the 83rd minute of his team's 2-0 loss at Real Madrid. "It was an unforgettable moment," Romero tweeted. Romero beat the record held for 81 years by Francisco Baeo Rodriguez, who played on December 31, 1939 aged 15 and 255 days for Geta Vigo against Sevilla.

AFP

Etihad Stadium to host Man City v Liverpool tie

LONDON: Manchester City have been given the go-ahead to stage their Premier League match against Liverpool at their Etihad Stadium next week despite a police request to stage the game at a neutral venue. The game, on July 2, could see City cede their title to Liverpool. Before the resumption of the top flight last week, the match was one of five that police asked to be held at neutral venues because of safety concerns. All games are being played behind closed doors due to restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on Thursday Manchester City Council announced the game could go ahead in Manchester.

AFP

Boss Solskjaer hails hat-trick man Martial after Man Utd's win

MANCHESTER: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer saluted Anthony Martial's improved killer instinct after his hat-trick fired Manchester United to a 3-0 win over Sheffield United on Wednesday.

Martial struck twice in the first half and completed his first senior treble after the interval at Old Trafford. The France forward is the first United player to score a Premier League hat-



Manchester Utd boss Solskjaer

trick since Alex Ferguson retired as their manager in 2013.

His heroics stole the spotlight from United teammate Paul Pogba, who was making his first start

since September 30. Solskjaer's side, unbeaten in their last 13 games in all competitions, remain in fifth place.

United's first win since the Coronavirus hiatus was well deserved and Solskjaer suggested Martial's role in it was down to hard work on the training ground.

"Very happy for Anthony. The third goal was a great goal, but for me

the first and the second were better," he said. "He's in the box, ready to go. We have worked on that, getting in the box in that situation more often. At the new post he showed composure.

The first goal was vital, the way he turns and gets himself into a position to score from the cross. I'm very pleased with that. He's in good form."

Martial's clinical finishing ensured United built on Friday's draw at Tottenham, but Pogba's confident return in his 10th appearance of an injury-ravaged campaign was also encouraging for Solskjaer.

AFP

Other EPL results

- Newcastle 1-1 Aston Villa
- Norwich 0-1 Everton
- Wolves 1-0 Bournemouth

We were too optimistic, euphoric: Thiem on Djoko's event

PARIS: World No. 3 Dominic Thiem has acknowledged tennis players at the ill-fated Adria Tour made "a mistake" after Novak Djokovic and three other participants contracted Coronavirus.

Thiem took part in the Belgrade leg of the exhibition event organised by Djokovic where social distancing was minimal and matches were played in front of thousands of fans.

World No. 1 Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Goric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive to COVID-19 after an

event where players embraced across the net, played basketball and went to a nightclub. Thiem, who left for an exhibition tournament in his native France after Belgrade, says he has tested negative five times since leaving the Balkans. "I was shocked when I got the news from the Adria Tour," he wrote on social media in his first public reaction since the tournament was cancelled on Sunday.

"We played without any audience for weeks, so we have been more than happy about the fans at the event.

"We trusted the Serbian government's Coronavirus rules, but we have been too optimistic."

He continued: "Our behaviour was a mistake, we acted too euphorically. I am extremely sorry. I've been tested five times in the past 10 days and each time and the result was always negative," he revealed. Djokovic, 33, has come in for heavy criticism over the debate, saying on Tuesday that he was "so deeply sorry" that the tournament "caused harm".



Dominic Thiem (left) with Novak Djokovic after winning against Serbia's Filip Krajinovic on the Adria Tour earlier this month. **PTI/ANFP**

Chess: Vaishali stuns ex-world champ Stefanova

CHENNAI: Young Indian Grandmaster B Vaishali pulled off an upset win over former world champion Antoaneta Stefanova in first leg of FIDE chess.com Women Speed Chess Championships but the country's top player Koneru Humpy bowed out in the opener.

The Chennai-based Vaishali will take on International Master Munkhzai Turmunkh of Mongolia in the quarter-finals. Vaishali registered a 6-5 win over Bulgarian opponent late on Wednesday after having beaten strong players like Valentina Gunina and Alisa Koshevskaia in the qualifying stages. Reigning world rapid champion Humpy meanwhile went down 4.5-5.5 to her Vietnamese rival in the first round.

PTI

'Give us no-terror guarantee'

BCCI wants assurance from Pakistan that there won't be any attack on the country after arch-rivals seek visa assistance from ICC to play T20 World Cup next year and the 2023 50-over WC in India

NEW DELHI: With the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chief Executive Wasim Khan saying that the board has asked for a written assurance from the ICC that there will not be any visa related issues from the Indian government when the team comes to play the 2021 T20 World Cup and the 2023 World Cup in India, the BCCI has asked for a "no-terror attack" guarantee from the PCB.

A BCCI official said that while the ICC rules clearly state that there should be no governmental interference in the running of the game, the same also applies for cricket boards and they shouldn't interfere in the running of the government. The official then asked the PCB to provide a written guarantee that there will be no hostility at the border before asking for visa-related assurances from the Indian cricket board.

"Can the PCB give an assurance in writing that the Pakistan government would ensure that no illegal incursions

A BCCI official said that while the ICC rules clearly state that there should be no governmental interference in the running of the game, the same applies for cricket boards and they shouldn't interfere in the running of the government

into India takes place from the Pakistani side or that there's no violation of the cease-fire or that no act of terror takes place on Indian soil originating in Pakistan or that no repeat of Pulwama-type incident takes place?"

"The ICC mandates that there should be no interference of governments in the administration of the game and the corollary would be that a sports body doesn't attempt to interfere with how a government functions. It's time the PCB realises that and stops acting like an agent for an individual in the ICC who is known

to work against the interest of India. All I would say is that India is a wonderful country and acts in the most balanced way," the official pointed.

Wasim in an interview on the YouTube Channel, Cricket Buzz said: "We are also looking at the fact that the ICC World Cups are to be held in India in 2021 and 2023 and we have already asked the ICC to give us written assurance from the BCCI that we will not face any problems getting visas and clearance to play in India."

He also said that many Pakistan squads for different sports were not given clearance by the Indian government to play in recent times.

The statement from Wasim doesn't hold much weight as the Indian government had already solved the issue with regards to granting visas to athletes from different countries in case of multi-nation sporting events in June 2019.

IANS

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly



'Felt like myself after long'

INDIA'S white-ball vice-captain Rohit Sharma was back on the field on Thursday as he had his first outdoor training session post relaxation of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Rohit last played competitive cricket during the T20 series in New Zealand before a hamstring injury ruled him out. "Good to be back on the park getting some work done, felt like myself after a long time," Rohit wrote on his Instagram page.

His Test teammate Cheteshwar Pujara has recently started batting in the nets at Rajkot.



Rohit Sharma after taking a ground in Gwalior. **PTI/INSTAGRAM**

PTI

ICC wants India to criminalise match fixing

NEW DELHI: A senior official of the ICC's anti-corruption unit feels that making match fixing a criminal offence in India will be the "single-most-effective thing" in a country where the police are "operating with one hand tied behind their back" in the absence of any stringent law.

Legal experts have been advocating for years the need to criminalise match fixing in India, the lack of which has meant that the hands of authorities have been tied when it comes to investigating corruption in the popular sport.

"At the moment, with no legislation in place, we'll have

'At the moment, with no legislation in place, we'll have good relations with Indian police, but they are operating with one hand tied behind their back'

Steve Richardson, ICC ACU's coordinator of investigations

good relations with Indian police, but they are operating with one hand tied behind their back," ICC ACU's coordinator of investigations, Steve Richardson, was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

He added, "But the legislation would be a game-changer in India. We have currently just

under 50 investigations. The majority of those have links back to corruptors in India." With India set to host two ICC world events in the next three years, Richardson urged the Indian government to frame a legislation on match fixing like its neighbour Sri Lanka.

PTI

Finally, Chanu to get Arjuna award for 2018

NEW DELHI: Cleared of the dope taint, two-time Commonwealth Games gold-winner Sanjita Chanu will finally get the coveted Arjuna award which has been on hold since 2018.

A Sports Ministry source confirmed that Chanu will be conferred with the Arjuna award as per a 2018 Delhi High Court order, which directed the selection committee to consider her and keep the decision in a sealed cover to be disclosed only if she was absolved of the doping charges. "Sanjita is absolved of all the doping charges by the international federation, so we will have to abide by the Delhi High Court order and consider her for the Arjuna award," the ministry source told PTI.



Sanjita Chanu

WFI set to fire women's coach Andrew Cook

NEW DELHI: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is set to terminate the services of women's coach Andrew Cook for his refusal to participate in SAI's online sessions for non-payment of salary, a claim refuted by the American. Cook had left for Seattle after the national camp for women wrestlers in Lucknow was suspended in March owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PTI

close of play



GEORGINA'S FINE MORNING WITH RON

Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo's partner Georgina Rodriguez Instagrammed the above picture to her 18.7 million followers and captioned it: "The only thing I like more than you, is us. #uranocheriscade #love #goodmorning." The post received 1,345,903 likes.

Red Bull F1 team boss Christian Horner's wife Geri adopts a pony

BRITISH pop singer Geri Horner, who is married to Red Bull Racing Formula One team boss Christian, has adopted a rescued pony. Former Spice Girl Geri, 47, who has Bluebell, 14, with ex-partner Sacha Gerani and Montague, three, with Christian, recently Instagrammed this picture (right) to her one million followers and captioned it: "Hello! This is Zelti — very friendly. (He's a rescue pony — we've adopted him!)"

In 2015, single Geri got married to Christian at St Macy's Church in Woburn, Bedfordshire.



Shuttler PV Sindhu salutes teachers for their hard work

HYDERABAD: Badminton world champion PV Sindhu has thanked school and college teachers for their untiring work in providing education to students through online mediums during these tough COVID-19 times to ensure that the children of India do not lag behind.

Online classes are part of the new normal amid the pandemic which has claimed close to 5,000 lives in the country so far.

Sindhu said she salutes their work and stressed that their efforts should be appreciated by all. "My teachers also inspired me. I am thankful to school and college teachers. We all should salute all the teachers who have been working really hard and tirelessly to make sure children's learning should go on. The teachers of India have been working really hard. We all should be very thankful," Sindhu said in a video message on Twitter.

"Today, I was talking to my cousin and asked him how he is studying during this lockdown. He told me that they were doing these online classes and were also up to date with their syllabus, which is a very good thing," she added.

IANS

Smith shops for fresh fruit with wife Dani

SYDNEY: He may not be hitting a cricket ball on a daily basis, but Australia batsman Steve Smith is doing everything to keep himself energised.

On Thursday, he Instagrammed the below picture of him shopping at the local markets to his two million followers and wrote: "Thursday morning down at the local markets picking out some fresh produce with @dani_wills."

Steve can be seen holding bananas in one hand and a shopping basket in the other.

Agencies



Australian cricketer Steve Smith (inset) Dani Wills

STEVEN'S ON THE SAME PAIGE

American golfer Spiranac hails partner Tinoco's supportive ways as she goes about coping with her sex symbol tag

AMERICAN golfer Paige Spiranac has revealed that partner Steven Tinoco doesn't have a problem with her sex symbol tag.

"I met him (Steven) at the start of my career, so we have done this entire thing together. He is so understanding and knows this is a business for me. He will say, 'hey, show a little more cleavage,'" Paige recently told the New York Post.

In 2016, Steven proposed to her during a holiday in Dubai.

Meanwhile, Paige, who has 2.6 million Instagram followers, is proud of the fact that many female golf influencers are following in her footsteps — flaunting trick shots, swings and sometimes — golf fashion.

"When I started my pro career, I didn't have any financial backing so I needed to leverage my social media. I started out with good intentions. Then, the Insta-golf girl morphed into something I wasn't really proud of, where girls who aren't into golf started posing to get followers. These girls are out there making golf cool. We are getting more women into golf. I'm proud of where it's gone," she added.

