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PIU/PALEED DRIVE



How officials are tackling the spike in Bandra

With cases increasing in the last month, local ward officers have told vendors to maintain health certificates and are tracking data in real time

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AFTER a spurt in COVID-19 cases especially in residential areas last month, apart from the civic body's regulations, officials of the H West ward have taken up measures to deal with the pandemic more efficiently. While vendors have been asked to maintain health certificates that are updated weekly, the ward is remotely updating COVID-19-related data on a software that is accurate and less time-consuming. » P02

35-40

No. of cases being reported from buildings daily

PALGHAR TRIBALS HIT BY ACUTE FOOD SHORTAGE

EXCLUSIVE GROUND REPORT » Just hours from Mumbai, suicide of a 30-year-old, who killed her child and hanged herself, brings a brewing crisis into sharp focus



Some of the malnourished tribal children in Palghar District; (right) the locals show some of the plants from the jungle that they now survive on. **PIU/HARV PATEL**

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THE lockdown due to COVID-19 not only left migrants out of work and starving, but also hit local tribals in Palghar hard. The tribals, many of them whom worked in brick kilns, are jobless and forced to fetch plants from the jungle to survive on. But the biggest impact has been on pregnant women, lactating mothers and children, as the Amrut Ahaar Yojana has stopped. The yojana was launched in November 2015 in 16 tribal-dominated districts of the state. » P05

'Earlier, we used to get rice, chapati, eggs six days a week. But aanganwadi staff stopped it since May 22 when rations stopped'

Meenakshi Dayanand
Dagle, Washala village



Two months on, last Shramik train chugs out



Migrants being checked for documents and tickets before boarding a Shramik special train. **PIU/SURESH KARNER**

As Manipur-bound train left CSMT on Tuesday night, officials said 11.92 lakh migrants from state have been repatriated

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THE Railways flagged off the last Shramik special train from the city — Mumbai-CSMT-Manipur — which left at 10 pm on Tuesday. CR chief public relations officer Shilpa Sutar confirmed that there were no pending demands for more Shramik trains with the railways from the state. » P03

Of the total trains, 66% were run by Mumbai division, 23% by Pune and 11% by Solapur, Bhusawal and Nagpur

MAY 1

Day first Shramik train was flagged off from Maharashtra

In a first, city records just six deaths in 48 hours

However, there were 1,487 new positive cases reported in Mumbai; 5,537 across state



BMC doctors checking Dharavi residents on Wednesday. **PIU/SURESH KARNER**

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FOR the first time over the past couple of months, according to state health officials, Mumbai has recorded as few as six COVID-19-related deaths in the last 48 hours along with 69 other deaths that occurred in the past. Fresh cases, however, rose by nearly 1,500. » P02

MUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



State records 198 deaths, 5,537 new COVID cases

COVID-19
TICKER
1,80,298
TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN INDIA AS OF TODAY

Continued from page 01

A TOTAL of 5,537 cases came in from across the state, taking its tally to over 1.8 lakh. State health officials added 198 deaths to Maharashtra's toll, of which 69 occurred in the last 48 hours while the remaining 129 took place earlier.

Among the recent deaths, six were reported in Mumbai while 17 deaths took place in Pune, eight in Jaipur, five in Thane, four in Bhiwandi, three each in Mira-Bhayandar, Solapur and Jalgaon, two in Osmanabad and one each in Kalyan-Dombivli, Vasai-Virar, Dhule, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Sindhadurg, Latur, Nanded and Akola.

The state's death rate stands at 4.47 per cent and its death toll crossed 8,000 on Wednesday. Civic officials said that of the total 75 deaths added to the city's tally, 52 of them were suffering from other ailments and 23 of them were senior citizens.

Suresh Kakani, additional municipal commissioner said that June had seen a drop in the number of deaths among COVID-19 patients and the situation was improving.

"The number of critical patients has reduced and the number of days patients spend in hospitals has also gone down. There are fewer deaths since there are more ICU beds and ventilators are now avail-

able in hospitals. While things are improving, the virus is erratic in nature and we are staying alert," he said. When asked about the issues raised around the COVID-related data, Kakani said they were in the process of clearing the backlog of cases and sorting the data of deaths in a date-wise manner, which would help them understand the pattern of deaths in the last three months.

According to the civic body, as on Wednesday, 168 out of 1,431 ICU beds in the city were available while 25 per cent of the 7,724 oxygen beds were vacant and 53 ventilators were also available.

An official from the state health department, however, said that the low death count might not be a reflection of the ground reality.

"The daily figures are recorded based on the data of the last 48 hours. Deaths that have happened on Wednesday might reflect in the 48-hour count the next day leading to a higher number of deaths," he said.

In the state, 79,075 COVID-19 patients are being treated and 2,243 patients have been discharged after full recovery. The recovery rate of the state currently stands at 51.67 per cent while civic officials say that Mumbai's recovery rate is 57 per cent and the overall growth rate is 1.68 per cent.

In Mumbai, T ward (Mulund) continues to have the highest growth rate at 3.9 per cent followed by R Central ward (Borivli) with 3.2 per cent. The G North ward continues to have the second highest number of cases after K East ward and has a growth rate of 1.2 per cent, below the city's average rate. On Wednesday, Dharwad recorded 14 new cases, Dadar 21 and Mahim 19.

Lessons in efficiency from H West ward

Ward tells vegetable and fruit vendors to get weekly check-ups and a COVID-free certificate at civic dispensary to keep track of their health

Continued from page 01

THE software, 'H West COVID 19 Information Centre', implemented last month, allows ward officials to upload and update information about every COVID-19 patient, including details of high-risk contacts. Vinayak Vispute, assistant municipal commissioner of the ward, said, "There is a lot of fieldwork involved and ward officials also have to report the data collected. This was taking a lot of time and led to repetitions. Through the software, officials fill up a form through an app to upload data." He added that while most of the software is functional, linking with hospitals and a couple of other aspects are still being worked out.

Vispute pointed out that earlier, there would be repetitions in the data and duplication of work while filing reports in various formats. The software now analyses and monitors data of patients in institutional or home quarantine and the number of Containment Zones. "The software saves time and energy and it gives real-time data. It also promotes transparency since one can see which official is in charge



A woman shops at Pali market, Bandra. PIC/PRANEEP DHANU

2K
Approx. no. of total COVID-19 cases in H West ward

of a particular task and helps me keep track of pending work," Vispute said. He added that daily data that used to be finalised by 9 pm is now ready four hours early.

Over the past couple of weeks, the average growth rate of cases in H West ward (Bandra) has been 2.4 per cent, higher than the city's average. "Based on the trend of cases, markets were a probable source of infection. As an additional measure, we asked all stall owners and vendors selling fruits and vegetables to get a

medical certificate from municipal dispensaries that has to be updated every week. We check their oxygen saturation level, temperature and other COVID-19 symptoms," said a civic official from the ward.

The official added that the licence department staff carries out surprise visits to check if the health certificates are up to date. While earlier there were a couple of cases from residential buildings, officials said now there are around 35-40 cases reported on a daily basis. H West ward has nearly 2,000 COVID-19 cases.

BMC issues guidelines for salons, parlours 4 days after they reopen

Guidelines for phase four of easing of restrictions, applicable till July 31, have also been issued, there are no changes from the previous rules, says BMC

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THE BMC issued guidelines for salons and parlours on Wednesday, four days after they were allowed to reopen. All outlets will have to display the guidelines and precautions for customers.

The corporation also included guidelines for phase four of easing restrictions from June 30 to July 31, which are same as the earlier guidelines issued from time to time by the government.

As per the order of Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal, barbershops, salons and beauty parlours can be run with restricted entry with prior appointments only. All such shops must have proper ventilation and should not be housed in closed premises operating with only air-conditioners. Only select services like haircuts, dyeing hair, waxing



A barber gives a customer a haircut at Unique Hair Salon in Mulund East. PIC/SANDEEP BANSAL

threading, etc are allowed. Skin-related services are not permitted.

All workspaces (chairs) must be sanitised after each service and all common areas and floors must be sanitised after every two hours. Employees must use protective gear

As per the order of Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal, barbershops, salons and beauty parlours can be run with restricted entry with prior appointments only

including gloves, aprons and masks and disposable towels, napkins must be used for customers. Non-disposable equipment should be sanitised and sterilised after each service.

Meanwhile, in phase four of easing restrictions, the movement of persons for non-essential activities like shopping and outdoor exercises is restricted within the neighbourhood with all necessary precautions of wearing mask, social distancing and personal hygiene to be taken. Unrestricted movement is permitted only for attending a place of work that is open as per earlier orders.



The police and clean up marshals are authorised to take action against those who don't wear a mask. REPRESENTATION/PICTURE/SHRUTI

BMC had been fining people ₹1k since April

It recently issued order about fine for those not wearing masks, however it has been collecting fines since April 15; from April 9-June 30 it collected ₹20,11,300 in fines

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THE Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued an order on Monday about imposing a fine of ₹1,000 on those not wearing a mask. But it has already been collecting ₹1,000 as a fine from April 15. It has also collected fines worth over ₹29 lakh between April 9 and June 30 for the same reason. After the new order, clean up marshals collected ₹35,000 in fines on Tuesday.

Initially no arrest

The BMC had issued an order on April 8 making masks mandatory and threatened violators with arrest, but did not mention a fine. However, the BMC started collecting fines from April 9, initially ₹200 per person. It collected ₹1,200 from six people till April 11. But from April 15, the marshals began to collect ₹1,000 per person and collected ₹21,000 in fines.

From April 15 to June 29, the BMC collected fines worth ₹19,75,100 from 2,017 persons. As per the records, the

"Earlier the amount was not specified. We issued the order to reiterate and actually started to collect fines"

Iqbal Singh Chahal, municipal commissioner

BMC even warned 5,169 people about not wearing a mask. From April 9 to June 30, the BMC collected ₹20,11,300 in fines. The police and clean up marshals are authorised to take action.

'Not for revenue generation'

"Despite several guidelines and awareness, it is observed that many people are wandering in public places without a mask. So the BMC started acting. It is for the safety of citizens and not for revenue generation," said an officer from the BMC.

The order issued by Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal states that the masks may be three-ply, plain cloth ones, or even home-made washable ones. But people on streets and in offices, shops, markets, clinics and hospitals, travelling in their personal or official vehicles or public transport, attending meetings and gatherings must wear a mask.

As per the data with the BMC, on Tuesday 35 people were fined. Out of 35 people, 24 were from Kandivli, six were from Andheri E, two were from Dabhar and one each from Iyculia, Malad and Borivali. Another 47 people were warned.

The commissioner decided it was necessary to emphasise on safety and clarity on the amount of fine. "Earlier the amount was not specified. We issued the order to reiterate and actually started to collect fines," said Chahal.

No more pending Shramik requests from state: rlys



A Shramik special train leaving from Shivdadi station to Gorakhpur. FILE PIC/SURESH KARRIYA

Continued from page 1

THE entire saga of Shramik specials began on May 1 - Labour Day with the first train from Maharashtra leaving for Bhopal, a short route and ended on June 30 with the train leaving for Jirihum (Assam) from Mumbai, one of the longest routes.

While the Western Railway (WR) has operated a total 1,230 Shramik special trains from May 1, approximately carrying 18.50 lakh migrant labourers and their families, CR has so far operated more than 400 trains ferrying more than 4.5 lakh migrant labourers across the country. There were a total of 11,52 lakh migrants

sent from Maharashtra to various states from a total four railways - CR, WR, ER and SCR (South Central Rly).

Acting at the request of state government, running these special trains was a big challenge for the Railways. Right from the formation of rakes, sanitisation, rake maintenance, fulfilling the requirement of staff, provision of food, co-ordination with state governments, safety, punctuality, train operations and overall mission 'Back Home', IR had to ensure all operations went smoothly under COVID-19 circumstances.

These Shramik specials were run for many states including Andhra

Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal. The mission also involved direct train services from CR to states of Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur for the first time.

Of the total trains operated, about 66 per cent were run by Mumbai division, 25 per cent by Pune and about 11 per cent by Solapur, Bhusawal and Nagpur divisions. As maximum trains were run by Mumbai division, the other four divisions put in their might by maintaining 8-9 rakes at their depots on days when demand peaked.

Of the total 1,230 trains on WR, Mumbai division had the highest 717 trains, Rajkot ran 171, Ahmedabad operated 260, Vadodra deployed 330, Bhavnagar had 30, while 6 were from Itanagar division.

66%

Percent of Shramik trains run by Mumbai division

1,230

Total no. of Shramik trains operated by WR

600

Total no. of Shramik trains operated by CR

Students with ATKTs unsure of what lies ahead

No clarity if students with ATKT will get their final year degrees or not, despite two weeks having passed since the government cancelled final year exams



FILE PIC/SHRUTI KOLATE



mid-day's report on June 29 about MU asking for exam fees

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EVEN if the state government provided some respite by cancelling the final year exams, there is one section of students which isn't relieved yet - those with ATKT (allowed to keep term).

As per the new rules, they too shall be graded along with everyone else for the final semester. But they aren't sure about how their pending exams from previous semesters - in which they had ATKT and were supposed to appear for during the annual exams - will be evaluated. With nearly two weeks passing by since the decision to cancel final year exams came out, there has been no clarity on whether students with ATKT shall get their final year degrees.

There are around 3 lakh students with ATKT in the final semester of var-

ied courses across the state. According to the students, it is due to such confusion that there is no point in declaring 'no exams' for final year as many such aspects are yet to be cleared.

Just a few days ago, Mumbai University (MU) invited controversy by charging examination fees from students despite the cancellation of exams. "This is a result of vague orders as the government has not bothered to clear several aspects surrounding this decision. The government should have consulted academicians to come out with detailed guidelines to implement it starting from aspects such as ATKT, exam fees, issues of students with physical challenges among all

The state government has purposefully left ambiguity around examinations so that attention is diverted from the main problem of its inability to control the COVID-19 infection," said Siddharth Ingle, President of Maharashtra Students Union (MASU) which has written to the state government demanding clarity on the issues.

"The number of such students is no less for administration to not take cognisance of the issue raised. Students with ATKT are spread across courses and in all colleges. Even if these students get their final semester results, they will face issues later because of the 'pending paper record' on their mark sheets," added Ingle.

"This is a result of vague orders as the government has not bothered to clear several aspects surrounding this decision. The government should have consulted academicians to come out with detailed guidelines," Siddharth Ingle, President, Maharashtra Students Union

daily dossier



@Abhilashnanya: I hate being sober. Have to deal with every emotion like a human being.



Ghar ka khana delivered

For those who are partial to ghar ka khana but aren't the best cooks, living away from home can be difficult. Take for instance actor Anuj Sachdeva, who's still looking for the perfect dal makhani in Mumbai. This is why Sachdeva and his friend, Priyanka Pereira, wanted to make home-cooked food accessible to all. Their two-year-old idea is now taking shape with a delivery service called Chef on Wheels. From Tuva to Marwar, the initiative brings together over 30 regional home chefs across Mumbai. "The idea is to connect people who are fond of food, and keep it authentic. And who better than home chefs to do that?" Sachdeva told this diarist. Every week, they will curate a new menu consisting of different cuisines. "The food will be cooked by the chefs, and we'll deliver it. The aim is to mirror the ghar ka khana experience, especially at a time like this," Pereira added.

Win for Indian art

Mumbai girl and creative director of Tao Art Gallery, Sanjana Shah, has made quite the splash in the art circuit. The 25-year-old has been selected as the India ambassador for the prestigious Arte Laguna Prize, an international art competition held in Venice for emerging artists. "It is an honour to be able to represent contemporary Indian art and help emerging artists from the country gain exposure on an international platform like this. Local art needs to grow and interact with a global audience. The hope is to encourage young creators, who have talent and passion but lack logistical aid, to make their own mark in the global art scene," she told this diarist, excited to explore the variety of talent this country has to offer, work closely with artists, and look forward to a positive future of creative expression.



Paw-some news from Alibaug

The need for organisations and initiatives to go digital cannot be understated right now. Although The Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD), Alibaug, was set up in August 2019, it made its debut on Instagram earlier this week. The first post is about a little canine named Luke who walked into their sterilisation centre on a rainy night. He was found in the morning by the caretaker, whimpering in pain and hunger, with a maggot wound on his back, severely malnourished and covered in ticks and fleas. But Luke was nursed back to health and is now de-wormed, vaccinated and ready for adoption. "As we are the only animal welfare NGO in Alibaug, we thought that information about the various rescues, on-site first-aid, adoptions and the sterilisation programme can be disseminated faster so that more animals can be benefited. We have also been distributing food during the lockdown, and have



already distributed 31,000 kgs of horse feed apart from feeding street dogs in and around Alibaug. The project is headed by Raksha Dick who has been working here for animal welfare for long," Abodh Anas, CEO, WSD, told this diarist.

Get ready to GIF

There's good news for art and cultural heritage enthusiasts. DAG Museums, The Heritage Lab and web portal Haseparya have announced India's first GIF-it-up contest which celebrates art through GIFs. Yesterday, DAG Museums released 13 artworks under the CC by SA license, which basically means that participants can re-interpret and remix them without breaking any copyright laws. Europeans have conducted a global GIF contest since 2013 but this is the first time that they've come on board with a unique idea for India. There are trophies provided and prizes to be won as well. About the initiative, Medhavi Gandhi, founder of The Heritage Lab, told this diarist, "This open to anyone above nine years. We are excited to involve schoolchildren in the hope that they will learn about how licensing and copyrights work. We are setting off a chain of creation."



An untitled Rajghat pat painting showing a cat drinking a prawn that can be made into a GIF



CAN WE PLAY HORSY?

A little girl tries getting on to her guardian's back as he bows outside Wadala's Vitthal Mandir still out of bounds for devotees. PIC/SURESH KARNER

These indie music folks are tuned in together



Now more than ever before is the time for the independent music industry to rally around together, given how tough things are. That's why the launch of a new initiative called Indie Music Allies is, well, music to our ears. The idea is to build a space for members to feed off each other's core skills so that everyone can get a leg-up within the



'scene'. The founders include city-based harpist Nash Lewis and music journalist Amit Garbani, who told this diarist, "We have already got applications from a bunch of musicians from across the country, apart from artist managers, booking agents, sound engineers, lawyers, photographers and other industry professionals."

'We are now forced to eat plants from the jungle'

How tribals in Palghar are fighting hard to survive and hoping the govt does something fast

Continued from page 81

IT aimed to improve the health of pregnant women, lactating mothers and children between seven months and 6 years of age. Such women in Washala village of Mokhada Taluka complained that anganwadis workers have stopped distributing nutritious foods since May 22.

"Earlier we used to get nutritious foods including rice, chapati, pulses, one egg, etc. six days a week. But the anganwadi workers have stopped this since May 22. They said ration is not being supplied during the lockdown," said Murnakshi Dayanand Dagle, mother of a four-month-old baby, and a resident of Washala.

A seven-month pregnant woman, Shalini Hamare, also from Washala added, "This is my first pregnancy and I don't want any health risk. There should not be any cut in the free nutritious foods sanctioned by the government."

Children at risk

This reporter saw malnourished kids who had nothing to eat at home. A three-year-old malnourished hand-kneaded girl was so feeble that she could not even stand properly. The ribs of several children could be seen sticking out. "These children are underweight and malnourished. The conditions of their mothers are also and there is urgent requirement of medical assistance for them," said Sita Shankar Ghatal, who is in charge of the Vitthu Maoli Charitable trust where malnourished children and their mothers are treated free of cost.

Tribal leader Vivek Pandit, who is

'No political leader has visited us to see our pathetic condition. Politicians visit us only during elections to seek votes' Ramchandra Gavit, from Dehre Kadyachimali village.



Locals from Dehre Kadyachimali village show the electricity bills they received but can't pay. PICS/HANIFRAEL

the chairman of a government-appointed committee to look into the status of schemes for tribals in Maharastra, had filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court in April regarding the issue. An order was passed on May 15 directing the state government to ensure that "not a single member is left without food and the basic necessities in these dark hours."

'Breach of HC order'

Pandit's counsel Vaidhar Bhare said, "It is sad to hear that the Amrut Aahar Yojana was discontinued. The Tribal Development Department (TDD) of the state government categorically made a statement through the government pleader before the HC, that food grains and other essential items under the different welfare schemes are reaching the beneficiaries only on being asked by the HC. The HC recorded the same as an undertaking given to the court in its order dated May 15. If essential food items are not being provided to the pregnant tribal women and lactating mothers, then it is serious breach of the order passed by the court. Sincere efforts should be made to follow the order of the Bombay HC in its letter and spirit."

Mid-day visited various villages in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas on Tuesday and found the tribal communities living in extremely deplorable conditions in villages such as Dehre Kadyachimali, Hiradpada, Nangharmonda, Washala, etc.

Poverty led to extreme steps?

Last week a 30-year-old tribal woman

in Mangla Wagh strangled her three-year-old toddler before hanging and killing herself in the jungle, which is 5-km away from her village Dehre Kadyachimali in Jawhar Taluka. Mangla is survived by her husband Dilip and a seven-year-old daughter, Nandani, who is not yet in school.

Dilip said, "I used to work in the brick kiln in Bhivandi. But the week had to be stopped due to the lockdown and we returned home. I have no money. The government should help us."

Pandit told mid-day that Dilip is feeling in poverty in the lockdown and had to even borrow ₹1,000 to conduct the last rites of his wife and daughter. "One can imagine in what conditions these tribals are living," added Pandit, who was told by the state government to visit the village and submit his findings in a report before the state.

Deputy Sarpanch Nandu Gavit, who is from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), said, "I would hold the state government responsible for the pathetic conditions of the tribals. When a tribal woman committed suicide, everyone was shaken. They should focus on improving the conditions of the tribal community. The government is well aware that the Kadkar samaj (a tribal community) does not have agricultural land and their financial condition is not good."

Foraging in the jungle

Amidst the severe crunch of food, the tribals have been fetching 'toti' and 'veta' plants from the jungle, which they dry and then eat. "It takes us two hours to walk into the jungle and get these leaves to eat," said Maruti Jansi Pawar from Dehre Kadyachimali.

The mid-day team saw a few women extract oil for cooking. "We cannot afford to buy mustard oil. We collect Mahua seeds which are left under the sun to dry and later extract oil from them for cooking," Chandu Rama Wagh, a tribal from Dehre Kadya-

chimali said.

Most of the tribals worked in brick kilns in Bhivandi, Vasai and Thane. Since they shut in the lockdown, many of them are on the brink of starvation, said Ghatal.

The electricity bills have also worried the poverty-stricken tribals. "The electricity department has sent us bills after three months. I don't know how will I pay ₹1,020," said Ramchandra Gavit, from Dehre Kadyachimali.

Bhanu Jansi Bhoye from the village said, "My bill is ₹1,160. If I don't pay the bill, the electricity connection will be snapped, and it will be tough to live in the dark specially during monsoon when the threat of snake bite is high. I don't know what to do now. I have no money. The government must do something to give us relief."

Gavit said, "No political leader has visited us to see our pathetic condition. Politicians visit us only during elections to seek votes. I have been working in the field as a daily wage worker to meet two square meals."

It is utter shame that we have to shake the government machinery to safeguard tribals even after seven decades of independence."

Tribal development minister KC Pandit told mid-day that he agreed the lockdown has deteriorated the living conditions of tribals in the state. "I had directed all the collectors to arrange for an alternative modern medium of income for the tribal community but they were all busy in controlling the pandemic. A few district collectors have taken positive initiatives to improve the conditions." Talking about the malnutrition in the tribal hamlets, Pandit said, "It is among children and pregnant/lactating women not only because of deficiency of nutritious food but because of early marriage, teenage pregnancy and no ideal gaps between kids. He also said he would check why food distribution under Amrut Aahar Yojana has been stopped."



The SGMP witnesses a huge footfall during the monsoon. FILEPIC

Tungareashwar sanctuary, SGNP, to remain closed for tourists

Forest dept official says once the COVID-19 situation starts improving, they might take a decision to open up the parks

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NATURE lovers will have to wait longer to visit both the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Tungareashwar Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS) because the authorities concerned have no plans of opening them up soon in view of the rising COVID-19 cases in the city.

Speaking to mid-day, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (APCCF), Wildlife, Sunit Limaye said, "The number of COVID-19 cases is high in Mumbai and adjoining areas and hence, the SGNP and TWS will remain closed for visitors as a precautionary measure. Once the situation starts improving, we might take a decision to open both the places for tourists."

Both the parks are major tourist attractions during the rainy season and around this time they witness a huge footfall. Anticipating that people might visit these places, the authorities shut them down on March 17 to prevent spread of the novel Coronavirus. According to Forest Department officials, due to the closure they are losing ₹3.5 lakh on an average daily in terms of revenue. They earn the amount through sale of entry tickets, tiger-lean safari etc.

While the Thane Creek Ramtango sanctuary remains shut during monsoon, as boat rides are not operational during the season, many nature lovers visit the Bhandup pumping station area of the sanctuary for birding, but the authorities have made it clear that the area will remain closed for the public.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of the Mangroves Cell, Vinodra Tiwari said, "The Thane Creek Ramtango Sanctuary remains shut for tourists during monsoon, as we cannot conduct the boat rides. We have increased patrolling in the Bhandup pumping station area and people should not try to enter the sanctuary because even that will remain closed."

According to Forest Department officials, due to the closure they are losing ₹3.5 lakh on an average daily in terms of revenue.



Tribals show Mahua seeds from which they extract oil



**DAURAV SARKAR
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A 64-YEAR-OLD retired nurse in Dadar helped her neighbour deliver a baby on Wednesday morning at Dadar's Sundar Nagar Cooperative Housing Society.

The retired nurse, Naina Nandakumar Huddar, who lives on the fourth floor of the building, heard someone banging on the door of neighbour Poo-

Retired nurse helps neighbour deliver her baby at home

Naina Huddar, 64, used pair of scissors, spirit to cut the umbilical cord and clean the newborn

In Vijay Mishra's door around 7.30 am. When she and other neighbours went to inspect, they found Mishra's brother who informed them that she was in labour. The door was locked from inside and Mishra, who had started delivering the baby, could not move to open it. Huddar, who served 34 years as a BMC nurse, encouraged Mishra to hold the baby close to her stomach, drag herself towards the door and unblock it. Mishra also had her two-year-old son with her. "I saw that the baby had completely come out," Huddar told mid-day. "I went back to my house, which is on the



Naina Nandakumar Huddar (left) with neighbour Meena Kain who helped her assist in Pooja Mishra's delivery. **PIC/ASHISH RAJE**

same floor, got gloves, spirit and a pair of scissors. I used these to first cut the umbilical cord and then cleaned the placenta off the baby boy, gave him a bath and handed him to Mishra's brother."

Mishra and her baby were taken to KEM Hospital for post-delivery care. "Both, the child and the mother, were healthy," Huddar said, adding that although there was a lot of bleeding, there was no need for stitches since it was a normal delivery. "Being retired doesn't mean that I will stop helping people. If someone calls me and needs my help, I will always go to their aid."

Hidden vault forces thieves to drop bank robbery plan

They broke into the main vault but did not expect to find another one; run off with CCTV DVR instead

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IT WAS the perfect plan to loot a co-operative bank on a holiday and make off with the gold and cash inside the vault. But, the thieves' grand plan failed when they came up against a second vault inside. Thinking they couldn't cut open this vault, the thieves ran away but not before taking the DVR of the CCTV cameras and the monitor. The Marikand cops have registered an offence against unknown people.

On Monday morning, when a post, Vinayak Jadhav, who works in The Hindustan Co-operative Bank Limited, Motibai Patti Nagar branch, Marikand, opened the gates of the premises on June 29 morning around 9.30am, he found something amiss. The electricity had gone and the locker room of the bank was open. He immediately contacted the branch manager Shrinagar Marikand.

Marikand rushed to the bank and found that one vault had been cut open but the second vault that contained mortgaged gold ornaments and cash was intact. He then called the Marikand cops. "It was an attempt, but with a perfect plan. They had succeeded in getting right up to cores of valuables but their preparation went for a toss because of the second vault," said an officer from Marikand Police station.

During investigation it was discovered that the accused entered through the roof of the bank. "We suspect two to three people were involved," said another officer. "The thieves must have run out of time as they fled from the bank," the officer added.

A watchman deputed at the ATM said he had heard a sound but didn't pay much attention. According to sources, there was ₹2 crore in cash and 60 kg of mortgaged gold ornaments. The cops have screened hundreds of CCTV footage in the area and have got one in which a man and the shadow of another are visible.

"The CCTV footage has given us some clue. The people involved in the crime must have done a thorough recon of the place. We are confident of nabbing," said Kishor Kharat, in-charge, senior inspector of Marikand police station.

Online payment a way out of BEST's chillar problem

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WITH piles of coins and loose change getting collected all the time, the BEST has finally moved in the direction of UPI cashless transactions with bus conductors now being given badges with QR code stickers that can be used by commuters to make cashless payments.

Long due, but now done at ten bus depots on an experimental basis, the process will pave the way for cashless transactions and avoid the exchange of physical money in these days of COVID-19.

A senior BEST official said that travelling commuters will have to tell the conductor of their destination, he will check the fare and then tell the amount that needs to be paid. The commuter can scan the badge with any online payment option. Once the badge is scanned, the app will show the bus depot and the badge number of the conductor with the amount to be paid.

While the process began at



BEST is known to have bags of loose change that it struggles to dispose of

Cobahda depot in south Mumbai on June 16. It was also started at Wadala depot on June 26. It eventually will be brought to all depots. This transaction mode is completely separate from the BEST app and can be carried out independently.

The mode is available for both Android and iOS users and the transactions will be recorded on a centralised computer at the bus depots, which will be tallied separately.

BEST has been facing issues with loose change for quite some time. Coins worth crores are collected by the undertaking every single day and these end up lying at the strongrooms of 27 bus depots in Mumbai city and suburbs as banks, too, have been slow in providing such a huge volume. As a way out, the BEST then decided to give part of the salaries in coins. However, if this QR code method is promoted well and clicks, it will help the BEST significantly.

Travelling commuters will have to tell the conductor of their destination, he will check the fare and then tell the amount that needs to be paid. The commuter can scan the badge with any online payment option

Historical railway lines face sure death by concrete

Historians push for conservation of half-a-century-old rail lines that used to lead to a jetty in Thane East

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OVER half-a-century-old rail lines found in Thane East are in the process of being obliterated even as local history groups are pushing for their conservation given that Thane played host to India's first railway in 1853.

A railway official said these lines do not belong to the railways anymore but are a significant part of the city's history. The lines have been there since the time of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, which is the former name of Central Railway and once went to the jetty that stood there. However, they are not in any way connected to the first train or first line in Thane.

The remains of the single line sidings pass under a road divider today along what was then called the Mithanand Road and is now named Rambhai Mhatgi Road. The path ends at an old cargo shed along the former jetty. When documented in 2000, the old wooden cargo shed had the remains of an iron weighing scale and cobblestone floor-



The railway lines found at Rambhai Mhatgi Road in Thane East may be lost to road concretisation. **PIC/SAMEER NARANKHAR**

ing. Today, the worn-out shed has collapsed and is forgotten like the city's railway history and old lines.

"The place also had a few old buried cannons which we salvaged recently," Thane historian Sadashiv Tetwliwar said. Local corporators and politicians also said they have requested the Thane Municipal Corporation to build some kind of a memorial for this station and save parts of the rail if possible.

"There were 12 large cannons from the British period half-buried here. They were being used to anchor

small boats and ships in Thane creek. We recovered them on a platform nearby Koliwada. Work was led by Dr Sachin Joshi of Deccan College, Pune, with the help of TMC and Koliwada Janas Trust with permission from the Maritime Board, State Archaeology Department & TMC, etc, executive body member of Konkani Itihas Parishad, Pravin Kadam, said.

Thane Mayor Nareish Mhasole said he will try and see if they can be salvaged. "We will examine the location and see what can be done about this," he said.

Task force doc going to pvt hosp for treatment raises questions

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A TOP doctor from Maharashtra's COVID-19 Task Force has been admitted to Fortis hospital at Mulund after testing positive for the novel Coronavirus, highly placed sources in the state health department told mid-day on Wednesday.

The doctor was brought to the hospital with breathing difficulty and was put on oxygen support. Citing confidentiality clause, a senior doctor of Fortis, Mulund, told mid-day, "The hospital was not authorised to divulge any details about the patient and that the state task force would be officially releasing a statement soon." However, the doctor hinted that the patient was doing well.

The decision of the task force's top doctor to prefer a private hospital to a civic one has raised eyebrows. Dr Ketan Vagholkar, professor and HoD of surgery at DY Patil Medical College, said, "The senior members involved in the COVID-19

'This will undoubtedly raise the morale of the frontline healthcare workers, and improve their working efficiency, which will immensely benefit the patient community' Dr Ketan Vagholkar, professor and HoD of surgery at DY Patil Medical College

treatment process should have faith in their own civic healthcare system. They should be in a position to seek treatment for themselves and their family members in their own institutions, if the need arises."

Advocate Godfrey Pimenta, an activist and the founder-trustee of Watchdog Foundation, also expressed his disappointment over members holding key portfolios in the state-appointed task force choosing to get treatment at private hospitals instead of a BMC-run hospital. "It has a direct implication on the morale of the frontline workers, who need to get motivation to stay

in high spirits during this tough time," he said.

Sources close to the task force told mid-day that the member being treated at Fortis was behind several crucial decisions to control the outbreak, including the move to do away with the mandatory COVID-19 testing for patients receiving dialysis treatment for kidney failure.

The task force member is among the many senior doctors who have contracted the virus over the past few weeks. While some are fighting the disease in ICUs, others are in self-quarantine. Lakshanya Tolk, Municipal General Hospital dean Dr Ramesh Bhatnagar is among

those who self-quarantined. He resumed duty a few days back.

"After my colleague tested positive for novel Coronavirus, I had to quarantine myself as per the ICMR guidelines though my test came back negative. I continue to maintain a safe distance, get my office sprayed with disinfectants thrice a day, and I'm making use of technology for meetings." On being asked why task force members and college deans are getting affected, Dr Bhatnagar said, "As administrators, we are bound to meet people. We also have to check hundreds of files, move around the hospital premises."

Some suggested that a second team of COVID-19 task force should be set up in case of an emergency. "We have to ensure that senior doctors and experts who are in the state task force and those fighting the pandemic are protected, and that their safety, along with all those on the frontline, is prioritised. If our task force members and frontline workers are hit by the deadly virus,



BMC doctors and Asha workers scan the Dharavi area for people showing symptoms of COVID-19, on Wednesday. PIC/SURESH KARKERA

then where will the common man go and who would treat them?" Pimenta asked. It is high time the state government work on a second team task force to control the pandemic, which will only worsen with monsoon ailments setting in, he added.

Dr Ketan Vagholkar, professor and head of the department of surgery at DY Patil medical college opined that senior members of the state COVID-19 Task Force have initiated and set up an excellent process by which the disease is being brought under control. "However, a significant number of them are affected, requiring ICU care. Therefore, a second line of

frontline task force members needs to be created as early as possible, thereby, ensuring smooth management."

He also suggested getting more experienced people on board, both from private and public hospitals. This, he said, will involve a strong treatment protocol, which will enhance the cure rate of COVID-19 patients." Dr Vagholkar also said that adequate measures must be taken to ensure senior members of the task force, including faculty of medical colleges, are well protected against the disease, which is important for a "smooth delivery of the treatment".

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Actress Sanghi denies MeToo allegations against Sushant

Says she issued a statement in 2018 mentioning the allegations were baseless

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In her statement to the Bandra police, recorded over nine hours, actress Sanghi denied making any allegations against actor Sushant Singh Rajput during the 2018 MeToo campaign.

While recording her statement in the actor's alleged outside case, the cops asked her about the reports on the allegations and also Sushant's last film Dil Bechara with her. In her statement Sanghi said that in 2018 casting director Nukesh Chhabra selected her after an audition and she was informed that Sushant would be her co-star in the film. She had met him for the first time on the sets of the film, which was initially named Kizie Aur Manny. The actress further told the police that during the MeToo campaign somebody spread rumours about her making allegations against Sushant but later she



Actress Sanghi's statement was recorded over nine hours on Tuesday. FILEPIC

had issued a statement on social media denying it. The statement says, "On returning from a long trip to the US yesterday I read several baseless and unfounded stories with respect to misconduct and misbehaviour on the sets of our film Kizie Aur Manny."

"I'd like to clarify that no such incident took place. Let's put an end to these conjectures." The actress told the police, "I had enough time in hand after shooting for the first part of the film and hence, I left for USA. I was totally unaware of the malicious campaign being run against Sushant. When I got to know about it after returning from America, I issued a statement after meeting him and Mukesh. Sushant was very tensed because of all that was being done to malign his image."

According to the police, the actress was mentally disturbed due to this and could not con-

tact Sanghi at that time as she was travelling. The actress confirmed this and said that Sushant had shared some screenshots of conversations between them on social media as he had no option, and even she did not have any problem with it because the allegations were baseless.

In her statement the actress further said that he was a bit disturbed because of it but was doing well during the shoot and was quite normal also. She said that nobody could figure out that he was suffering from depression, as he never shared anything personal with anyone.

'I had enough time in hand after shooting for the first part of the film and hence, I left for USA, I was totally unaware of the malicious campaign being run against Sushant. When I got to know about it after returning from America, I issued a statement after meeting him and Mukesh. Sushant was very tensed because of all that was being done to malign his image.'

Sanghi in her police statement

Nagpur Sena chief booked for extortion

Police begin a manhunt for accused; another party leader arrested for extortion last week

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THE Nagpur police are looking for a fugitive president of the city unit of Shiv Sena, Mangesh Kadav, who faces multiple charges of extortion, cheating and forcibly occupying a property.

According to information, Kadav has been booked in three cases and serious criminal charges have been pressed against him. Ambajhari, Sakardara, Hudasebhar and Bajaj Nagar police stations had received complaints against him. After investigating these complaints, the first information reports were filed late Tuesday. Nagpur police chief, Dr Bhushan Kumar Upadhyay has asked the local crime branch to investigate all cases against Kadav, his accomplices and also encourage other

victims to file complaints, if any, against the alleged organised crime.

Kadav faces charges of illegally occupying a mansion in Purnani layout and stealing cash, gold ornaments and household goods. He allegedly sought ₹15 crore from the legal owner for vacating the house. He is also accused of beating up the owner. In the second case, he is accused of cheating a person by mortgaging three shops that he had sold. He threatened the buyers who gave him ₹18 lakh and refused to vacate the claim or service the mortgage. In the third case, Kadav has been booked for cheating a flake buyer from Manewada.

In the cases, Kadav and his accomplices face offences under many IPC sections. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Detection) Gajanan Ra-



Mangesh Kadav

jmane told mid-day that the police teams were hunting for Kadav and his accomplices. "We have appealed to other victims to come forward and file complaints against Kadav without any fear and have started receiving complaints," said the DCP, adding that he was expecting at least 50 complaints against Kadav and his accomplices.

In a separate case last week, a Yuv Sena leader and vibhag

'We have appealed the other victims to come forward and file complaints against Kadav without any fear and have started receiving complaints. We are expecting at least 50 complaints against Kadav and his accomplices'

Gajanan Rajmane, DCP

pramukh were booked for allegedly demanding ₹25 lakh from a licensed moneylender. Ajai police arrested one of the accused, Sanjay Rathod (Sena's South Nagpur Vibhag Pramukh) receiving the first instalment of ₹5 lakh after the moneylender submitted recordings of threat. Another accused Vikram Rathod, who is Sanjay's brother and Sanghatkar of Yuv Sena, is still on the run.

Clear answers are the antidote to COVID confusion

An interactive session with Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani proves a bridge between authorities and citizens

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PEOPLE'S voice was given a platform by VCAN, which stands for V Citizens Action Network, a city charitable trust concentrating on social and civic issues and providing a link between citizens and government authorities. The VCAN held a digital social sanchar or meet between citizens and Additional Municipal Commissioner (AMC) Suresh Kakani on 'The Covid Monsoon Season and Your Safety' late Tuesday evening.

Death rates

The meet, anchored by chairperson Indrani Malhotra, opened with Kakani observing that the city was seeing a shift from a large number of cases in slum pockets to those in high-rises. "Our focus now is to bring down death rates. We are working on a programme called 'Save the Patient'. We are striving towards lessening the time gap in providing treatment to patients and addressing the issue of lives lost because of time wasted."

He added that not just neighbouring states, those like New Delhi were following the model set in Mumbai. "Initially, we got a lot of criticism for Dhara-2, but we deployed teams that could trace high-risk contacts of Dhara-2 locals and isolate them. That is how we brought the numbers down," he added.

Monsoon battle

Having said that, Kakani cautioned, "We are not excited by praise. We are fully aware that the behaviour of this virus is abnormal, we have a long battle ahead of us."

The commissioner addressed the monsoon query saying, "Our vector control teams have been activated. We are doing extensive fogging in certain areas and mosquito control. Currently, the cases of malaria, leptospirosis and dengue are 50 per cent less than last year, but the rains have been erratic as of now, let us see what happens. Fogging is a very effective support to the entire system designed to tackle monsoon-related diseases. It may not be completely foolproof, but it is highly efficacious."

Domestic help

In the interactive session, the commissioner was also asked whether domestic help should be allowed in housing



Suresh Kakani, additional municipal commissioner

societies.

Kakani said, "This is top of the mind right now. Domestic help can be allowed in homes but what housing societies could do is to have thermal guns for temperature checks. Before the help enters homes, they should wash their hands thoroughly. Keep a sanitiser bottle at the building entrance. Provide masks to the help and ensure they wear them. Common points in the building like lift buttons and staircase handrails have to be properly sanitised."

Sanitising sense

To another question about common toilets in high-rises, the commissioner said some buildings were not sanitising common toilets well enough. "The regular cleaning staff of a society can do the work. The toilets need to be sanitised at least three to four times a day."

To questions about plumbers, electricians, workers being allowed in homes, he said, "Proper safety guidelines need to be followed. Repair work in buildings, too, can be completed but it is good if the labourers are allowed to stay on site, buildings need to make some arrangements for them."

To a question about housing societies that have common entrances with nursing homes within premises, Kakani said, "Proper sanitisation and distancing have to be followed."

Query vary

To a query about whether families should be forced to buy a second vehicle as couples or siblings were unable to go to work together on a scooter, he said, "We do not want people to buy vehicles. We want them to maintain social distance. That is the way to beat the disease."

As questions flew in fast, including one about Murdhikars flying in from abroad and quarantine measures, it was evident that clear cut answers were the antidote to the Mumbai's COVID confusion.

BROWSER

TMC supporters 'attack' Bengal BJP president

KOLKATA: West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh was allegedly attacked by Trinamool Congress backed miscreants at Rajarhat, New Town located on the north-eastern fringes of Kolkata. The incident took place when the state BJP president went there with his supporters to talk to people in the locality. "I went there with some of my supporters to talk to people and had tea at Rajarhat market area. But Trinamool supporters stopped me on the way and heckled my party men. When my security personnel tried to stop them, the miscreants also heckled them," Ghosh said.

NP cabinet expansion today, says Chouhan

BHOPAL: The expansion of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan cabinet in Madhya Pradesh will take place on Thursday. Fielding a query by the media during the launch of the '500 Corona' campaign on Wednesday, Chouhan said the cabinet expansion will take place on Thursday. Governor Anantiben Patel will take oath on Wednesday and the cabinet ministers on Thursday. As many as 25 ministers are likely to be sworn in, in the second phase.

Nation records over 500 deaths in 24 hrs; recovery rate nears 60%

Maharashtra, Delhi and TN account for over 70 per cent of the fatalities; 18,653 fresh cases reported



NEW DELHI: India registered the highest single-day COVID-19 deaths at 507 on Wednesday with Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu accounting for over 70 per cent of the fatalities, while 18,653 new infections were reported taking the total tally to 5,85,493, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

This is the fifth consecutive day that Coronavirus infections have increased by more than 18,000. The country has seen a surge of 3,94,958 infections from June 1 till date. The number of active cases stands at 2,20,114, while 3,47,978 people have recovered, and one patient has migrated, according to the updated data at 8 am.

"Thus, around 59.43 per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 88,26,585 samples have been tested up to June 30, with 2,17,931 samples being tested on Tuesday. Of the total 12,400 deaths reported so far, Maharashtra accounted for the highest 7,855 fatalities. Agencies



Members of the Indian Youth Congress and other Congress supporters stage a protest against the hike in fuel price during Unnati 2.0 in Amritsar on Wednesday. **PG/PTI**

'No restrictions on selling Coronil'

Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved said there are no AYUSH Ministry restrictions on selling Coronil, a drug the company recently launched as a medicine for COVID-19 but is now calling it a product to "manage" the disease. The Union Ministry confirmed that Patanjali can sell the product but not as a cure for COVID-19.

Puri shuts down for Bahuda Yatra

The Lord Jagannath's 'Bahuda Yatra' — the return car festival — began on Wednesday in the absence of devotees, and amid tight security and curfew, as the seaside pilgrim town virtually shut down to prevent gatherings in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the divine siblings — Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Lord Balabhadra and their sister Devi Subhadra — embarked on their return journey back



Devotees take part in the Bahuda Rath Yatra or Return Car Festival in Puri on Wednesday. **PG/PTI**

to the 12th-century shrine, the administration appealed people to stay home and watch the rituals on TV.

Services remain suspended in K'taka

Most of the services banned during the lockdown will continue to remain suspended from Wednesday as part of Unnati 2.0 in Karnataka, a top official said. "Schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutes will remain closed till July 31," ordered Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar.

Goa to open for tourists from July 2

Goa Tourism Minister Manohar Agasarkar announced that the coastal state will be open to tourists starting July 2, as 250 hotels have been granted permission to resume operations. Goa has remained shut for travellers since the nationwide lockdown was imposed in March.



Smoke billows from a fire after an explosion in Neyveli Lignite Corporation power plant. **PG/PTI**

Tamil Nadu boiler explosion: Injured employees receive 40% burns

NEYVELI: Six men were killed and 16 others injured when a boiler exploded at the NLC India thermal plant on Wednesday, an official said. Home Minister Amit Shah, expressing anguish over the loss of lives, spoke to Chief Minister K. Palaniappan and assured all possible help. While preliminary inputs from the

explosion site said two people died, the toll has gone up to six now, the NLC official said.

"Six men have died. Sixteen people who sustained injuries have been rushed to a hospital in Chennai," he said. The six deceased men, aged between 25 and 42 years, were contract workers. The injured include employees who have

sustained at least 40 per cent burn injuries according to an initial assessment, the official said. The mishap occurred at the fifth unit of the thermal

power station-II (210 MWx7) when workers were in the process of resuming operations on Wednesday morning.

The Home Minister said on

The mishap occurred at the fifth unit of the NLC India thermal power station-II (210 MWx7) when workers were in the process of resuming operations on Wednesday morning

Twitter handle. "Anguished to learn about the loss of lives due to a blast at Neyveli power plant boiler in Tamil Nadu. Have spoken to @CMOTamilNadu and assured all possible help. @CISF HQs is already on the spot to assist the relief work. Praying for the earliest recovery of those injured."

Agencies

'Stepwise de-escalation of border row priority'

NEW DELHI: Indian and Chinese militaries have emphasised on the need for an expedition, phased and step-wise de-escalation as a priority at a nearly 12-hour corps commander-level meeting on Tuesday which was aimed at ending the seven-week bitter standoff in eastern Ladakh, military sources said.

They said the discussions at the talks reflected the commitment of the two sides to reduce tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and more meetings are expected, both at military and diplomatic levels, to arrive



An army personnel stands next to a vehicle heading towards the LAC in eastern Ladakh. **PG/PTI**

at a mutually agreeable solution.

The sources said the process of disengagement along the LAC is "complex" and in such a context, speculative

"We will not give permission to joint ventures that have Chinese partners for road construction. We have taken a firm stand that if they (Chinese companies) come via joint venture in our country, we will not allow it"

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister

and unsubstantiated reports need to be avoided.

The talks took place on the Indian side of the LAC in Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh. Agencies

Father, son deaths: NHRC issues notices to DGP, SP over police torture

NEW DELHI: The NHRC said it has issued notices to the DGP of Tamil Nadu and SP of Thoothukudi district in the southern state over the deaths of a father-son duo allegedly due to torture by the police.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in a tweet, also said it has sought a report from the police officers, which has to "include inquest report, post-mortem examination report, medical treatment record, magisterial enquiry report and health screening report of both victims, within six weeks". P

Jayaraj and his son Dennis, who were arrested for "rioting" lockdown zones over the business hours of their cell phone shop, died at a hospital in Thoothukudi's Kovvurpatti on June 23, with the relatives alleging that they were severely thrashed at the Sathankulam police station by the cops earlier. The incident has triggered a nationwide furor. "The NHRC notice to DGP, Tamil Nadu and SP, Thoothukudi on allegations of the deaths of father-son duo to police torture," the rights panel said in a tweet.

'The cops should not be spared'

Rajinikanth described as "brutal killing" the death of a father-son duo, and expressed shock over the "inappropriate behaviour" of some cops with a judicial magistrate probing the matter. "Naathiyama vidave koodathu (this should not be spared at any cost)," the actor said in a tweet.

Hundreds arrested night after China imposes Hong Kong security law



Riot police detain a man as they clear protesters taking part in a rally against a new national security law in Hong Kong on Wednesday, on the 23rd anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

HONG KONG: The police in Hong Kong made their first arrests on Wednesday under a new national security law imposed a day earlier by China's central government, as thousands of people defied tear gas and pepper pellets to protest against it.

Police said nine people were arrested under the law, including a man with a Hong Kong independence flag and a woman holding a sign displaying the British flag and calling for Hong Kong's independence.

Others were detained for possessing items advocating independence. Further details were not immediately available.

Hong Kong police said on Wednesday that they arrested more than 300 people on various charges, including unlawful assembly, possession of weapons and violating the national

security law.

The arrests came as thousands took to the streets on Wednesday on the 23rd anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. For the first time, police banned this year's annual march. Protesters shouted slogans, lambasted police and held up signs condemning the Chinese government and the new security law.

The new security law deepened concerns in Hong Kong and abroad about the semi-autonomous territory's future.

Any person taking part in secessionist activities, such as shouting slogans or holding up banners and flags calling for the city's independence, is violating the law regardless of whether violence is used.

Agencies

Taiwan opens HK migration office, UK offers citizenship

Taiwan on Wednesday opened an office to facilitate migration from Hong Kong. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council minister said the office would assist Hong Kong professionals seeking to move to the island for a range of purposes, including education and business. Britain said a citizenship route will now be offered to Hong Kong's British National (Overseas) passport holders. "The new law constitutes a clear and serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration," UK PM Boris Johnson said.

BROWSER

60 migrants feared dead as boat sinks in Turkey

ANKARA: Nearly 60 migrants may have been trapped in a boat that sank in an eastern lake last week, Turkey's interior minister said Wednesday. Turkey launched a search-and-rescue mission involving helicopters and boats after the boat carrying migrants across Lake Van was reported missing on June 27. So far, rescue teams have recovered six bodies.

Unrest in Ethiopia after singer shot dead

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed says "several people" have been killed in unrest that followed the killing of a popular singer this week. Angry protests were reported on Tuesday in the capital, Addis Ababa, after Hachalu Hundessa was shot dead on Monday. Abiy vowed that the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

Boeing didn't disclose key changes to Max

WASHINGTON: A government report says Boeing did not give regulators documents about changes it made in a key system blamed in two deadly crashes of its 737 Max jet, and that the engineers responsible for certifying the plane did not know how powerfully the system could push the plane's nose down.

'Be ready for more surges'

WHO warns no country is safe as long as the virus is circulating somewhere

JAKARTA: The World Health Organization says countries must strive to ensure that the "new normal" simultaneously protects health and the economy so they can recover from the coronavirus pandemic. Woodhogg Un, the director general for the Asia Development Bank's sustainable development and climate change sector, said the pandemic would reduce developing Asia's growth to its lowest in six decades.

Un says the pandemic has spared no economy in the region. WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Dr Takashi Kasai says communities must be prepared for more case surges in the future. He says as long as the virus is circulating somewhere, no country is safe, and that we must continue responding to the current situation and preparing every corner of every country for the possibility of large-scale community transmission.

First case in US border camp

An international disaster relief group reported on Tuesday the



People have swabs taken for COVID-19 test in Melbourne on Wednesday. Over 3,000 people in suburbs north of Melbourne were locked down again for a month, on Wednesday, to control the spike in cases. **AP/WIDEWORLD**



People march in Minneapolis, demanding temporary cancellation of rents and mortgages as COVID-19 ravages the economy. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

first case of COVID-19 among migrants living at Tanamapas camp of asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border. There are more 2,000 asylum seekers living in tents along the border. The migrants from Central America and other parts of the world have been stranded by the US's suspension of asylum

hearings due to the pandemic through at least mid-July.

US companies added nearly 2.4 million jobs in June, according to a private survey. Still, the economy remains under pressure from the pandemic which has infected 10,616,365 and killed 5,14,637 so far.

Agencies

Virus may infect heart cells: study

Researchers have shown that the novel Coronavirus can infect lab-grown cardiac muscle cells, indicating it may be possible for the virus to directly cause heart infection in COVID-19 patients. The study was based on experiments conducted in lab-grown heart muscle cells which were produced from unspliced human stem cells, and hence, scientists said these findings are not a perfect replicate of what is happening in the body.



A Palestinian protester flashes the victory sign during a rally in West Bank on Wednesday. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

Israeli FM casts doubt on annexation

JERUSALEM: Israel's foreign minister said on Wednesday he doubts Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to annex parts of the occupied West Bank will start on its target date, casting further uncertainty over whether Israel will ultimately follow through on the explosive initiative that has drawn fierce international condemnation.

"I don't know what will be. I'm not a prophet," Gabi Ashkenazi told Israel's Arutz 9 radio. "I can assume that it won't happen today." Netanyahu had aimed to start the process by Wednesday, and eager to begin annexing West Bank territory.

Netanyahu had a day earlier said that discussions with the US on his plan to annex occupied West Bank territory would continue. "In the coming days", indicating he would miss a July 1 target date. The plan, unveiled in January, envisioned bringing some 30 per cent of the territory under permanent Israeli control, while giving the Palestinians limited autonomy in the remaining land.

Agencies

10,616,365
Total no. of COVID-19 cases worldwide

5,14,637
Total no. of COVID-19 deaths worldwide

comment

THOUGHT
FOR THE DAY

If you lose a big fight, it will worry you all of your life. It will plague you - until you get your revenge
— Muhammad Ali, American professional boxer

Police's 2-km rule yet another source of confusion

It was disconcerting to read a report in this paper that cited numerous problems arising out of the confusion about the 2-km rule.

Hundreds of citizens have been punished through the impounding of their vehicles under the not-beyond-two-kilometre rule.

The Mumbai police's rule says that people cannot venture outside beyond 2 km from their homes, except for work or emergencies.

Yet, the public is confused as some

of them go beyond 2 km to buy essentials. Is that allowed or not? What is the exact fine for going beyond 2 km? Some vehicles are being impounded, others are being let off with a fine. When one cites an emergency, what does it exactly constitute? Is visiting an elderly parent an emergency or not? What if one is going to an office, not one's own, but somebody else's for work? Is that considered going to work? There are so many questions which people want answers to.

While every effort has to and is being made to stop the spread of COVID-19, rules that are not clearly spelt out or are conveyed in an opaque manner, give rise to bitterness and frustration. This rule too is mired in the confusion that has unfortunately become a pattern every time a fortnight or month goes by, and the public looks forward to official announcements about the next phase in our COVID-19 war.

Adding to the mass of bewildered

persons is the slew of social media messages compounding the muddled mix. Retail shops and salons given the green light to open, are wondering how buyers and clients will come since the 2-km rule is in force.

Now we will see rollbacks and explanations leaving the public more mystified than ever. Intentions are good, but dissemination and crystal-like clarity have had a big question mark, ever since the lockdown began.

LETTERS

Shocking to see citizens move out without masks

This refers to your report 'Not wearing a mask? Shell out ₹1,000'. It is shocking and shameful to see Mumbaiers move about in hordes without masks despite fully knowing the dangers of doing so. From the time relaxations were announced, the public seems to have become extremely carefree and believes that the COVID-19 danger is over. In fact, all statistics prove asymptomatic cases are on the rise, necessitating the need for masks.

ANAND SHIRALI

Only a ₹1,000 fine will get people to see sense

This refers to your editorial 'Mumbai needs you to be a mask-wearer'. The government is right in imposing a hefty fine for not wearing masks in public because many think they are 'James Bonds' and infections won't touch them. Only a fine of ₹1,000 each time will bring people to their senses. Government should also impose fines on handshakes and hugs.

ASHOK GOSWAMI

Maggi noodles' magic is unlikely to ever ebb

The column '2-min ode to India's national dish' is pure nostalgia. We were in Nagpur in the 80s and my husband who used to come often to Mumbai for official work would return with his bag full of Maggi noodle packets for our two kids who loved them. Later, during children's programmes sponsored by Nestle and Maggi, the crowds of children vouched for the popularity of the noodles. It is Maggi Magic.

DR VEENA ADIGE

When Andy was more than handy

PAVILION
END

Clayton Muzello

There was a time when England couldn't win a Test, leave alone a series, against the West Indies. But updated record books show that the men from the Caribbean have lost each of their six Test series in England since 2000.

Andy Roberts is one great this former fast bowling colleagues Michael Holding, Joel Garner and Colin Croft are others) who was never part of a losing Test playing XI against England. He was in the news recently for expressing anguish over the possibility of his cricket board not gaining a great deal financially to be part of the game's resumption amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. "We're taking a chance so our cbe is willing to take, and why we're taking that chance is to save England nearly £180 million. So why should we, as pinner pigs, go and sacrifice ourselves for nothing," Roberts was quoted as saying in the Jamaica Gleaner.

At the same time, Roberts slammed Shimon Hetmyer for pulling out of the tour in the fear of contracting the virus. "I want him to play more in English conditions. A lot of batsmen relish their performances in England because of the conditions," Roberts told me from Antigua on Tuesday.

Roberts seemed to view his battles against England more seriously than other countries. He helped West Indies retain the Woden Trophy in 1976, his first Test tour to England, where he claimed 28 wickets (joint top wicket-taker with Michael Holding). This was the very year in which they copied a 1-5 thrashing in Australia. His next and final Test tour to England in West Indies colours was in 1980, when Lloyd's team triumphed 1-0. Only 1-0 in an era of dominance? Put that down to the elements. Ken Lawrence, who wrote the book, *A Century of Cornhill Tests*, stated that a total of seven days in the five-Test series were lost to rain, the wettest summer in 36 years.

Roberts, who has expressed anguish at the possibility of WI not raking in big bucks for being part of next week's cricket resumption in the UK, never knew what it was to lose a Test to England



West Indies pace ace Andy Roberts opens his palm to celebrate the five he claimed during the Manchester Test against England in 1975. PIC/GETTY IMAGES

The West Indies, who eked out a two-wicket win in the opening Test of that 1980 series in Trent Bridge, have Roberts to thank. Post his eight-wicket effort in the Test, he stayed unbeaten on 22 to see his team through after Bob Willis looked threatening with a spell of 5 for 65. Desmond Haynes top-scored with 62 as the visitors chased a 208-run target. The Barbadian had a charmed life — dropped by Mike Hendrick when on 32 and then by Willis when he was one short of his half century. His five-hour innings ended in a run out, watched at the other end by Roberts, who scored the remaining runs needed for victory.

Cricket lovers drew comparisons to his unbeaten 34 in which he pulled victory out of the jaws of defeat against Pakistan in a 1975 World Cup game at Edgbaston. Astonishingly, the man-of-the-match award then was given to Saif-ud-Nawaz and not to Roberts or his partner Deryck Murray (61 not out), because adjudicator Tom Graveney gave his verdict well before the West Indian duo pulled off the near-impossible one-wicket victory.

Roberts didn't miss out on his player-of-the-match award in Trent Bridge five years later though. Willis, who would have rightly claimed that honour had England won, was not only hailed as a hero by the crowd, but also earned the appreciation of the opposition players, many of whom, according to John Woodcock in *The Cricketer* magazine "tracked down" Willis during the post-match presentation to give him a "special handshake" in front of the pavilion.

Ian Botham was leading the England Test side for the first time and the pundits wondered whether the hosts would get such a lively track to challenge the World No. 1 team. That didn't happen and in a fairly short era, the West Indies had only

one win to show in a series.

Roberts's first Test tour of England was a far more successful one. If 1980 was an acutely wet summer, 1976 was quite the opposite. It was a series known for Tony Greig's infamous 'grovel' remark, Vis Richards's stupendous batting feats, Michael Holding's frightening pace and Roberts' guile, which saw him claim 21 wickets by the end of the third Test. The string of victories in the series started at Manchester where Brian Close, 45, managed to keep himself alive while facing Holding. And when he got hit, he didn't flinch. When Close returned to the dressing room, an attendant asked him if he needed anything. "Yes, a bottle of whisky," the Yorkshireman said.

While the pundits believed Holding's bowling was nothing short of intimidatory, not many considered the amount of cracks on the Old Trafford pitch. "There were a lot of cracks and we exploited them better than the English medium pacers," Roberts told me.

Roberts would have been part of Test cricket's hat-trick men but he missed the feat thrice during that Manchester Test. They said Gordon Greenidge couldn't do anything wrong in this match because he scored a hundred in both innings but he did drop Mike Selvey to dash Roberts' hat-trick hopes.

The current West Indies team are an exciting bunch. Although Roberts can't comprehend why Oshane Thomas is not being viewed as a serious pace weapon before the opening Test at Southampton on July 8, the hosts will know that pace can dismantle the tightness of outfields. It can also help give rise to the kind of dominance which men like Roberts were at the very heart of.

mid-day's group sports editor Clayton Muzello is a parrot with an open stance. He tweets @ClaytonMuzello.

Send your feedback to mailbag@mid-day.com

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Speak up, be heard

Sonakshi, Balki, Ashwiny team up with NGO to launch podcast to spread word about human rights



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IN putting the spotlight on the racial discrimination in the US, the Black Lives Matter movement has made countries around the globe reflect on the systemic discrimination prevalent all around. To create awareness about the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Indian Constitution, the world's biggest non-governmental human rights education programme — United for Human Rights — has joined forces with Bollywood's bright minds to launch the initiative, Born Free and Equal. In a podcast series, the artists — Sonakshi Sinha, Nandita Das, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Shweta Bhas, R Balki, and Alankrita Shrivastava, among others — will narrate motivational stories about their struggles and successes. Each story will underline the importance of a specific human right. Sinha is expected to open the series this weekend focussing on the Right to Education.

Shweta Chohan, international ambassador for United for Human Rights, says they partnered with Bollywood celebrities to tap into a wider audience. "Through awareness of these basic rights, we can help bring equality, peace and unity to the country at this time of crisis."



'Less judgment in web than in cinema'

Foraying into the digital world with *Breathe 2*, Abhishek on how the lack of box-office pressure makes it an artiste-friendly medium

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THE gripping trailer of *Breathe 2: Into the Shadows* only proves what we know all this while — Abhishek Bachchan, who returned to the big screen with *Manmarziyaan* (2018) after a two-year hiatus, will not settle for the ordinary in his second innings. The actor is intrigued as well as excited as he forays into the digital world with the Amazon Prime Video series.

Though he is headlining the sophomore season of the thriller, Bachchan says he walked into the project with a clear state. "I loved the first episode of the first season. I purposely didn't watch the rest of the edition because I didn't want to be influenced by it. Masaru (Sharma, creator-director) has incorporated some of his learnings from the first season into this one," says the actor, who plays a parent searching for his missing child.

In the cut-throat competitive world



Still from *Breathe 2: Into the Shadows*

of films, Friday box-office numbers create an undue pressure on actors. In contrast, the digital world is considered an artiste-friendly medium, allowing actors to focus solely on their craft. "There is less judgment here than in cinema. That said, the pressure to perform still exists because people will judge your work — be it the social media users or the critics. There will be a discussion on whether they like the show and your performance. But, the pressure is less because there is no [discussion on] box-office figures."

With several films being web-bound, the dialogue around theatres losing their charm has intensified. However, Bachchan believes the advent of OTT has raised the bar. "The past two years have been a brilliant time for cinema, too. The streaming services are pushing filmmakers to up their game. However, the experience of going to a movie hall cannot be matched by an OTT platform."

'The OTT platforms are pushing filmmakers to up their game'

Abhishek Bachchan

'Story resonates with teens, young adults'

Undeterred by criticism, presenter Rana says *Krishna* and his *Leela* targeted at youth

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EVEN as Netflix is fielding criticism online, Rana Daggubati is proud that his Telugu presentation, *Krishna* and his *Leela*, has grabbed eyeballs. A section of the audience has alleged that the film — which shows the protagonist named Krishna having sexual encounters with several women, one of whom is named Leela — hurts religious sentiments. Daggubati keeps mum on the controversy, instead focussing on how the movie has appealed to the youth. "When I heard the story, I felt it would easily connect with the youngsters. It had pop culture references while telling a simple story that is also globally relevant. In a way, it's perfect that it released on an OTT platform. At its



Still from *Krishna and his Leela*

heart, the story resonated with teens and young adults," he says.

If streaming platforms have witnessed a sharp spike in viewership during the lockdown, it has also led

to the audiences taking keen interest in regional cinema. Daggubati perceives it as a step in the right direction. "Good stories have always broken language and cultural barriers. The internet opened up the possibility of exploring regional cinema a few years ago, and now OTT platforms have made it even more accessible," he analyses.

It's not uncommon for Bollywood to turn to the South film industry for adaptations. With the audience now enjoying films in their original languages, will the remake culture die a slow death? "The conviction in repackaging an original story is that it needs to be seen by a larger group of people. So, adaptations will continue, and will cater to a larger demographic of viewers," states the actor.



have you heard?

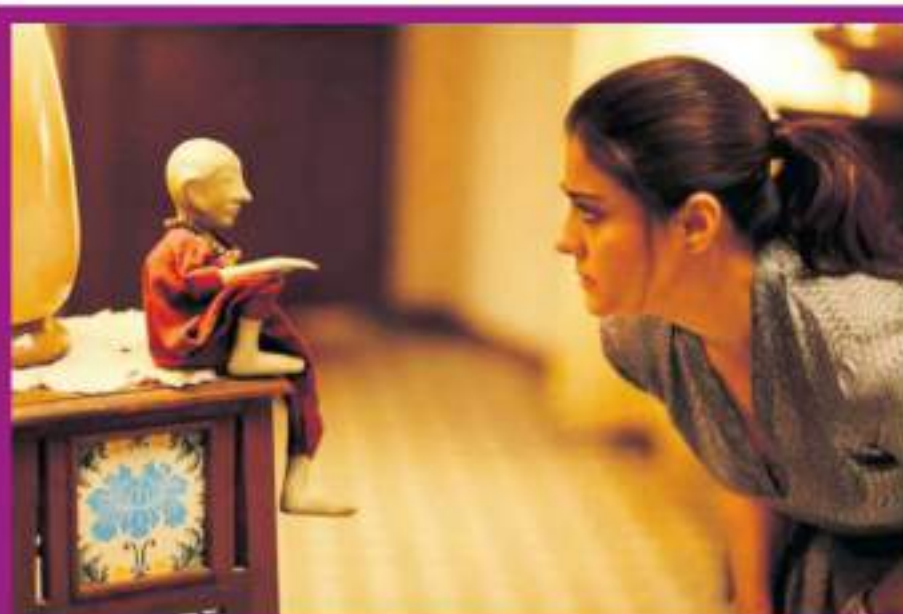
PUSHED
BACK

Kartik Aaryan's action film with Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior director Om Raut has been put on hold due to the uncertainties relating to the pandemic

Reopening old wounds



Radhaai Ho (2018) director **Amit Ravindernath Sharma** considers the Salman Khan-starrer *Tubelight* (2017), helmed by **Kabir Khan**, an "overrated film." He feels he would have done a better job directing it. Sharma got candid on the chat show, *Starry Nights Gen Y*. *Tubelight* proved to be a disappointment for the superstar, who reportedly compensated distributors for the losses they suffered. It also marked the end of his collaboration with Khan after *Ek Tha Tiger* (2012) and *Rajrangsi Bhaispan* (2015). Wonder what Salma has to tell Sharma?



Kajol's new BFF

Amid the lockdown, **Kajol** has managed to make new friends. Her latest buddy is an artefact. While striking a conversation with the statue, **Kajol** has been lamenting her woes of being cooped up at home

for over three months. On Wednesday, in an Instagram post, the actor introduced her new BFF. "Day 190 of quarantine, making new friends inside the house. Have you found one too?" asked **Kajol**, who

has been active on social media sharing quirky posts. The lockdown has also made her change the way she looks at her tresses. **Kajol** has been delighting netizens with some "hair-colouring" tales.

Aamir's mother tests negative

On Wednesday, **Aamir Khan** shared a health update about mother **Zeemot**. "I am relieved to inform that ammi is COVID-19 negative. Thank you for your good wishes." After seven staff members at his Pali Hill home tested positive, the superstar and family were tested, and were found to be negative. He was worried about his mother, 86, whose results were awaited.



TALLY TATTLE

All is well

Yeh Roshni Kyu Kehlata Hai actor **Mohena Kumari** has finally tested negative after a month-long battle with the virus. On Wednesday, she posted the news on social media. **Kumari** had been undergoing treatment at a Bishkek hospital. She also posted a message of gratitude towards the healthcare professionals.



Let's make a deal

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has signed a two-year multimillion-dollar television contract with Amazon Studios. A chance meeting with the global streaming platform head **Jennifer Salke** in California led to the deal. **PeeCee** is currently undecided whether the shows will be in English, Hindi or another language. She is also collaborating with Amazon on two other projects — as producer on *Sangam*, an unscripted series based on the pre-wedding celebrations, and as an actor in *Anchor* and Joe Russo's spy series, *Citadel*, co-starring **Richard Madden**.



SSR family upset with Suman?



Sushant Singh Rajput's family is said to be upset with **Shekhar Suman** and producer **Sandip Singh** for "politicising" the actor's death. After meeting SSR's family in Patna, they conducted a press conference with **Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)** leader and former deputy chief

minister of Bihar, **Tejashwi Yadav**. The family reportedly termed it as a "political gimmick" as there's buzz that **Suman** will join the **RJD**. Bihar goes to the polls later this year. It is alleged that **Suman** is harbouring political ambitions again, after quitting the Congress. **PIC/PTI**

ON THE SET



Aftab Shivdasani has begun shooting for the web series, *Potamon 2*, at a Mira Road studio. As normalcy returns post lifting of restrictions and shootings resume, the makers of the thriller have taken the required precautionary measures. The first season, which released last year, featured **Arbaaz Khan** and **Tanuj Virwani**.



The gift of life

To mark **Doctor's Day** on Wednesday, **Genelia** and **Rishi Deshmukh** pledged to donate their organs. "We had been thinking about it for long. There is no better gift than the gift of life," said the couple. They thanked obstetrician and gynaecologist **Dr Nozer Sherier** for inspiring them.

Divine call

Paridhi Sharma has been roped in for the title role in Jag Jaganat *Man Vidhwa Dev*. After *Papa Banesjee* quit the mythological due to personal reasons, the makers were keen to find a replacement soon as the shoot begins anew post the pandemic. **Sharma** is best remembered for her 2013 show, *Jodha Akbar*.



'Chairs not banned on Christopher Nolan's sets'

After social media criticism, director's spokesperson debunks rumours about his behaviour on set

STORIES about what Christopher Nolan bans on his movie sets started doing the rounds on social media after a magazine published an interview with Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman.

Hathaway, who has worked with Nolan on *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012) and *Interstellar* (2014), praised the director for not allowing chairs on his set.

In her interview, the actress said Nolan's reasoning for not allowing chairs is "if you have chairs, people will sit, and if they're sitting, they're not working". "I mean, he has these incredible movies in terms of scope and ambition and technical prowess and emotion. It always arrives at the end under schedule and under budget. I think he's onto something with the chair thing," she added.

The story prompted several journalists and critics to criticise the "no chairs" rule, forcing the director's team to set the record straight.

"For the record, the only things banned from sets are cell phones [not always sus-



cessfully] and smoking [very successfully]," Nolan's spokesperson Kelly Bush Novak of *U2* said in a statement. "The chairs Anne was referring to are the director's chairs clustered around the video monitor, allocated on the basis of hierarchy, not physical need. Chris chooses not to use his but has never banned chairs from the set. Cast and crew can sit wherever and whenever they need and frequently do," Novak added.

Nolan's next release is *Tenet*, an espionage epic starring John David Washington, Robert Pattinson and Bollywood actor Dimple Kapadia.

Agencies



Namit unplugged!

Sanjivani actor creates website to share images from travel escapades, behind-the-scene footage from shows

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IN a bid to create a platform that showcases his varied skills, actor Namit Khanna of Sanjivani fame is set to showcase his prowess as a photographer on his newly launched eponymous website. The avid traveller will upload vlogs and pictures from his travel escapades.

apart from sharing behind-the-scenes footage from his television and web shows.

Having been bitten by the travelling bug for long, Khanna was keen to record his experiences. "I have been shooting images from across the world since a long time. I needed a place to showcase them and make them available for everyone to purchase. This will also be my way of expressing gratitude for my increasing fan-base. The core idea of the website is to give my admirers a peek into my life — a one-stop destination where they can access everything about me, as the professional and personal facet."

Apart from sharing blog posts and photo-essays that depict his experiences in the industry, he will share stories and photography tips, he says. "The website is my baby and I have been completely involved with each and every aspect of it with my developer and team. This is a project that will be launched soon, and will continue to grow. We have created something that will keep fans engaged. I am one of the very few actors who have their own websites," he concludes.



Do your part: Tom Hanks

HOLLYWOOD veteran Tom Hanks has urged his fans to keep on wearing masks to safeguard themselves from the pandemic. His comments come at a time when the US is seeing a resurgence in cases. Hanks, who along with his wife, singer-songwriter Rita Wilson, recovered from the disease in March, expressed his concern towards people who aren't paying attention to social distancing guidelines.

"There's only three things we can do in order to get to tomorrow. Wear a mask, social distance, wash our hands. Those things are so simple, so easy, if anybody cannot find it in themselves to practice those three very basic things. Do your part," the actor said.



Nimrat, Soha Ali among latest celebs to complain of inflated power bills



ACTRESS Nimrat Khanna and Soha Ali Khan are the latest Bollywood celebrities to complain about inflated electricity bills.

Residents across Mumbai have been complaining about abnormally high electricity bills, which they received after the lockdown. "So like everyone else, I'm struck too @Adani_Elec_Mum. Time to explain this calculation. We can at least be heard here, what about all those who can't?" tweeted Karan on Wednesday.

"Are we just meant to accept these inflated electricity rates and pay them? @Adani_Elec_Mum we have received a bill that is three times our usual amount. Could you please explain?"

shared Khanna.

Reacting to Khanna's tweet, Dimples wrote, "Yes... same here. Can someone reply from @Adani_Elec_Mum so that we are not left in the dark?"

On Sunday, Vaagsee Panra was the first Bollywood personality who called out the power firm for overcharging. Soon, Rensha Shahane, Huma Qureshi, Ranvir Shorey, Dino Morea and Vir Das, among others, were complaining about inflated electricity bills.

"What are these new electricity rates? @Adani_Elec_Mum. Last month I paid 60k and this month 50k? What is this new price surge? Kindly enlighten us." Qureshi had shared a tweet a couple of days back. Reacting to Qureshi's tweet, Khanna wrote, "And was any light shown on the matter?"

Bond is the gift that keeps giving: Pierce Brosnan

HOLLYWOOD star Pierce Brosnan says even though playing the role of iconic British spy James Bond "allowed" him to have a wonderful career in cinema, he doesn't regret exiting the film franchise.

The actor, 67, played Agent 007 in four films, the last being *Die Another Day* which released in 2002. He wanted to continue playing the character but producers decided to recast the role, with Daniel Craig. Brosnan said, "There's no regret" over parting ways. "I do not let regret come into my world. It just leads to more misery. Bond is the gift that keeps giving."



the guide EAT. PLAY. PARTY

MAKE THE MOST OF THURSDAY TO SUNDAY

THE BIG PICTURE



Music

Trippy tune

I'm floating in the most peculiar way! And the stars look very different today." Major Tom sings to Ground Control in David Bowie's 1969 anthem, Space Oddity. The jangling acoustic sound that gives way to skin-cutting teardrop guitars has given the tune path-breaking status in rock history, launching as it did five days before man's first mission to the moon. It also gave Bowie his first hit single, charting his path to stratospheric stardom.

LOG ON TO scribd.com

Name game

July 2 is marked as World UFO Day since this was the day in 1947 that locals saw a 'flying saucer' in Roswell, USA. Theories still abound as to what it was.

Movies

Made of Wood

Plan 9 from Outer Space is such a bad film that it's been dubbed the 'worst movie of all time'. The flying saucer in it looks like a steel bowl with a lens glass placed upside down on top. The dialogue has lines like, "Future events such as these will affect you in the future." Even then, it's reached cult



status over the years. Ed Wood directed it in 1959. He also wrote, produced and edited it on a budget of peanuts. Wood unleashed many other such horrors on Hollywood subsequently. But

his resilience never wavered. That's what's admirable. His back was against the wall each time. Yet, Wood kept filming and carried on.

LOG ON TO youtube.com



Unsettle down

Mars Attacks! has a galaxy of stars in it. But the movie can go either way. People either laugh along or switch it off. Tim Burton directed the film in 1996. He roped in everyone from Jack Nicholson to Pierce Brosnan, though the film's highlight are the Martians with bulging heads wearing what looks like two red fire extinguishers on their backs. It's comical. But it can also be unsettling. Burton has that effect.

LOG ON TO netflix.com

Books

Out of this world

The mind of Douglas Adams takes the reader all across the universe in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979). The earth, or at least what we know it to be, does n't even exist anymore. Poetry-loving alien slime beings have destroyed it to build an intergalactic hyper-pass. And clueless survivor Arthur Dent is on a wild trip on a spaceship that's hiding the runaway President of the Galaxy. Zaphod Beeblebrox, a character so reckless that even rock stars will throw in the towel.

LOG ON TO amazon.in



A UFO in Norway?

Hardly anyone knows of an island called Espevær in Norway. But Mumbai-based filmmaker/designer Dhoniya Pilo tells us of a strange sight she once saw there. "We trekked through forests to get to a lake. There was grassy vegetation all around. But one owl patch had nothing growing inside it at all, and the locals say that it was because a UFO had once landed there."

Questions remain

It's a controversy that will never die. Was Steven Spielberg's blockbuster ET inspired by Satyajit Ray's script for an unmade film called The Alien? Ray's movie had its roots in an earlier short story he had written, called Bankolour Bondhu. It's about a misunderstood school teacher who befriends an alien. Ray later changed the teacher's character to a little boy when he wrote the film plot. This is documented in a book on the subject called Travails with The Alien. Spielberg has denounced the controversy. But the plot ceases to die out.

LOG ON TO scribd.com



By Shrushti Sen

Space out

CTRL+ALT+RELAX

Smart ways to
unwind end of week



LEARN: Take charge mentally

A barrage of emotions weighing you down? A Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) workshop by coach Shruti Jain will help you take charge of your emotions.

ON July 4, 5 to 6.30 pm
LOG ON TO bodhiroom.com
COST ₹50

HEAL: Peace out

A Buddhism-based spiritual practice that combines meditation and philosophy, Rakun Datta comes with numerous health benefits including improving stamina and flexibility. Attend this free online workshop to get started.

FREE ON July 4, 11.30 am to 1 pm
LOG ON TO wakeup/04p64

LOVE BYTES

The best of things
to do in town



Reflect and grow together

Use this time at home to develop greater intimacy with your partner. Take this virtual course on relationship building. It will teach you how to get to the root of the problem instead of arguing, and recognise the warning signs of conflict. The only requirement? You need to be open to learning and growth.

ON udemy.com
COST ₹455

THURSDAY

Who's the best?

COMEDY • In a face-off, comedians Abhis Mathew and Kameez Sarika compete to convince the audience that they are indeed the best through a series of themed questions.

TIME 10 pm **LOG ON TO** Insider, in **CUST** 1200



FRIDAY

Live and loud

MUSIC • In its third edition, AntiSocial Live Sessions, The Scene, will feature Sahil Arora of Kruak in collaboration with Studio Moobias for an audio treat with visual elements right at your home through streaming platforms.

TIME 10 pm **LOG ON TO** Social Offline on YouTube



SATURDAY

A story of languages



THEATRE • Directed and co-written by Akriti Singh with Shaurya Agarwal, Bol, a play by theatre group Sora Sora Sora begins with a woman arriving at the show after consuming poison. The story that follows with comedy, poetry and

poem, takes you through the evolution of languages in the country from the ancient Bri and Maikili to Urdu and all the way to Internet meme culture.

TIME 4 pm **LOG ON TO** @sambhatheatre on Instagram

SUNDAY

Make your poee

LEARN • Do you love the texture of the Goan bread, poee? Learn how to make your own with chef Hussain Shahid of @Pedro Mumbai in this online demo class. Once you sign up for the class, everything that goes into making a poee is delivered to you in a parcel.

TIME 4 pm **LOG ON TO** @pedromumbai on Instagram for registrations



Own your pride

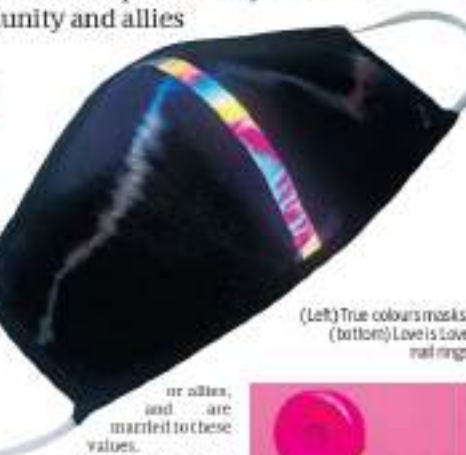
A pop-up sale online curates products by members of the queer community and allies

LIMITED EDITION

Digital experience curated by cool folk

SUKANYA DATTA
sukanya.datta@mid-day.com

DIGITAL, ethical and sustainable — these are the three values that Shruti Singh and Rochika Parsh, co-founders of two-and-a-half-year-old gender-neutral clothing brand MIXX, swear by when it comes to developing their own products and campaigns. The Mumbai-based duo has now curated a pop-up sale, titled Pride Drop Shop, to support brands and entrepreneurs who are either from the queer community



(Left) True colours masks; (bottom) Love is Love nail rings

or allies, and are married to these values. "We had a host of events lined up that got cancelled for obvious reasons, and we were thinking of how to adjust to the new normal and be an ally to the community," says Parsh. Singh adds that the idea was to focus on various aspects of the gender and sexuality spectrum and be accessible. "So, the brands and entrepreneurs featured not only fit into the pop-up because of their products, but also because they are dedicated to the cause," she explains, pointing to the variety of things up for grabs, including a usm.com cake by Chubby Baker Co, RGB earrings by Say It with a Pin, an assortment of single-origin tea by Vaitham, and more. While the co-founders tell us that the pop-up store will be live for some time,



15 per cent of proceeds from each sale this week will go towards supporting the Bengaluru-based Aravani Art Project, which works towards empowering the transgender community in India.



LOG ON TO boreluxe.com/new-page



Rochika Parsh | Shruti Singh

PART OF the proceeds will go towards supporting Bengaluru-based Aravani Art Project that works towards empowering the transgender community.



Human+Gender T-shirt

The Guide's top 4 picks

Love is Love nail rings

These non-binary nail rings by designer Bhavya Ramesh are handcrafted by Jaipur artisans using recycled silver.

COST ₹1,800 for each

True colours masks

The rainbow tie-dye masks are made using silk chemoise, detailed with reflective textile and are sweat-absorbent and washable.

COST ₹750

Human+Gender T-shirt

The pop-up also has unisex tees from MIXX's signature collection, which are made of cotton jersey material.

COST ₹999

Rainbow glow oil

This serum consists of seven oils, including almond, apricot and avocado, and can be used on the face, along with a moisturiser or as a chapstick, too.

COST ₹700

TEAM GUIDE RECOMMENDS

All for a dish



As someone who lives away from family, my favourite delicacies from home matter a lot on special days; it helps to bring alive the same warmth. In the recent-

ly-released web film *Azore*, a group of women hailing from the North East, try to cook the dish that goes by the same name for one of a friend's wedding. In the process, they tackle judgmental neighbours, a loud landlady and obnoxious comments that are part of the casual racism they face daily. Aspet from the subtle writing, what stayed with us was the friends' camaraderie that helps win over all troubles.

LOG ON TO netflix.com



A still from the film *Azore*

Killing us softly in song



Murder most foul is as much a song as it is a lesson in history, politics, sociology and musical evolution that Bob Dylan delivers over 17 minutes with his characteristic nasal drone. It's the last track in his new album, *Rough and Rowdy Ways*, launched last month. Dylan is 79 now. And in this tune, he seems like he's leaving advice behind to take on board for us to treasure for keeps.

LOG ON TO youtube.com

The Acquired Taste

SHAMEEM KHAN

DON'T like the taste of coffee or get simply put off by sea-food? It's very common that there are food items or drinks that may not suit your taste buds. But there are times when you really want to like it. The reasons could be varied—health benefits, peer pressure or social obligations. The reasons can be dynamic but the good news is that as humans, we know what tastes we like, but we are also very capable of change.

According to scientists who have studied human attitude towards food, it's common for people to hate something at first, but come around to it later on. For example, some kids may not like spicy food in the beginning but over time acquire a taste for spicy foods.



Researchers suggest that it's good to have an open mind when it comes to trying new things, and a good rule is to at least try something twice before writing it off. Hesitant of 'acquired taste', eh?

If you want to learn to love something, though, you'll need to eat or drink and repeat. You've no doubt heard someone say that something has an 'acquired taste'. This is how you acquire it.

Yash Shah sets out Growth path for FMCG Business by adding another 6 countries to FMCG portfolio and now has presence in over 19 countries

YASH Shah has been working closely with the FMCG business as he sees multiple opportunities and growth in this segment.

They added Nigeria, Afghanistan, Turkey, Chile, Vietnam and Ghana to their existing portfolio partnering with the Farmers which Shah says will give direct benefit to the end consumer by paying 30% less than what they are paying now.

Shah said, "We are also working on backward integration by setting up Cracking and Packaging units and partnering with the Farmers directly working with them for better Crop Cultivation with higher yield. I am confident that in the next 5 years we will be the only Company after Reliance which will be having Imports and Exports in FMCG in more than 85 Countries."

"Whenever we go we would like to be No.1"



Yash Shah

SHAMEEM KHAN

WITH a click of the mouse, you can get foodgrains, clothes, electronics at your doorstep. That's not all. You can buy insurance, plan vacations and book tickets from the World Wide Web. So, what exactly is the virtual power over the manual task of going to the markets and picking up your daily wares we wonder? Here's listing a few reasons for the popularity of online shopping.

Buying convenience

Aren't there times when you needed to buy something instantly but the markets were closed for a time period or the object wasn't available? Online buying eliminates this limitation of shopping from stores with fixed hours. It is especially useful for moms with small children, people who are home-bound or for those who cannot step outside the confines of their homes for other reasons to get a said item.

Good deals

Cheap deals and better prices are available online, because products come to you direct from the manufacturer or seller without middleman being involved. Many online shops offer discount coupons and rebates as well.

Comparing prices

When you type in the item you need to purchase online, you can compare prices offered from various companies for the same product. When you visit a store, you most likely have to settle for whatever price the vendor has placed on a particular item. There are good discounts, rewards and cash back benefits on many online stores which will help to make a good shopping choice.

Spoilt for choice

You can make your choice from the

Go shopping online

With the Covid19 pandemic restricting our movement outdoors, the best option would be online shopping to get our essentials and even indulge our shopping bug



wide range of products on display online. This means that the choices are overwhelmingly abundant.

You can make your selection based on the brand, utility, features, look, price etc.

Online shopping with caution

For all its benefits, one should exercise care and caution before clicking the 'BUY' button.

- Check the online store's terms of online privacy and confidentiality. Is their privacy policy available to read if you want to see it?
- Check their reputation in the business by checking their customer reviews.
- Does the online store have a way to contact them?
- If you're unhappy with your purchase, do they have a refund policy?

ness, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and so forth.

Avoid crowds

Online buying is a saving grace for people who detest crowds when shopping. Especially during festivals or special occasions, when you are pressed for time or want to avoid the sea of people at markets and malls, buying online is a boon.

Buying old or unused items at lower prices

The marketplace on the internet makes it much easier for us to buy old or unused things at rock bottom prices. Also, if we want to buy antiques, there's no better place to find great ones.

Convenience for discreet purchases

Online shops are the best bet for discreet purchases for things like adult toys, sexy lingerie, and so on. Girls can choose undergarments and lingerie without the embarrassment of people watching them buy their personal things.

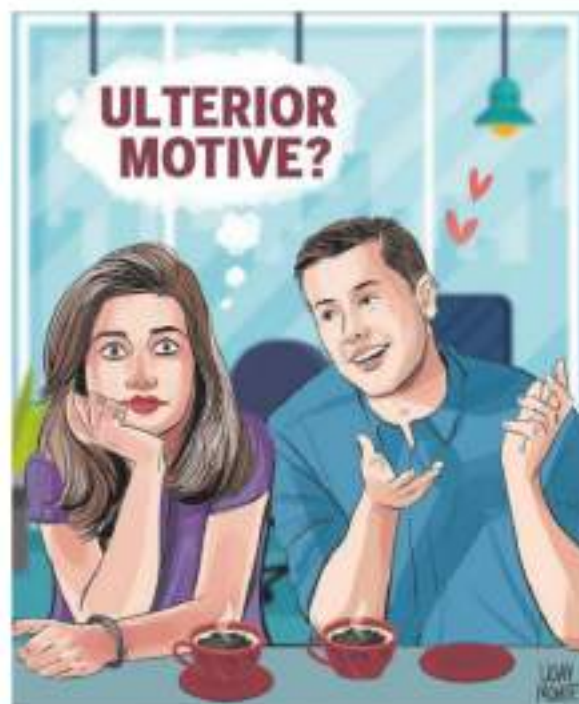
Helpful consumer reviews

Very often, we are stuck for lack of information about the benefits and drawbacks of a product. For example, you like a brand of refrigerator but are unaware of the utility. The consumer reviews of actual buyers who have posted their usage experiences help to take an informed buying decision. This is not available in buying from the market.

Convenience of gifting

Sending gifts to relatives and friends could be a daunting task especially if you are far from them. Now, there is no need to make distance an excuse for not sending a gift on occasions like birthdays, weddings, anniversaries,

Is he using me for professional ends?



DR. LOVE

I have been getting some warning signs that my partner is dating me only for an ulterior motive. We work together and I am in a much more senior position than he is. When he asked me out, I thought he genuinely liked me, but I increasingly find that our dates are about him wanting to know more about the office and trying to figure out how he can get a promotion. When I ask him to stop discussing work because I don't want to mix my professional and personal life, he gets defensive. Am I wrong in thinking that we should separate the two? What if he is just using me? There is nothing wrong with separating the professional from the private because that makes for a healthy relationship, more so because you both work together. It is worrying to be in a relationship where

you can't be sure of your partner's motives though. If you continue to feel this way, I would suggest you end this before things become too awkward at the workplace. You should never be in a relationship you are not comfortable in, let alone one that involves a work colleague.

My ex-girlfriend and I had a horrible break-up a few years ago and it took me a very long time to get over it. I had to get into therapy to deal with depression and I am a lot better now. A week or so ago, she reached out to me via social media and apologised, asking if I would continue staying in touch. She doesn't live in my city anymore and said it would be nice to still be friends especially because of the distance between us. I don't know what to do. What if being friends with her hurts me all over again? Am I over-reacting?

You're not. Your mental health is important, and you should do whatever it takes to protect it, especially if this means avoiding someone who may cause you pain.

The inbox is now open to take your most casual and serious queries. Send your questions on email to love@mid-day.com

WORDSEARCH ARMS AND LEGS

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.



Arkle, Biceps, Calf, Elbow, Fibula, Finger, Forearm, Foreleg, Hand, Heel, Hoot, Instep, Knee, Patella, Shank, Shin, Shoulder, Sole, Thigh, Thumbs, Tibia, Toe, Wrist.

MEDIUM SUDOKU

1	3			8	4
9	2			7	6
			9		
5	4	6	3	2	
2	7	1	5	3	
		3			
8	6			3	7
7	4			1	9

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

11			10	12	8	5		18
20						16		
9	10	6	14		11			
			12		16			5
11	5	14			15	11		
		14	14			13	12	22
14	15		12	7				
			13		11	10		
13								

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.



ARIES
Remain very alert today, as some people may try to try to cheat you by adopting fraudulent practices. Postpone any major deals.

GaneshaSpeaks.com
Your friend, astrologer & guide
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*



CANCER
On this favourable day you shall feel both love and fancy. You shall enjoy fiddling around with your new-fangled gadgets.



LEO
Although there may be too many tasks to be accomplished in too short a time, today you shall do your best to complete them.



TAURUS
Expect a tug of war between your head and heart. The reason is likely to prevail, but you also need to give vent to your emotions.



CAPRICORN
The day is favourable for investing money in a new venture, but be very careful about reading the fine print before signing it.



LIBRA
Your inherent natural talents shall come to the fore today, bringing you respect and recognition at work.



SCORPIO
There is nothing wrong if you express your heartfelt feelings to others, rather than suppressing them.



SAGITTARIUS
An excellent day at work awaits you. Even though you may be assigned with some complicated tasks, you will excel.



VIRGO
A very positive day is in the offing for you. Both a promotion and an increment are in the pipeline.



GEMINI
Your mushy-mushy side shall come to the fore today. And so will your creative and artistic skills.

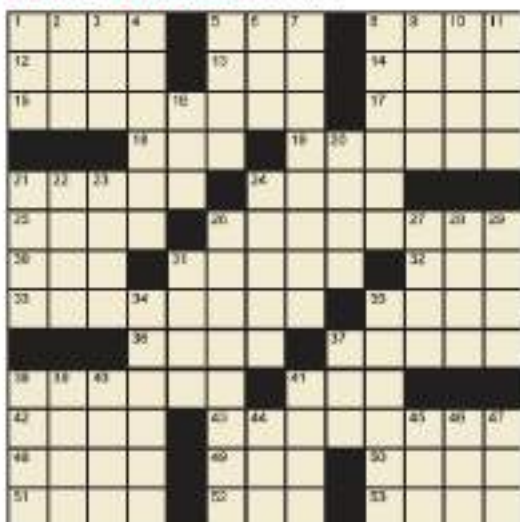


AQUARIUS
Another difficult day awaits you, which may keep you engaged in solving some complicated issues.



PISCES
A bright and beautiful day awaits you. In addition, you are likely to feel all charged up and enthusiastic.

CLASSIC CROSSWORD 20157



ACROSS

- 1 Death column, in short
- 2 Triangular sail
- 3 This place
- 12 African country Burkina
- 13 Brit. unisex
- 14 Copied
- 15 Churnery
- 17 Not all
- 18 Local Area Network, abbr.
- 19 Advances or makes progress? (4,2)
- 21 Bent, buckled or capitulated
- 24 Unisex oil
- 25 Kew
- 26 Female
- 30 Forty winks
- 31 This is obtained from the pig
- 32 Spare the ___ and spoil the child?
- 33 Sharply defined? (5-3)
- 35 Polished air
- 36 Movable stand on which coffin or corpse rests
- 37 Fabricous
- 38 Unsatisfactory state of affairs? (3,3)
- 41 Gad's son?
- 42 A wind instrument
- 43 In the wings
- 48 Actor Guinness
- 49 Table scrap
- 50 ___ the cat; nominate or ponder over?
- 51 So formed is the body, containing matted matter?
- 52 Knock out, abbr.
- 53 Defrost or abhor

- 6 Ind. Bankers Assoc.
- 7 Aromatic and flavoursome oil
- 8 Harry or be quick
- 9 An epic poem — "poet" anagram?
- 10 See ___ Italian city?
- 11 Kolkata's ___ Gardens
- 16 Youth
- 20 One or Ireland?
- 21 French bench
- 22 Egg-shaped
- 23 Rub with a circular motion
- 24 Happen again
- 26 Popular social networking site
- 27 G.I.'s name
- 28 Midday
- 29 Brink of border
- 31 Veal
- 34 Whetted, contemptible
- 35 Slang word for "tired"
- 37 ITD in US
- 38 Dine in UK airline
- 39 With competence
- 40 ___ away with; gets rid of or kills?
- 41 Small amphibious creatures
- 44 To and ___ here and there, in a way?
- 45 A cry of joy, it's said
- 46 Acquire or receive
- 47 A female sheep

Scribble pad

DOWN

- 1 Cast ___; abandon or disown?
- 2 Lamb's cry?
- 3 Any distinctive doctrine or position
- 4 Laboured or worked very hard
- 5 Weld or fasten together

THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE — JOHN HAMBROCK



CALVIN & HOBBS — BILL WATTERSON



ZITS — Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS — Sandra Bell-Lundy



TEASER

Two soldiers have been ordered to do the following chores:

1. Peel potatoes.
2. Do the dishes.
3. Mow the lawn.

Each of these chores, when done by one person, takes one hour. If they start at 8 A.M., what could they do to take as little time as possible if they have only one knife, one lawn mower, and one sink with room for one person?

SOLUTIONS

WORDSEARCH



MEDIUM SUDOKU

1	6	3	5	7	2	8	9	4
5	9	2	3	8	4	7	6	1
4	7	8	6	9	1	2	5	3
8	5	1	4	6	3	9	2	7
3	4	7	9	2	8	5	1	6
6	2	9	7	1	5	4	3	8
9	1	5	8	3	7	6	4	2
2	8	6	1	4	9	3	7	5
7	3	4	2	5	6	1	8	9

FIENDISH SUDOKU

6	2	3	8	9	5	1	4	7
5	9	6	2	3	1	4	7	8
1	7	4	6	8	9	2	5	3
8	3	2	5	7	8	9	1	4
7	4	9	3	2	8	5	6	1
4	1	8	9	5	7	6	3	2
3	8	5	4	1	2	7	9	6
2	5	1	7	6	4	3	8	9
9	6	7	1	4	3	8	2	5

CLASSIC CROSSWORD

O	B	I	T	J	I	B	H	E	R	E
P	A	S	O	O	B	E	A	P	E	D
F	A	M	I	L	I	A	R	S	O	M
L	A	N	G	E	T	S	O	N		
B	O	R	E	D	H	A	R	E		
A	V	E	D	F	E	M	I	N	E	
N	A	S	D	A	C	O	N	R	O	D
C	L	E	A	R	C	U	T	S	M	O
B	I	E	R	I	N	A	N	E		
B	A	D	J	O	B	C	R	I		
O	B	O	E	O	F	F	S	T	A	G
A	L	E	O	O	R	I	C	H	E	W
C	Y	S	T	K	O	B	H	A	T	E

TEASER

By leaving a task half done for example, peeling potatoes, so that the most soldier can finish it they can do all the tasks in 1 hour and 20 minutes.



LEO LAPS UP LANDMARK

Messi scores 700th career goal, but Barcelona slip in title race after 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid

LA LIGA

MADRID: Lionel Messi scored his 700th career goal but Barcelona suffered another blow to their La Liga title hopes after a 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Messi chipped in a penalty to reach another astonishing milestone at Camp Nou but twice Atletico hit back with spot-kicks of their own. Saul Niguez converting both after Barca took an early lead through Diego Costa's own goal.

Advantage Real

The result gives Real Madrid the chance to move four points clear at the top of the table if they can overcome Getafe at home on Wednesday, a formidable lead with five games left.

Atletico stay third, two points ahead of Sevilla, who won 5-0 at Leganes. With a super hero-in-the-head, it would take a dramatic capitulation for Real Madrid not to lift the trophy from here but there is no guarantee Barcelona can finish strongly enough even to create pressure.

This was their third draw in five matches and with suggestions of disharmony between the players and coaching staff, the future of coach Quique Setien looks bleak too.

"From the dressing room I feel supported, yes," he said. "And regarding the meeting with the board, I will not say what was said in that." Setien was also asked about his job on Monday and had to play

down the significance of a track exchange of views in the dressing room following Saturday's draw at Celta Vigo.

Setien's assistant ignored

Messi had also caused a stir by appearing to ignore Setien's assistant Eder Sarabia during a water break at Vigo and on Tuesday it was impossible to ignore the contrast with Atletico's players, who huddled around Diego Simeone while 50 metres away Setien stood alone.

At full-time, Setien shared into space with the look of a coach that is running out of time but he had taken bold decisions, leaving 120 million-euro signing Antoine Griezmann on the bench and

handing another start to Riqui Puig.

"It's true that taking him out of the team like that is hard for a player of his level but the circumstances forced me to do it," said Setien of Griezmann. "Tomorrow I will speak to him, not to apologise, but it is a decision, he has to understand."

Yet it started well for them as Costa diverted Messi's corner into his own net. Then he missed a penalty.

Costa's shot was saved but VAR showed Marc-Andre ter Stegen had sprung off his line too early and Atletico were given a second chance. This time Saul took the ball and he scored the equaliser.

Shortly after half-time, Felipe clipped Nelson Semedo and Messi, with the 70th in sight, chipped the ball delicately down the middle. But every time Barca pulled away, Atletico pegged them back.

Another penalty was awarded to Atletico. Saul took responsibility and squirmed into the corner.

Vidal twice went close, the second time heading wide Jordi Alba's cross. For Barca, the draw was damaging enough.

AFP

HIGHEST SCORERS

Josel Biscan	805
Romario	772
Pele	767
Ferenc Puskas	746
Gerd Muller	735
Cristiano Ronaldo	726
Lionel Messi	700

HOW LEO SCORED

Set-pieces	142
Penalties	90
Free-kicks	52
Headers	24

Barcelona's Lionel Messi takes a free-kick against Atletico Madrid during their La Liga match at Camp Nou on Tuesday. **ICM/AF**



Ron strikes in Juve's 3-1 win

ITALIAN LEAGUE



ROME: Cristiano Ronaldo scored with a long-range rocket on a night when each Juventus goal was more spectacular than the other in a 3-1 win at relegation-threatened Genoa.

Chasing a record-extending ninth straight Serie A title, the victory restored Juventus' four-point lead over Lazio. Since losing the Italian Cup final to Napoli, Juventus has won all three of its league matches.

Paulo Dybala opened the scoring after the break. Later Ronaldo scored the second. Substitute Douglas Costa made it 3-0. Andrea Pinamonti then pulled one back for Genoa from a tight angle.

AP/PTI

Bruno shines as Man Utd climb to fifth spot

PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON: Bruno Fernandes boosted Manchester United's bid to qualify for the Champions League as his brace inspired an impressive 3-0 win at Brighton on Tuesday.

Mason Greenwood opened the scoring and Fernandes doubled the lead. He netted again after half-time as United climbed above Wolves on goal difference to take fifth place in the EPL.

AFP

Shashank Manohar steps down as ICC chief, BCCI members delighted

HARIT N JOSHI
harit.joshi@indianexpress.com

SHASHANK Manohar's couple of two-year terms as the International Cricket Council's first independent chairman that ended on Wednesday has expectedly brought a lot of joy to most BCCI members.

Singapore Cricket Association's former president Imran Khan will be the interim ICC chairman.

The eminent Nagpur lawyer was often viewed as being anti-BCCI. The first instance was when he quit as BCCI president in 2016 to become ICC chair-

man, a few months before the Supreme Court pronounced the implementation of sweeping changes recommended by the Justice Lodha Committee.

Manohar further upset BCCI members when he successfully renegotiated the 'Big Three' revenue sharing model that was initiated by N Srinivasan during his time as ICC chairman, with the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators running the affairs. Under that model, India would receive the biggest chunk of ICC's revenue followed by Australia and England. However, Manohar

brought India's share down from \$170m to \$40m in the new model. Manohar's decision to keep BCCI away from powerful committees of the ICC like the Finance & Commercial Affairs also did not go down well.

'He diluted BCCI'

"BCCI is very happy that he [Manohar] has gone. He diluted BCCI at the ICC. It was BCCI who gave him that post and he worked against India's interests. No one likes him in the BCCI. I congratulate the new BCCI committee, who saw to it that Manohar does not con-



tinue for another term [which would have been his last]." BCCI's former secretary Niranjan Shah told mid-day.

Former BCCI treasurer Ravi Sarwat felt Manohar was too firm in his views. "He would

'Wrong to accuse him'

However, those close to Manohar, 62, said the veteran administrator worked in the interest of world cricket. "For the prime minister of a country, the nation's interest is his priority, and not just the state he belongs to. Similarly, when Manohar was elected as ICC chairman, his priority was to focus on the health of world cricket. It is wrong to accuse him of working against the BCCI. When Manohar was

the BCCI president, the general body [in the 2016 AGM] had given him the mandate to reduce India's share by no more than 15 per cent in the larger interests of the game. The perceived figure [of \$570m] was just on paper. The BCCI never received it. Would cricket grow worldwide if only two or three nations are strong on and off the field? Manohar has seen to it that cricket flourishes especially among minnow teams," said a source.



For the latest sports news, log on to
www.mid-day.com

City hockey gets the stick

Mumbai Hockey Association decides against challenging Hockey India's one-state-one-unit ruling that came into effect on Wednesday; no more Mumbai teams at Nationals

ASHWIN FERRO
ashwin.ferro@mid-day.com

REPRESENTING Mumbai at the National Hockey Championships has always been a matter of pride and the list of India stalwarts this city has contributed over the past, is endless. However, Mumbai hockey teams will not be part of the Nationals now.

The Mumbai Hockey Association Ltd (MHAL) has decided against legally contesting Hockey India's (HI) move to withdraw MHAL's associate membership and recognise Hockey Maharashtra as the state's sole representative body for the sport as per the Lodha Panel's one-state-one-unit recommendation. The HI directive, issued in January, came into effect on Wednesday. Vidhartha Hockey Association, whose membership was also similarly cancelled, have approached the High Court.

"MHAL decided not to approach the courts, fearing we could lose not only our Hockey India membership but also our affiliation to Hockey Maharashtra. This would leave Mumbai hockey nowhere. However, while we have accepted Hockey Maharashtra's

affiliation for now, we will await the court's verdict on Vidhartha [next hearing is on July 31]. If that goes in their favour, we can then approach the court with our case," MHAL secretary Ram Singh Rathore told mid-day on Wednesday.

For the players, however, it's an emotional detachment from a sport that has provided most of them a live-

hood. "It's a sad day given Mumbai's hockey legacy," said 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medal-winning team member MM Somaya, who won the Junior National title with Mumbai back in 1976 in Belgium. "Currently, only Union Bank and Central Bank are recruiting city players and that too on a contractual basis. Teams like Western or Central Railway and

Indus Navy recruit players from outside Mumbai. Now, Mumbai companies will think twice before hiring hockey players as their chances of going on to represent the state and hopefully India will reduce drastically," said Somaya.

Concoy Remedios, who was captain when Mumbai won their last Senior National title in 2010 at Bhopal, said his Mumbai jersey remains his most cherished possession. "I feel proud to have represented Mumbai consistently from 1998 to 2005. At National tournaments, people always looked up to Mumbai players, given our contribution to the Indian team over the years. All that is over now," rued Remedios.

Somaya felt the uniform application of the Lodha Panel recommendations is inappropriate. "The Lodha recommendations were made for better administration but cannot be uniformly applied everywhere. A case in point is Mumbai, which has a thriving hockey eco-system,



including the best leagues, employers, players and sponsors. A representation should be made to the Indian Olympic Association, asking them not to weaken Mumbai's hockey system as that will hurt the national hockey scenario," said Somaya.

Remedios said the consequences will be felt right down to the grassroots level. "If there are no jobs for hockey players in Mumbai, why will kids take up the game here? I hope our current players get a fair chance in the Maharashtra team," said Remedios.

MHAL president Mangha Singh Bakshi assured they will. "Hockey Maharashtra has been very cooperative and assured us that Mumbai players will be well represented in the state team. Besides, other than our top tournaments like Gira Tigh Bahadur, Bombay Gold Cup and the Super League, we plan to add a few more to provide more opportunities for our city players," said Bakshi.



The Mumbai hockey team after winning the Sr Nationals at Bhopal in 2010



Ram Singh Rathore



MM Somaya

A MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

Now the role of the Government is less while role of you and me is becoming more and more important in battling Corona : Subrata Roy Sahara

Saharshi Subrata Roy Sahara, Managing Worker and Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar, one of the biggest Indian business conglomerates, today in a statement appealed to all fellow Indians that we have an extremely complicated situation, before us. To deal with the Corona pandemic, when the first phase of Lockdown was initiated, we had the catchphrase that we have to strictly follow the Lockdown and defeat the Corona. At that time, only 600 or 700 people were infected with the virus. We all were hopeful that by the end of the Lockdown the pandemic would be under control. Now, after the completion of four phases, when the Lockdown is opening up, the number of the infected people is nearing 8 lakh. And now we have a different catchphrase that we have to live with the Corona so we must learn to live with it.



Saharshi Subrata Roy Sahara, Managing Worker and Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar

will be defeated very soon. But now that enthusiasm seems to be fading away. Every day we are witnessing painful stories of sufferings of infected people and their care takers. The situation is almost chaotic.

Saharshi further emphasised in a video message that now people are criticising even the decisions that were made regarding the Lockdown. Most of the questions are being raised against the paradoxical situation that the Lockdown was strictly implemented when the spread of the Corona was very limited, and now, when around 20,000 new cases of infection are being reported from all over the country every day, the Lockdown guidelines

have been largely relaxed. So much so, that the markets, malls and religious places have been allowed to open up. These are the places where people gather in large numbers and where following the social distancing is next to impossible. If the economic activities are not resumed now, the economy of the country will get in tatters, and millions of people will be pushed into severe unemployment and starvation. So, now the current situation is that along with the rapid spread of the Corona pandemic, we have to continue with all our economic and social activities.

Now we have two very clear situations before us. First, that the Government and healthcare services have their limitations. Health organisations can help us only to a certain extent. And the second situation is that there is no decline in the rapid spread of Coronavirus, so we can neither relax nor can be careless. In other words, now we have to depend more on ourselves. We will have to be self-warriors in this fight against the Corona pandemic. We will have to be extremely alert now. The personal safety measures that we were following during the Lockdown, will have to be followed far more strictly now.

In the fight ahead, the role of the

Government and Healthcare Organizations is less important while the role of the individuals, meaning role of you and me, is more important. Needless to say, this role of ours is very challenging. We have to protect not only ourselves but also our near and dear ones and also those who are around us.

I want to repeat here that we should observe social distancing but never allow emotional distancing to happen. We must keep ourselves emotionally attached to the people around us. We must maintain regular communication with all our family and friends through telephones or internet. Corona pandemic has mentally impacted a large number of people. The only way to avert this situation of gloom and depression is emotional communication.

Here I want to emphasize one more point. In every society, there are always some people who are highly irresponsible and who don't understand the seriousness of the situation. These people knowingly or unknowingly neglect safety measures. Because of such people, the fight against the Coronavirus gets weaker. These people invite troubles for themselves and also push others into troubles. It is our responsibility to keep such people

from their wrongdoings and bring them to their senses. We must fulfil this responsibility of ours. We have to keep cooperating with local administration and all the front-line Corona warriors. We will have to strengthen our resolve that we have to defeat the Corona pandemic. We have to defeat it while living with it.

We cannot hope that our life will return anytime soon to the normalcy that we lived before the outbreak of the pandemic. At present, it is a distant possibility because our fight with the Corona is a long fight so the spell of our hardships is also a long one. It means we will have to develop a habit of living along with hardships. I always say that positive emotions always give energy and strength to people. A true warrior is always recognised by his positivity. So, always keep your thinking process fully positive. Keep in mind that at the Lockdown has been fully loosened. It has increased your responsibility many times. For the world you may be a number only, but for your family you are their whole world. So, for yourself and for your family keep your determination to defeat the Corona always strong just like a true warrior. I firmly believe that the Corona will be defeated.

close of play



ARCHERS DEEPIKA, ATANU GET HITCHED

Indian archers Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at Morabadi in Ranchi on Tuesday, following social distancing norms. Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren attended the wedding. The couple had asked guests to come in different time slots in two batches of 50 each. They were given masks and sanitizers on arrival. **PC/PT**

Kohli, Rahul engage in banter over coffee cup

NEW DELHI: India cricket captain Virat Kohli tried to hilariously troll batsman KL Rahul on social media recently, but the latter was up for the banter and came up with an epic reply.

Indian cricketers have been keeping themselves busy by engaging with fans on social media and this particular exchange between Virat and Rahul left everyone in splits.

It all started with Rahul uploading this picture (right) of himself drinking coffee. He captioned the Instagram post: "Coffee."

Virat noticed the post and replied: "Cup ganda hai [The cup is dirty]"

Rahul was having none of it and wrote: "Lekin dil soof hai" [But heart is clean].



[But heart is clean].

Virat acknowledged the same and replied: "Itaba vo to hai [Itaba that's true]" Head coach Ravi Shastri too was amused. He liked the post.

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Aguero gets a new look!

ARGENTINE footballer Sergio Aguero has gone in for a dramatic look as he recovers from knee surgery. The Manchester City star has coloured his hair silver.

His partner Sofia Calzetti Instagrammed this picture (right) for her 309,000 followers to introduce their new pet, French Bulldog Capri, but it was Sergio's new hairdo that came into the limelight. She captioned the picture: "Welcome CAPRI." Sergio is not expected to be back in action

anytime soon after the Man City player injured his knee against Burnley during their Premier League tie on June 22.

Two days later, he tweeted a picture to update his fans about his surgery and wrote: "Everything went well, and I'll soon begin recovery. A big thanks to Dr Cagar and his team — and to all of you for your support."

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PARTYING COST PATO DEAR

Footballer Alexandre recalls how clubbing and alcohol saw his 1st marriage with actor Brito end within a year



Footballer Alexandre Pato and Stefany Brito during their 2009 wedding in Brazil. **PC/GETTY IMAGES**

BRAZILIAN footballer Alexandre Pato has revealed that excessive partying resulted in his first marriage with actress Stefany Brito ending in just nine months.

According to *The Sun*, the former AC Milan and Chelsea star and Stefany were dubbed the Pato and Becky (Victoria and David Beckham) of Brazil.

Alexandre and Stefany's 2009 marriage reception was held at the lavish Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro. But their relationship was short-lived with Stefany telling the Bra-

zilian press that they split because she couldn't handle his wild partying.

Meanwhile, Alexandre said the AC Milan dressing room was divided into groups led by party-loving Brazilian stars Ronaldo and Ronaldin-

ho and the religious group, led by Kaka. "When I arrived in Milan, I sat between Ronaldo and [Paulo] Maldini, and opposite Kaka in the changing room. One of the first things I remember is Ronaldo showing me a Playboy magazine. He asked me if I wanted to be in his group or if I'd prefer to go with Kaka," revealed Alexandre, who became a drinking buddy of Ronaldinho.

In 2015, Alexandre married Brazilian TV show host, Rebecca Abreu.

'I remember Ronaldo showing me a Playboy magazine' Pato

Heena Sidhu happy to see Tik Tok go

NEW DELHI: Two-time Commonwealth Games gold medalist shooter Heena Sidhu on Tuesday fuelled the banning of the video-sharing social networking app, TikTok. It was one of the 59 Chinese apps that the Indian government banned on Monday due to security concerns.

"I'm so happy that TikTok is gone. With the hate videos and animal abuse videos that I have been coming across being posted on TikTok... I am so happy, Internet will be a happier place without TikTok!" Sidhu tweeted on Tuesday.

"It's not gone yet but I hope the govt follows through. The responsibility lies with the developers for allowing such content to become not just visible but viral. Unless they change their norms for content uploading this app shouldn't have a place in our lives," she added.

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