

Jagran

mid-day



THE LOCKDOWN IS ON MOVEMENT, NOT INFORMATION

What everyone is seeking during the lockdown is credible news on the corona virus outbreak, update on the developments and hacks to negotiate the city - gathered by the team of experienced journalists at Mumbai's favourite newspaper, **mid-day**.

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1,413 NEW CASES AND 40 DEATHS ON MONDAY

'NEVER GOT HIS DUE'

Sonu Nigam on friend and collaborator Wajid » P12



ICSE ROW IN COURT

Advocate-parent sues board over exams » P03

IDOL VILLAGE LOCKS ITSELF

Festive season in limbo as Pen bars outsiders » P07

'COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION'

AIIMS doctors submit report to the prime minister » P08

AFTER THE STORM PASSES

BMC puts off lockdown relaxation decision to focus on another impending crisis as weathermen predict heavy rain, flooding, winds for city, other parts due to cyclone

TEAM MID-DAY
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It seems to be an unending wait for Mumbai to get some relief in terms of lockdown relaxations, as the city faces uncertainty over cyclonic storm Nisarga that is expected to cross the north Maharashtra coast on June 3. Even if the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation issues its guidelines for unlocking the city today, implementation will happen only after the storm passes. While the state government has prepared its disaster management plan, all coastal cities and districts of the state have been put on high alert. » P05



'NDRF teams are surveying coastal areas along with the local authorities. This cyclone comes with a unique challenge, as it is happening during the COVID-19 pandemic. But NDRF teams are equipped to deal with the double disaster. We have 3 teams in Mumbai and 9 in state. Sachin and Gowale, second-in-command, NDRF, Pune

Nine

No. of NDRF teams deployed across the state

80

Expected windspeed in kmph in parts of city on Tuesday

130

No. of lifeguards kept as back up

The city received a few showers on Monday even as it gears up for heavy rainfall over the next two days. PG/ASHISHRAJE



City doctors allege dues not paid; 80 COVID workers sacked

While medics battling pandemic allege bad treatment, 80 workers on contract protest at VVMC against sacking

DIWAKAR SHARMA AND FAIZAN KHAN
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A SECTION of doctors working in COVID-19 wards at civic-run hospitals in the city have complained of stop-motherly treatment over payment, accommodation and transport. Apart from long hours spent travelling, these doctors are worried about passing on the infection to their families. » P05

'We have studied to work amid a severe health crisis but not at the cost of lives or that of our families' A doctor



Children play cricket at Five Gardens, Matunga, on Monday. PG/ASHISHRAJE

State's recovery rate drastically up

Even as cases keep rising, Maharashtra's recovery rate up to 43 per cent, a significant jump from March and April figures

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MUMBAI on Monday reported 1,413 new cases of COVID-19, taking the total count to 41,099 and with 40 more deaths caused by the respiratory disease, the city's death

rate jumped to 1,319. However, the recovery rate in the state has significantly improved over the past two months and as of June 1, it stands at 43.35 per cent, said officials. On Monday, 779 patients were discharged across the state after full recovery. » P02

ON March 31, the recovery rate was 12.91%, while on April 30, it increased to 16.88%. As of May 31, 29,329 of the 67,655 patients were discharged after full recovery

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NUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



City has over 40K cases, death toll jumps to 1,319

COVID-19
TICKER
70,013
TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MAHA AS OF TODAY



CISF personnel deployed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) station in Mumbai to contain the spread of COVID-19. FILE PIC/SIMRAN KHANNA

Continued from page 01

ON March 31, the recovery rate was 12.91 per cent, while on April 30, it increased to 16.88 per cent. As of May 31, 29,329 of the 62,655 infected patients were discharged after full recovery.

The state so far has 70,013 cases, including the 2,362 infections reported on Monday. State health department officials said 30,534 COVID-19 patients across the state are currently being treated in different healthcare facilities. They added that an additional 323 patients from Mumbai and 140 from Thane have tested positive but their names are yet to be added to the official figure.

On Monday, 779 patients were discharged across the state after full recovery.

The officials recorded as many as 76 more deaths due to COVID-19 across Maharashtra, bringing the total to 2,362 on Monday. Besides 40 patients in Mumbai, eight died in Pune, six each in Navi Mumbai and Mira Bhayandar, three each in Vasai-Virar and Aurangabad, two each in Kalgaon and Kalyan Dombivli and one each in Pimpri Chinchwad, Jalgaon, Nagpur, Beed, Nashik and Thane.

Officials said while 14 of these patients died over the past two days, the rest succumbed to the deadly virus between May 14 and May 28. Thirty-seven of these deceased were

senior citizens, while 51 suffered from other ailments. The state's total death toll now stands at 2,362.

Meanwhile, civic officials said that G North ward continued to have the highest number of cases with 3,065 patients, followed by B ward where so far 2,668 cases have been detected. In G North ward, Dharavi reported 38 new cases, while Dadar saw 10 and Malim had 23. Officials said two patients, including a 50-year-old woman and a 44-year-old man who had tested positive earlier, died at KEM Hospital on Monday.

B North ward (Dahisar) currently has the highest growth rate of 75 per cent and also has the second lowest number of cases in the city. Mumbai's average daily growth rate stands at 1.85 per cent as on May 31.

State health department officials said the recovery rate, which was 12.91 per cent in March, increased to 43.45 per cent on May 31.

The mortality rate, however, continues to hover around 3.3 per cent. According to the officials, 5,67 lakh people are currently in home quarantine, while 36,189 people are at institutional quarantine centres across the state.

'Neglected' city nurses seek help of BMC boss

Several organisations together write to Iqbal Singh Chahal, bringing to his notice the plight of healthcare workers who contract COVID-19

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THE ailing community has written to BMC chief Iqbal Singh Chahal, bringing to his notice the plight of the nurses who contracted the novel Coronavirus while treating other patients and are now being ignored by their own hospitals and authorities concerned.

Several organisations for nurses under Jan Swasthya Aahyan on Monday raised their issues, which they claim were not addressed by the previous civic chief, Pravin Patil. The letter, among several things, pointed to the lack of dedicated facilities for healthcare workers who have to wait six-nine hours to secure admission in a COVID hospital, "with no access to food or water, making them feel neglected and unwanted". The organisations claimed that the second swab test of infected healthcare workers isn't done even though ICMR protocol allows it, and also complained about unhygienic facilities and poor quality of care at COVID-Care Centres (CCC).

'Food lacks nutrition'

Sejta (name changed), a 35-year-old nurse at a private hospital in Bandra, tested positive last month. However, due to paucity of vacant beds, the hospital sent her to a CCC nearby. She said she was admitted on May 21 with symptoms — sore throat and cough — that still persist due to lack of proper treatment or nutrition.

"The meals we get are not nutri-



Nurses have to wait for up to nine hours to get admitted to COVID hospitals, the organisations said in the letter to BMC chief. REPRESENTATION PIC/SARESH KADKADA

tious. Despite several requests, they have still not given us milk and multivitamins to boost our immunity. The doctors don't come around often either. We took care of COVID-19 patients when we were fit, but now when we need help, we are being ignored."

No pay for quarantine

The organisations also raised the issue of some private hospitals deducting paid leaves and salaries of nurses for the days they were kept in quarantine. They have also demanded PPE kits and N95 masks for healthcare workers in non-COVID wards as well, since many regular patients have later tested positive.

"With Mumbai seeing a rapid rise in infections, the distinction between COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 health settings is getting increasingly

blurred," the letter stated. They also demanded that hospitals take adequate precautions for infection control and testing so that health workers are not at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Hospitals targeting nurses

The letter also highlighted that nurses, who are bringing to public notice the lapses in treatment and care, are being targeted by the hospital administration. The organisations demanded that someone from the nursing community should be included in the COVID-19 task force to ensure that their concerns are fairly represented.

Several calls to additional municipal commissioner Suresh Kakani and civic health department's executive health officer Padmanaj Keskar for comment went unanswered.

Bandra and Santacruz slums get foot-operated sanitiser dispensers

BMC installs as many as 40 machines outside common toilets to avoid direct contact with the containers in an effort to stop the spread of novel Coronavirus



The dispenser is installed outside common toilets in slums.

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TO reduce direct contact to the minimum to contain the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the BMC has installed foot-operated hand sanitiser dispensing machines at outside common toilets at slums in Bandra and Santacruz.

While sanitiser is a good tool to avoid contracting the deadly virus, there has always been a concern about contact with sanitiser containers, particularly at public places. The machine dispenses sanitiser on pressing the foot pedal, limiting direct contact with skin, and thus, preventing the spread of COVID-19.

"We planned to install 54 machines, and 40 of them have already been set up at various areas, like Behram Pada, A K Marg, Bandra

station, Golibar Road, Deepak Wadi-Khar, Golibar Kharastan areas," said a BMC official.

He noted that the risk of COVID-19 spread is high in common and public toilets. Through the BMC had deployed workers to sanitise the toilets at least three times a day, more precautions were needed, hence, the machines were brought in.

"It is a nice tool in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, especially at public places where footfall is high," said local corporator Sadanand Parab.

"Necessity is the mother of invention. People need to avoid direct contact, so we are installing this machine in front of common toilets in slums. It will be helpful for the residents," said Ashok Khairnar, assistant commissioner of the H East ward.

Parent moves Bombay High Court over ICSE exams in July

Says when university examinations are not held due to COVID-19, this is discrimination against Std X students, and puts them at a risk

PALLAVI SMART

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WHILE the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISE) has not paid heed to major objections raised by several parents on holding the examinations in July, a parent has moved court over them. He has challenged ICSE Board in the Bombay High Court with a petition saying it is a major contradiction in Maharashtra that university level examina-

tions cannot be held due to the situation regarding COVID-19, but nobody is concerned about ICSE Board examinations to be held in the same month.

Already there is severe objection from the parents of students appearing for these remaining board examination papers to be held in the month of July. Several PTAs have come together to write to the Council with their concerns. mid-day had reported about it on Monday. A parent

Arvind Tiwari, who is an advocate, moved court on Monday when there was no response from the board.

"In the petition I have stated that it is clear violation of Article 14 (right to equality) and Article 21 (Right to Life). Under Right to Equality, authorities cannot discriminate against students from different levels.

The state government has just declared that university level examinations cannot be held in the month of August

because they involve risks. But they are okay with the ICSE Board conducting examinations at the same time.

More so, Right to Life clearly allows everyone to take care of one's health. Even in the month of July everybody is clearly anticipating the situation to worsen, how can they expect us to send kids to schools for exams?" said Tiwari. He has written several emails to the Council as well as all government

authorities starting from the state to national levels, including the Prime Minister's Office. But he didn't receive a concrete reply from anywhere, which led him to knock at the doors of the court.

"In the month of March when the situation was not so bad, the Council cancelled the examination. And now in July when cases are expected to peak, they are okay with asking parents to send kids to schools. There are so many al-

ternative methods that can be adapted for evaluation so that children can be given results," added Tiwari.

The ICSE Board is receiving major flak from parents for ending board examination papers in the month of July and putting their children in danger. A meeting was held by the Council on Monday to discuss the topic but no concrete decision was taken about it according to sources, which left parents more worried.

'City's unlocking on hold till cyclone Nisarga passes'

Continued from page 01

It was expected that the BMC would issue its order by Monday evening, but the plan was put on hold due to a cyclone warning. According to reports, the cyclone will hit the city tomorrow. While a meeting of top BMC officials was held on Monday, the civic body will take some time to issue the guidelines. "The order may be out on Tuesday but its implementation may be put on hold till Thursday due to the uncertainty over the cyclone approaching the state," said a civic official.

Second delay

Meanwhile, shops and small businesses opened upon Monday for cleaning and maintenance. Some of the ward officers asked shopkeepers' unions to give suggestions on opening of shops on alternate days. This is the second time that the BMC has delayed issuing guidelines. On May 3, after the state government allowed wire shops to open up, the BMC took two days to issue a circular preventing any non-essential shops from functioning.

Meanwhile, the state government has prepared its disaster management mechanism to face cyclone Nisarga.

All coastal cities and districts — Mumbai, Thane, Palghat, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg — have been put on high alert. The state disaster management cell, relief and rehabilitation department, Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Air Force and Army, National and State Disaster Management Relief, state police, weather department and all other agencies concerned have been placed in coordination with each other. District collectors have been directed to monitor and coordinate with the state gov-



BMC might issue its unlocking guidelines today, but implementation will happen only after Thursday depending on what the situation is after the cyclonic storm. PIC/ASHISH RAJE

ernment, said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a communication. A control room in Mantralaya will coordinate relief and rescue measures. Fishermen have been called back from the sea.

Preparations reviewed

In a video-conference with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Thackeray reviewed the preparations. Shah said that the NDRF teams posted in non-coastal states would be sought for Maharashtra. However, since NDRF and six SDRF teams have already been deployed in vulnerable parts of the state, the teams located on hilltops and slopes have already been evacuated.

Thackeray has asked all

NDRF deployment

- 3 teams in Mumbai
- 2 teams in Palghar
- 1 team each in Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg

non-COVID hospitals to be prepared to serve the cyclone-hit people. The CM further said that the temporary COVID-19 hospitals that have been built on open spaces would be under close watch and the inmates had been shifted to safer hospitals. He added that more beds and power generators would be made available for medical emergencies. Power companies have been asked to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply.

BMC gears up

Meanwhile, the BMC has asked all ward officials to check pre-monsoon work and ensure that everything is at a safe stage. They have also been instructed to keep dewatering pumps ready in case of water-logging.

The Disaster Cell of the BMC has been put on alert and will be coordinating operations. The Mumbai Fire Brigade has been put on high alert and life guards have been deployed at all beaches from Girgaon to

'City hasn't faced this in a long time'

Sharing through an email, Prof Adam Sobel, atmospheric scientist at Columbia University, said, "Mumbai has not been affected by cyclones in its modern history. The city has experienced severe floods of course, but these were not due to cyclones. In recent years, many tall buildings have come up in the city, and I don't know to what extent they have been designed for the strong winds of a cyclone."

Geat with jet keys and other safety devices. A fire brigade official said that a back up of 130 fireguards would be there at all the fire stations in the western suburbs.

NDRF teams deployed

Speaking to mid-day, second command in chief, NDRF, Sathianand Gevade said, "The NDRF is in touch with the R&R department of the state government, IMD authorities and district administration. The teams are conducting a survey in the coastal areas along with the local authorities. This cyclone comes with a unique challenge, as it is happening during the COVID-19 pandemic. But NDRF teams are trained and equipped to deal with the double disaster. We have also upgraded our SOPs to respond to the situation. We have three teams in Mumbai and a total of nine across the state. We are working in close coordination with MCGM. Teams will be deployed as per requirement. Teams will be deployed as per requirement."



A boy walks through a puddle left by the first shower of the season in the city at Wadala on Monday. PIC/ASHISH RAJE

'Brace for heavy rain this week'

Red alert issued for city; fishermen advised to stay away from sea, citizens told to stay indoors

PALLAVI SMART AND GURAV SARKAR

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AS the city is set to open up in phases after a two-month lockdown, it starts at an extremely heavy rain warning by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

A red alert has been declared for Mumbai, Thane and Palghar with heavy rain and thunder-shower forecast for the week. It will be a result of the cyclonic storm forming in the Arabian Sea that is causing low pressure. A slight dip in Mumbai morning smoothed the city after a long period of intense heat and humidity. Citizens should expect extremely heavy rain at isolated places in the next couple of days, the IMD said. "A low-pressure area over Southwest and adjoining East-Central Arabian Sea and has intensified into a depression. It is very likely to intensify into a deep depression and further intensify into a cyclonic storm. It is very likely to move nearly northwards till June 2 and then cross north Maharashtra and south Gujarat coasts between Harihareshwar (Raigad, Maharashtra) and Daman during the afternoon of June 3," the IMD stated.

Light to moderate rainfall is thus expected at most places with heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in south

Konkan and Goa. The maximum temperature in Mumbai is likely to be around 38 degrees Celsius and a minimum of around 27 degrees Celsius. "Squally wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is prevailing over East Central and adjoining southeast Arabian Sea. It is very likely to go to 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph during the next 48 hours. The sea condition is very likely to be rough to very rough," the IMD stated.

Speaking to mid-day, Mahesh Palawat, vice-president of Meteorology and Climate Change at Skymet Weather, said, "For the next three days, South Mumbai and Mumbai suburbs will have an increasing trend of rain intensity, starting tonight (Monday) onwards. There will be heavy rainfall from Tuesday afternoon till the evening of June 3 but this will not be a continuous spell... there will be on and off rain and heavy showers over many parts of Mumbai. People can expect water logging and traffic jams in many parts in the city, especially low lying areas."

"When asked if he had any advice for Mumbaiites, he said, "We advise people to stay indoors. Fishermen should stay away from the coast as tides will be high and will be very strong, accompanied by torrential rainfall. Postpone plans for the next two days."

daily dossier



@LOLrakshak: Considering that they are fueled by depression, abused on Twitter, and everyone complains about how much they cost - Cyclones should be named after comedians.



WAITING FOR THE GRAND OPENING

Sculptor Anil Sawant's works, featuring two 15-foot tall elephants and warriors from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's army on horseback, were to be installed on a chowki in Parvat. They now lie abandoned in Borivli East near Magha Thane bus depot amid the lockdown. **PC/ANNE ASHIN**

Mastering the mind amid lockdown

Two months ago, mental health organisation Mpower tied up with the BMC and state government to launch a mental health helpline. In a recently released report, it found that 52 per cent of the callers were anxious about life post the lockdown, 22 per cent cited isolation and adjustment issues and 11 per cent spoke about depression. As much



as 37 per cent calls were from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and 40 per cent were from the rest of Maharashtra and Goa. "Setting time apart for ourselves and our family, pausing and reflecting are some of the key lessons of the past two months. I hope we carry these lessons forward," said Dr Sapna Bangar, psychiatrist and host, Mpower.

Out and proud this pride month

Pride month is here, and it is a good time to listen to stories from the LGBTQ+ community through ordinary voices. Filmmaker Moxez



Moxez Singh (right) with guests from an episode of the podcast

Singh hosted Azaad Azaad, an LGBTQ podcast with 10 episodes earlier this year, produced by Gunesi Monga that is now available for streaming on Amazon Audible. "What excited me the most about the offer was that I would be able to tell the stories of the voiceless. I was clear about not wanting to do a celebrity-driven show. I wanted them to celebrate who they were, and the choices that they have made," Singh told this diarist about the show, adding, "The LGBTQ community is no longer going to accept being invisible. Never again."

The show must go on

This diarist had made a trip to the dusty roads of Naipon in February this year to meet the members of V Unbeatable, a dance crew from the area, crowned the winners of America's Got Talent: The Champions. The dedication and hard work that these lesser-known youngsters had put in to achieve their dreams, is now at risk of being futile, given how dance shows are a distant reality now. And it's not just their bread and butter, but also that of some of their family members that has been taken away.

So, these youngsters who brought the nation glory, are now seeking your help. They have released a video where they have sought the support of PM Narendra Modi and state CM Uddhav Thackeray. "If some of the children return to their villages because of the situation, I will never be able to replace them, and all the hard work I have put in over eight years will have gone to waste," crew leader Ompeakash Shankar Chauhan told this diarist. Log on to the V Unbeatable page on Twitter and Facebook to reach out to them.



Inspire a cocktail

In an attempt to offer new experiences, Bombay Canteen and O Pedro will now let you be the inspiration for a new cocktail. Exchange notes with bar manager Rahul Baghav and help create a new drink that will reflect your taste and find a place on the menu, at a price, of course. "We wanted to introduce experiences that are enjoyable and keep people engaged with the brand once the government allows restaurants to resume regular operations. It's a fun process that starts with a phone call where Baghav gets to know you a bit, what cocktails you like and preferred flavour profiles, and then the team works their magic to create a drink that's all about you, which goes onto the menu. And yes, the person gets to do a trial session, when restaurants open," Sameer Seth, partner, Burger Inc Hospitality (O Pedro, The Bombay Canteen, Bombay Sweet Shop), said.



Preparing for the virtual world

While the world is taking the virtual route to perform everything from music to theatre and storytelling, artist Sheena Khakid will be hosting a series of workshops on Public Speaking for the Virtual World with the first one being conducted over Zoom this weekend. "When we do public speaking workshops otherwise, we tend to focus on body language, voice and other aspects. Since all our work has moved online, a lot of people are finding it difficult to navigate. It's much harder to engage your audience on screen owing to the distractions around. It isn't about just getting someone's attention but holding it too," Khakid told this diarist, adding, "I do public speaking workshops otherwise, but these will have different exercises even though the basic principles will be the same."



Handler of CM's pet dog tests positive

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THE handler of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's pet dog tested positive for COVID-19, after which the CM's personal residence, Matoshree, and the locality is being regularly sanitised. The close contacts of the handler and other staff at the bungalow were tested and most of the reports were negative. While it's not clear whether the CM and his family were tested, they have been advised to take necessary precautions.

According to sources, the handler has been looking after the dog for many years. The dog roams in the Matoshree bungalow due to which the CM's family was asked to take necessary precautions, however, none of the family members came in direct contact with the handler.

Assistant Commissioner of H East ward, Ashok Khairnar said, "One person tested positive for COVID-19 and was shifted to a hospital, every staff members who works in Matoshree and his close contacts have been tested, almost every report came negative but few reports are awaited. As precautionary measure the area is being sanitised on a daily basis. Nobody from the CM's family will be home quarantined as none of them came in direct contact with the person." The chief minister's pet, a type of collie dog, has not been tested for COVID-19, as there is no evidence so far of an animal getting infected with this virus. However, there have been some cases in other countries where animals were infected with the virus. Recently a dog in Hong Kong was found positive, as also were tigers in a zoo in the USA.

"As of now there is no literature available saying the virus can be transmitted from animals to humans or that they are carriers. But it can pass from humans to animals and is curable with some antibiotics. As the handler tested positive, the animal he looks after must be tested. If the dog tests positive, it can transmit the disease to humans," Senior Veterinarian Dr JC Khanji said.



The Thackeray family members, as animal lovers and the chief minister has had many pets.

'How will we survive if we travel for so long'

Doctors staying at far-flung suburbs say it is difficult to reach the stops from where BEST buses pick them up, they end up paying exorbitant auto fares

Continued from page 41

HOW will we survive? Most of the extern doctors end up exhausted after work as there is no door-to-door transport facility," said a doctor who works at a city hospital where COVID-19 patients are being treated.

These doctors are called externs as they studied medicine at institutes outside the city or at foreign institutes but do their internships at city hospitals.

"Students who graduate from outside of Mumbai have to pay the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) in Nashik to be able to intern here. I studied in a medical college outside India and wanted to do my internship in the city as my parents live here," a woman doctor told mid-day.

Another woman doctor said, "In the first week of April, I paid MUHS to let me do the internship and choose a civic hospital. Around mid-April, the hospital was turned into a COVID-19 hospital."

"We have been working as hard as the interns but we are not being paid. A few interns don't report to work citing health issues. All the interns have been given accommodation at the hospital premises. And they don't have to travel for long hours like us," said another doctor.

"We have to request relatives to drop up at the bus stop for the BEST bus. When that is not available, I have to pay exorbitant amounts to autorickshaw drivers. Even for distances which would cost minimum fare, rickshaw drivers are charging ₹100 in the lockdown."

These doctors are working at civic-run hospitals such as KEM, RM Cooper, EYL, Nair, etc.

"We are not against the work. We have studied to work amid a severe health crisis but not at the cost of lives or that of our families. Either provide us with accommodation inside the hospital itself or don't ask us to work at isolation wards. We don't want to carry the virus home and infect our elderly parents," said a doctor.

"We are doing our best



A COVID-19 testing booth at KEM Hospital. FIG/SURESH KARNIKA



Fired contractual workers protest outside in Virar. FIG/HANIF PATEL

amid the crisis as several interns have not reported to work and in some conditions, we have handled COVID-19 positive cases singlehandedly in the absence of senior doctors. Yet we don't get paid," the doctor said.

Official speak

"KEM Hospital provides good clinical experience to externs. The externship is a voluntary service and these doctors, in an undertaking, forgo the stipend when they join. Now, giving them stipend won't be possible if they seek it," said Dr. Hemant Deshmukh, dean of KEM Hospital.

"Interns' stipend has been increased from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000

'Interns' stipend has been increased from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 and we have been paying them extra money too. The externs must be feeling that they should be paid too. If they give us anything in writing, we will think about it'

Dr. Hemant Deshmukh, dean, KEM Hospital

and we have been paying them extra money too. These doctors must be feeling that they should be paid too. They have not written to us seeking remuneration. If they give us anything in writing, we will think about it," Dr. Deshmukh said.

VVMC fires contractual staff

Contractual employees who claim to have worked at quarantine centres and COVID-19 hospitals for the Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVMC) staged a protest outside its Virar head office on Monday after the civic body sacked over 50 of them without paying for April and May.

Pooratma Galkwad, who worked as a cleaner for VVMC, said, "I was jobless after the lockdown hit. The municipal



Gangatharan D, municipal chief, VVMC. FIG/HANIF PATEL

corporation offered jobs in COVID-19 and quarantine wards. We got lured by the permanent jobs offers. We were asked to work without any documentation, though identity cards were issued. We did everything in COVID-19 wards from cleaning to taking care of patients. Two months later, we are fired without getting a single penny." The workers were promised a salary of ₹15,500.

"I used to climb seven floors every day as lifts were not working. We took bodies of COVID-19 patients to graveyards and crematoriums when families refused to touch them. We worked for over 12 hours wearing PPE kits. Only thing we got is a letter stating we are fired. What about the work we have done?" said, Ruchi Sheth, who worked as a ward boy at a civic quarantine centre.

One of the supervisors, under whom the people worked, said, "These youngsters worked hard, they did everything from cleaning, sweeping, maintaining hygiene in the vicinity to wrapping COVID-19 affected bodies, taking them to the funeral and helping their families but didn't get paid. Their work was commendable. In their absence, patients ask for them."

"The contractual employees risked their lives and worked very hard. They should not have been removed at a time when the government has ordered not to sack workers. I have learnt that they have not even been paid for their work," said, Pravin Shetty, mayor of VVMC.

VVMC Commissioner Gangatharan D did not respond to calls and messages.

INVITING WEB DEVELOPERS WHO FEEL FOR RURAL INDIA

NABFOUNDATION, a Section 8 company floated by NABARD invites bids from reputed website / IT companies for Design, Development, and Maintenance of a new website.



NABFOUNDATION

For more details, interested companies may please visit- <https://www.nabard.org/Tenders.aspx?cid=501&id=24>



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WITH the seven-day home quarantine period ending for Andheri resident Balram Vishwakarma, 26, he has taken it upon himself to counsel COVID-19 patients going through stress and anxiety at the CCC2 in Laxmi Industrial Estate.

Balram himself was at the quarantine facility from May 6 to May 11 and then shifted to Ganper Hospital from May 11 to May 14. "I still feel slightly weak and have frequent chest pains but I am told this is normal," he said, speaking with mid-day.

On Friday, he got a call from Dr Kusum Gupta, head of the quarantine facility at Laxmi Industrial Estate.

"She said that they were having a tough time counselling some of the patients since no one is willing to come to

'I went to the wards introduced myself and let them do the talking, so their confidence could increase. Once they were comfortable, I explained the whole treatment, briefed them on what to expect and reassure that things will be fine' Balram Vishwakarma

26-yr-old goes from patient to counsellor

After spending six days receiving treatment for COVID-19 at a CCC2 centre, Andheri resident is back there guiding and assuring other patients

the ward. She also asked if I could come over and talk to a few patients and clear their head from any concerns or paranoia they had," he said.

The CCC2 centre at Laxmi Industrial Estate has a 300-bed capacity and currently houses around 158 patients. On Sunday evening, Balram held his first counselling session. "I bought my own PPE kit because I didn't want to put pressure on them. But they gave me a standard issued kit because they have the resources in abundance. I was given a list of six patients

on a priority basis. I went to the wards introduced myself and let them do the talking, so their confidence could increase. Once they were comfortable, I explained the whole treatment, briefed them on what to expect and reassured them," he said.

He also spoke with approximately 100 patients comprising of teenagers, children and senior citizens, by breaking them into groups. When asked why he went back to the centre while recovering, Balram said that it was a

300
Bed capacity at Laxmi Industrial Estate's CCC2 centre.

158
Total no. of patients at Laxmi Industrial Estate's CCC2 centre.



Balram himself was at the quarantine facility from May 6 to May 11

mixture of the guilt of being at the receiving end of public healthcare and the attached stigma with being a COVID-19 patient. "It is mainly because

of the stigma that I visited and reminded them that they are human — irrespective of what others say and how they are treated."



The siblings, Priya and Prasad Sawant (centre and right), wear gloves and masks while distributing the turmeric milk

Prabhadevi duo distributes turmeric milk among cops

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AMONG the many citizens across the country trying to help Corona warriors fight the pandemic, is a brother-sister duo from Prabhadevi who distributes hot turmeric milk among 100 to 120 cops at Nanubhai every day. The duo has been doing this for 58 days now and a video of the act went viral recently.

Priya, a private sector professional and Prasad Vijay Sawant, an artist, are residents of Botawala building in Prabhadevi. "Our entire family was home in the lockdown, and we would often watch the news regarding cops discharging their duties despite the fear of Corona," Priya told mid-day, adding, "During the initial days of lockdown, the government was asking people to take to Ayurvedic methods like hot water or hot turmeric milk to enhance immunity. We had, therefore, begun drinking turmeric milk at home."

That's when Prasad expressed concerns over the health of the cops around them. "There are cops in my mother's family and we know the difficulties they face during lockdown. During the lockdown, even a cup of tea has been a luxury for them. I thus presented this idea and everyone at home agreed," Prasad explained.

They started with 5 litres but realised it wasn't enough. "We were distributing hot turmeric milk with some sugar and ginger. We were using hand gloves and masks and the cops were happy with our initiative," he added.

'Feels great'

The siblings soon began distributing around 30 litres of milk every day and covered around seven to eight nakabandi points around their house with around 100 to 120 cops. "We spend 1000 to 1500 daily on this and are using our savings for it," said Priya, adding, "It feels great to ease out the pressure from the policemen and women."

'There are angels watching over us'

GUEST COLUMN



Sr Mudita Sodder

WITH repatriation flights now coming into the country, there is a lot of trepidation about quarantine measures in India. People are fearful about their experience on landing. On one hand, there is a great deal of relief on reaching home, on the other, there is wariness about what the on-ground situation will bring.

I am an ex-pat, a repatriate who flew into Mumbai from Chicago on May 13, 2020. We are hearing stories about problems and challenges during and after evacuation. Yes, I can say that angels are watching over us too.

Beyond duty

The Indian Consulate at Atlanta was one such space

Humanity is a beacon in bleak times, says a repatriated nun, who dispels qualms about quarantine and says kindness abounds, let us make it the new norm

where goodness was beaming over. The staff worked for 36 hours at a stretch in order to help evacuate stranded Indians. Service beyond the call of duty seemed to be the new normal. I got a call at 9:30 pm on May 7, 2020 on a friend's mobile, which was the beginning of the repatriation process. This was the start of a chain of events where kindness was the link.

From answering calls at 11 pm to desperate calls on a Sunday, the staff's response was stellar. There were immense challenges during the journey. An official and wheelchair attendant of American Airlines showed extraordinary care and understanding when the airlines lost my baggage, and spared no energy to find it.

I flew from South Carolina to Chicago first and then to

Mumbai. It was touchdown Mumbai with so many others who had undertaken a long-awaited but arduous journey back home.

Home, at last

A wheelchair attendant at the Mumbai International Airport was a god-sent soul who wheeled me through the thermal test, Argya Setu, Immigration, Customs, government quarantine etc. I also saw many Muslims helping tirelessly at the airport with enthusiasm and joy despite observing Isha.

In the government-organised special AC BEST bus to transport us to our John hotel for quarantine, a skinny young man helped me and three other women put our heavy suitcases into the bus, belying his size. A volunteer lent some money for bus fare,

as all of us were not carrying Indian currency. This compassion is the new normal for me. I just hope this continues post the crisis.

Let it ripple

While being quarantined at the hotel despite some inconveniences, I experienced the zenith of humanity. The staff lived up to the adage: service with a smile. The RMC employees also sparkled. At the end of my quarantine, I returned home at Sophia College free of cost. I was dropped by a well-wisher. I am undergoing 14 days of home quarantine at Sophia College, which has been my home in Mumbai since 38 years. I am a nun who belongs to the Society of the Sacred Heart.

I reflect as I sit at the workstation inside my room that if the goodness of human beings

radiates all around in a crisis situation, why can't we start what I call the 'Purple Effect' movement, where kindness can spill over even in ordinary times? One act of kindness can inspire an incredible amount of goodwill.

It can snowball into many more generous acts of goodness in return.

Cooks and chefs abound as well in such situations. "Light makes the darkness invisible," said Desert Father (a hermit) Anthony Bloom. May the light of our good deeds make the darkness of coronavirus and its fears invisible. Let us make this a time when Mother Earth healed and human beings found their humanity again. Let us make this the new normal.

The writer is a PhD doctorate and belongs to the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Nurses resign, await release from hospitals

As the state government imposed MESMA, and their certificates are with the hospitals that employed them, they can't leave; some who tested positive, claim discriminatory treatment compared to doctors

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DOCTORS and nurses from Kerala have volunteered to come to Mumbai to assist in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of nurses from the southern state and other states employed with private hospitals in Mumbai and Pune, have resigned from their jobs, and are still awaiting release.

A senior officer bearer of United Nurses Association (UNA), raising concerns of nursing staff all over the country, said, "We have learnt that already 200 nurses and brothers have left from Mumbai and Pune, after resigning from their jobs. But a large number is still stuck here, even after resigning before the lockdown, as the state government imposed Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Act (MESMA), and their certificates are still with the hospital."

'Harrowing experiences'

Speaking in mid-day, a nurse who resigned recently from a private hospital in Mumbai Central, said, "I usually, by rotation on completion of tenure, I two years of contract (bond) the staff nurses usually resign. However, due to COVID-19 many nurses had to stay back and went through harrowing experiences with hardly any support coming from the hospital management,



Nurses from a private hospital in Maharashtra protested recently when some were sent to a strict quarantine centre which lacked hygiene and facilities, while some doctors were kept in the hospital itself

which led to many of them testing positive. Some hospitals provided separate rooms for infected staff, but some of us continued to share the rooms provided by the hospital."

Another staff nurse from a reputed hospital in South Mumbai said, "We were made to do double duty, and had to work through the mandatory quarantine period was 14 days. When our COVID-19 test was negative, we were called back on duty soon after a week of quarantine."

The nurse from the Mumbai Central hospital further added, "We have learnt that our hospital has opened two wards (medical) to treat COVID-19 patients, and majority of the staff nurses are awaiting

their job description, as it is not fully operational."

Most of the nurses, who have already submitted their resignation have experienced over a year and above but are awaiting for the hospitals to release their certificates and other documents.

Moreover, they claimed that last month's salary was deducted drastically, and some were paid anywhere between \$4,000 to \$10,000, after deduction of fines for the past two months, a nurse whose parents are based in Kerala, claimed. The salary of nurses with a year or over a year's service is between \$14,000 and \$18,000.

This was acknowledged by the UNA and the Indian Nurses Association, both bodies

'Due to COVID-19 many nurses stayed back and had harrowing experiences with hardly any support from the hospital managements, and many tested positive' A nurse

which fight for the rights of staff nurses and brothers.

"We have already made our submissions to the chief minister and the BMC, raising our concern about the rights and discrimination that the staff nurses have to go through. Most of them continue to work for a minimal salary but they have not been given the kind of care and respect that they should have got as a frontline warriors handling patients," said a senior-officer bearer of the INA.

'Discriminatory treatment'

An UNA officer bearer added, "Two weeks ago, the nurses from a private hospital in Maharashtra had protested, as some of them tested positive. While the majority were sent to the NSCI dome quarantine centre in Wadli, which lacked basic hygiene and facilities, others including few doctors were kept in the hospital itself. The issue was sorted only when the nurses protested."

On Monday staff nurses at a Bandra hospital protested against similar discrimination, which was later addressed, as they were asked to go to a BMC-run quarantine centre, when some staff tested positive. Officials at the private hospital at Mumbai Central did not wish to make any statement. However, a person, close to the hospital management said, "Those people who have resigned prior to lockdown, it was routine wear and tear. We pay 30 per cent extra to staff who are working in COVID-19 wards and we have been following all the BMC and government guidelines in terms of their working hours and personal care including leave."

Will Ganeshotsav finally be a quiet one this year?

There is no clarity on how the state's most popular festival will be celebrated due to social distancing norms and other rules

RANJEET JADHAV AND
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THE pandemic has cast a shadow over upcoming festivals. With the Ganeshotsav less than three months away, Pen's Raigad district, which is famous for Ganesh Moks, has restricted the entry of people from Red Zones. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their villages, the Ganapati idol makers have decided to themselves deliver the idols to sellers in Mumbai if the lockdown is further relaxed.

The Ganeshotsav is one of the most important festivals in Maharashtra and devotees from across the country and world come to cities such as Mumbai and Pune for it. Due to the pandemic, there is no clarity on how it will be celebrated because of social distancing norms and the restrictions on gatherings in public places.

'Protecting our villages'

A few months before the Ganapati festival, in Mumbai many road side pandals where Ganapati idols brought from Pen are sold, come up. However, this time, not a single pandal is seen. The owner of a Ganapati idol making unit from Pen told mid-day, that many sellers from Mumbai and Pune who are approaching the idol makers, have been told to avoid going there. The local grampanchayats have decided to restrict entry of people coming from Red Zones.

"Our business has suffered very badly in the pandemic but nothing much can be done because globally everyone has been affected. The Ganapati idol sellers from Mumbai have been approaching us but we are only taking online orders. The grampanchayats in Pen have decided not to allow people from Red zones to come to our villages, because we don't want the disease to spread there. We have told



Two young women work on a Ganesh idol at the Arnd Arts workshop at Prabhadevi. Idol makers in Pen said this year they have made fewer than 50 per cent idols. PHOTO:ASHISH RANE

them that if government gives relaxations in lockdowns then we will make arrangements to transport the idols to Mumbai but no one should come to Pen," said an idol maker from Pen.

Pen has an over 125 years old history of making Ganapati idols and they are in huge demand not just in Mumbai but in various parts of India. Some idols manufactured here are even exported to other countries.

'Unable to get raw materials'

Rakesh Dabhadre, owner of Surekha Arts Dabhadre Brothers, from Harangpur village in Pen said "Due to the lockdown we were unable to get raw materials including plaster of Paris, etc. from Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. This year we have made less than 50 per cent idols because transporting them is an issue. Our grampanchayat has passed a resolution that we will not take the risk of giving the idols to the sellers by making them come to our villages, and so, after the lockdown we will think of delivering the idols to Red Zones including Mumbai."

Dabhadre said that he makes over 60,000 idols every year but this year has made only around 25,000.

'The grampanchayats in Pen have decided not to allow people from Red zones to come to our villages. We have told them that if government gives relaxations in lockdown we will make arrangements to transport the idols to Mumbai' An idol maker from Pen

Doctors arrive from Kerala to assist Mumbai medics

On Monday evening around 16 doctors including two infectious arrived at the Hotel Lalit, in Andheri (E), to help Mumbai's doctors fight COVID-19.

Dr Santosh Kumar, the head of the team of doctors, said, "Seven Hills hospital is well managed by doctors from Mumbai, we are here only to assist them in managing the large inflow of COVID-19 patients. The hospital intends to extend an additional ICU facility for better care of serious patients, and by Tuesday, it will set up an additional 20 beds, which will be gradually increased to 100 and later much more, as more doctors and nurses come in."

Talking about the nurses, Dr Santosh added, "I have heard from various community associations in Mumbai and also nursing unions, that a large number of nursing staff have either resigned and intend to return to Kerala or their states, but are stuck due



The doctors from Kerala who will help doctors at Seven Hills hospital

to lock down. We will be more than happy to have these resources from the city itself, if they are willing to join hands with us, so that more patient care can be given at the earliest. We want to assure the nursing community that they have been doing very good and we all are proud of them."

'Corona can't be eliminated now, community transmission is there'

Report compiled by doctors from the AIIMS and two members of an ICMR research group has been submitted to PM

COVID-19
TICKER
1,90,535
TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN INDIA AS OF MON

NEW DELHI: Community transmission of the Coronavirus infection has been well-established across large sections or sub-populations in the country, a group of health experts including doctors from the AIIMS and two members of an ICMR research group on COVID-19, has said. The government has maintained that the country has not yet reached the community transmission stage of the disease.

The report compiled by experts from the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) and Indian Association of Epidemiologists (IAE) has been submitted to the prime minister. "It is unrealistic to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic can be eliminated at this stage given that community transmission is already well-established across large sections or sub-populations in the country," the report said.

The expected benefits of this stringent nationwide lockdown was to spread out the disease over an extended period of time to flatten the curve and effectively plan and manage so that the healthcare delivery system is not overwhelmed. This seems to have been achieved albeit after four lockdowns with extraordinary inconvenience and dis-



Migrants walk in a queue after getting off a special train at Howrah station on Monday. **PC/PPI**

162
No. of BSF troopers infected by COVID-19

5,394
Total no. of deaths due to the virus

ruption of the economy and life of the general public," they said in the report.

230 deaths
in 24 hours

Meanwhile, India's COVID-19 tally on Monday witnessed its highest-ever spike of 8,392 cases, while 230 more deaths related to the infection were also reported in the

last 24 hours, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The total number of Coronavirus cases in the country now stands at 1,90,535, including 93,322 active cases, 91,815 cured/discharged/migrated and 5,394 deaths. **Agencies**

Kerala starts virtual classes

Signalling the beginning of a new academic year, at least 45 lakh students in Kerala on Monday began attending virtual classes organised by the state education department in a bid to ensure that they do not miss out on lessons due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown. The online sessions named 'First Bell' are telecast through VICTERS Channel, under the State General Education Department, for Std I to XII from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm on weekdays.

'DELHI BORDERS SEALED'

ARVIND KEJRIWAL,
Delhi chief minister

"For now, we are sealing Delhi's borders for a week. We will take a concrete decision after one week once we have taken into consideration the suggestions of everyone including experts"

MAYAWATI,
BSP chief

"Amidst concerns over rising deaths and patients due to the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown 5.0 started on the 69th day with a number of relaxations and will continue till June 30. It is needed that the Centre and state governments should become more serious"

Airlines asked to keep middle seats vacant

Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday asked airlines to keep middle seats vacant to the extent possible in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak. However, if a flyer has been allotted the middle seat due to a high passenger load "then additional

protective equipment like wrap around gown of the Ministry of Textile approved standards" must be provided to him or her in addition to a three-layered box mask and face shield, said the DGCA order, which has been accessed by PTI.

Train services resume after two months

Train services partially resumed on Monday as several trains left for their destination according to

timetable after a break in train movement since March 23. According to ministry officials, more than 1.45 lakh passengers are set to travel on Monday. According to the Railway Ministry, the first train to depart was Mahanagri Express from Chhatrapati Maharaj Shiwaji Terminus at 12.10 am for Varanasi. The Railways had announced to partially resume services from June 1.



Workers sanitise a train upon its arrival at Nizamuddin railway station, in New Delhi. **PC/PPI**

Gradual easing of norms across states

All relaxations given by the Centre in the fifth phase of lockdown will be implemented in Goa and further easing of norms would be decided upon gradually. CM Pramod Sawant said on Monday. With the fifth phase of the lockdown coming into force from Monday, the Ahmedabad civic body has identified 'micro-containment zones', thereby reducing the number of people covered in such zones to nearly 70,000 as compared to 1.3 lakh earlier. People came out on the streets of Kolkata in large numbers with total disregard

to social-distancing norms, while traffic snarl was noticed in many places as the lockdown relaxations come into effect in West Bengal on Monday. Many shops across the city that remained closed during the lockdown also reopened during the day. As the Delhi government on Monday removed the restrictions on the number of persons travelling in four-wheelers, two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws and other vehicles in the city, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot urged all to maintain social distancing.



Passengers walk on waterlogged rail tracks at Ernakulam Junction station in Kerala during rains last year. **PC/WFP**

'Monsoon hits Kerala, coastal areas to get rain'

NEW DELHI: India Meteorological Department (IMD) Deputy Director-General Anand Kumar Sharma on Monday said that the monsoon arrived in Kerala today and added that the coastal areas up to south Gujarat will witness rain till June 4.

"As for east a few days earlier that monsoon is going to hit Kerala on June 1. The same has come true. Monsoon onset over Kerala has been declared today by the IMD. It's

a good sign and it is raining," Sharma said. He said that the low-pressure system, which had formed earlier, has concentrated into a depression and will further concentrate into a deep depression and cyclone in the next 24 hours.

"As it moves northwards, along with coast, it will bring the moisture and rains to all the coastal areas up to south Gujarat and especially from June 2-4," Sharma said. "Especially on June 3-4, heavy

In mountainous regions, especially the Western Ghats and landslide-prone areas, there are possibilities of landslides as well

in very heavy rains and even extremely heavy rains at one or two places are possible in north Konkan, north Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, south Gujarat, Daman and Diu,

and Dadra Nagar and Haveli," he added. Sharma said that people in these areas will have to be extra careful in the coming days. "In low lying areas, where water can get accumulated, people will have to be extra careful. In mountainous regions, especially the Western Ghats and landslide-prone areas, there are possibilities of landslides as well. So, people have to be a little careful in these areas," Sharma said. **Agencies**

Brazil's COVID-19 cases surpass 5L amid protests

While hundreds gather in Rio de Janeiro to protest against anti-racism crimes committed by the police during pandemic; football fans demonstrate against President Jair Bolsonaro in Sao Paulo

BRASILIA: The number of confirmed novel Coronavirus cases in Brazil has surpassed 5,00,000, while the country's COVID-19 death toll stands at over 29,000, even as citizens protest in different parts of the city.

In the past 24 hours, Brazil reported 16,409 COVID-19 cases, taking the total to 5,14,849, the Health Ministry said on Sunday. Brazil's COVID-19 death toll increased by 408 in the past 24 hours and now stands at 29,341.

On Sunday, hundreds gathered on the square near the Rio de Janeiro state government palace to protest against the crimes committed by the police against black residents living in city's working-class neighbourhoods, known as favelas. Al Jazeera reported. Several also shouted slogans in solidarity with the anti-racism demonstrations in the US.



Football fans protest against anti-Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro with a banner reading 'We are for democracy' in Sao Paulo. (right) a woman shouts slogans during a protest against the killing of black people amid the pandemic in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Sunday. PIC/AP

"We are here today because we want to live. We are here today because we are tired of this genocidal state. We are here to say no more, no more!" Voice of America quoted activist Santiago as saying. On May

18, Federal Police broke into a house while allegedly pursuing drug traffickers, and shot dead a 14-year-old black boy.

Another protest was held in Sao Paulo where members of football fan groups protested against President Jair Bolsonaro. Groups supporting Bolsonaro had also emerged on Sunday and police used tear gas as the two groups neared a clash. The demonstration by football fans appeared to be the largest anti-Bolsonaro street march in

the country that has become an epicenter of the spreading COVID-19 pandemic.

Bolsonaro himself turned out to meet backers in the capital, Brasilia, mounted on a federal police horse, without a mask.

Meanwhile, the US has sent to Brazil over 2 million doses of hydroxychloroquine touted by President Donald Trump as a potential treatment against COVID-19, even though scientists have indicated worse outcomes from taking it. Agencies



'Will reconsider rejoining WHO if...'

The US will consider rejoining the World Health Organisation if it ends corruption and reliance on China, the White House said on Sunday, two days after Donald Trump ended US's relationship with the WHO and accused it of being hand in glove with China in sharing inaccurate information to the world about the pandemic. "... If the WHO reforms and ends the corruption and ends the reliance on China, the US will very seriously consider coming back," US NSA Robert O'Brien said.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, 94, who has been self-isolating at Windsor Castle in England during the COVID-19 lockdown, was seen riding a 14-year-old Fell Pony called Balmoral Fern in the sprawling grounds of her royal residence in Berkshire over the weekend. PIC/AP

5,14,992

Total no. of COVID-19 cases in Brazil

29,341

Total no. of COVID-19 deaths in Brazil

China registers 32 new cases

China has reported 32 new Coronavirus cases taking the total count to 83,017 infections, the health authority said on Monday. Wuhan has not reported any asymptomatic case but 320 are still under quarantine.



People attend a candlelight vigil in Hong Kong to mark the 32th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown in Beijing. PIC/AP

HK police ban Tiananmen vigil

HONG KONG: Police on Monday rejected an application for an annual candlelight vigil marking the anniversary this week of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. It would be the first time in 30 years that the candlelight vigil is not held in Hong Kong.

The vigil marks the deadly military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. The police, in a letter to organisers, said it would violate coronavirus physical distanc-

ing rules that ban gatherings of more than eight people.

Meanwhile, residents rushed to apply for passports that could allow them to move to the United Kingdom. Throngs of people lined up at DHL courier outlets across the city, many to send documents to the UK to apply for or renew what is known as a British National (Overseas) passport. People are worried about political and security issues in Hong Kong stemming from an upcoming national security law. Agencies

Floyd's death: US continues to burn

WASHINGTON: The US remained a tinderbox of anger and often a violent protests erupted for a sixth day across the country over the custodial killing of African-American George Floyd, resulting in the death of at least five people, the arrest of thousands and placing of curfew in nearly 40 cities, while forcing President Donald Trump to take shelter in a White House bunker.

Considered to be the worst ever civil unrest in the US in decades, the violent protests have engulfed at least 140 cities across America in the days following the death of Floyd, a 46-year-old man who was pinned to the ground in Minneapolis on Monday by a white cop who knelt on his neck as he gasped for breath.

Some of the protests have turned violent, prompting the activation of the National



Demonstrators start a fire at night near the White House in Washington. (right) a young boy takes part in a demonstration against the death of George Floyd, in Atlanta, on Sunday. PIC/AP/AP



Guard in at least 20 states. "At least five people were killed in violence that flared as demonstrations in parts of the country devolved into mayhem," The Washington Post reported.

Police have arrested at least 2,564 people in two dozen US cities over the weekend.

The unrest that initially began in Minneapolis but has now spread across the US, with reports of violence coming in from across major cities including Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Houston, Philadelphia and Washington DC. Agencies

'Extremist groups stoking violence'

US officials are seeking to determine whether extremist groups had infiltrated police brutality protests across the country and deliberately tipped largely peaceful demonstrations toward violence — and if foreign adversaries were behind a burgeoning disinformation campaign on social media. Federal law enforcement

officials insisted far-left groups were stoking violence. Meanwhile, experts who track extremist groups also reported seeing evidence of the far-right at work. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump has said the US will designate far-left extremist group Antifa as a terrorist body in view of its role in the recent violence.

140 No. of cities where a riot spread to

comment

THOUGHT
FOR THE DAY

I am mindful that the goal of protest is not more protest, but the goal of protest is change — DeWay McInness, activist

It is always possible to protest peacefully

The scale of riots over the death of George Floyd in the USA have shocked the world. While earlier, there was merit in the protesters' claims about racism and message that black lives matter, now, the riots seemed to have segued into something else altogether.

Currently, it is about mindless violence, and an opportunity to vandalise public property and loot stores. Somewhere within the mayhem and madness, George Floyd and the black

cause, the reminder that we still need to fight racism and discrimination in an unequal world, seem to have been lost altogether. Another factor, of course, is that this is coming in the backdrop of the COVID-19 threat and there is no social distancing or masks when these rioters congregate.

Transport this scenario to the country or the city, and you see how violence actually does nothing for the cause one aims to highlight. It actually details the reason for the

protest and puts the spotlight on the disruption. As the migrant problem festers in Mumbai, uncertainty and gloom make this a tinderbox. Officials, authorities, law enforcers and the public are on a short fuse.

We have seen potential problems when migrants are taking trains, but this was quelled by the police swiftly. Let us learn lessons that to make points to sell the world something, we must use peaceful methods, rather than run riot. The latter also

results in public losing sympathy for you and at times your cause. Lives are in disarray because of all the problems brought on by the wrong methods to capture eyeballs.

It may be ironic but there is great power in restraint and at times, relative silence speaks louder than words. As we stand poised on the brink of life-changing events and are threatened by the circumstances, we must understand the power of lawful protest.

A quiz you're guaranteed to fail

I.M.H.O



C Y Gopinath

On one of my early trips to the United States, perhaps in the late 1960s, I was flying from San Antonio to Chicago in a United Airlines plane, two seats on either side of the aisle. Next to me was a personable young white American, whose name told me he was clearly from the upper end of American society. Something William Shakespeare III, like a king.

At that time, it was a bit of a joke among many of us that most Americans were pleasantly surprised to discover that the world had many serious countries other than America, and with names like Madagascar, Entrea and Thailand. A twisted map called Reagan's World captured America's ignorance and ego together. India hung like a tiny appendix between three countries named Our Oil for the West, Goddess Commandita (to the north, comprising USSR) and Their China (different from Taiwan and Hong Kong, which was Our China).

When George W Bush heard that there was a city called Kathmandu in a little-known country called Nepal, his first words were, "Hey, they ripped that name off a Bob Seger song!" You can listen to it here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7b4t25>

So it was with some cockiness that I told my co-passenger what a pity it was that Americans generally knew so little about the world. I humbly confessed that I probably knew more about his country than he knew about mine.

He cheerfully agreed, "Americans think the world consists of America," he said. We both laughed.

"And you?" he asked me.

"And me what?" I said.

"Do you know how many countries there are in Africa?"

Ermmm... I didn't have a clue, Do you?

I suspect most of us don't know

Maybe you think you're well-travelled and worldly. I guarantee you won't get more than 3 out of these 12 questions right



A twisted world map called Reagan's World captured America's ignorance and ego together

I suspect an average Indian's map of the world might be every bit as interesting as Ronald Reagan's. We imagine our own countries are a little larger than they really are and countries we don't like much are smaller (except powerful countries like USA, Russia and China, which are all bigger)

much about other countries though we like to pretend a certain mastery of worldly trivia. In school, I knew already that Japan was the Land of the Rising Sun and Venice was the Queen of the Adriatic. By studying the names of the radio stations etched onto the tuning screen of our Murphy radio, I knew there were cities with exotic names like Lebon, Beazoville (capital of Congo), Tassanarive (today Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar) and Leopoldville (Kinshasa today). I could tell you that there were no performing animals in Piccadilly Circus, which was in England. And I knew there was a Suriname road.

I suspect an average Indian's map of the world might be every bit as interesting as Ronald Reagan's. We imagine our own countries are a little

larger than they really are and countries we don't like much are smaller (except powerful countries like USA, Russia and China, which are all bigger). The average Indian might tell you with a smug that though we're just one-third the size of the USA, we have four times their population.

But I still didn't know how many countries there were in Africa. I was not sure whether Kenya was in West Africa or Nigeria. I didn't know whether Egypt was a part of the Middle East or Africa.

Use the 12-question quiz below to test your own knowledge of the planet we live in. Each of them is a part question to which once I didn't know the answer myself. The answers are at the end.

1. Which of these Indian cities is at the

same latitude as Bangkok? A - Hyderabad; B - Chennai; C - Mumbai; D - Guwahati.

2. Which of these cities lies south of Mumbai in latitude? A - Kolkata; B - Bhopal; C - None of them; D - New Delhi.

3. Which has the largest land area of these four countries: India, China, Russia, Kazakhstan? A - Russia; B - India; C - Kazakhstan; D - India.

4. Is Egypt in Africa or Asia? A - Africa; B - Neither. It's in the Middle East; C - Asia; D - Both.

5. Which of these countries is furthest east, Egypt, Israel, or Turkey? A - Turkey; B - Israel; C - Egypt; D - Turkey and Egypt equally.

6. Which country other than India has two cities called Calcutta and Mumbai? A - United States; B - Suriname; C - Fiji; D - Bali.

7. Which Indian town does the equator pass through? A - Shajapur; B - Tirunelveli; C - No Indian city; D - Aravikkara.

8. Mongolia is the second-largest landlocked country in the world. Which is the first? A - Ethiopia; B - Chad; C - Kazakhstan; D - Canada.

9. Which is the first place in the world to experience the New Year? A - Hokkaido; B - Kiribati; C - Baker Island; D - Niuru.

10. Which border of Iran does Syria touch? A - Western; B - Southern; C - It does not touch Iran; D - Eastern.

11. Which of the following countries is South Korea closest to? A - Taiwan; B - Thailand; C - Japan; D - Hong Kong.

12. How many countries are there in Africa? A - 76; B - 74; C - 37; D - 54.

Answers

1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D, 5-C, 6-B, 7-C, 8-C, 9-B, 10-C, 11-C, 12-D.

Here, viewed from there, C Y Gopinath in Bangkok, throws unique light and shadows on Mumbai, the city that rises above. You can reach him at cypgop@gmail.com

Send your feedback to mailbag@mid-day.com

LETTERS

FIR should be filed against heartless son

Apropos 'Rlys comes to rescue of woman thrown out by son', was a heartbreaking read. The railway officers who acted as Good Samaritans and helped her by providing her food, water, money and shelter as well as arranged her ticket, should have also helped her to register an FIR against her heartless son. Nevertheless, the railways showed great sympathy at a time like this, which is commendable. Kudos to them. KATY MARFATIA

We will live to rue the injustice done to migrants

This refers to Ajaz Ashraf's 'The grapes of wrath'. The Great Indian Migration now being played out on the highways is reminiscent of the American migrants' journey to California. Be sure, our migrants will return, but only 'when their fear burns to wrath' and when they realise that only class action can lead to redemption. That's when we will be made to rue the injustice we heaped upon them. ROBERT CASTELLINO

Govt must now be prepared for complete unlocking

Apropos 'Citizens hold the key to 'unlocking' of Mumbai', very rightly stated Mr. Dharmendra Jore. The Maharashtra government seems to have taken a bold step by deciding to 'unlock' Mumbai gradually — markets, private offices, etc.. However, in the face of rising cases of COVID-19, the government must gear up to face up to the situation by taking over private hospitals and schools wherever necessary. MELVILLE X D'SOUZA

have your say!



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Dear Migrant Labourers And Daily Wage Earners.... The Country Stands with You!

The corona pandemic has brought many changes in the world. These tough times have made a massive impact on your livelihood. To help you recover, a package of **Rs. 1 lakh 1 thousand 5 hundred crore** has been allocated under MGNREGA.

- Daily wages under MGNREGA at national level has been **increased from Rs. 182 to Rs. 202.**
- Applicants can register on nrega.nic.in/netnrega/HomeGP.aspx or contact the local Gram Panchayat for employment opportunities.

Labourer brothers and sisters, do you know?

- Any needy person even without ration card has the right to avail food grains for two months. During each month, 5 kg wheat/rice per person and per family 1 kg chickpeas/pulses can be availed.
- Labourers get forced to move to their villages as they are unable to afford high rent in urban areas. Now, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) a scheme for 'Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' has been announced.

**Avail these benefits.
During these difficult times, the entire nation stands with you.**



“The crisis, the world is facing today teaches us that the way forward is - Aatmanirbhar Bharat (A self-reliant India)”

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



For more information, please visit - transformingindia.mygov.in/aatmanirbharbharatm



WAJID KHAN (1977-2020)

Wajid didn't get his due

Sonu Nigam remembers Khan, a talented music composer, friend and die-hard foodie

GUEST COLUMN



Sonu Nigam

I HAVE KNOWN Wajid for 29 years. When I first came to Mumbai, I would sit outside his studio while he would be inside working with his father. We bonded over our love for music and musical instruments. He used to joke, 'Sono bhai ka haath harmoniumpe dekhke maindil gaye' because I am quick with the keys.

Our first collaboration was in 1996 when we worked on the remix of Yeh kahan aa gaye hum (Susha, 1991). A few years later, T-Series requested me to cut an album. Bhushan Kumar sent me some songs composed by Sajid-Wajid, and that is how Deswaas was born. The album became a rage, and it has always been precious to the three of us.

I was undoubtedly their favourite singer as we collaborated on several songs. Last year, we worked on a romantic duet for

'[Weeks after his transplant] we sat on the terrace, sipping chal. He said, 'Kitna mazaa aa raha hai. I am stepping out after so long''

a movie that was eventually postponed. After that, Wajid suddenly fell ill. He had diabetes, and had to undergo a kidney transplant. I would often visit him. One day, he expressed a desire to go out as he had been indoors for long. So, I took him on a drive. Next time, I took him home and we sat on the terrace, sipping chal. He kept on saying, 'Bhujjan, kitna mazaa aa raha hai. I am stepping out after so long.'

We were like brothers. I would always visit their home during Ramadan. His mother would say, 'Some aa raha hai? Let me make halwa.'

He was a foodie and would often send me home-cooked khichdi. Not many know his (then-to-be) wife and he had abruptly called off their wedding days before the celebration. I played the mediator between them.

In the last few months, his condition worsened. I was in touch with him when he was in the hospital. It was heartbreaking to see that a person who loved music couldn't even speak as a tube was put down [his windpipe]. So, we used to chat over WhatsApp. I teased him on Eid, but he did not reply. Then his wife informed me that he had contracted COVID-19. In five days, he was gone...

He was immensely talented. Even when they made a masnavi song like Hui had had dhabba, it was classy. They did legendary work in such a short time. I would say he didn't get his due. Wajid was a sensitive soul who will be missed. Of the songs we worked on, Tumko na bhool payenge was my favourite. I will always remember him by that song.

As told to
Upala KRR



PICTURE: ADISHI



His love for Salman bhai was unconditional: Atul

THE ENTIRE Khan परिवार shared a strong bond with Sajid-Wajid. His love for our family, particularly Salman [Khan] bhai, was unconditional. Many of Bhai's hit tracks were composed by them. To me, he was a friend first, a colleague later. Whenever we had to create an important song on a short notice, we could only think of them. Wajid could get things done quickly, without compromising on the quality of the creations.

When I was making Hello (2008), we needed a special track for Bhai who was making a special appearance in the film. Asking Sajid-Wajid to compose the song was a no-brainer. The duo created it [Hello Hello] so quickly. One can't even begin to imagine what Sajid is going through now. Whenever Sajid was stuck in the middle of a tune, Wajid used to help him, and vice versa. It was a great collaboration.

One could never tell that Wajid had health concerns because he always had a smile,



Agony-ridden Radhe is Wajid's last project. (Top) Khan with Sajid-Wajid

he went through all his sufferings with a smile. He recently had a kidney transplant and was recovering. I expect not missing him just the surgery, but who would have thought this would happen?

He was also diabetic and his immune system had weakened. [Towards the end] he contracted COVID-19. It is tragic that he is gone at 42. To us, he is irreplaceable.



Atul Kohshi

As told to Uma Ramasubramanian

Industry remembers the music maestro PJ4

See you in Europe

With a chunk of Four More Shots Please 3 set in Europe, director Tannishtha says team to wait out pandemic to shoot in continent



UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN
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WHILE the entertainment industry gears up to resume shoots in Maharashtra following the state government's greenlight, international shoots remain a distant dream. However, that has hardly deterred actor-director Tannishtha Chatterjee who has envisioned the third season of Four More Shots Please! in Europe.

Stating that the script was developed well before the pandemic hit the world, she says, "We had planned to shoot a chunk of Four More Shots Please in Europe, particularly Italy. As of now, we are sticking [to the destination] and not changing the script. We will see how it plays out in the next few months. Some people say the pandemic

Chatterjee takes the directorial baton from Nupur Asthana who had helmed the second season

will abate, others say there will be a second wave. How do you plan in such uncertainty? If we need to change things drastically, we will do it."

The second season of the NRTI Kulkarni, Sayani Gupta, Maamni Gargoo and Bani J-fronted series received praise and criticism in equal measure. As Chatterjee takes the directorial baton, she claims backlash comes with the territory. "There is constant judgment when it comes to such shows. There will be conservative backlash, and I am ready for it."



Cast from Four More Shots Please

television/web

BACK BY DEMAND

Amid the lockdown, a channel is bringing back their iconic shows — Om Namah Shivay, Na Aana Is Des Laado, Uttaran — after much deliberation. The makers hope to keep viewers entertained, as they head back to schools

'Found my acting silly at few instances'

As the long-delayed *What are the Odds* drops online, Yashaswini Dayama reflects on her first lead role and how her craft has evolved



A still from the film

LETTY MARIAM ABRAHAM
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OFF camera, Yashaswini Dayama comes across as a goofball. But once the camera rolls, she can slip into dramatically different roles effortlessly. After being part of several prestigious projects, the actor is seen in Netflix's latest offering. *What are the Odds?* Like any newbie, Dayama says she was nervous about playing the protagonist. "I was overwhelmed and exhausted," admits the actor, as she discusses her first lead role, shouldering the responsibility and more.

Edited excerpts from the interview.

What are the Odds was made in [2019], but dropped online only now. What happened in the interim?

This was my third project, right after *Phobis* (2017) and *Dear Zindagi* (2014). I did the film because it was a golden opportunity to be the protagonist despite being relatively new in the field. The film travelled to festivals, but then there was talk of re-editing it to convert it into a series. Since the story is divided as chapters, it would have been easy to make it episodic. There was some amount of re-writing done, but eventually, they [the production house] realised that the film was great and should be released as is.

'The script [of *What are the Odds?*] didn't feel clichéd. Even if it was, there is always some truth to a cliché'

How did you bag this role?

Director Megha [Ramaswamy] found me on YouTube where I had posted a skit-like rendition of a popular song. When she narrated the film about two kids who skip school and spend a day together, I was blown away. I didn't think anybody in India would make something like this.

How does it feel to be the star of the film alongside Abhay Deol?

I have always been recognised for the work I have done, even for the small role in *Made in Heaven*. The series featured so many amazing performers, yet I was remembered. That was an achievement. I was shooting for *What are the Odds*, my first feature film as a lead, at the same time as I was working with Zoya Akhtar and Vinay Patilak. That was a magical time.

Considering you've grown as an artiste in the three years since the film was made, how do you reflect on your performance?

During my first viewing, I felt [my performance] was silly at several instances. The way I cried in the climax bothered me; I could see that I was trying hard to shed tears. Thinking it would look authentic, but now, when I look back at it, I can't accept it. The film came my way fairly early on in my career. Post that, I have worked with so many different filmmakers and actors, and have evolved so much. My understanding of the craft has also changed. That said, I am quite proud of what I have accomplished.

Did you feel there were too many clichés in the film?

When I read the script, I completely accepted the [schizoid] universe. Everything was so beautifully odd, like the sequence of me running into a bird mob. Even when [airy tales] are adapted to current times, like what they did with *A Cinderella Story*, they have magic and fantasy. You can't question it all the time. The script didn't feel clichéd. And even if it was, there is always some truth to a cliché.



'My character felt one-dimensional initially'

Praised for her journalist act in *Paatal Lok*, Niharika on lending gravitas to her role in a male-driven narrative

MOHAR BASU

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WHEAT happens to a rank outsider who dabbles in theatre for a living and doesn't have a *Godfather* in the industry? In 2020, when OTT platforms have democratised the game, you land a prominent role in a temple series. Niharika Lyta Dutt, who played the no-nonsense journalist Sara in *Paatal Lok*, shows in the episodes, standing tall in a world of morally corrupt men. "It's a gutsy story told with great precision. I played her with conviction because I align with her ideologically. Sidip Sharma [creator] wanted her to be the antithesis to Sanjeev Mehra — she mirrors what he probably was when he was younger, but his idealism has eroded over the years. She keeps poking her nose into things and feels the need to be on the right side of the moral spectrum," says Dutt.

Sara is, in fact, one of the few characters whose name and personality remain largely unchanged

from the thriller's original source material, *The Story of my Assassins*. "Initially, I didn't know about the book. When I found out, I asked Sidip if I should read it. He advised against it because the adaptation was differently built."

A pointed criticism against the show is that its female characters aren't as fleshed out as its male counterparts. Did she find it problematic? "I found Sara one-dimensional in the first four episodes. But when I read it in totality, it worked for me. This show is set in a man's world where the women are trying to create a space for themselves. I liked Dolly's character who is married to a man who is stifling her. I wanted more of Chermi too. In the story about how people become criminals, the women still shine. In the scene where Renu [Gul Panag] slaps Mathram [Ajay Devgn] the

show she puts him in his place. In this season, it would have been difficult to bring in the women's stories. We needed to be loyal to the larger narrative."



SLAMBOOK

AMIT TANDON

One superpower you wish to possess?
The power to be invisible when I choose to be.

Your celebrity crush?
Jennifer Lopez, Salma Hayek and Disha Patani.

The last nightmare you had?
That the clown from the film *IT* (2017) was trying to attack me.

One secret about you?
I cry at the drop of a hat.

Your worst project?
It was a singing event where gifts were tied in the air for not meeting people's special requests.



Wajid played the guitar from the heart: David Dhawan

ON Monday, at about 2 am, my son Varun [Dhawan] knocked on our bedroom door to inform my wife about Wajid. I couldn't sleep the whole night after that. I was close to Wajid and I cannot describe how I am feeling today. We have done five films together — Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, Partner, Chashme Baddoor, Main Tera Hero and Judwa 2. All these box-office hits and the songs, chartbusters. You wanna partner, the title song in Partner and Besharmi ki height, Pata toh dhyon kida in Main Tera Hero are my favourites. I would narrate my concept, explain it to him and he would compose songs [that met my expectations]. My last five films have been composed by the brothers.

Wajid was like a child for me. My relationship with him was indescribable. He would come home, jam with us, and have dinner with the family. Salman [Khan], who was instrumental in giving them a break in Bollywood, Sajid-Wajid and I did lot of work together. All the best songs of Salman and Varun are [composed] by him. He loved Varun and gave him such great songs in Main Tera Hero and Judwa 2, which was difficult to compose.

Wajid was like family to us. He was a musician who played the guitar from the heart. I was dis-



cussing Wajid's music with Salman, who was shattered [on hearing the news], yesterday. Sadly, none of us could go to the funeral. We can mourn only from home. We were in touch when he

was unwell because of his kidney transplant and I didn't want to disturb him. He told me that he would step out as soon as he could and see me in my office, but he was hospitalised due

to the recent virus. He didn't smoke, drink, nor did he have any vices. He passed away too young.

As told to Upma KBR

Wajid had tested positive, says brother Sajid

IN a jolt to Bollywood, music composer Wajid Khan, of Sajid-Wajid fame, passed away at a hospital in Mumbai. The music composer was laid to rest at the Vesuva cemetery with close friends and family members in attendance.

Wajid, 42, one half of the composer duo Sajid-Wajid, died in the wee hours of Monday due to Coronavirus, he also had underlying kidney issues. "He died of a cardiac arrest," Sajid informed while confirming that the composer had tested positive. "He was buried around 2 pm. Because of the lockdown, only 20 people were allowed for the funeral. There was police security and barricades in place. Only close family, including brother Sajid and friends from the industry were present," said a source.

Sajid-Wajid made their Bollywood debut with Salman Khan's Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya (1998) and went on to work on the actor's various films including Gory, Tere Naam, Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, Partner, Veer and the popular



Brother Sajid at Wajid's funeral
PIC/YOGEN BHAI

Dabangg franchise. Wajid also did playback for Salman in chartbusters like Mera Hi Jaisa, Fevinoid se and for Akshay Kumar in Chhota Chhota Chhota Chhota from the film Rowdy Rathore, among others. He recently co-composed Khan's songs Pyaar Karma and Bhai Bhai, which the actor released on his YouTube channel.

Agencies

We were like brothers: Salim Merchant



WE knew that he was not well for the past few days, but the situation hadn't reached the stage for him to pass away. Yes, he was critical but still better. He had issues of diabetes and kidney malfunction. Fortunately, Sajid's wife Lubna donated a kidney to him seven months ago. He was on the road to recovery after that, but I believe post Dabangg 3, his health started deteriorating due to exertion. Once the complications began, it never left him. We were constantly in touch, but he would often say, 'Mata theek ho, koi problem nahin hai'.

I spoke to him over a month ago.

He told me he was home, suffering from a kidney infection. He assured me it was under control. Post that, he got a throat infection, which started affecting his voice. He was on a ventilator for the last three days.

"We were close as brothers. Friends and we have also worked together for a film, Sharada (2002). I remember [the time] he had come to my studio to hear the song, Yeh horisa from Dur (2006). He had tears in his eyes as he hugged me. He was an emotional person.

As told to Uma Ramasubramanian

Fraternity mourns Wajid's demise

Several celebrities took to social media platforms to express their grief and offer condolences to the bereaved family



Amitabh Bachchan: Shocked at the passing of Wajid Khan. A bright smiling talent passes away. Dears, prayers and in condolence.



Salman Khan: Wajid, will always love, respect, remember and miss you as a person and your talent. May your beautiful soul rest in peace.



Priyanka Chopra Jonas: Terrible news. The one thing I will always remember in Wajid bhai's laugh. Always smiling. Gone too soon. My condolences to his family and everyone who loved him. Rest in peace my friend. You are in my thoughts and prayers.



Anil Kapoor: Wajid Khan will be missed deeply but he will live on through his music and the lives he touched with it. My heartfelt condolences to the family.



Vishal Dadlani: Both Sajid and Wajid have been my close and true friends. The kind who might see the light on and show up at our studio in the middle of the night just to meet and talk and share a laugh. Can't believe Wajid and I will never speak again.

His musical contributions

- Teri Jawani Hodi Mast Mast - Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya (1998)
- Lagan Lagi - Tere Naam (2003)
- Laal Dupatta - Mujhse Shaadi Karogi (2004)
- You're My Love - Partner (2007)
- Jabra - Wanted (2009)
- Surili Aakhion Wale - Veer (2010)
- Mashallah - Ek Tha Tiger (2012)
- Chhota to Chhota Chhota - Rowdy Rathore (2013)
- Hum Hain Dabangg - Dabangg and Dabangg 3 (2010, 2019)
- Mashallah - Ek Tha Tiger (2012)

have you heard?

UNLEASHING
TERROR

Writer-director Patrick Graham is working on the second outing of his horror web series, Ghoul. He has chalked out a 'solid season' of the Radhika Apte-starrer

Comfort zone

Kareena Kapoor Khan continues living a kaftan life. Looks like Bebo has a huge collection of the comfy and cosy home wear. She shared another picture on Insta as part of her kaftan series. "Did you ask for another picture? No. Did I still put it up? Yes. Thank me later," she wrote. She has even made bestie Nalaja Arora trade in her gym wear for the long, loose and flowing dress. If Bebo ever wrote a book, its title would probably be The Kaftan Life.



Back on the set

Among the films that are expected to begin shooting next month is the **Ahishbek Bachchan**-starrer *The Big Bull*. The makers intend to take all the necessary precautions. "We are considering a location where the entire crew will be stationed during the shoot rather than go back home every day," said producer Anand Pandit. Last year, the unit had shot in Delhi. "We have to finish the last bits," adds Pandit. Directed by Kokiela Galani, the film is based on the securities' scam of the '90s.



Maddy at 50

On Monday, **R Madhavan** clocked 50. Given the current situation, there was no celebration to mark the landmark year. Maddy still leaves his legion of female fans swooning despite the salt-and-pepper hair. Remember his post-shower selfie that broke the internet? **Buddy Shilpa Shetty Kundra** extended birthday greetings by thanking him for teaching her the latest in technology, hydroponics and parenting skills. Madhavan makes a new beginning this year as director of the multilingual Rocketry: The Nambi Effect.

Love, longing and acting

After rendering chartbusters *Tuhe kitna chahne lage* from Kabir Singh (2019) and *Tum hi sansa* from *Marjaavaan* (2019), **Jubin Nautiyal** is back with a new song, *Meri aashiqui*. He has not only rendered the track but also features in the music video. "Although I have been seen in the videos of my songs earlier, this one challenged me as an actor

too," says the singer. The romantic track is composed by Rohak Kohli and written by Rashmi Virag. The video, directed by Ashish Panda, was shot in the mountainous terrain of Dawki, Meghalaya. Panda says that Nautiyal was stubborn about getting the scenes right even after the shoot was done. It also features *Hate Story 4* (2016) actor Ithana Dhillon.



Hear me out

Siddhant Chaturvedi is all set to release his debut single this week. MC Sher of *Gully Boy* (2019) decided to turn singer due to the free time on hand during the lockdown. While mulling over the various options, he felt music was the best bet. He could release the track online and connect with fans. From being a rapper on screen to a real-life singer, his journey has just begun.



The scent of a cause

After launching her line of face masks, **Maskaba**, proceeds from which will go to charity, **Manaba Gupta** has now launched a line of fragrances, *Manaba* by Nykaa. The socially-conscious designer has ensured that proceeds from its sales go towards providing migrant workers with basic amenities and care packages. Gupta has co-created the line with the beauty brand. It's her latest addition to the lipsticks and nail enamel collection, which was launched last year.

Rani salutes Mumbai police personnel

After playing a fearless cop in the *Mardaan* franchise, **Rani Mukerji** is now leading the efforts of the Mumbai police in a motivational music video, *Rakh te hausa*. Written and directed by Pravin Talan, it releases on June 4. Mukerji was roped in by the Mumbai Police Foundation for the initiative urging people to remain calm amid the pandemic. The track has been composed by Nigga Khosand and

rendered by Swarni Nigam. "As the world battles the virus, the frontline workers, including the medical personnel and the police force, are out there risking their lives to keep us safe. Their bravery, sacrifice and service will be remembered for years," the actor stated. She also extended a heartfelt thanks to the families of the cops for their support.



Looking back at fun times

In her lockdown throwback series, **Kaaveena Tandon Thadani** posted a picture with *Keeram* (1996) co-star **Sonal Bendre Behl**. She recalled the fun they had while shooting for the O mere chhalla track on the waterfront amidst a rocky terrain. She termed

the dance moves 'a cardio workout'. Sameer Malkan's film, starring Akshay Kumar and Saeed Ali Khan, had the two in their swimming trunks diving for cover during the song. We wonder what Akki Saeed think of their performance now?





HOT PICK: Vintage '80s grey knit-pleated skirt **SIZE:** 32-inch fit on the waist **COST:** ₹1490 (including shipping) **LOG ON TO:** @damuwintage on Instagram

DALREEN RAMOS
dalreen.conos@mid-day.com

FOR the first time ever, retail giant Walmart will offer more than 750,000 items of used clothing on its website via a partnership with ThreadUP, the world's largest online thrift store. The resale market is expected to hit \$51 billion by 2023 according to research by ThreadUP and GlobalData Retail. Last week, a Chinese publication reported that millennials in the country were starting to embrace thrifting, owing to the economic downturn.

As mid-day reported last October, Instagram (IG) was a booming marketplace for Indians running online thrift stores and this boom is growing — even during the pandemic. “I started my venture in June last year when there were barely any Indian stores. Now there’s a new one every second day. It’s great because we’re

not mailing second-hand clothing,” says Mica Rosal, resident Pearl D’Souza, 26, resumed contact-less delivery last week as restrictions on non-essential deliveries were eased. “I still have pending orders. So many followers have reached out to support asking if they could purchase gift cards,” she says.



The challenges during the pandemic are primarily logistical. Owners are reliant on vendors, who won't be opening shops immediately. Another issue is delivery since these IG stores have a customer base spread across metro cities and the North East. Bandra resident Bites Dins, 24, of Copper Boom Vintage and Thrift, says she



Preeti Yadav



Pearl D'Souza



Aftab Siddiqui



Elen Dias



WATCH OUT: Vintage white blouse expected to drop this week **SIZE:** Small **COST:** ₹1300 **LOG ON TO:** @minirawarofficial on Instagram



Sulakshana Suryanarayana and Mohana Kannan

ANYONE who has ever tried to write even a couple of scenes of a movie or a play knows it's no child's play. And that is why Chennai-based Sam Kumar, who has trained in the art from Syd Field, considered the godfather of modern script-writing, has designed an online script-writing workshop. The three-week course will be di-

vided into eight classes, which can be customised according to the need of the participants. They will learn how to develop story ideas, refine the same, draft it in a professional format and create a great pitch for the script to be accepted,” says Kumar, who is the founder and director of Mirage Film Institute in Chennai.



Sam Kumar

The topics that the course, which will be conducted over Skype calls, will cover include learning about film genres and their creative scopes, ideating and tailoring the idea to fit your budget, structuring the narrative, building the plot and sub-plots, meaningful dialogue writing, formatting the script on a professional software,

among other things. When asked if someone needs to have pre-existing ideas or skills for the course, Kumar says, “You need nothing more than an interest in script-writing.”

FROM June 4 **LOG ON TO** www.miragefilm.com **CALL:** 9952039004 **COST:** 18,000. 15,000 for students with valid ID

Sukanya Daota

Second thoughts

Thrifting in the US and China has taken a positive turn. We look at how Indian Instagram thrift stores are coping with the lockdown and what the future holds for pre-loved fashion



HOT PICK: Pink blazer **SIZE:** Medium **COST:** ₹950 **LOG ON TO:** @thesalvagestory on Instagram

WIFE PICK: Striped blue top with cut detailing from Bossini **SIZE:** Extra small but fits small **COST:** ₹399 **LOG ON TO:** @thriftbosana on Instagram



“People are reflecting on their consumerist habits and cleaning their closets.” Pearl D'Souza



HOT PICK: Yves Saint Laurent envelope wallet **COST:** ₹2990 **LOG ON TO:** @thrifty_drips on Instagram

Script your story

A three-week online workshop will guide you on ideating, writing and formatting your own movie script



From Notting Hill to SoBo

A patisserie chef due to open a cloud dessert kitchen later this year has been dishing out goodies from home for COVID-19 relief instead

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A MARKETING and events management professional, Colaba resident Nishe Mubarak was looking to start a dessert cloud kitchen around July-August this year. Then, the coronavirus crisis rocked the world, and it put all the Gordon Rees graduate's plans on hold. "I was supposed to be on a consulting assignment for a restaurant and that didn't happen," she says. Meanwhile, Mubarak was monitoring the migrant crises brewing in the country, and felt the need to lend a helping hand. She started baking from her home kitchen in mid-May and began to post about it on social media. "I wanted to help in whatever way I could without compromising my safety and felt that starting early would be a good idea," Mubarak adds.

Called The Notting Hill Bakery, all the proceeds from the

first week of sales were donated to Quarancharity, a fundraiser for COVID-19. "For the next couple of weeks, I will donate the proceeds to my driver's family. He passed away due to COVID," she says, adding that in the weeks after, a percentage of her profits will continue to fund relief efforts. Mubarak offers indulgent desserts like stuffed brioche doughnuts, cracked pies, flourless chocolate cake, cookies and chocolate babka (the popular Jewish braided bread). She has catered to over 70 orders in the past two weeks and baked nearly 300 desserts. The name of her baking venture is inspired from her upbringing in London's Notting Hill. In an attempt to bring a piece of the colourful neighbourhood to Mumbai. "Most of the places I worked in after culinary school in London would do French pastry. I didn't want to restrict myself to just that," she confesses, adding, "I wanted my desserts to have a London or New York-style vibe."

With no website or delivery partners so far, Mubarak's was an impulsive decision fuelled by Instagram shares. She fulfils deliveries through local courier service WeFast for now. While the response she has received so far, has been overwhelming, Mubarak believes, it is a product of the times. "It may not have taken off this way if not for the pandemic. Right now, everyone wants cake," she says. She plans to keep the oper-



Dark chocolate babka



Glazed doughnuts



Brioche doughnut



Dark chocolate chip cookie

ations small and continue with this approach for the coming months. The only hitch is the availability of baking ingredients. "The market in Colaba is shut, and I've had a hard time procuring even basics like eggs. Either I get delivered none or suddenly have 200 coming at once from different suppliers,"

she says.

Sticking to a limited menu for now, Mubarak will look at expanding it once a commercial kitchen set-up is in place.

LOG ON TO
@thenottinghillbakery on Instagram
COST ₹500 onwards

'For the next two weeks, I will donate the proceeds to my driver's family' *Sour Mubarak*



Set your goals

Sign up for a FIFA tournament being organised in the league format for the first time in India

SHUNASHIR SEN
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IT'S that time of the year when football leagues across the world reach their business end. The top teams battle it out for the champion's trophy and the bottom few fight tooth and nail to survive. But that equation has, of course, gone haywire this year. Most leagues have been indefinitely stalled while the few that have been restarted — like

the German Bundesliga — have matches being played in empty stadiums, which make for surreal viewing. Fans have their hands tied, but the good news is that they can recreate the feel of being part of a football league in the virtual world, thanks to an online FIFA league that is being organised in India for the very first time.

Shreyas Sanghvi, co-founder of Es Magico Sports that is hosting the event along with Connectn Sports, tells us that the matches will also be live-streamed on YouTube. The tournament is called Pro League India and Sanghvi says, "We basically launched it as a platform to give gamers an organised format. There are a lot of standalone tournaments that take place, but we wanted to give people a season-long format so that they can prove their mettle against the best in the country."

He adds that the first season is already underway, but

qualifier positions are still up for grabs. The idea is to have the top 20 players in the country battle it out for supremacy. Sanghvi says that the number might be reduced to 12, depending on the logistics. An interested participant has to sign up for the league and the top four players will later play the final rounds in July and August. That's usually when the new season of actual football leagues also starts on the ground, though things are still up in the air as far as this year is concerned. Will the whistle blow two months down the line? We will have to wait to find out about that one.

LOG ON TO [infinite.in](#)



NEW MUSIC TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK

It's rhyme to speak up

A hip-hop track points fingers at the way the authorities are handling the pandemic

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THE beats behind hip-hop music is to call a spade a spade. The intent is to shine a light on the injustices that we take for granted and hang the people responsible for them out to dry. It's what city-based rap crew Swades have done with their new single, Mahamaari.

The track does the job of a good journalist, questioning the authorities about their sketchy response to the global pandemic. No words are minced. No punches are pulled. Instead, the musicians take poshota at the powers that be with lines

like, "Cases toh millions se pahle/ Hiss khud pe wahi/ Insaan ko thokh bura uska gunhgaar."

Aklesh Sutar aka MC Mizwal, who conceived the track, tells us, "I was confined in the first month of the crisis, but then I realised that all we can do right now is do our best to save our fellow human beings." It's a noble thought, and his mood opened towards that end involved writing this song because, well, music heals. So what if it is not the vaccine we are all waiting for desperately?

LOG ON TO Swades Movement on YouTube



Saurabh Abhyankar, Dharmesh Parar, Yash M Mahida, Tuskar Adhav and Aklesh Sutar

Stuck in a loop

An indie singer launches a song about how we are all in a limbo right now

THE GUIDE TEAM
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SOMETHING'S got to give? That's a line from Maslovka Manoj aka Maf's new single, Age of Limbo, which talks about the sort of stasis we are all experiencing right now. The track almost has a sense of foreboding to it, without actually ringing any alarm bells. It instead welcomes the listener to the new normal, or the

new abnormal, whichever way you look at it. It welcomes people to a "no man's paradise."

This paradise consists of a world filled with empty streets and vacant playgrounds. The video for the track comprises images from locked-down cities across the world. It shows how the pandemic has been an equaliser of sorts, where even a bustling city like London is as deserted as the Koin of Kutch. We will remember this time till the end of our days. But where will it take us? Your guess is as good as hers. That's what the musician is trying to say. Something's got to give, after all.

LOG ON TO MafManojMusic on YouTube

THE video for the track, Age of Limbo, comprises images from locked-down cities across the world. It shows how the pandemic can be an equaliser of sorts



The workshop will cater to children from three age groups and will be divided into five themes

Living in the moment

A 10-day theatre workshop will use improv games to help sharpen your child's reflex thinking and collaboration skills

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THERE are no wrong answers in improv. It's all about playing along, feels New Delhi-based theatre practitioner Valsali Chakravarty. Her arts-based learning initiative Joy of Drama will launch a new online workshop called InstaDrama on June 15. Much like its name, the 10-day sessions will be about instant drama — surrendering to the moment, thinking on your feet and collaborating with your team and the audience — skills that have become key to surviving the world in the long run.

Why improv, we ask Chakravarty, who has been working with children and theatre for more than six years. "Improv is an inherent part of any activity you undertake with children because they are constantly in the moment. Since you can't fall at improv, children learn to say a yes

to all kinds of situations. That is an attitude that we have been developing among kids we work with for a long time," she adds.

The classes, which will be conducted via video calls, will be divided into five themes. Each batch, consisting of seven children, will be formed depending on the age group — six to nine years, 10 to 13 years and 14 to 16 years. "For each batch, there will be five themes that will be picked keeping in mind the age group. For example, for the youngest batch, one of the themes will be pirates. We'll improvise on elements related to pirates. So, on the first day, we will play games related to things one can associate with pirates — gold, ship, sea, sword-fighting, etc. On the second day, the children will individually build their own narratives related to the theme, based on suggestions and situations thrown at them by the teacher," Chakravarty explains, add-



The aim is to get children to not react, but respond thoughtfully to the games and to life' Valsali Chakravarty

ing that all stories will then be put together to create a narrative.

A range of games and activities will act like seeds to plant ideas in the minds of the participants. "We'll modify the games depending on the theme. These include scavenger hunt, which will involve the children finding things around them related to the theme; personification that will require them to think like a thing or a person; word association games; solving riddles; and quiz, among others," shares the theatre artist. There will be a couple of free sessions that will be open to all to gauge what they are signing up for, she adds.

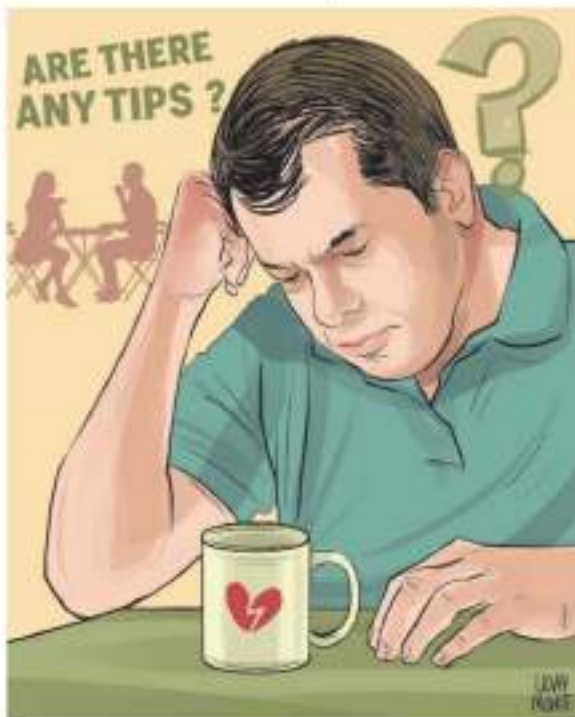
At the end of the day, the sessions are about learning life skills, believes Chakravarty, which is part of the organisation's Awesome Summers workshops. "The whole point is to enable the children to dabble with ideas and engross themselves in the theme. This helps to sharpen their reflex thinking and presence of mind. We want children not to react, but to respond to the games and to life. The responses have to not only be quick, but also well thought out," she signs off.

FROM June 15
LOG ON TO joyofdrama.com
COST: ₹3,500 for members and ₹4,500 for others



Each participant will build their own narrative on the spot based on a theme

Want a serious relationship now...



DR. LOVE

My dates never go on after the second or third meeting, and I can't seem to figure out why. I don't know if I am doing something wrong, or if I am just picking people who are finicky and have different expectations, but it is maddening because I want at least one of them to turn into a serious relationship. I don't want to go on endless dates with people who don't want to take this to the next level. Are there any tips I could use on making this happen?

There are no one-size-fits-all tips to anything, because each of us is unique and comes with a different set of likes, dislikes, and expectations from a relationship or even a date. There may be nothing wrong with how you conduct yourself on these dates, nor may there be anything wrong with the people you choose to go out with. I suggest you simply continue doing

what you do, try and become more comfortable in your skin and accept who you are. The more people you meet, the easier it will be for you to get along with all kinds of people, because it takes time and effort to perfect the art of conversation. Try and acknowledge that it sometimes takes a while to find someone who is compatible with you. I hope you will also come to realize, when this eventually happens, that it was worth the wait.

A lot of my friends are getting married, and some of them have begun to make fun of me because I have shown no inclination towards getting into a steady relationship. I don't have a problem with this because it makes me happy and I don't want to settle down. At the same time, I am also afraid that my being single will ruin my friendships. How do I prevent this from happening?

If friendships end simply because you share a different set of beliefs, are they friendships worth saving?

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

WORDSEARCH STORM

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.

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

Blizzard, Bush, Cuckoo, Cyclone, Dust, Dust devil, Electrical, Fire, Gale, Hall, Hurricane, Ice, Monsoon, Rain, Sand, Snow, Squall, Tempest, Thunder, Tornado, Typhoon, Whirlwind

MEDIUM SUDOKU

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

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

14	7	17			9		9	25
			14		10			
7	9		12		8	11		
		13		5		12	3	
7		4	12		7			10
16			14	21		10		
14						18	6	
17	7		12		10		10	
		10					8	

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
Today promises to be a fruitful day for you. However, you are likely to feel somewhat moody, and may long for some solitude.

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



CANCER
Your heart will rule over your head today, and out of compassion you shall do your best to help the underprivileged.



LEO
In your job, you shall get more chances to prove your worth and make rapid progress. Make the best out of this!



TAURUS
A stressful day at work is on the cards. However, you shall spend the evening in the company of your beloved.



CAPRICORN
You shall be inspired by your role model to perform best. In order to avoid hurting your career prospects, avoid arguments.



LIBRA
Be cautious in starting any new business venture or deal. You may have to face the criticisms of your superiors.



SCORPIO
Social life will be the top priority for you. You shall spend the entire day planning a get together with your near and dear ones.



SAGITTARIUS
The cut-throat competition of the environment in which you are working is likely to take a heavy toll on you today.



VIRGO
You shall spend a major part of the day in pursuing illusions created by your mind. You may also suffer from unwarranted anxiety.



GEMINI
Worldly affairs shall bother you the least, as you totally immerse yourself in pursuing your passions.



AQUARIUS
It is time to rejuvenate yourself and gain solace by engaging yourself in spirituality. All this will help you live a better tomorrow.



PISCES
You shall be able to establish a good rapport with important and powerful people, and achieve success.

CLASSIC CROSSWORD 30093



ACROSS

- 1 Small boy; bloke
- 5 An agreement
- 9 Set of the Data Unit
- 12 Alpaca goat
- 13 Mamma mia
- 14 British naval sailor
- 15 Singer Armas
- 16 Piece of luggage
- 18 Baker's need
- 20 Good man of myth
- 21 ___ a chance, dawg!
- 24 Soprano character of Pagliacci
- 27 Footpath
- 31 Family member
- 32 Sudden attack
- 33 An old, infertile, or worthless horse
- 34 Plata
- 35 S. American country
- 36 Proud
- 38 Sound like a hoise?
- 41 News or meet like ambitions
- 42 Place; steal
- 44 Beech/hoary stone
- 46 Capital of Arunachal Pradesh
- 52 Despatched -- "nest" anagrams?
- 53 Family
- 54 Drama
- 55 Innocent order
- 56 Tolkien's fire-like creature
- 57 Add Long ___ days of long ago?
- 58 Fruit of blackthorn

OR STANDING

- 9 ___ for; replaces some one? (6,2)
- 10 Karl Marx's ___ Capital
- 11 Abstract noun suffix
- 17 Hit
- 19 Male cat
- 22 Prose for wine
- 23 Rogue or scoundrel
- 25 Platter
- 26 Wimbledon winner in 1975
- 27 Much respected Bollywood villain
- 28 Swiss river -- change of "area"?
- 29 Watchful
- 30 Work-away exclamation
- 34 Rehears, obtains or huffs
- 37 Direct to home, abbe
- 39 Strong drink
- 40 Files, stacks or loads
- 43 Unrightly
- 45 Concealing headpiece
- 46 Word form for "withn"
- 47 Eyelid inflammation
- 48 The late president Eisenhower's nickname
- 49 Metal for a container
- 50 Famous Hindi movie of steps gone by -- "An a" anagram?
- 51 Bred or gista or vbsky?

Scribble pad

DOWN

- 1 Football club in Manchester
- 2 Double road
- 3 ___ Lynn, the blues singer?
- 4 Used to be able
- 5 Step in ballet
- 6 Atomic mass unit
- 7 Hands
- 8 Person of great intelligence, strength

THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE - JOHN HAMBROCK



CALVIN & HOBBS - BILL WATTERSON



ZITS - Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS - Sandra Bell-Lundy



TEASER

This is a test to gauge your mental flexibility, creativity and cunning. Good Luck!

(Example: 36 O in a P
Answer: 36 Ounces in a Pound)

4 C A in B
(Hint: Organic chemistry)

SOLUTIONS

WORDSEARCH



MEDIUM SUDOKU

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

FIENDISH SUDOKU

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

CLASSIC CROSSWORD

COVE	PACT	DOU
IBEX	AMOT	TAR
TORI	QUITCASE	
YEAST	HAUN	
	LOOK	NEODA
PAVEMENT		SIS
RAID	NAG	DISH
ARG	EVIDENCE	
NEIGH	OFFER	
	LIEU	HIVES
JEANAGAR	SENT	
KIN	PLAY	TIDY
SENT	SYNE	GLOBE

TEASER

4 Carbon Atoms in Butane (or 4 Carbon Atoms in Butane)



Smith wants balance between bat and ball

NEW DELHI: Prolific Australia batsman Steve Smith believes not being able to put saliva to shine the ball will be an added disadvantage for the bowlers once cricket resumes after the COVID-19 hiatus. Smith on Monday said he likes to have an even contest between the bat and ball and not being able to apply saliva will change that equation. "It is going to be interesting as probably there are still some more changes coming in. If you can't put saliva on the ball to shine it up, I think it is an added disadvantage for the bowlers in a way," Smith said during an interaction on Sony Ten Pro Stop show on their Facebook page.

PTI

'Need an alternative to saliva'

Ace Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah says new ICC rule will make it tougher for bowlers to operate post-COVID-19

INDIAN pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is of the view that the International Cricket Council (ICC) must come with an alternative to saliva for bowlers as a means to shine the ball, once cricket resumes amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In the post-COVID-19 era, cricket will see a number of changes amongst which one would be the ban on usage of saliva to shine the ball in order to avoid the possible transmission of novel Coronavirus.

Speaking to Ian Bishop and Shaun Pollock on the ICC's video series Inside Out interviews, Bumrah said he is not troubled by the guidelines for celebrations during a cricket match.

"I was not much of a hugger anyway! And not a high-five person as well, so that doesn't trouble me a lot. The only thing that interests me is the

saliva bit," said Bumrah.

"I don't know what guidelines we'll have to follow when we come back, but I feel there should be an alternative. If the ball is not well-maintained, it's difficult for the bowlers.

"The grounds are getting shorter and shorter, the wickets are becoming flatter and flatter, so we need something, some alternative for the bowlers to maintain the ball so that it can do something—maybe reverse in the end or conventional swing," he added.

Reflecting on his unique bowling action, Bumrah said some people had doubts it but he never listened to them and trusted his instincts.

"I've never been to a professional coach as such [in his formative years], all my cricket is self-taught. Everything I learned was through television, watching videos," he said.

IANS

'If the ball is not well-maintained, it's difficult for the bowlers. The grounds are getting shorter and shorter, the wickets are becoming flatter and flatter' Jasprit Bumrah

People think I'm arrogant, but I am too straight: Ashwin

INDIAN off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been one of the most active players on social media during the Coronavirus-fueled lockdown.

Talking to sports broadcaster Radhakrishnan Sreenivasan on The RK Show, Ashwin said he started his Instagram Live series *Bornison* with Ash to connect better with his fans and spread some positivity during the lockdown.

"When I first started talking on social media, I was talking a lot about the COVID-19 break-out, trying to spread across messages. But somewhere down the line I felt it was spreading a lot of negativity," he said on the show that airs on YouTube every Sunday.

Ashwin explained why he has always chosen to speak his mind. "People might think that I am arrogant because sometimes it's not their way of life. I am too straight. A lot of people, in the last 10-11 years, have given me the feedback saying that you should try and be a little diplomat because straight lines are out first.

"But I chose to tread a path that I am comfortable with. When there is a question posed to me, I answer that question. I don't see what answer will fit the brand value," said Ashwin, who has claimed 365 victims in 71 Tests.



Waqa urges Afridi, Gambhir to end social media war

NEW DELHI: Pakistan bowling coach Waqa Younis has urged compatriot Shahid Afridi and former India opener Gautam Gambhir to "act sensibly" and put an end to their long-running acrimonious social media exchanges.

"The hatred between Gautam Gambhir and Shahid Afridi has been going on for a while now. They both got to be smart, sensible, and calm down," Waqa said on Q20 chat show. "In social media, if you carry on that, people are going to love it and people are enjoying it and that I feel that they both should be sensible and smart," he added.

Slight advantage for Australia in day-night Test: Smith

STAR batsman Steve Smith says the experience of having played more pink ball games than India would give Australia 'slight advantage' when the two sides clash under flood lights in December but the Virat Kohli-led side has the batsmen to stand up to the challenge.

Cricket Australia last week confirmed that India will tour Down Under for a full tour comprising four Tests, three ODIs and three T20Is. The second Test will be a day-night af-

fair, starting from December 11 in Adelaide. "We played a few more pink ball games, perhaps, than India which might be a slight advantage," the Aussie star batsman said in a Facebook session, hosted by Sony Sports India.

"India played pretty well in the day-night game they

played at Kolkata. It's a different game but they certainly got the batters that can stand up to the conditions when it gets tough with the pink ball. And their bowlers, they stand the seam up with quality. They are world-class players who are able to adapt to anything"

PTI

'Team India have world-class players who are able to adapt to anything' Former Australia skipper Steve Smith



Australian batsman Steve Smith in Sydney yesterday. PCA/AF

'I see, feel everyone's pain'

NBA legend Michael Jordan deeply saddened by racism and violence in USA

CHARLOTTE (USA): Michael Jordan is "deeply saddened, truly pained and plain angry."

With protesters taking to the streets across the United States again on Sunday, Jordan released a statement on George Floyd and the killings of black people at the hands of police.

"I am deeply saddened, truly pained and plain angry," the former NBA star and current Charlotte Hornets owner said in the statement posted on the Jordan brand's social media accounts and the team's Twitter account.

Floyd was in handcuffs a week ago when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded that he couldn't breathe. Derek Chauvin was charged

Friday with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

"I see and feel everyone's pain, outrage and frustration. I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence towards people of colour in our country. We have had enough," Jordan said.

"I don't have the answers, but our collective voices show strength and the inability to be divided by others. We must listen to each other, show compassion and empathy and never turn our backs on senseless brutality. We need to continue peaceful expressions against injustice and demand accountability."

"Our unified voice needs to put pressure on our

leaders to change our laws, or else we need to use our vote to create systemic change. Every one of us needs to be part of the solution, and we must work together to ensure justice for all."

"My heart goes out to the family of George Floyd and to the countless others whose lives have been brutally and senselessly taken through acts of racism and injustice," he added.

AFP



NBA icon Michael Jordan #CJAP

Ham slams 'white-dominated' F1 for silence against racism

LONDON: Lewis Hamilton criticised the "biggest of stars" in "white-dominated" Formula One for failing to speak out against racism as protests erupted around the United States.

The Mercedes driver warned "I know who you are and I see you" as he accused his fellow drivers of "staying silent" following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed

black man, during his arrest in Minneapolis. "I see those of you who are staying silent, some of you the biggest of stars yet you stay silent in the midst of injustice," Hamilton wrote on Instagram. "Not a sign from anybody in my industry which of course is a white-dominated sport. I'm one of the only people of colour there yet I stand alone."

AFP

Young Bundesliga players call for justice

BERLIN: Four young players in Bundesliga addressed the death of George Floyd in the United States with protests against police brutality and calls for justice.

Jadon Sancho, 20, scored his first hat-trick in Dortmund's 6-1 win at Paderborn, but removed his jersey after his first goal to reveal a T-shirt with the handwritten message "Justice for George Floyd". Sancho was given a yellow card, but it didn't stop teammate Achraf Hakimi, 21, from lifting his shirt to reveal the same message after

he grabbed his team's fourth goal. Erling Haaland, 22, took a knee after scoring in Borussia Mönchengladbach's 4-1 win over Union Berlin. It evoked memories of ex-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the American national anthem before games to protest police brutality and racial inequality amid the Black Lives Matter movement. On Saturday, Weston McKennie, 21, wore an armband with the handwritten message "Justice for George".

AP/PTI

'I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence towards people of colour in our country. We have had enough'

WESTERN RAILWAY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
MUMBAI DIVISION
CORRIDORUM

Tender No. MD-073P/19/07/2020
SR/MCT/2020-2021 (1) Time & Date for closure for submission of Tender Document:- Previous: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. Changes: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. 02 Time & Date for closure for Opening of Tender:- Previous: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. Changes: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. Tender No. MD-073P/19/07/2020 SR/TENDR/2020-2021. Date:- 02/06/2020 (1) Time & Date for closure for submission of Tender Document:- Previous: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. Changes: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. 02 Time & Date for closure for Opening of Tender:- Previous: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. Changes: 15.30 hrs. on 02/06/2020. For more details visit www.westernrailway.co.in

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

UP-KEEP OF TRACK AND TRACK BED

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-bidding for the following work. Name of Work : Zone No. 4 i.e. "Zonal Contract for Up-keep of track and track bed of both UP & DN Line from Km. 7/14 to Km. 16/18 between KCEM (Ex.) to KAMUK (In.) including "Handing at KMDI with Tollyganje Yard and Cashied Area of Metro Railway, Kolkata." Tender Value : ₹ 4,04,06,023.46 (approx.). Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 10,000/-. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,52,100/-. Completion Period : The Contract shall be in force for a period of two years starting from 01.07.2020. Date of Closing : 22.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.bids.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

Abridged e-tender Notice No. : CR-2205-2020 (Open) dt. 20.06.2020

FASTER * SAFER * SMOOTHER * CLEANER

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jaipur for and behalf of Presidents of India invites sealed "Open Bids" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Description of work	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Date of closing Tender
219-ENGGS-2020-70	PFMCHB Heavy repair of wing end end wall	₹ 10,10,000.00	₹ 1,00,000.00	₹ 2,000.00	01.07.2020 at 10.30 hrs.
	ADENCHD				

Date of completion period from issue acceptance letter:- 08 Months. Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.06.2020 at 05.47.2020. For full details and submission of bid please visit the Indian Railway website www.bids.gov.in

North central railways | railway.northcentral@crimnrcr | 5203(A)

CENTRAL RAILWAY

HIRING OF AC VEHICLE

Open Tender No. SAM/HA/Hiring of Vehicle/MDBY/RT3/2020. Date: 28.05.2020. Name of work with its location : Contract for hiring of AC Vehicle with Driver for the use of Medical Director (Bye) with S.O. Officer for 12 months between 8.00 hrs to 21.00 hrs for the period of 2 years through Open Tender at 8/2020 Hqs.2020, on Rate Contract Basis. Approx. Cost of work : Rs.7,95,204/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Ninety Five Thousand two hundred and twenty four only) (Rs.33,10,500/- per month). Rate contract period : Twenty four Months (24 months). Earnest Money Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand and One Hundred Only). Cost of Tender form : Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only). Date and time of closing of tender submission : 22.06.2020 up to 15.00 hrs. Tenders shall be accepted only in e-bidding format through the website www.bids.gov.in. Tender document is available on the website.

Railway Helpline 133

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

City Engineer Department
Bt-Tender Notice NO. NMD/C.E./ 15/2020-2021

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated AMOUNT (Rs.)
1	Annual Operation and Maintenance of Internal Identification of NMD/C Buildings, Schools, and Hospital in Navi Mumbai (for 5 Years)	2,19,61,511/-
2	Annual Operation and Maintenance of Internal Identification of NMD/C Buildings, Schools, and Hospital in Belapur, Ward including level of Navi Mumbai (for 5 Years)	1,41,70,971/-

For further details and information required in respect of above Tender, please visit to website www.namc.namc.gov.in
Date of Publication : - 02/06/2020

City Engineer
NMD/C.E. Adv. No. 180/2020 Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation

MIRA BHAYANDAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Water Supply Department
Indira Gandhi Bhavan, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Marg, Bhayandar (W) 401101, Tal. Dist. - Thane, 20192828

No. MNP/WS/06/2020 - 21 Date - 01/06/2020

Tender Notice

Mira - Bhayandar Municipal Corporation's Water Supply Department has invited the tender for various works under water supply. The tender documents are available on Mahatenders.gov.in website from 04/06/2020 to 29/06/2020 till 12.00 hrs. Tender shall submitted on Mahatenders.gov.in website on or before 29/06/2020 upto 1.00 hrs.

SR.NO. NMD/PRO/0020-21
DATE : 01/06/2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Water Supply Department
Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation

SHAMBAHA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

SEWERAGE OPERATION DEPARTMENT
Bid No. 7100178002

e-TENDER NOTICE

The Commissioner of MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI invites e-Tender for the works as shown below :

Sr. No.	Description of work	E. M. D. in Rs.	Tender Reference No.	Due Date
1	SITC of odour control unit at Chundrigate pumping station	Rs 26000/-	Bid No. 7100178002	17.06.2020

For further details log on to www.mcgm.gov.in.

Sd/-
PRO / 157 / ADV / 20-21
Executive Engineer Mechanical (I) (Sewerage) City - II

close of play

My first date was a disaster: Bouchard

CANADIAN tennis player Eugenie Bouchard, 26, has spoken about her worst and best first dates during a virtual date with American podcaster Bob Menery recently.

Bouchard agreed to the online meeting with Menery after he guesthosted her Instagram live chat with sportscaster Alie LaPlante last month and promised to donate \$4000 to charity if she agreed to an online date during the current lockdown. On the virtual date, Bouchard revealed that one of her first dates was a disaster. "I went on a date with a guy once, we went to the beach and he had food poisoning and ran to the bathroom to throw up every 20 minutes. It was a disaster. We tried to chill out on the beach but he'd keep disappearing, behind bushes, to the bathroom in the clubhouse; it was bad," said the former World No. 5 tennis player, adding that the couple then decided to cancel their dinner plans. One of her best first dates, Eugenie said, was when she was invited by a guy on a boat.



'God has a bigger plan'

Jennifer Lopez disheartened over cancellation of wedding to baseball star Alex Rodriguez but believes things will get better

WEDDINGS are a celebration of love but for American singer Jennifer Lopez, it had become a cause of heartbreak because the Coronavirus-caused lockdown has delayed her wedding to former baseball star Alex Rodriguez.

However, the singer-turned-actor is also being philosophical. "I'm a little heartbroken because we did have some great wedding plans but I'm also like, you know

what? God has a bigger plan so we just have to wait and see. Maybe it's going to be better. I have to believe that it will be," Female First website quoted JLo as saying on USA's The Today Show.

"There's no planning right now. You just have to kind of wait and see how this all plays out. It's disappointing on one level. After the Super Bowl and filming World of Dance, I planned to take time off, which is what we are doing right now. At the same time, we had a lot of plans for this summer and this year but everything is on hold right now," she added.



Jamie Carragher set to strictly come dancing

FORMER England footballer Jamie Carragher is all set to put on his dancing shoes soon. The footballer-turned-TV pundit recently revealed on air that he has been approached by British TV show, Strictly Come Dancing, to be a contestant in their next series.

"I'll have a go... we were a bit worried about the financial implications on the Premier League and I thought I was going to lose out on a bit of dough. So I took the opportunity to go on Strictly and nick a few quid," said Carragher with a laugh.



DADDY AND HIS GIRL!

Liverpool football star Mohamed Salah uploaded this picture for his 38.6 million Instagram followers on Monday as he chatted out with daughter Makkah, five. "Father-daughter bonding," he captioned the photograph that received nearly two lakh likes. With the English Premier League set to resume on June 17, Salah & Co remain favourites to lift the coveted trophy given Liverpool's 25 point lead over second-placed Manchester City.

Shoaib has not seen Izhaan in three months, it's tough: Sania

INDIA'S tennis ace Sania Mirza has said that her cricketer husband Shoaib Malik being stuck in Pakistan during the Coronavirus-caused lockdowns has been tough on them.

In the ATP's Tennis United online chat show hosted by American doubles specialist and multiple Grand Slam champion Bethanie Mattek-Sands, Sania said that Shoaib was away for a cricket tournament when the lockdown was announced. "It's tough because my husband is in Pakistan and he got stuck midway playing a tournament when they went into lockdown. It's three months now and we don't really know when he'll be able to see Izhaan. So it's not easy, but at least we're safe," said Sania, who has been living with her parents in Hyderabad during the lockdown.



Izhaan Mirza Malik (right) Sania Mirza and hubby Shoaib Malik

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