

Jagran

mid-day



THE LOCKDOWN IS ON MOVEMENT, NOT INFORMATION

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In Ghatkopar colony, cops, kin discriminated against

Despite just one constable testing positive, neighbours have blocked main gate and other access to policemen quarters, saying they fear the spread of infection

SHIRISH VAKTANIA
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IN a tussle between the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Marolaya staff at their residential quarters in Chheda Nagar, the Marolaya staff built barricades overnight to restrict entry to railway cops and their families through their side of the compound amid COVID-19 fears. » P05

200

Approx. no. of GRP personnel with their families living in the quarters

'We are giving our life for people and Marolaya staff are behaving so shamefully. They are treating us like COVID-19 patients'

Sunil Bhat, GRP constable



The bamboo cordon put up by Marolaya staff who are residents of the building. PIC/RAJESH GUPTA

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BACK TO WORK



Experts offer 360-degree advice to employees and employers for when offices will re-open. » P15-18

1,117 NEW CASES AND 49 DEATHS

Civic-run hospitals claim arthritis drug Tocilizumab has been holding out hope in COVID-19 treatment. » P02

BMC MAY CHANGE FOOD PACKETS TO DRY RATIONS

Civic body, which is supplying 4.5 lakh packets daily, is planning alternative option ahead of monsoon. » P03



BMC RELEASES ITS REOPENING RULES

While most are similar to state's guidelines, BMC's has more clarity on containment zones. » P02

19,000 EVACUATED AS RAIGAD DISTRICT, CITY PREPARE FOR CYCLONE

BMC says they have evacuated those in low-lying, and landslide-prone areas in city, have readied schools to shift more if required

VINOD KUMAR MENON AND PRAJAKTA KASALE
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THE landfall of cyclone Nisarga and high tide on Wednesday at the same time, could severely waterlog low-lying areas in the city. The BMC has kept hundreds of schools ready to shift residents in if necessary. "We

have kept community halls and cultural centres in the university campus at Kalfra along with a few civic schools ready," said Ashok Khatri, assistant commissioner of H East ward. In Raigad district, which is expected to get the full force of the cyclone, 19,000 people have already been evacuated to safer areas. » P03, P07



Truck being out at Marine Drive in preparation of cyclone Nisarga on Tuesday. PIC/ELIAS

10.15AM 1 PM

Time when the sea level is expected to rise to 4.6 metres

Time cyclone is expected to make landfall near Alibaug



Fire Brigade said coordination drill between beach safety and flood response teams has been conducted on all six beaches

Alibaug may bear the brunt of Nisarga

Authorities put resort town and other coastal districts on high-alert, NDRF deployed

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AS the coastal villages in Maharashtra brace for the approaching Cyclone Nisarga, authorities are taking all adequate measures to prevent destruction in the coastal town of Alibaug which could end up being among the worst-hit. National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) personnel have been posted in

'As a precautionary measure, people have been advised to remain indoors. We are hoping that the cyclone goes away without causing any destruction'

Pijush Wakde, a local

Alibaug and on its beaches as a red alert had been issued over Cyclone Nisarga expected to hit on Wednesday afternoon. » P03



Local officials take stock of the cyclone measures in various areas of Alibaug on Tuesday

NUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



State records 103 deaths, 1,225 patients discharged

COVID-19
TICKER
72,300

TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MAHARASHTRA AS OF TODAY

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THE state recorded 2,267 new cases on Tuesday along with 103 COVID-19-related deaths, taking the total death count to 2,465. Civic health officials have been trying various kinds of treatments for COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms and many were treated successfully in civic-run hospitals with Tocilizumab, a medication usually prescribed for rheumatoid arthritis.

State health department officials said that Maharashtra's total count of cases has gone up to 72,300, while 38,493 COVID-19 patients are currently being treated in healthcare facilities and 1,225 patients were discharged after a full recovery on Tuesday. The city's count stands at 42,216 cases while 12,213 patients have recovered till date with 1,117 new cases. According to official figures, 344 additional patients from Mumbai and 140 in Thane have tested positive and are yet to be added to the tally.

Officials reported 323 deaths in Maharashtra of which 49 were in Mumbai, 19 each in Mira Bhayandar and Pune, six each in Satara and Raigad, five in Solapur, four each in Navi Mumbai and Parbhani, three each in Sangli and Akola and one each in Thane, Ahmednagar and Nashik. Of the patients who died, 59 were senior citizens and 69 were suffering from other ailments. Officials said that



Relatives wait as COVID-19 patients are moved from the COVID Care Centre at MMRDA grounds on Tuesday. PIC/SHAMBA SHAN

while 38 of these deaths occurred in the last two days, the remaining took place between May 1 and May 30.

Civic officials said that Tocilizumab was given to 120 patients and of them, 108 recovered. At EYL Mair Hospital, that has been dedicated to treating COVID-19 patients, 508 patients have been admitted since March and while 250 of them have improved after treatment, 130 of them have been discharged till date.

Meanwhile, bracing for the cyclone, civic officials said around 200 patients were shifted out of the COVID Care Centre at the MMRDA grounds in BMC.

"As a safety precaution, they were moved to the facility at NRC Dume on Tuesday," said an official. Cases in G North ward continued to rise. While Dharavi had 25 new cases on Tuesday, Dadar had 11 cases and Mahim had 25 cases.

Instead of cooked food, BMC to distribute ration packets during the rains

Addl municipal commissioner Sanjeev Jaiswal says they'll continue the food packets only for homeless, destitute and those without work

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THE fast approaching cyclone and the upcoming monsoon months are likely to affect the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) daily food distribution in slum areas, which has prompted the civic body to work on alternatives. Instead of ready-made food packets, it plans to distribute ration kits and food items with a longer shelf life to certain groups of people.

After a number of migrants in the city returned to their hometowns, the civic body gradually reduced the number of food packets containing pre-cooked meals that were being distributed in slum areas, including Containment Zones across the city. Civic officials said that the supply was reduced from 725 lakh food packets to about 4.5 lakh.

Additional municipal commissioner Sanjeev Jaiswal said, "Since distribution of food packets will be a major challenge during monsoon, we are working on alternatives like giving ration packets. However, for the homeless and the destitute as well as people who are without work, we will have to continue with food packets. It would be a challenge though," Jaiswal added that almost six lakh migrants had already left Mumbai.

Sangita Hasnate, assistant municipal commissioner (planning) said that instead of khichdi, they were planning to give out dry items.

"Since distribution of food packets will be a major challenge during monsoon, we are working on alternatives like giving ration packets. However, for the homeless and the destitute as well as people who are without work, we will have to continue with food packets. It would be a challenge though," Sanjeev Jaiswal, addl municipal commissioner



Citizens distribute food and water among needy people at Lokmanya Tilk Terminus. PIC/SAYYED SAMEER AHMED

"We're planning to distribute chappas and mathri, which they can store for a few days. Instead of khichdi, we will give ration kits organised through NGOs. This way we can reduce person-to-person contact and control spread of the infection," added Hasnate. She further said that while pre-cooked food packets cannot be stopped completely, the ration kits would be given especially to the visually and physically challenged and needy people.

Pointing out some shortcomings in the plan, Bilal Khan of Ghar Bachao, Ghar Banao Andolan, said that the availability of cooking gas for people living in slum areas is a practical issue. "The POS stopped

distributing kerosene and a cylinder in the black market is sold for anything between ₹750- ₹1,200 depending on the area. People living in slums cannot afford a cylinder. If kerosene is available, then people can use stoves to cook," he said, adding that the Ujjwala Yojana was a poorly coordinated initiative and hardly anyone was getting cylinders.

Opposition leader and Congress corporator Ravji Raja lauded the idea but said that considering the number of complaints received about the poor quality of pre-cooked meals, the BMC should organise ration kits for every one. "The quality of the khichdi is really bad and there have been several complaints about the food being spoilt. The BMC should organise for ration kits for all non-ration card holders and given the state of the economy, people need the support," he said.

BMC issues guidelines for reopening city

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AS the city faces uncertainties amid Cyclone Nisarga and the chief minister urged everyone to close businesses for two days, the BMC issued guidelines for reopening the city with effect from Wednesday, June 3.

Private offices can reopen at 10 per cent strength from June 8. The guidelines are similar to the state's with more clarification on Containment Zones, where only essential activities will be allowed in a building, even if one floor is sealed. The guidelines were released late on Tuesday. The guidelines will remain in operation

till June 30. Individual physical exercise like cycling, jogging, running, walking shall be permitted in public open spaces including at beaches, playgrounds between 5 am and 7 pm. No group activity will be permitted. People are permitted to use only nearby open spaces and advised to avoid crowded open spaces.

Plumbers, electricians, pest-control companies and technicians will be allowed to operate. All government offices will function at 15 per cent strength. All markets, shops, except malls and market complexes are allowed to function from 9 am to 5 pm. Shops on both sides of the road are allowed to be open on alternate

days and are to be closed on Sundays. Use of trial rooms, exchanges policy, return policy will not be permitted. Any suggestion regarding guidelines from traders' association will be taken into consideration by assistant commissioner of wards, Bichshaw, tant, cab, four-wheelers are allowed in the one-plus-two passengers system and two-wheelers can have only one rider.

Schools, colleges will remain closed. Resuming the Metro, trains, cinema halls, gymnasium, swimming pools, theatres, bars, auditoriums, social-political-religious congregations, places of worship, barbershops, salons, shopping malls, hotels, restaurants will be done in a phased manner.

Govt agencies prepare for the storm

The Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Police, Railway and weather dept are working in co-ordination to prepare for the cyclone

Continued from page 01

HEAVY rain and high-tide have always been a troublesome combination for the city, where many areas are below sea level. On Wednesday, the civic corporation will have to deal with the strong wind also. As per the prediction of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Mumbai, there will be heavy to very heavy rain from early morning in the city, and the landfall time is around 11.30 am. There is a high-tide at 10.15 am when the level of the sea will rise to 4.6 metres. Due to the storm surge, the sea level will increase by another 1 to 2 metres and will inundate the low-lying areas of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane districts.

Every monsoon, BMC shifts thousands of residents on the banks of the Mithi river to safe places like municipal schools. While no one was shifted till Tuesday evening according to ward officers, the municipal commissioner claimed that



Fire Brigade held a drill with the beach safety and flood response team at Gurgaon chowpatty and five other beaches. PIC/TERN KADKAR

people were being shifted.

'Ready to shift people'

Manish Valanju, assistant commissioner of L ward comprising Kurla and Chembur, told mid-day that they have prepared five schools to move people if the water level rises. Along with checking dewatering pumps, the ward personnel have checked boardings, cranes at under-construction buildings and alerted tree-cut-

ting contractors.

In a meeting held at the BMC headquarters on Tuesday, Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal gave required instructions to all civic officers. Aaditya Thackeray, guardian minister of Mumbai Suburbs was also present. Chahal said, "As per the disaster management plan, residents are being shifted from low-lying areas, possible landslide prone and waterlogging areas. As per the



Fisherfolk try to keep their boats safe at Backbay Park. PIC/SURESH KARKAR

warning of heavy to very heavy rain, dewatering pumps have been kept ready." He instructed officers to pay special attention to under-construction buildings and ensure they are safe.

Pradhat Rahangdale, chief of the Mumbai Fire Brigade, said that coordination drill between the beach safety and flood response team has been conducted on all six beaches including Gurgaon, Dadar,

Juhu, Aksa, Versova and Goral. All the safety instruments along with jet skis for beaches and fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) boats for low lying areas are ready. He added that Search and Rescue teams and Razmat teams are also ready for emergencies.

The Navy, Coast Guard, Police, Railway and weather department have been co-ordinating with each other. "Citizens should stay in their houses and follow the instructions given by the corporation," said Chahal.

COVID-19 patients shifted

The MMHDA handed over the 1000-beds CCC to the BMC which had shifted around 150 patients there. The chief minister had instructed the patients be shifted to buildings. As per the instruction all patients were shifted to Gurgaon and Worli centres on Tuesday. The BMC has instructed the police to check all the temporary structures made by them for COVID-19 surveillance.

'Citizens should stay in their houses and follow the instructions given by the corporation'

Iqbal Singh Chahal, municipal commissioner

Gear up for strong winds and flooding

With heavy rain expected to inundate low-lying areas, citizens have been asked to stay indoors

PALLAVI SMART

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CYCLONE Nisarga is expected to make landfall as a 'severe cyclonic storm' 95 km away from Mumbai near Alibaug on Wednesday between 2 and 3 pm. With strong, high-speed winds and heavy rain that's expected to inundate low-lying areas, citizens have been advised to remain indoors as city braces for possible damages due to the storm.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a Red Alert for all three districts, which will continue through Wednesday. The city will start experiencing strong winds and rain from 10 am, which will subside after 5 pm. The winds will die down after 7 pm and rain shall remain.

Major damages are expected to fruits and houses with thatched or lurch roofs. Roof-tops may blow off, unattached metal sheets may fly, power and communication lines may



The city started experiencing rainfall induced by the cyclone on Tuesday. PIC/YESHDEV

face problems. There will be damage to roads as escape routes of water are expected to experience flooding. Other damages may include tree falls, uprooting of large avenue trees, damage to coastal crops and embankments for salt pans. IMD Mumbai has issued a warning for total suspension of fishing operations and movement in

motorboats and small ships.

"The deep depression over East Central Arabian Sea moved northwards with a speed of 11 kmph and intensified into the cyclonic storm Nisarga. It is very likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm during the next 12 hours. It is very likely to move nearly northwards during the next few hours and re-curve north-eastwards thereafter and cross the coast of north Maharashtra and adjoining south Gujarat between Barhachshwar and Daman, close to Alibag and

Raigad district on Wednesday afternoon with a maximum sustained wind speed of 100-110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph," said Shubhangi Bhute, a scientist at the IMD, Mumbai. Light to moderate rainfall at most places, heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places, and extremely heavy rainfall (more than 20 cm in 24 hours) at isolated places is expected in north Konkan and north Maharashtra. "Storm surge of about 1 to 2 metres height above astronomical tide is very likely to inundate low-lying areas of Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts. Low-lying areas of Kharagiri are

expected to experience a storm surge of 0.5 to 1 metre height above the astronomical tide during landfall," added Bhute.

Mahesh Palawat, the chief meteorologist at Skymet Weather Services, a private agency, said, "The landfall is expected in north of Mumbai by afternoon or evening. The cyclone will weaken by June 4. It is not expected to have any impact on monsoon." However, wind speeds are going to be very high, as a result of which sea conditions are going to be very rough.



Local officials check cyclone readiness measures on Tuesday

Cyclone to make landfall near Alibaug

Continued from page 1

K S Hosalkar, deputy director-general at IMD, tweeted on Tuesday, "Cyclonic Storm NISARGA over the Arabian Sea. Very likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm in the next 12 hours. To cross North Maharashtra and adjoining South Gujarat coast between Harbhadeshwar, close to Alibag (Raigad) with a maximum sustained wind 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph (50)." Piyush Wakade, who owns luxury resort Eleven Petals in Nagaon, Alibag said NDRF was posted in Alibag and on beaches as alert had been issued due to Cyclone Nisarga. "As a precautionary measure, people have been advised to

remain indoors. We are hoping that the cyclone goes away without causing any destruction because already the country and the state are fighting the pandemic," he said.

People moved to safer places

President of Alibag Municipal Council Prashant Nalk along with his team, has been coordinating with the NDRF team and locals have been informed of the dos and don'ts. Nalk along with his team and NDRF also took a review of the preparations. Those staying in weak houses have been asked to move to safer places and arrangements for their stay have also been made by the municipal council in a school.

'Storm surge of about 1 to 2 metres height above astronomical tide is very likely to inundate low lying areas of Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts'

Shubhangi Bhute, scientist, IMD Mumbai

daily dossier



@exLolaKuffy: 'It's been a slow news day' Said NO journalist in 2020.

Time travel with Dom Moraes

First published in 1960, Dom Moraes' book *Gone Away: An Indian Journal* has been published in a new edition by Speaking Tiger and is available for reading in e-book format. Considered to be one of the most unconventional travelogues ever written, it carries an introduction by award-winning writer Jerry Pinto. The book details three months of the author's life in the subcontinent in 1959, when Chinese incursion on the Tibetan border arose.

About what makes this work truly unconventional, Pinto



told this diarist, "Dom was already something of a prodigy by the age of 22. He had won the prestigious Hawthornden Prize. He was cutting quite a dash in England. And so this book is as much a memoir as it is a travelogue. When it came out, writers did not 'implicate the self'; the whole travel writing edifice rested on the idea of a unitary rational self that spoke to the reader. That this is as much about Dom as it is about Nehruvian India shows how far in advance of his time he was as a writer."



Word on the street

As Mumbai will begin to unlock in the coming weeks, we will be stepping back onto the streets again. But it won't be the same as our behaviour and conduct will have to change. Keeping this in mind, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started to paint precautionary signs on roads and footpaths in high footfall areas such as Marine Drive. These include messages that urge pedestrians to wear masks, maintain distance, and protect themselves and others. "We expect that after about two months of the lockdown, people, especially those who have been missing their outdoor routine like jogging, walking and exercising, will flock



to pedestrian-friendly areas like Marine Drive. We wanted to remind citizens that these guidelines will apply, which is why we painted these signs and also set up some banners to catch their attention," Harshad Kale, deputy municipal commissioner, zone-L, BMC, told this diarist.



MONSOON MUSINGS

Even Gauri Khan and daughter Sultana couldn't resist watching the pleasant drizzle that the city witnessed on Tuesday, as they spent over two hours unwinding in their balcony at Mansar, Bandra. **PG/SHADAB KHAN**

A never-imagined world

In a video titled *Sacha Na Tha*, montages from homes and streets during lockdown address situations we had never imagined but are now privy to. It is written by actors Ambika Nagral, Tisca Chopra and Sanjay Chopra and features several others like R Madhavan. "In these times, when we have been separated, we wanted to express ourselves together, and this video was the least we could do, to keep the wagon of motion pictures moving," Nagral said.



Meet the oldest Test cricketer on Facebook

Here's a cricket quiz question and it's not a trivial one because social media is such an important part of our lives in the COVID-19 pandemic-caused lockdown: Who is the oldest Test cricketer in the world to have a Facebook account? It's Mumbai's oldest living Test player Chandrakant Patankar, the wicketkeeper, who played for his country once — against New Zealand in 1955-56.

Patankar, 89, opened a Facebook account recently, and though he



hasn't got to posting, he responds to posts which he likes. On Sunday, former India leg-spinner Subhash Gupte was remembered on Facebook since it was his death

anniversary, and Patankar was moved to pay a tribute. "Had the pleasure of knowing to him. Great bowler," he wrote.

Patankar will not say it, but we can tell you that he was considered the best wicketkeeper to read Gupte's googlies and move accordingly when they played in the same Ruia College, Shivaji Park Gymkhana and Bombay teams. By the way, we forgot to tell you that Sir Garfield Sobers considers Gupte the greatest leg-spinner he has seen.

'We are being treated like COVID-19 patients'

GRP commissioner orders barricades to be removed, says police can use other gates and parking may be segregated in the Chheda Nagar quarters

Continued from page 01

THE government quarters consists of five buildings, out of which two are allotted to the GRP. Two to Mantralaya staff and one is vacant. There are around 100 GRP personnel living with their families.

The Mantralaya staff have isolated their buildings from the GRP's saying they don't want to be in any sort of danger.

Barricades have been mounted and the main entry has been closed to police personnel and their families.

The quarters are located at PWD ground in Ghatkopar East. The constables living at the quarters complained to GRP Commissioner Ravindra Sengankar on Monday evening.

Commissioner Sengankar said, "We received a complaint from a constable and I sent officers to the quarters for an inspection. There are different gates for the police quarters."

"So the GRP personnel can use the other gate. They have segregated the parking area. Police need not use the main gate to enter. We instructed the residents to remove the barricades and observe social distancing."

'We don't have COVID-19'

GRP staff claimed that dividing the complex and blocking the main entry is illegal. Based on the complaints, mid-day visited the quarters and found the barricades were there in the society and police personnel not being allowed to use the main gate on Tuesday.

GRP constable Ajit Mane said, "In my building, a constable was found positive. This led to the barricades coming up late on Sunday. The Mantralaya staff also told us not to pass through their buildings."

"They don't allow a single constable of police family on their side of the compound. They also instructed us to use another gate to enter the society and don't allow our



vehicles to come from the main gate."

Another GRP constable Suraj Bhise said, "We are giving our life for the people and Mantralaya staff are behaving in such a shameful manner. They created the barricades in an unauthorized manner. Mantralaya staff are treating us like COVID-19 patients."

Another constable, Suraj Patil, said, "The barricades should be removed by the Mantralaya employees."

"If in the society one policeman is found positive, it doesn't mean the entire building is COVID-19 positive. They should respect police personnel who are serving the nation. We all are frontline warriors and doing our duty in this pandemic."

mid-day tried to speak to the residents and office bearers of the Mantralaya staff quarters but was turned away by the building's security personnel.



Though the commissioner ordered that the barricades be removed, mid-day found they were still there on Tuesday. PICS/RAJESH GUPTA

'In my building, a constable was found positive. This led to the barricades coming up on Sunday. The Mantralaya staff also told us not to pass through their buildings' Ajit Mane, GRP constable

'There are different gates for the police quarters. So the GRP personnel can use the other gate. They have segregated the parking area' Ravindra Sengankar, GRP commissioner

Bldg residents object to cop living in flat without asking, caned

Thrashing at police station in Dombivli stopped after senior inspector intervened, probe ordered, society members booked for preventing cops from performing their duty

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MEMBERS of a housing society committee in Dombivli were allegedly thrashed and abused by cops at the local police station for raising questions over police personnel staying in a rented flat without permission amid COVID-19 fears.

The thrashing stopped only when the senior inspector of the police station intervened and let the society's committee members go. While top cops have ordered an enquiry, an offence has been registered against the committee members at the same police station.

Raj Vaidhar Housing Society is located at Ganesh Nagar, Dombivli West. The society has seven buildings and 381 flats. The society does not rent houses to bachelors, but an exception was made when a flat in building no. 1 was rented to Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) Anil Mhaske, attached to Vishnu Nagar police station.

"We made an exception as he was a cop and the location of the building serves his time. There were no complaints whatsoever from residents against PSI Mhaske," said Mangesh Surve, president of the housing society. "But things changed when the COVID-19 pandemic started and Mhaske started bringing his colleagues to the flat," Surve said.

Committee members informed the flat's owner Rupesh Karlekar on May 29. The next day, PSI Mhaske summoned Surve and other society members to Vishnu Nagar police station. At the police station, Assistant Police Inspector Ganesh Wadga, who was sharing the flat with Mhaske, started thrashing Surve. Mhaske, too, allegedly abused society members for complaining about the flat being shared with other cops.

"They stopped and hit me. Then the senior inspector of the police station, RN Mungekar came and questioned both cops and I was saved. We did medical tests and demanded an FIR against the cops but the police did not pay attention to us," Surve said.

The committee members visited the Additional Commissioner (East Region) Datta



Mangesh Surve suffered cuts and bruises in the thrashing

MAY 30
Day the incident occurred

'There were no complaints against PSI Mhaske. Things changed after COVID-19 and he started bringing his colleagues to the flat'

Mangesh Surve, committee member of the housing society

Karlekar, who ordered an enquiry. Mungekar confirmed that the incident occurred but refused to say more. "The complaint has been made to senior officials, they will take a call."

The Vishnu Nagar police have booked two society members under Section 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Indian Penal Code.



What lockdown? VVCMC chief gets his office renovated

Commissioner finds time for a better office with new furniture, a bigger house

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WHILE tackling COVID-19 in his jurisdiction, the commissioner of Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC), Ganpatirao D, who took charge in April has also found time to get his bungalow renovated. Never mind if it is the lockdown, before the bungalow, he had also got his office renovated. Soon after assuming charge, the civic commissioner had got his office renovated as per VVCMC standards. The expenditure in both the renovations is expected to total around ₹1 crore, said a source at VVCMC.

"He joined in April and instead of focusing on social distancing, the commissioner ordered the renovation of his chamber on the second floor of the corporation's head office. He has got the wall painted white, a new sofa, table and chairs were also bought. The size of his chamber has also been increased. All the renovation was done during the lockdown," said the source.

"The expenditure for office renovation itself is expected to be around ₹15-20 lakh," added



Work going on in the ground floor of the Vasai-Virar City civic commissioner's bungalow. PHOTO: MITTEL

and the source. Not satisfied with the renovation of his office, now the commissioner is getting his official bungalow in Vasai renovated. "It was a ground-plus-one structure and on the ground floor there were a few shops given on rent by the corporation. But he got them broken down to create a large living room and a sprawling bedroom on the ground floor," the source said.

A mid-day team visited the bungalow and saw four to five bricklayers working on the ground floor. "We have been told to renovate the structure into a hall and bedroom. It will

take another two weeks to get it fully renovated," site supervisor Balaji told mid-day.

Sources at the VVCMC have said the commissioner also wants to install an elevator. "The government is busy stressing on maintaining social distancing and here the commissioner is busy getting his office and bungalow renovated. The commissioner should have focused on controlling the spread of COVID-19 instead of renovations," an official from VVCMC said.

"He has been brazenly violating the lockdown norms, as he not only encouraged work-

ers at one place, but must have forced shopkeepers to get raw material used in the renovation work," added the source.

Vasai-Virar district president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Rajaram Mulik wants commissioner Ganpatirao to be booked for violating lockdown norms. "How can one renovate his bungalow and office when COVID-19 cases are rising in Vasai-Virar area? Also, how can he use corporation funds when he has sacked 80 contractual employees who worked at COVID hospitals?" said Mulik.

"On the pretext of social distancing, the commissioner has told all contractual employees to work on alternate days since mid-May. So these engineers are being paid only for 15 days a month. But is the social distancing rule being followed during renovation?" added Mulik.

General secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Nalaspura, Manoj Bhat said, "The renovation work at the commissioner's bungalow should be stopped immediately, as it is a violation of lockdown norms."

Calls and messages to Ganpatirao went unanswered.

'Local wards can issue travel passes to shop workers'

Even as retailers and shopkeepers gear up to open stores on June 5, traders' association president suggests ideas for reopening

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State government has allowed non-essential shops to open on an odd-even basis in non-containment zones. FILE PIC

THE state government's guidelines for gradually unlocking the city almost after two-and-a-half-months have come as a huge relief for retailers and shopkeepers as they will be able to roll up their shutters from June 5 on an odd-even basis in non-containment zones. Viren Shah, president of the Federation of Retail Traders' Welfare Association (FRTWA), said that after the order was issued, he had made some suggestions on how the re-opening could be done to Aaditya Thackeray and Maharashtra Chief Secretary Ajay Mehta. One of the primary suggestions was that travel passes should be issued for staffers, as commute would be a major challenge.

The 16-point suggestions given by Shah include an assurance that shops would allow only one-third of their total staff to work and ensure that they and the customers follow social distancing rules. The staffers would be regularly checked with a digital thermometer to ensure that they don't have fever and they would also have to undergo regular health check-ups.

Commute, a challenge

Citing commute to be one of the major problems that the workers would face, he suggested giving travel passes and allowing them to commute via trains or buses, whichever mode of transportation is being made available for government office staff.

He said, "Local wards can issue passes based on the size of the shop," adding as an example that a 250-350 square feet shop would need two staff members plus a manager while larger shops above 10,000 square feet would need at least 40-60 staff members plus four managers.

There also needs to be some kind of relaxation for those who stay in the suburbs and will have to travel for

work. These guidelines will have to be issued by the local ward office," he added.

Allow home deliveries

Some of the other suggestions made by the FRTWA are to allow the workers carry out home deliveries to customers across the city and to increase the time limit for keeping non-essential shops open (5 am to 8 pm). It said that essential shops should also be allowed to remain open till 8 pm. Further, department stores or stand-alone stores should be allowed to remain open every day, and no bankers should be allowed outside shops on footpaths.

Shah suggested that if there are no shops on the other side of a road or lane, then the ones already present should be allowed to remain open every day.

Furthermore, the local ward office should ensure that the outside area of shops and the adjoining footpath were sanitised on a daily or alternate day basis. He further said that customers should not be allowed to try out garments and shoes and exchange or alter any of it.

"The government has to issue the final guidelines, these are just suggestions," Shah said, adding that he was happy with the way the government had come up with a structured, phased re-opening plan.

The 16-point suggestions given by Shah include an assurance that shops would allow only one-third of total staff to work and ensure that they and the customers follow social distancing rules. The staffers would be regularly checked with a digital thermometer to ensure that they don't have fever also undergo regular health check-ups

Mangrove Cell beefs up vigil near sanctuary

Taking cognisance of mid-day's report on how miscreants entered Thane flamingo sanctuary, officials take steps to apprehend violators

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FOLLOWING mid-day's article highlighting the illegal entry of nature lovers and antisocial elements consuming liquor at Bhandup pumping station area in the jurisdiction of Thane creek flamingo sanctuary, the Mangrove Cell has beefed up the patrolling to apprehend the violators.

On June 1, this paper did a story on how during the lockdown, the Thane creek flamingo sanctuary had become a hotspot for parties and how the bird lovers would illegally enter the pumping station area near flamingo watching point which is a protected area.

Taking a serious note, the Mangrove Cell of the Forest Department has decided to increase the patrolling in the area and the forest guards

have been deployed to keep a tight vigil on miscreants.

Talking to mid-day, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (APCCF) and Head of the Mangrove Cell of the Forest Department, Virendra Thakur said, "Our team has increased the patrolling in the Bhandup pumping station area and the sanctuary after it was noticed that some people were illegally entering the area. Our teams will be doing a regular patrolling in the area and trespassers will face action as per the law. We would like to appeal to the nature lovers and all those trying to enter the sanctuary illegally, that they should follow the lockdown orders and not try to enter the sanctuary illegally or else they will have to face action."

Since the time the nationwide lockdown has been announced, wildlife sanctuaries,



Officials keeping a tight vigil in the area

national parks, tiger reserves and protected areas have been shut for the public as experts expressed fear that COVID-19 might infect wild animals.

In Mumbai the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary have also been shut for people.

While the entry of the pro-

Nature lovers, party animals break rules to enter sanctuary



mid-day's report on June 1

ple has been strictly barred for tourists and outsiders in SGNP, it was observed that many nature lovers illegally entered the Thane Creek flamingo sanctuary through Bhandup pumping station to watch the migratory birds. Moreover, it was also discovered that party animals were allegedly consuming alcohol in the protected area and the bottles are seen scattered on the ground near the flamingo watching point in the sanctuary.

Docs advise caution after thousands are evacuated

Say close proximity of people could risk spread of COVID-19, as well as of other viral infections

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AS Cyclone Nisarga is expected to hit land at Alibaug on Wednesday afternoon, the Raigad district administration on Tuesday moved nearly 5,000 people living in the close proximity of the shore to safer places. Until late Tuesday night, Raigad Collector Nishi Choudhary monitored the preparedness around the coastal areas, especially in Alibaug city and other areas under the zilla parishad, which would witness the fury of the cyclonic storm in the afternoon.

She added, "More than 19,000 living in kachha homes across the coast line in Raigad district, including the 5,000 in Alibaug, have been shifted to safer areas, adequate measures were taken to avoid losses to human life and property. Apart from local police, fire brigade, a national disaster team have also been called in."

According to the Raigad district disaster management, the high tide on Wednesday would begin at 9:47 am, with tidal waves of almost 3.90 meters high (12.80 feet).

"We have been making arrangements since receiving cyclone alert from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). Earlier, the cyclone was forecast to make landfall at Sherwahan-Barbareth coastal line in Raigad district, but its position changed. The IMD informed us that it would now hit Alibaug. Since morning, we have been mak-

ing adequate preparedness in and around Alibaug. It rained throughout Tuesday afternoon, but we still managed to move people and cattle to safer places," said Choudhary.

Raigad District Disaster Management Officer Sagar Phatak told mid-day: "The district has four major coast lines — Uran, Alibaug, Murud-Janjira and Shirwadha — spread in about 240-km stretch, with close to 1.73 lakh people residing around the coast lines. Majority of them are fishermen who have all been called back and all fishing activity has been suspended since June 1. Nearly 5,668 fishing boats have been anchored."

85 CCCs converted

Some of the 85 COVID Care Centres were converted into shelters for those evacuated in the wake of the cyclone, which triggered panic among the locals. "We have been told that the COVID asymptomatic patients have been asked to either go back home for self isolation or stay at the back end of the same shelter, so that the entire place can be sanitised for evacuated people," said a local.

However, Choudhary said on Tuesday 19 patients were kept in the CCCs that have been turned into cyclone shelters. "We had shortlisted some places as CCC in the district in case there is need for more centres, but no patients were ever brought here. All patients were kept Parvat and Alibaug city quarantine centres only."

Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust



Raigad Collector Nishi Choudhary speaks to villagers on Tuesday during her visit to Alibaug

(JNPT) is also bracing for the cyclone and have taken measures to mitigate its impact on the property and ships in the sea. A JNPT spokesperson said, "All berthed vessels were out of JNPT by 11 pm on Tuesday. All inward movement of vessels were suspended till easing of the weather. All dredging related crafts were shifted to sheltered waters in Mora/Sekapur creek/high seas." "All terminals have been advised to secure their cargo gear and other related equipment and ensure compliance of heavy weather contingency plan," he added.

More NDRF teams flown in

Anupam Srivastava, commandant, NDRF (West Zone), Pune, told mid-day that around 11 pm on Tuesday, five additional National Disaster Response

Force teams, each comprising 35 men, were airlifted from Visakhapatnam and are brought in to assist the existing 15 teams deployed in and around the coastal areas of Mumbai, Palghar, Alibaug, etc. "We have deployed three teams in Mumbai, two in Palghar, four in Raigad, two each in Thane and Ratnagiri, and one each in Sindudurg and Navl Mumbai for rescue and relief operation," said Srivastava.

"Under our routine monsoon flood rescue training and practice, we have a new challenge this time and that is to maintain safety and ensure maximum protection to the team, who will be carrying out such rescue operation during the pandemic of COVID-19, outbreak. We have provided special PPE-type plastic one-

Alibaug tides today

- High Tide at 9:47 am: 12.80 ft (3.90 m)
- High Tide at 9:29 pm: 12.30 ft (3.81 m)

Source: tide-forecast.com

pair coats that would protect the staff, and have also provided each of them with their safety kits, which include hand sanitiser, mask, soap, detergent, sodium hypochlorite etc," said the commandant.

Experts' medical advice

Dr Wajid Shaikh, a senior allergy and asthma specialist, said that there is a need to be cautious now because there could be asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 among the people shifted to shelters. Asymptomatic people could still transmit the disease. "We would like to caution the district administration to keep the evacuees away from COVID-19 affected people."

"Cyclone Nisarga" will bring in plenty of downpours that could result in the other viral infections like, influenza, dengue, malaria, typhoid, chikungunya, leptospirosis, jaundice and possibly cholera, etc. The district administrations need to be extremely alert about the onset of these ailments. The health administration will also have to be on their toes to tackle not only COVID-19, but all the other ailments, which Nisarga might bring," he said.

Godmen held for organising party during lockdown

The party resulted in 10 contracting COVID-19, while 30 have been sent into quarantine

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ULHASNAGAR cops have booked two godmen for arranging a birthday party which resulted in 10 people contracting COVID-19 including them while 30 being sent into quarantine on May 17. According to HILL police officials, they got information that a birthday party was arranged which was attended by around 50 people from which a few had come from Nashik.

The gathering was illegal and has caused major damage. When we got the information that, one of the Godmen tested positive for Coronavirus, we were told by some informers that he had arranged a gathering on May 17," said an officer from HILL Police station on condition of anonymity.

Upon receiving the information, cops first checked with the Dharbar where the gathering took place to confirm the reports before initiating any action. They have booked both the godmen under IPC Section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and 269 (Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and relevant sections of the Prevention of Epidemic Act 1897.

50

Total no. of people who attended the party



Health Minister Rajesh Tope met doctors at a city hospital on Tuesday

Top city hospitals violate rules in COVID beds

Four hospitals served notices after health minister's surprise visit on Monday night

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AFTER some top city hospitals were found violating the directives regarding making 80 per cent beds available to COVID-19 patients, CM Uddhav Thackeray asked BMC to deploy its officials to ensure that the affected are treated without any delay in such charitable hospitals.

The cabinet decided this on Tuesday and also approved a proposal to cover all COVID patients under the state's Maharashtra Public Jan Arogya Yojana. On Monday night, Health

Minister Rajesh Tope made surprise visits to some of the city's private hospitals where he found violations of the government directives. According to official information, Bombay Hospital, Jaslok Hospital, Hinduja Hospital and Lilavati

80

Percentage of beds charitable hospitals are required to reserve

Hospital were given show-cause notices by State Health Services Guarantee Society.

A government press statement said that the private hospitals were rejecting admission saying that the 80 per cent reserved beds were fully occupied. The

hospitals didn't have information on beds available despite having 50 per cent of approved beds vacant. They didn't display the rates approved by the government, the statement added.

"We had received complaints and hence Mr Tope started visiting hospitals between 10 pm (Monday) and 2 am (Tuesday)," said the health minister's office.

'We had received complaints and hence Mr Rajesh Tope started visiting hospitals between 10 pm [Monday] and 2 am [Tuesday]' Health minister's office

BROWSER

19 people killed in Assam landslides



GUWAHATI: At least 19 people were killed and two others seriously injured in landslides triggered by incessant rains in south Assam's Barak valley districts of Jorhat, Karimganj and Cachar on Tuesday evening, officials said. Seven people, including two children and a woman, were killed and two others seriously injured in a landslide that hit a tin house at Mohanpur area near Belabazar, said a spokesman of the district administration.

20,000 people evacuated in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD: With Gujarat bracing for the approaching cyclone, the Valsad and Narmada district administrations have started evacuating 20,000 people from 47 villages located close to the state coastline, officials said. Besides, in a relief to people living near the shore, the IMD indicated the cyclone may not make a landfall on the Gujarat coast.

RS elections to be held on June 19

NEW DELHI: Elections for 24 Rajya Sabha seats spread across 10 states will be held on June 19, the Election Commission said. Elections for 18 of these 24 seats were deferred due to the coronavirus pandemic. Of these 18 seats, four each are from AP and Gujarat, three each from MP and Rajasthan, two from Jharkhand, and one each from Manipur and Meghalaya.

Shah to hold virtual rally for West Bengal

KOLKATA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address the people of West Bengal through a "virtual rally" on June 8, state party president Dilip Ghosh said. He said the party would reach out to people, "apprising them of the achievements of the Narendra Modi government in its first year of the second term and steps taken by the Centre to deal with the crisis caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Will ensure India gets back its economy, GDP growth: Modi

Nation records over 8,000 cases for the third consecutive day as total cases reach almost 2 lakh

COVID-19 TICKER
1,98,706
TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN INDIA (AS OF TODAY)

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that his government will ensure more policy reforms to speed up economic growth and remove structural bottlenecks in the Indian economy.

Accordingly, the country will also implement steps to reduce import-dependence and strengthen domestic supply chains. Furthermore, Modi exuded the confidence that India would get its GDP growth back very soon. In an online address at the 129th AGM of industry body CII, he said that the country has entered into the 'Unlock Phase 1' which focuses on getting the economy back on track and that the Centre will take every possible step to revive economic growth.

Besides, the Prime Minister pointed out, the Centre had provided immediate relief to the disadvantaged sections of society via the 'Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Yojana' in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.



Passengers wearing face masks wait to board a train at New Delhi railway station. PIC/PTI

This scheme helps provide free rations to 74 crore beneficiaries. He said that the Centre has provided financial assistance of ₹53,000 crore and over 8 crore cooking gas cylinders to the poor. Additionally, over 50 lakh beneficiaries of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation saw the government deposit 24 per cent of their EPF contributions in their accounts, the PM said.

Modi claimed that India Inc has the ability to bounce back

and said that attaining a higher growth level should not be difficult. In his address, the Prime Minister said that the concept of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' rooted on '5 I's of Intent, Inclusion, Investment, Infrastructure, and Innovation'.

He said that while announcing the relief package during the coronavirus crisis, his government took a long-term view of the economy and announced far-reaching measures to reform the economy.

Inching close to 2L-mark

Meanwhile, India witnessed 8,171 new Coronavirus cases in 24 hours. With this, the total case count mounted to 1,98,706 on Tuesday. At least 204 new fatalities were also recorded in 24 hours, taking the toll to 5,598. Agencies

'No community transmission in Goa'

Hours after Health Minister Vishwajit Rane confirmed the first instance of community transmission in Goa, claiming an entire family and its doctor had tested positive for COVID-19, state health secretary Nila Mohanan denied the presence of community transmission of the virus in Goa. Mohanan also said that only two persons from the family of five based in Vasco in South Goa had tested positive, adding that the presence of the cases do not indicate community transmission in the state.

Kerala girl kills self over virtual classes

A Siddhant Datta student allegedly committed suicide by setting herself afire over not being able to attend online classes as she did not have a smart phone and the television in her house was not working. The new academic session began in Kerala from Monday with online classes.

Delhi launches Corona app

A mobile application has been launched in Delhi to provide information about hospital beds and ventilators for COVID-19 patients, CM Arvind Kejriwal said. The mobile app 'Delhi corona' can be downloaded on Google Play Store. People can also get information on www.delhifightscorona.in/beds or on the helpline number 1031.



Porters wait outside the New Delhi railway station. PIC/PTI

A stormy time gallops closer

As Mumbai braces for cyclone Nisarga, a look at how Kolkata's racecourse is healing after being battered by cyclone Amphan

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RECENTLY, the member base of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club (RCTC) received a communication from club chairman Sudipto Sarker requesting generosity of all stakeholders in the reconstruction of the Club's infrastructure, which has been damaged in cyclone Amphan.

Sarker's crisp communication begins with, "There are times when Murphy's Law takes effect and all that can go wrong does go wrong. With the country battling the glob-

al pandemic and the future of racing under great threat, cyclone Amphan hit Kolkata. This convergence of catastrophes has had disastrous effects on the Club's resources."

Damage done

Another excerpt from his letter says, "I am writing primarily to inform you about the immense damage suffered by our Club. Our boundary walls and fencing, stables at Bakery Road and Race Course, Bookmakers' Ring, Commentators' Box, Judges Box, Governors Box, Stewards Box, big screen, audio equip-

ment, innumerable TV sets, sheds, gates, pillars and window panes have all been extensively damaged, some beyond repair requiring replacement."

Divine providence

It ends with an appeal for voluntary monetary help in the rebuilding effort. Cyrus Madan, on the Board of Stewards of RCTC said, "The club infrastructure has been damaged heavily. It was divine providence that human beings and 408 horses in the stables were unscathed." Madan further explained, "We lost 47 beauti-



Amphan has severely damaged the Royal Calcutta Turf Club.

ful big, old trees that broke in the eye of this cyclone. There are times when the sport is completely devastated. Our Kolkata racing season, which runs from July to March with a short break in between, is now like most things, mired in uncertainty. Even with cyclone Amphan, we would have been good to go from July, but the pandemic has changed that. Racing has been affected all

over the world. Some courses are opening behind closed doors, because of online betting. We are still talking to the government with reference to online betting here."

In Mumbai

Sarker said that the help coming in is totally voluntary and a "lot of work still has to be done at the racecourse. There has been considerable damage."

In Mumbai, "our television sets at the Mahalaxmi race course have been removed and stored away," said Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) chairman Zaveray Poonawalla. "The Mahalaxmi racecourse also has many old, massive trees, we have tried to be as prepared as possible and safe as we brace for cyclone Nisarga," he finished.

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Definition of MSMEs further changed to boost Industry Sector

- To promote Ease of Doing Business
- Opportunity to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to grow

No global tender process on government procurement upto Rs 200 crore

- This will particularly benefit Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Distressed Asset Fund/ Subordinate Debt Scheme approved for MSMEs

- A scheme of Rs. 20,000 crore has been approved
- The Scheme will benefit nearly 2 lakh MSMEs

Rs 50,000 crore Fund of Funds approved for Equity in MSMEs

- Approval of Equity to put an end to challenges faced by MSMEs in their development
- It will be a joint fund from the Government and Private Sector

PM launches MSME Ministry's portal: www.champions.gov.in, a one-stop shop

- MSMEs can register their complaints here

War Against Corona - Nation Wins When You Win!



“Our MSMEs are source of livelihood for millions of people, which is the strong foundation of our resolve for a self-reliant India.”

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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

South America reopens as virus peak nears

RIO DE JANEIRO: South American countries on Monday began easing COVID-19 restrictions even as the region battles toward its viral peak, disregarding the example set by European nations that were battered earlier by the virus.

Some of Brazil's hardest hit cities are starting to allow more activity. Rio de Janeiro, with the second-most cases after São Paulo, on Monday announced it would begin gradually easing restrictions the following day.

Bolivia's government authorised reopening most of the country and the government of Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro unwound restrictions. Bolivia's airports were resuming flights and shoppers returning to some of Colombia's malls.

'Situation far from stable'

The executive director of the World Health Organisation's emergencies program, Mike Ryan, expressed concern over South America's climbing contagion, telling reporters on Monday that the region had become an "intense zone of transmission for this virus," which had not yet reached its peak.

"Clearly the situation in many



A customer buys alcohol at a liquor shop in Johannesburg on Monday as South Africa moves into level three of a fire-tier lockdown. Africa's COVID-19 cases on Tuesday surpassed 150,000 while the WHO says the continent of 1.3 billion people is still least affected region. PIC/MP

Rolling back measures runs counter to Europe's approach of waiting for the worst to pass before resuming activity, and South America trails much further behind on its viral curve

South American countries is far from stable. There is a rapid increase in cases and those systems are coming under increasing pressure," he said.

Data from the WHO's Pan American Health Organisation shows the region's seven-day rolling average of new cases continues rising, due in large part to Brazil, which accounts for more than half the total.

Brazil's rescaled continues to surge, yet its airport will resume international flights on June 3, according to Nicolás Romero, the airport's spokesperson, though he said arriving passengers must spend 15 days in quarantine, without specifying how such quarantine will be enforced.

Agencies

China sat on virus info, frustrating WHO, says report

Throughout January, the WHO publicly praised China for what it called a speedy response to COVID-19 and thanked the government for sharing the genetic map of the virus "immediately." But in fact, Chinese officials sat on releasing the genetic map or genome of the virus for over a week after multiple government labs had fully decoded it, not sharing details key to designing tests, drugs and vaccines. Although WHO continued to publicly commend China, the recordings obtained by the AP show they were concerned China was not sharing key information, costing the world valuable time.

'Pakistan experts wanted lockdown'

A leaked government document reveals authorities ignored experts who wanted a month-long lockdown in Punjab province and who estimated 6.70.000 might have been infected in Lahore. After media published experts' report on Tuesday, residents criticised the government for easing the curbs in April instead of heeding the recommendation. Pakistan has seen 1,625 fatalities amid 76,398 cases.



A police officer points a rubber bullet gun towards a man standing at a protest site with his daughter in Long Beach, California. PIC/TWITTER/9RICHARDGRANT10

Military against people protesting George Floyd's murder by a cop

This is Donald Trump's plan if states fail to take necessary actions to 'quell' the violent protests; slammed for a photo-op at church

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has threatened to deploy the military if the states fail to take necessary actions to "dominate the streets" and "quell" the violent protests that have spread across the US over the custodial killing of African-American George Floyd.

Trump said he was dispatching "thousands and thousands" of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel, and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, assaults, and the wanton destruction of property. Thousands have been protesting against the killing of Floyd, 46, who was pinned to the ground in Minneapolis last week by a white police officer who knelt on his neck as he gasped for breath.

"If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and proper of their residents, then I will deploy the US military and quickly solve the problem for them," he said.

Trump also said all Americans were "rightly outraged and revolted by the brutal death" of Floyd, and asserted that justice will be served.

'I am outraged'

The bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington criticised Trump for staging a visit to the St. John's Church across from the White House. The Rev. Marianne Rodde, whose diocese St. John's belongs to, said she was "outraged" by Trump's visit and noted that he didn't pray while stopping by the church.

World outrage grows

World outrage at Floyd's death grew on Tuesday, with solidarity protests being organised at Sydney, Paris, Kenya and The Hague in the Netherlands. Agencies



Donald Trump holds a Bible while visiting St. John's Church across from the White House after cops used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse peaceful protesters in the area on Monday. PIC/MP

'Floyd's death a homicide, his heart stopped while restrained'

MINNEAPOLIS: A medical examiner on Monday classified George Floyd's death as a homicide, saying his heart stopped as police restrained him and suppressed his neck.

"Decedent experienced a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by law enforcement officer(s)," the report read. Under "other significant conditions" it said Floyd suffered from heart disease and hypertension, and listed benzoyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use.

Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has been charged with third-degree murder in Floyd's death, and three other officers were fired.

An autopsy commissioned for Floyd's family found that he died of asphyxiation due to neck and back compression, the family's attorneys said on Monday. He called for the third-degree murder charge against Officer Derek Chauvin to be upgraded to first-degree murder and for three other officers to be charged. Agencies

His death abuse of power: EU official

The European Union's top diplomat said on Tuesday George Floyd's death was the result of an abuse of power and that the 27-nation bloc is "shocked and appalled" by it. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said law and order officials must not be "using their capacities in the way that has been used in this very, very unhappy death of George Floyd. This is an abuse of power and this has to be denounced."



9,07,227

Total no. of COVID-19 cases in South America

41,120

Total no. of COVID-19 deaths in South America

6,400,055

Total no. of COVID-19 cases worldwide



Mourners pray for the victims of the PIA plane crash during their funeral in Karachi on Tuesday. The aircraft crashed on houses on May 22 near Karachi airport, killing 97 people on board. PIC/APP

comment

THOUGHT
FOR THE DAY

Constant attention by a good nurse may be just as important as a major operation by a surgeon
— Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish diplomat

Authorities must make things best for nurses

Several nursing organisations have written a letter to the BMC commissioner stating ill-treatment, neglect and gross negligence towards them as the pandemic rages across the city.

The nurses said that their concerns were not addressed by the city's previous municipal chief, but they need to be heard and acted upon now.

They claim that the nature of their work means there is a high risk of contracting the infection and many

of them have done so. There is a litany of complaints, with inadequate protection topping the list. Then, there is the turmoil of standing for hours for a test, not getting a second test and problems like unhygienic conditions to not getting nutritious food.

Whatever be the complaints, they need to be addressed. The nurses are just next to the first responders when it comes to fighting the pandemic. If we want the system to work like a well-oiled machine, we have to see

that all the parts are in top shape so that it works as smooth as possible.

Take the complaints seriously, as this is not just one or two disgruntled individuals complaining, these are entire organisations.

Authorities must also realise that one day the pandemic may be over. Or worse, it may not be and only the danger may be reduced. We cannot say what shape the crisis is going to take.

What is a certainty though is that

the healthcare system needs to go on and for that, we need that providers be in fine fettle, physically and mentally.

Being bitter at perceived or real abandonment or feeling neglected and abandoned shows in your work. Take heed of their grievances now, and if some aspect can be resolved currently, do so with speed and focus. Make them a valued and cherished part of the army fighting the virus and then beyond.

LETTERS

It is clear money meant for COVID is being misused

The report 'City doctors allege dues not paid; 80 COVID workers sacked' made for sad reading. Mumbai is the worst affected when it comes to COVID-19 and the step-motherly treatment to health workers under the present circumstances comes as a shock. Doctors and COVID workers not being paid their fees and allowances is unacceptable at a time when they not only risk their lives but also of their families. Corruption rules the roost in our country in general and Mumbai in particular as money earmarked to fight COVID-19 is misused as well as lost in corruption.

SATYANARAYAN KABRA

No one cares about CM's pet handler testing positive

Apologies 'Handler of CM's dog tests positive', while the people of Maharashtra are reeling under the pressure of fighting COVID-19, this news was certainly not worth anyone's time. Who has the time to worry about the CM's dogs and their handler?

SUDHAKAR SHENOY

Kudos to 26-year-old for opting to be a counsellor

Kudos to the young man for opting to be a counsellor, apropos the report '26-year-old goes from patient to counsellor'. The word COVID-19 is so scary that not only patients but also their families are treated as untouchables by neighbours and others. Only a patient who has undergone the stress and anxiety is capable of reassuring others that they too can fight this disease and win.

KATY MARFATIA

MS WORD

Mayank Shekhar

Presuming shortly after the commercial success of *Mona Ragun* (1966) is when superstar Kamal Haasan ('Kamalahasan' to Tamil fans) reached out to director Mani Ratnam. With a VHS tape of a Sharmila Kapoor movie (*Pagla Kahin Ka*; 1974), for him to remake!

Ratnam wasn't interested in the rip-off. But he had three months to get on shoot with Haasan, to start from scratch on a script of his own suggestion — *Biopic of the Bombay/Madras underworld don, Varadarajan Mudaliar*.

The film was, of course, *Nayakan* (1967). During its first schedule, Ratnam had around half the script/story in place. This is what I found to be a surprising discovery, during filmmaker Gautham Menon's chat with Ratnam on his online show, *Urliyaadil Aadi Saali*.

Urliyaadil means conversation. Best of which often inspire, to talk in 'YouTubese', a call-to-action (CTA). In my case, it was to flip to *Nayakan*. And realise that while the 160-minute film hasn't aged so much in 34 years, its script/story/story-line, outside of a rushed prologue for a basic revenge drama, really kicks in around the 56th minute.

It develops thereafter into an evergreen, mature drama, drawing you in deeper and deeper still, with subsequent scenes. Most of which, in the second and final ageing phase of mob-boss Velu Naicker (Haasan), would've been formally written in, only while the film's production was already off. Guess you leap, and the net falls.

Surely everyone has their favourite *Nayakan* moments. For me (now) it's probably that pivotal yet stray second when Don Naicker decides to give himself to cops on his consigliere's death. Told that cops will finish him off, he sighs casually on what meaning does his life hold anyway. Implying life, whether of crime/passion

Watching Mani Sir's *Nayakan*, humming Thenpandi Cheemayile, Raja Sir's ear-worm from the film; realising both men born on June 2!



A still from Mani Ratnam's 1967 film, *Nayakan*. PH:AMAZON PRIME

Surely everyone has their favourite *Nayakan* moments. For me (now) it's probably that pivotal yet stray second when Don Naicker decides to give himself to cops on his consigliere's death. Told that cops will finish him off, he sighs casually on what meaning does his life hold anyway. Implying life, whether of crime/passion or more virtuous preoccupations, is rendered useless in the long run — when you look back at it eventually.

or more virtuous preoccupations, is rendered useless in the long run — when you look back at it eventually.

It's an element Martin Scorsese, greatest exponent of the mob-opera, patiently explores/examines over the last 10-odd minutes of *The Irishman* (2019), which I reckon will be considered a much greater masterpiece 34 years hence.

Nayakan surely got its due upon release. Which was a good decade-and-a-half after Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* entered our lives (and hasn't left it yet). And four years after Brian De Palma's *Scarface* (1983). Both films were deemed as modern fountain-heads of the urban underworld genre. Up until Scorsese's *The Goodfellas* (1990) came along, opening up a third, overflowing tap!

Nayakan also came out only a couple of years before Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *Parinda*, that drew compar-

isons to Elia Kazan's *On The Waterfront* (1954). And Ratnam's film was up there on the big screen four years prior to Mukul Anand's *Agneepath*, with Amitabh Bachchan as Vijay Dinanath Chaudhan that — on the face of it — was quite *Scarface*, yes; but intensely inspired by the life of the Bombay don Manya Surve.

Chronology samajhiye — to sense the level of love/admiration accorded to *Nayakan*. Because it was the first Bombay mob-opera in the way that genre, in its realism and gritiness, shaped up and took off thereafter over a decade before Ram Gopal Varma's *Satya*. And it was written, directed by an altogether Madras talkies' man, finding odd, conveniently regional alibi (in back-stories) for all characters to only talk to each other in Tamil.

In the way that Bollywood films have always had Hindi speaking

parts for all characters placed abroad — "Tum janta; main bolta; tum kya karta?" I don't understand Tamil. And so *Nayakan*'s most famous, terse line, "Neenga nallavara, kettavara?" means only, "Are you good or bad?" in its Google translation to me.

Although even in its subtitles, this question is as effectively answered when the cop who goes after Don Naicker in the film, admits to him in the prison cell, "Our intentions are the same, but with a key difference — I wear the uniform; you don't."

This is an obvious moral universe for a famed don's life scripted as a hero's journey. But bringing to expressed memory every moment that he was wronged to get to where he did — that powerful scene between Don Naicker and his daughter — makes Yash Chopra's *Dusra* (1975), inspired by Bombay don Haji Mastan's life, as much a precursor to *Nayakan*. "Jao pehle us aadmi ko sign lekar aao..." Yup!

What did I miss in *Nayakan*? As you can tell, Bombay. It's hardly there in the film, which is so much about it. Ratnam made up for it with Bombay (1995), employing his lead character (Arvind Swamy) specifically with the Old Lady of Boorbunder. Or, maybe Peror Khan more than made up for it by flipping off/apart *Nayakan* as *Dayavan* (1988), right down to the braless fisherwoman item song, composed by Jayarama, guessing credited to Shankar-Jhankar.

Think they left the Jayarama track Thenpandi Cheemayile that plays throughout *Nayakan* alone. It's the ear-worm humming in my head all through June 2, which I realise is coincidentally both composer Raja Sir and director Mani Sir's birthday! CTA for this conversation. Play that track on YouTube. Hear it grow across both membranes of your brain. Hate me later.

Mayank Shekhar attempts to make sense of mass culture. He tweets @mayshekar4

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'I'm no one to question their decision'

Even as the younger crop of actors equates stardom to big-screen outings, Bachchan subverts the notion with a digital premiere of his next, *Gulabo Sitabo*

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SHOOJIT Sircar's decision to release *Gulabo Sitabo* directly on Amazon Prime Video was met with fierce criticism by the theatre owners. If Amitabh Bachchan is affected by the talk of the OTT-theatre divide, he doesn't show it. Instead, he begins the chat with a joke. "I don't understand what OTT stands for. For me, it has always been O-T-Yeri. Sorry, that was a bad one," says the megastar, wisely battling the hate with humour.

Several younger actors are wary of working a digital premiere for their offerings, owing to the misguided notion that one is not a star in the true sense unless he dominates the 70 min screen. However, Bachchan remains a trendsetter of sorts. Having courted superstardom over five decades, the senior actor knows all too well that it cannot be equated to screen size or social media following. "I have sleepless nights before the shoot of my films [till date]. I battle each hour to increase my views on Instagram. The youngsters get 30 lakh to 40 lakh views as soon as they come on board. I go 'whoopie' in excitement when I hit a lakh. But I am no one to question their decisions."

In his third collaboration with Bachchan, Sircar had described



Bachchan with director Shoojit Sircar

him as "haungla" [greedy] for good work. How does he maintain his zest for work after reigning supreme for so long? "These are regulations for any professional. You need to work to your fullest creative capacity. Reuniting with Judd [Chaturvedi, writer] and Shoojit is like driving a car. You live in Mumbai all your life and learn how to drive in the city; you are familiar with the traffic, the rules and regulations. Suddenly, you are asked to drive in Delhi. You don't forget how to drive, but it takes time to get familiar with the streets and the rules," he says, adding that it was a privilege to team up with Ayushmann Khurrana. "He is a distinguished talent, and I am a fan of his work."

'The youngsters get 30 lakh to 40 lakh views [on Instagram]. I go 'whoopie' in excitement when I hit a lakh'



SO IS THE BUZZ

AFTER SINGING, SKETCHING, SALLU NOW WRITING?

Sources say Khan is scripting a love story during the lockdown; plans to produce it

ALMOST six months after being credited for developing the story of *Dabangg 3*, Salman Khan appears to have taken to writing again. mid-day has learnt that the superstar, who has tried it all during the lockdown — from sketching to singing and creating music videos — is now penning a love story.

"Salman often comes up with one-line concepts; his keen interest in storytelling can presumably be attributed to writer-father Salim Khan. For long, he has had a love story about a young couple in mind. The lockdown seemed like an opportune time to revisit the idea. Salman has been dedicating a few hours daily to develop the first draft, and hopes to have the script ready by the year-end," says a source in the know. The romantic drama will apparently be produced under the actor's home banner.

mid-day reached out to Khan's team, who did not respond until the time of going to press.

Mohar Basu



'Season 4 may be about star wife's extra-marital affair'

Exploring infidelity with third edition of *Kehne Ko Humsafar* Hain, creator Ekta Kapoor discusses the way forward for show



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If she has given us implausible fantasy series about serpents and run-of-the-mill family dramas, Ekta Kapoor has also offered a mature love story with *Kehne Ko Humsafar* Hain. The creator-producer says that the upcoming third season continues to examine marriage in all its complexity and delves into infidelity. "Men associate infidelity with the physical [act of cheating]; whereas, for women, it is

about the emotional [infidelity]. It is the lack of communication that breaks down a relationship," explains Kapoor.

The second season traced how Our-deep Kishi's character finds love in a



A still from the show

younger man after her husband walks out of the marriage. Through her track, Kapoor wants to challenge the taboo around an older woman-younger man romance. "If a woman in her 40s is divorced, she can fall in love again with a man, irrespective of his age. She has the right to make that decision without thinking about society," asserts Kapoor, who has conceptualised the next instalment. "The fourth season may be based on the real-life story of a Bollywood star wife's extra-marital affair. It will have a fresh cast."

have you heard?

KEEP CLEAN Anushka Sharma has joined a government campaign urging people to maintain strict hygiene and stop open defecation to prevent spread of the virus.



Painted glory

Parah Khan dressed up daughters Diva and Anya to resemble vintage paintings for a school assignment. The choreographer-filmmaker's eye for detail made the girls, 12, ace the look. They followed mommy dearest's instructions, who was the director, hairstylist, makeup artist, costume designer and photographer, all rolled into one. Shweta Bachchan Nanda 'loved' the lookalikes and Aditi Rao Hydari screamed 'insane'. We wonder what Anya and Diva scored in the homework.



The curious case of Esha's missing photos

Esha Gupta's pictures and videos had been missing from her Instagram account since the last few days. Just when netizens wondered what prompted her to resort to such a drastic step, she returned to the photo-sharing website in a sultry avatar. The sexy diva is known to set the Internet ablaze with her smoking hot pictures. Gupta claims her account was hacked. Now, she is trying to get as many posts back as possible to send the temper tantrum soaring again with her bold avatar.



Break ke baad

Dangal (2016) actor Zaira Wasim and wink girl Priya Prakash Varrier, who are back on social media after a short hiatus, have explained why they decided to go offline. After being trolled for posting religious verses on Instagram, Wasim says the tweet was blown out of proportion and "none of the opinions define the reality of my intentions for that is between me and God. The world is going through a tough time, the least we could do is not add more to it." Varrier explained that it was for her "peace of mind" that she took a social media detox.



Colour code

Netizens could not digest that Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Sonam K Ahuja, Deepika Padukone and Disha Patani have lent support to #BlackLivesMatter to condemn police brutality in the US after endorsing fairness and skin lightening brands. The actors were trolled for saying that one cannot differentiate on the basis of a person's skin colour. "It doesn't sit right that back home one promotes fairness creams while speaking about how all colours are beautiful. It's opportunistic," wrote a Twitter user. Another user called them 'hypocrites' and wrote, "Making money selling fairness cream on one hand and protesting racism on the other hand."



Sajid-Wajid's mother tests positive

Ravina Khanna, composer duo Sajid-Wajid's mother has tested positive for Coronavirus. She has been hospitalised and her condition is said to be stable. Wajid passed away on Monday due to complications arising from a renal ailment and COVID-19. Ravina is admitted to Sena Hospital and Research Centre in Chembur. Wajid was undergoing treatment at the same hospital.



Shah Rukh cares

Shah Rukh Khan has offered financial support to the toddler, who was seen pulling the shroud from the mother's body at Muzaffarpur railway station, in a viral video. The superstar is thankful to all those who helped him reach the child as he was disturbed after seeing the video. He knows how it feels "to lose a parent".



Sonakshi turns 33

On Tuesday, Sonakshi Sinha was showered with greetings from industry folk as she turned 33. Father Shatrughan Sinha expressed gratitude that the family is spending time together during lockdown. Sonakshi's brothers, twins Lav and Kush, turn a year older on June 5. The Sinhas keep the celebrations going for a week.



Bad is good

Mantra Muggdh, who was last seen in Ashutosh Gowariker's Panipat, plays a don in the upcoming web series, The Casino: My Games, My Rules. To bring on the many shades of grey to the Nepali character, Muggdh had to work on the slyling, dialect and the mannerisms. "It was a thrilling ride," says the 30-year-old actor who runs a podcast channel.



Halle Berry seeks help for immigrants

ACTRESS Halle Berry, 53, took to social media to urge people to help out an immigrant family that is struggling after their store was looted and burned in the protests in the city over the weekend.

The actor posted about Ned Hascounian, 81, an immigrant, who was hit hard when his shop on Melrose was destroyed. She asked her followers to donate to a fundraiser set up to cover the costs of restoring the shop, claim reports. "An 81-year-old immigrant father and business owner, Ned Hascounian, had his Melrose shop looted and burned to the ground over the weekend," she wrote.

Riots have spread across the US after a video went viral of George Floyd being suffocated to death

"He immigrated in 1945, and for 30 years, he put his life into his business and community. His recently deceased wife's jewelry was also stolen. I hope we can all take a minute to help this man out," she added.

Several clashes erupted between protesters and police over the death of an unarmed black man in police custody.



Stars to endorse Bhumi's environment campaign

Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar pledge to be climate-conscious

AMITABH Bachchan and Akshay Kumar have joined Bhumi Pednekar's initiative to spread awareness about climate change and the need to protect the environment.

"The climate change upon us is real. Stand up, do your bit to protect Mother Nature. On World Environment Day, my one wish for the earth pledge is to be climate conscious, create awareness within families and communities. Every minute counts, be a #ClimateWarrior," Bachchan tweeted on Tuesday tagging Pednekar.

The 61-year-old actor took to Instagram to thank the Bachchan for taking part in the campaign. She wrote: "Thank you so much, Amitabh Bachchan sir for supporting us, spreading the message and telling us your wish. It will inspire many to be more climate positive. Climate consciousness and awareness is the first and most important step for us. We will and can, together, make a difference."

In a separate Instagram post, Pednekar shared a video where Akshay Kumar speaks

about climate change. In the video, Kumar says, "Our beautiful planet that has sustained us now needs us to protect it more than ever. During this time, we, as a community, must tread carefully and act immediately. A lot of damage has been done and climate change is a grave

reality that all of us are facing. Today, the one wish that I have is that we all work towards rebuilding mother nature by the simplest act of planting trees. I consider this one of the most basic and efficient deeds that we can all exercise individually and also urge others to do so. So guys, let us all do our bit to heal and rebuild the only planet we have. So join me and become a climate warrior."

The campaign endeavours to get Bollywood personalities to share one wish they have for the planet.

Agencies

'Climate consciousness is the first and most important step for us. We will and can, together, make a difference'



Frozen 2 to hit Disney+ in UK, Ireland two weeks early

THE animated musical fantasy film, Frozen 2 will be available on Disney+ in the United Kingdom and Ireland two weeks ahead of schedule on Friday, July 3, the Walt Disney Co. informed on Tuesday.

According to reports, the animated movie, which is already available on the streaming service in the US, Australia and the Netherlands, follows Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven on their journey into the unknown to discover the source of Elsa's magical powers and save the kingdom of Arendelle. The Walt Disney Animation Studios movie features the voices of Idina Menzel, Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff



and Josh Gad.

Bob Chapek, the Disney CEO said at the time, "Frozen 2 has captivated audiences around the world through its powerful themes of persever-

ance and the importance of family, messages that are incredibly relevant during this time, and we are pleased to be able to share this story early with our subscribers."

PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES, INSTAGRAM



Clooney says racism is 'greatest pandemic'

GEORGE Clooney has penned an essay in the wake of the protests over the death of George Floyd, the African-American man who was killed in police custody in Minneapolis.

The officer was arrested on Friday and charged with third-degree murder.

In his essay, published by Daily Beast, Clooney called racism as the "greatest pandemic" of the US, lamenting that there hasn't been a "race-crisis" for it even after 400 years. "This is our pandemic. It infects all of us, and in 400 years, we've yet to find a vaccine. It seems we've stopped even looking for one and we just try to treat the wound on an individual basis. And we see haven't done a good job of that," said the actor.

He called for "systemic change" in the country to tackle the problem of racism. "The anger and the frustration we see playing out once again in our streets is just a reminder of how little we've grown as a country from our original sin of slavery," Clooney concluded his essay by urging Americans to vote for change in the upcoming US Presidential elections.

JJ Abrams pledges \$10 million to anti-racism causes

THE Katie McGrath & JJ Abrams Family Foundation and Bad Robot have made five-year pledge of \$10 million to the anti-racism agenda organisations.

The announcement was made on the Bad Robot Instagram page. "Enough is enough. Enough police brutality. Enough outsized privilege. Enough police conversation. Enough white comfort. The centuries long neglect and abuse of our black brothers and sisters can only be ad-

dressed by scalable investment," the statement read.

In the caption, the company thanked scholars, activists, organisers and leaders fighting on the frontlines of change and supported the Black Lives Matter movement. The donation comes as the US has been hit by massive protests and rioting following the death of George Floyd, the African-American man who was killed in police custody in Minneapolis last week.



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the guide



Rush hour at Thane station before the lockdown

GENERIC GUIDELINES

BASIC FACILITIES

"THE basic principle underlying all precautionary measures to be undertaken is to consider every person and surface a possible source of infections, including yourself," says Dr Dilom D'Souza, ENT consultant and head and neck surgeon, Jaslok Hospital and Desai Hospital. From the entry to the exit point, company facilities have to undergo a complete overhaul. These include:

- Disinfecting the premises before and after each day
- Installing foot-pedal sanitizers
- Conducting temperature checks
- Mandatory usage of masks
- Keeping an on-call doctor on standby
- Monitoring the usage of lifts to ensure distancing
- Changing seating layout

To make things easier, top firms like Axis Bank, Godrej and Boyce Mfg Co Ltd, Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Morbiel Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) have been sending out simple presentations, with quirky



buildings and signage, to guide employees about the changes as well as encourage them to follow the new measures. These include tutorials on how to use masks and gloves, and how to maintain social distancing even inside the workplace.

In line with the government guidelines, most of these employers are also rolling out policies for a combination of in-office and at-home work to ensure the staggered return of employees. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines released on April 20, companies should also maintain a list of COVID-19 hospitals nearby and encourage employees to use the Aarogya Setu app.



"The basic principle behind precautionary measures to be undertaken is to consider every surface a possible source of infections"

Dr Dilom D'Souza, ENT consultant

"We have not been in this situation before. And no-one has past experience, so the process needs to be designed by seniors"

Dr Shafrini Lal, organisational thinker

Back to the office

As the lockdown gets lifted across Mumbai in phases, experts offer a 360-degree primer on necessary measures and precautions that need to be adopted by both employer and employee

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FOR THE EMPLOYER

HUMAN RESOURCES

"We have not been in this situation before. And no one has past experience with transitioning back employees, so the process needs to be designed by senior leaders. And this falls directly in the remit of the HR team that will lead

the effort," says Dr Shafrini Lal, organisational development thinker and co-author of *The Secret Life of Organizations* (Rachette India). Here are some policies that the HR departments across industries will have to keep in mind.



Customers maintain social distancing at an Axis Bank branch

AXIS Bank is rolling out a three-phase return policy. In the first phase, 30 per cent employees will return in large offices, followed by 30 per cent in phase 2 and 60 per cent in phase 3, subject to norms laid down for the different zones.



Dr Shafrini Lal



Sudhir Dhar



Harpreet Kaur



Milind Jadhav



ATTENDANCE/LEAVE

Staggered return: This seems to be the policy that workplaces will be following once the lockdown ends, while keeping in mind that the MHA guidelines state that persons above the age of 65 and those with kids below five years should be encouraged to work from home.

Harpreet Kaur, senior vice president and head, corporate personnel and administration, at Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd, says, "Based on the government order on the percentage of employees who can come to work, we will continue with both in-office and WFH options. Return will be based on the criticality of work required to be carried out in premises, travel distance, mode of transport, etc." Meanwhile, Axis Bank is rolling out a three-phase return policy. In the first phase, 30 per cent employees will return in large offices, followed by 30 per cent in the second phase and 60 per cent in the third, subject to norms laid down for different zones.

Sudhir Dhar, executive director and head, HR, at MOFSL, tells us that employers will need to consider the following questions before returning — has my manager asked me to report? Is anyone from my family quarantined? Am I fit? "It will also depend on the temperature of employees while entering office."

Attendance system: This will have to take the no-contact route and companies may need to replace biometric-based systems with other arrangements like apps that record attendance once the employee is in the GPS coverage area of the office premises.

Leave: Employees will need to deal with the inevitable demand for holiday leaves once employees can travel. Life and corporate coach Milind Jadhav feels that employers will have to be sensitive. "After all, the well-being of employees comes first. Employers can't have a blanket policy on this; otherwise they're talking about productivity."

Continued on page 16



MEETINGS

Inside the workplace: Most employers and employees we spoke to tell us that the past two months have taught them that entire teams don't need to huddle for every single is-



Social distancing norms being followed at a Bank of Baroda branch, Joydeep Dutta Roy and Akshara Lalwani

sure. Joydeep Dutta Roy, chief general manager and head, HR integration and strategic HR, at Bank of Baroda, says they have completely stopped holding physical meetings, even

for those working at some of the branches. "Face-to-face meetings are only allowed between four to five employees in meeting rooms (by maintaining distance). Virtual meetings are

recommended for more than five people, and with guests and visitors," informs Dhar.

On-field meetings/consumer interactions: What happens in industries like public rela-



tions (PR) or advertising which are driven by client meetings, or the banking sector where consumer interaction can't be avoided? "We have provided employees with masks and

sanitizers at every workstation. Cashiers have to mandatorily use gloves. Customers are allowed entry in the branch only if they wear masks and after they undergo thermal checks. We have mandated distance between employees and customers at counters," says Dutta Roy. Akshara Lalwani, CEO and founder of PR and brand solutions firm Communicate India, shares that they have explained to clients that all matters do not require physical meetings. "While currently we are strictly managing with virtual meetings, when the lockdown ends, we will hold physical meetings on a need basis," Lalwani adds.



Huawei employees eat lunch in a cafeteria at the company's headquarters in Shenzhen, China, post the lockdown. PIC/GETTY IMAGES



OFFICE ETIQUETTE

Personal hygiene: What should an employee do to ensure their safety and those of their co-workers? Jadhav opines that social distancing should not be looked upon as a pain, but as the new normal to change our conduct in office. Dr Pritam Moon, general physician, Wockhardt Hospital Mira Road, says the most important thing that employees can and should do is wear masks. "Masks are the only thing that might be able to save you, apart from distancing. It also keeps you from

touching your face. Wash your hands instead of using sanitiser if you have the option to do so as it's more effective. Also, disinfect your personal belongings and desk area," he adds.

Dr D'Souza suggests we avoid touching public utility systems including coffee, photocopy and printing machines, or even common doors and railings. "Avoid sharing things with others, and use hair as well as face masks."

Employee behaviour: Manuals being sent out by companies including Axis Bank, Godrej & Boyce, BGR and MOFSL mandate wearing of masks and gloves, social distancing inside office premises, keeping in touch through call, text, email or apps, and greeting with a namaste. They prohibit any kind of socialising. "A paperless office has been initiated and bank employees are provided training to work smoothly using e-tools and apps," said Dutta Roy.



Dr Pritam Moon

Rajkumar Vempati

FOOD

While Dhar tells us that they have encouraged employees to carry their own food and water, and eat at their desk, Rajkumar Vempati, head HR at Axis Bank, shares that cafeteria strings will be staggered. "Employees need to 'hang out' online, rather than in cafeterias and have been asked to get their own food and cutlery," she adds.



One must be mindful to greet with a namaste, instead of a hand shake



Physical meetings, if absolutely necessary, should follow all protocols

'As we come out of this lockdown, businesses should place a greater emphasis on ethical practices rather than mindlessly extending work hours'

Dr Miloni Sanghvi



employees were placed on leave without pay. Company heads and HR will also need to help them get reoriented and allay their fears and concerns.



WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Drawing from the fact that some state governments have suspended labour laws for the next few years, it is expected that businesses might get emboldened to combat the recessionary phase or just to "make up" for the WFH loss. Dr Miloni Sanghvi, a psychologist and outreach associate at MPower, The Centre Mumbai, feels that to tackle this pressure, employers and employees must view themselves as part of the same family. "Organisations must practise transparency. As we come out of this lockdown, businesses should place a greater emphasis on ethical practices, rather than mindlessly extending work hours or having employees work on weekends, which goes against the employment contract, employees should collaborate with employers in devising an extended rota together. Employees, too, must be geared to expect changes," she adds.

Continued on page 17

MENTAL HEADSPACE

After more than two months of working from home, going back to a physical set-up might be a jarring experience. Kaur says that Godrej & Boyce plans to gradually ramp up work for this reason. "We are encouraging employees to come up with ideas on how we can contribute to lighten things up, post the lockdown," she shares. Here are some other tips shared by coach Jadhav and Dr Sanghvi:

● Don't clock long hours for the first few days and factor in some drop in productivity. Once you get into a rhythm and get the flow back, you will notice an increase in energy levels.

● In the first week after the lockdown ends, relate to what your colleagues must be dealing with and support each other. Employees need to be sensitive about this and encourage workers to open up about their feelings.

● Although you may be going back to the same workplace, a lot will change. Be attentive to the internal and external shifts that have taken place.

● Employees will have to manage their time and more importantly, their energy mindfully to make sure they compartmentalise work life and personal life.



OFFICE ENTERTAINMENT

The lockdown has been a difficult phase with reports of salary cuts and lay-offs across sectors. Employees will need to keep their staff motivated through office entertainment, without coming across as insensitive. Dr Sanghvi suggests selecting appropriate themes and activities that garner gratitude. "This should come with an acknowledgement of the challenges that have resulted from this economic downturn. Be mindful of expenditures for these added luxuries. It's grossly insensitive to shush salaries to cut costs while putting money towards office entertainment," she says. Jadhav

argues employees to also look for cost-effective options like online antakshari that can be engaging.



Jaspreet Bindra

UP-SKILLING

Many employees might have to take on additional responsibilities because of the reduced staff strength during this time. Moreover, since digital communication and e-tools are now absolute essentials, companies should use this time to up-skill employees. Jaspreet Bindra, founder of digital transformation advisory firm Digital Matters, and author of Tech Whispers (Penguin India), says that employees need to have a working knowledge of collaboration and conferencing software like MS Teams, Zoom, Slack, etc. "This will be as important as knowing Word or Excel or Powerpoint. Collaboration and teaming across remote locations to prepare for work from anywhere is another skill which must be learnt," he adds.

Face-to-face learning should be limited to small groups. "HR will need to re-imagine both behavioural and functional training modules to suit the hybrid model of working. It is not sufficient to just take what is offline and deliver the same online. Trainers need to be comfortable teaching online, too," Bindra explains.



Experts feel that the lockdown has given rise to a hybrid culture — a combination of WFH and in-office work — which MOFSL employees have been practising.

WFH BACK-UP

The lifting of the lockdown in a city like Mumbai might clash with the arrival of the monsoon. Moreover, there are reports of a second wave of the virus that might hit us. "WFH is not going to go away even after the lockdown. It will become a way of life, with a certain percentage of employees always working from home. The future is hybrid working, which firms should prepare for," predicts Bindra.

Smart hacks to distancing

- If a boardroom has 20 chairs, remove 10 to ensure that a crowd isn't encouraged to gather in the room.
- Work on creating fun signage and hashtags to encourage employees to follow social distancing norms. MOFSL has a #JustBareItJani chekMat for employees, while Axis Bank is using phrases like "ones board seating" and "99°F is the new cool" to deliver the message.
- Create rosters carefully to ensure that entry and exit points are not crowded with people at the start and end of the day.



ADMIN & SUPPORT STAFF

VISITOR CHECK AND SECURITY

Reth Dr D'Souza and Dr Moon suggest that visitors or guests should not be allowed on office premises. Dr D'Souza suggests that if necessary, companies can designate a spot or room for meetings with limited number of visitors, preferably on the ground floor, but that too has to be disinfected after each meeting. Companies like MOFSL and Axis Bank are asking employees to not invite visitors to the office premises. They are also keeping a tab on delivery personnel, agents, courier services, etc. entering the premises. Although anti-viral sprays have been suggested by many to sanitise goods entering the office, Dr D'Souza says, "The only kind of spray effective against the virus is that which releases large amounts of chlorine, which affects the lungs. So, if you are using it, there needs to be an open space with access to good sunlight and ventilation."

Often, and especially in larger workspaces, security might turn lax. However, this will need to change to ensure stricter access and control of non-staff personnel in the premises.



If visitors are allowed into an office, they should also go through thermal screening or temperature checks, like at this Godrej and Boyce facility. (right) all points of common contact in the office should be disinfected



SANITISATION AND HOUSE-KEEPING STAFF

Dr Moon suggests that apart from the seating area, washrooms, pantries, entry and exit points, lifts, door knobs, railings, stairways and all points of common contact should be regularly sanitised. "Employees should disinfect their own desks, too, before they start working and before they leave," he says. In its manual to employees, a private sector bank has stated that employees should use doormats dipped in disinfectant at the entrance

points to clean their shoe soles before entering the building. "If companies are getting people to service machines, whether A/Cs or printers, it should be done two to three days in advance when nobody is in office, after which the premises should be disinfected," says Dr D'Souza. Companies should keep an eye out for the safety of housekeeping staff, especially those involved in collecting garbage. They should be given appropriate PPE gear.

ACCORDING to guidelines on preventive measures for workplaces that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued on May 18, work spaces should be cleaned every evening after office hours or early morning before they're occupied. Cleaners should wear disposable rubber boots, gloves and a triple layer mask



Experts are of the opinion that an effective plan for public transport needs to be worked out before people can return to their workplaces

TRANSPORT

While public transportation might take time to resume after the lockdown ends, and even if it's a safe option, it's one of the main reasons employees may be hesitant to return to the workplace. Companies like MOFSL are encouraging workers to return only if they have their own vehicle, or use a carpool service in which maximum two people should travel. "Employees have been advised to use personal vehicles only as far as possible or

make car-pool arrangements with only one or two people at any given point of time. In cases where both are not possible, the bank has made arrangements by organising buses or hired vehicles. However, the number of persons inside the vehicles is restricted as per government norms and to ensure social distancing," said Datta Roy of Bank of Baroda.

Continued on page 18

POLICY



REVISED FLOOR PLAN

When you return to office, chances are that your desk might not be the same. You might have to even say goodbye to your work neighbour who could be shifted two to three seats away, thanks to social distancing norms. Architect Pransav Naik of Studio Pomgranate suggests, "Workers should leave at least two desks empty between each other, and have a small removable barricade in between so no one inadvertently crosses each other's path. Cafeterias and large break rooms could also be used to fan out the workers across the premises." Naik also reiterates that workplaces should bring back employees in a staggered manner to avoid crowding, which is unavoidable in smaller offices in Mumbai. In

its manual to employees, Axis Bank stated that they will be introducing a app for employees to book a seat in their large offices before they leave for work from home.

INSURANCE

Insurance expert Kapil Mehta says health insurance is mandatory if you're going back to work. "Every single health insurance in the market covers the hospitalisation charges of COVID-19. Companies need to offer it to employees. Additionally, firms can opt for variants that offer fixed benefits if you're diagnosed positive to effectively take care of all expenses," he said.



It's mandatory to have a health insurance to go back to office



Kapil Mehta and Pransav Naik

CONTAINMENT ZONES AND EXIT STRATEGY

Employees can send a guide to employees demarcating what is allowed in the three green, red and orange zones. In case a worker tests positive, Dr U Souza suggests complete quarantine of everyone in the office for 14 days. HRs should send clear guidelines to employees to avoid panic. According to the May 18 MOHFW guidelines, any staff suffering from 'flu-like illness should not attend office and seek medical advice from local health authorities.' If one or few persons who share a closed office space (store found suffering from symptoms, "place the ill person in a room where they are isolated. Provide a mask till he/she is examined by a doctor. Report to concerned health authorities. Helpline 1025 will be immediately informed."

Be careful of central air conditioners

Architects and doctors both warn of the ill effects of central air conditioning in offices. "The virus survives for at least three weeks in cold conditions inside the ducts," says Dr U Souza, adding ventilation must be available in offices. Naik suggests that offices should retrofit HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters to their air conditioning systems. "HEPA filters will catch all small particles, including most virus particles. Buffets of ACs should also be installed or vents should be turned away from the direction of workers," he adds.

DIGITAL CLEANSING/SECURITY

The office space isn't the only area that needs to be sanitized. IT teams will also have to cleanse all the office systems that people

have been connected to from home, since workers might have downloaded software on their office work on them.

"Organisations should do a complete check of their employees' systems when they return from WFH. We have seen instances where chat apps, games etc, that were downloaded were filled with malware that affected sensitive office data. Workers should always download applications from the official store and not from the vendor website or third party stores, especially when using of-

fice systems," says data security expert and co-founder of Lucidea, Rahul Tyagi.

There are many risks involved in confidential data leaving the office premises and being accessed remotely by employees, adds Tyagi. "The efficiency of existing privacy systems will need to be tested to see if new ones need to be put in place. There can be various scenarios of data loss if systems are compromised, and this is exactly why organisations need to invest in cyber risk quantification platforms. For example, if an employee's system is compromised, such platforms can detect this anomaly and prompt the security teams," he adds.



Rahul Tyagi

need to invest in cyber risk quantification platforms. For example, if an employee's system is compromised, such platforms can detect this anomaly and prompt the security teams," he adds.



Firms should invest in cyber risk quantification systems during this time

FOR THE EMPLOYEE



COMMUTE CARE

HR departments of companies should provide step-by-step guidelines on how staff should care for themselves during and after their daily commute.

- Dr Moon suggests that employees wear masks and gloves at all times, from the moment they step out of home.
- Shoes and bags must be disinfected upon reaching home, and clothes must be washed.
- At the end of the day, care should be taken that not all employees rush to leave work together as otherwise it may lead to crowding in stairways, lifts and exit paths.
- Hand sanitising stations should be installed at the entry and near high contact surfaces, according to the MOHFW guidelines.



Blocks marked on the ground for employees to stand apart at a Godrej & Boyce facility



ILLUSTRATION: DEBANKA MOHANTY

WHAT TO CARRY TO OFFICE

- The contents of your office bag are likely to change post the lockdown. Dr Moon suggests keeping belongings to a minimum to avoid exposing too many of them to the virus. If you have a laptop or computer at work, avoid carrying a laptop.
- "Wear the mask. Keep a sanitiser, your lunch, phone and water in the bag. Consider packing each item in sanitised plastic covers or bags," he adds.
- Consider creating a digital signature to avoid using pens and touching paper.



'Keep the contents in your office bag to a minimum. Consider packing each item in sanitised plastic covers or bags'

Dr Pratik Moon

What happens to co-working spaces?

Mumbai has a number of co-working spaces, some of which double up as cafes. Co-working space WeWork, which has 12 units in Mumbai with members including businesses and freelancers, has currently kept all offices shut. "All our buildings are being fumigated and sanitised. We are encouraging all members, employees and vendor personnel to practice social distancing. We have also suspended all internal and external events indefinitely. Spaces in common areas and conference rooms are being reviewed and modified to ensure a minimum of six feet distance between two people. We have also mandated temperature screenings

outside our buildings for all members," said head of operations Raghuvar Singh Pathania. To provide an extra layer of security in terms of access, WeWork will also implement business hour restrictions.

What does this mean for the future of co-working spaces? "Many companies, depending on their nature of businesses, will reduce their dependence on utilisation of offices and consider flexible working schedules. We believe this situation is an opportunity as companies would not want to invest in fixed assets like real estate, which may result in them operating from spaces like ours to save overhead costs," adds Singh Pathania.



Raghuvar Singh Pathania is (left) a semi-empty WeWork unit in Mumbai where markings have been made on the floor to maintain distance

classifieds

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hotelgrande51@rediffmail.com

3891821

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
NO. BPL-TR-8-Bay-BPL-2019-19
DATE: 01.06.2020

e-Tenders are invited from willing and experienced contractors by DM/THCS-CPWL (West Central Railway) for and on behalf of President of India. Name of work with its location: Laying and un-laying of loco pit and Guard's Line boxes at Bhopal (Habitat). Station Yard, Loco shed, Brake Van, Locomotive, Freight Box room, AC Diesel Loco / Brake Van / Jeep for 130 days. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1.51,10,81,00/- (One Crore Fifty One Lakhs, Ten Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty One and Eight Paise only). Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 2,25,000/- (Two Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Six Hundred Only). Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 5,000/- (Five Thousand only). (Non Refundable). Tenderers should submit earnest money and tender cost as per instructions given in General Instruction of e-tender. Last Date and Time of closing e-tender: Date: 26.06.2020 Time: 11.30 hrs. For more information about terms and conditions related to tender may be viewed on website www.msp.gov.in. Information should be checked up to last date of closing of tender to DM/CPWL (West Central Railway) in tender mail or through e-mail.

Sd/-

West Central Railway, Bhopal

Dating Mail Journey Date 15 for general companies & 20 for security companies

Tenders & Notices



E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited by e-tendering method from eligible bidders for Supply of HT/LT Jointing Kits under Pune Zone as details below.

Tender No. T-21/20-21, Amount: Rs. 100 Lakhs.
For details please visit our website <http://works.mahadis.com>

Contact Person : Shri. B B Hainor, Executive Engineer (Admin.) Phone Nos. : 020-26065740 / 26062052, Mo No. 7575767003, email: cepunebham@gmail.com

(No. PZ-03/20)

Chief Engineer (PZ)



e-TENDER NOTICE

The Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai invites e-Tenders for various works from the government registered contractors, who are also registered as 'MCGM Vendor'. Bidder should also give Rs. 1 lakh performance guarantee for the details of 1 number of Tenders of estimated amount **Rs. 1156660.00** respective tender documents and process of e-Tendering, please visit www.mcgm.gov.in

Sd/-

Public Relations Officer

PRO/161/MDV/2020-2021



Sub: Regarding filling up of vacant posts in category "D" at Goregaon Maternity Home through NGO.

Goregaon Maternity Home willing to fill vacant posts in category "D" through NGOs on contract basis. (Their member should be employed). We are requesting the applicant to prepare his eligibility and apply for the job. Application From Goregaon Maternity Home can be available from 10.30 to 1.30 pm date 09/06/2020 to 09/06/2020. Interested organization should contact Goregaon Maternity Home for more details, application and affidavit samples or The deadline for the application is 09/06/2020 (Until 03.00 PM). Applications filed after the stated office period will not be considered.

Sd/-

Medical Officer

Goregaon Maternity Home

PRO/165/ADW/2020-21

Online Tender Document "Equipment" for Homeguards, Civil Defence & SDRF Homeguards, Civil Defence & Disaster Management Headquarter, M.P., BHOPAL

No. ADG/DM/PA/173/2020 Bhopal, Dated-02/06/2020

"ONLINE SHORT TENDER NOTICE"

Online short tender is invited by Additional Director General of Police, Disaster Management Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DG Home Guards, Civil Defence & Disaster Management MP Bhopal for the procurement of the following Equipments / Goods on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/mcgepp>

Sl. No.	Name of Equipment	Quantity	EMD required in shape of BG/FDR
1	Foot pump for inflatable rubber boat	200	16000
2	Life Jacket	300	13000
3	Life Buoy	300	15000
4	Deep Diving Kit	10	60000
5	Scuba Underwater Torch	50	7000
6	Scuba High Pressure Air Compressor	5	45000
7	Portable inverter generator	20	40000
8	Rope Launcher	4	60000
9	Breathing Apparatus	30	50000
10	Chain Saw	20	22400
11	Non Contact Infrared Digital Thermometer	254	29000

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee - Rs100/-) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/mcgepp>.

2. EMD required in shape of BG/FDR for 6 months from the last date of submission of tender issued by any Nationalized Bank.

3. Tender document will be submitted online only at MP Tender's website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/mcgepp>

4. Critical Date Sheet:

Date of Publication	04/06/2020 From 11:30 AM
Bid Document Download Start Date	04/06/2020 From 11:30 AM
Bid Submission Start Date	04/06/2020 From 11:30 AM
Bid Submission End Date	16/06/2020 From 4:00 PM
Bid Opening Date (Technical)	19/06/2020 From 10:30 AM
Bid Opening Date (Financial)	20/06/2020 From 10:30 AM

Additional Director General of Police
SDRF M.P.

G-116/43/20

South East Central Railway

Tender Notice for Miscellaneous Works

Sr. No.27 E-Tender No.: SECE-44-

OTF-05-21-001, Date: 26.06.2020

Work: Electrical (2) portion of work: (1)

"Replacement of over aged overhead

wiring over Rajapur station" (2) "Repair

of High Voltage Line (3) "Repair of High Voltage Line

at Rajapur station" (4) "Construction of

new 11KV line and provision of

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Latish: 9819809585

Should I take my ex-boyfriend back?



DR. LOVE

My partner and I ended our relationship after two years because we had serious compatibility issues. I am happy with this decision because it made me feel free after what felt like being in a prison. Lately, he has been calling and messaging constantly, telling me that I made a mistake and asking me to take him back because he can't live without me. I feel guilty and am thinking about it, but I am also worried about making the wrong decision. Please help me. It's okay to feel guilty about how you make someone feel, but it's also important to accept why you have made a particular decision that you believe has been good for you. If you ended this, there were obviously reasons that made sense at the time. They may not be reasons your partner agrees with, of course, but you have to try and

make a decision based on what is good for you and your mental health. If you feel as if you are in a better place, ask yourself if it's worth giving them up for something that you once believed had no hope. Giving something a second chance is always nice, provided you evaluate the pros and cons thoroughly.

Should I wait for a few days before telling someone I like them? I don't want to come across as too desperate or needy. At the same time, I feel as if not saying anything may lead to missing my chance. This depends upon a number of factors, starting with how well you know the person concerned, how often you have both met, and how you think he or she thinks of you. There is nothing wrong with being direct or honest, and not everyone will think of you as being desperate or needy simply because you have stated how you feel. Go with your instinct. If you feel as if you won't have a chance later, you may not have a choice.

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

WORDSEARCH ARCHITECTURE

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.



Arche, Kiosk, Arch, Astrum, Balcony, Basil, Basil, Column, Cornice, Crypt, Cupola, Costa, Dome, Finial, Fresco, Friar, Gable, Lintel, Niche, Pediment, Plinth, Portico, Roundel, Scaff, Stair, Steeple, Terrace

MEDIUM SUDOKU

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

WHAT TO DO Fill each empty cell with a digit from 2-9, ensuring that no digit is repeated in any row, column or 3x3 square.

FIENDISH SUDOKU

10	17		3		9	20	15	
		10		8				
15	10		9		14		8	
	10			12		7		8
15		11	12		8	10	17	
6			9					20
12	15			18			4	
		14		14		6		
7		18					7	

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
Romance is in the air, as you go all out pleasing your beloved, wooing your partner through some creative and thoughtful.

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



CANCER
Don't let your emotions obstruct your reasoning. This shall allow you to make decisions without any bias and maintain harmony.



LEO
It is going to be a wonderful day, which in all probabilities, you shall spend in the company of your friends.



TAURUS
There may be a lot of work burden on you today. It will certainly not be beyond your capacity, but you may be feeling too tired.



CAPRICORN
You shall devote yourself to the service of your family today, mainly because you may have been neglecting them for a long time.



LIBRA
After a tiring week, your most dominating desire shall be to get together with your sweetheart and chill out.



SCORPIO
Due to a series of unfavorable events taking place during the day, you may find yourself withdrawn and sulky.



SAGITTARIUS
Thought it may be unhelpful, rest assured that planning a small trip will prove to be of great benefit for your business.



VIRGO
You may be unclear today in your understanding of what is expected of you. Therefore, you need to sort it out with your superior.



GEMINI
Although you are of a reserved nature generally, today you shall be in a very extroverted mood.

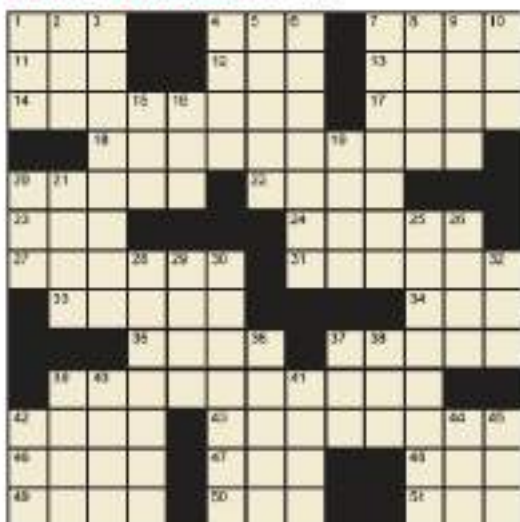


AQUARIUS
For whatever reason, you are likely to be confined within the four walls of your home today. It will be a refreshing change.



PISCES
You may expect a very satisfying day at work, mainly because you already seem to be leading the pack and shall accomplish a lot.

CLASSIC CROSSWORD 10092



ACROSS

- 1 Terminal Control Area, abbr.
- 4 Vada ____ Mumbai's favourite snack
- 7 A card game — "Task" anagram?
- 11 Another tritically charged particle
- 12 One ____ time singly (2,1)
- 13 One in Oldenburg
- 14 Negative particle of atom
- 17 Organic bonding position — "team" change?
- 18 Commonly final
- 20 In the ____ of, in the middle of or in the company of?
- 22 Piece of glass kept maven and smooth
- 23 Have ____ at essay or attempt? (1,2)
- 24 Drink to one's health
- 27 The reverse of "add on to"?
- 31 Turnout or disturbance
- 33 ____ form: good old earth?
- 34 Urban competitor
- 35 Gupat's ____ of Kutch
- 37 Contest or event
- 39 One of the Union Territories
- 42 Roman 1052
- 43 One day in the future?
- 46 ____ pine for or hanker after
- 47 Arab sleeveless garment
- 48 ____ good, bad?
- 49 Memo starter
- 50 Benign tumour of the skin
- 51 US soldiers

DOWN

- 5 Capital of Ukraine
- 9 Poker stake
- 10 A beverage
- 15 Greek island lettuce
- 16 Explosive chemical Tetrastibane in short
- 19 Exchange by barter
- 20 Like ____ with great energy and enthusiasm?
- 21 ____ it: this is understood by me? (1,3)
- 25 Mollifying or relieving
- 26 Bath powder
- 28 Indict
- 29 A measure by which herrings are sold
- 30 Carpenter's tool — "and wash" anagram?
- 32 Cheerleader's chant
- 36 Weeper of myth
- 37 Mr. West of Hollywood fame?
- 38 Esoteric pursuit
- 39 Congested blood
- 40 Slight indication
- 41 FBI agent (slang) (1-7)
- 42 Assemblyman, in short
- 44 'Ma' in French
- 45 Aliens?

Scribble pad

THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE — JOHN HAMBROCK



CALVIN & HOBBS — BILL WATTERSON



ZITS — Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS — Sandra Bell-Lundy



TEASER

My first is in camel and in llama.
My second is in order but not in henat.
My third is in mustang but not in here.
My fourth is in snake and in asp.
My last is in tiger and in panther.
What am I?

SOLUTIONS

WORDSEARCH



MEDIUM SUDOKU

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

FIENDISH SUDOKU

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

CLASSIC CROSSWORD



TEASER

Mouse



'END RACISM TODAY'

Manchester United star Paul Pogba voices anger amidst protests in the wake of George Floyd's death in USA

MANCHESTER: Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba has voiced his anger and urged everyone to speak out on African-American George Floyd's death that has caused a massive outrage in the United States.

Floyd, 46, died last week shortly after Derek Chauvin, a police officer, held him down with a knee on his neck though he repeatedly pleaded, "I can't breathe," and "please, I can't breathe".

Pogba took to Instagram to express his sadness over Floyd's death and revealed racism is prevalent everywhere. He also stated that targeted attack on one community cannot be tolerated anymore and for that to happen, everyone needs to speak up.

"During the past few days, I have thought a lot about how to express my feelings about what happened in Minneapolis," the Frenchman wrote on his Instagram handle.

"I feel anger, pity, hatred, indignation, pain, sadness. Sadness for George and for all black people who suffer from racism EVERY DAY! Whether in football, at work, at school, ANYWHERE! This has to stop, once and for all! Not tomorrow or the next day, it has to end TODAY! Violent acts of racism can no longer be tolerated, I can't tolerate, I won't tolerate. WE WON'T TOLERATE. Racism is ignorance. LOVE is intelligence. STOP the silence. STOP racism."

'Black lives matter. Black culture matters. Black communities matter. We matter' Man Utd midfielder Paul Pogba

Mayweather to fund Floyd's funeral

LOS ANGELES: Retired ring great Floyd Mayweather will pay for the funeral services for George Floyd. Mayweather Promotions chief executive Leonard Elberle told ESPN. Elberle confirmed that Floyd's family had accepted Mayweather's offer to pay for funeral services. "He'll probably get mad at me for saying that, but yes, [Mayweather] is definitely paying for the funeral," Elberle said. Mayweather "has done these kind of things over the last 20 years," added Elberle.

Earlier, Pogba's Manchester United teammate Marcus Rashford had sent out a similar message and had also used social media to voice his anger.

"I know you guys haven't heard from me in a few days. I've been trying to process what is going on in the world," he had said in a Twitter post. "Black lives matter. Black culture matters. Black communities matter. We matter."

IAN S



FIFA: We understand the sentiments of players

PARIS: FIFA has called on leagues to use "common sense" when deciding whether to discipline footballers for displaying political messages after several players in the German Bundesliga called for justice for George Floyd during matches.

"FIFA fully understands the depth of sentiment and concerns expressed by many footballers in light of the tragic circumstances of the George Floyd case," world football's governing body said in a statement on Tuesday. "The application of the laws of the game approved

by the IFAB [International Football Association Board] is left for the competitions organisers which should use common sense and have in consideration the context surrounding the events," the statement added.

After scoring in his team's win at Paderborn on Sunday, Borussia Dortmund's English winger Jadon Sancho lifted his shirt to reveal the message "Justice for George Floyd". His teammate Achraf Hakimi and Schalke's American midfielder Weston McKennie expressed similar calls.

AFP

Liverpool stars go on their knees to show support

LONDON: Liverpool players showed their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement following the death of George Floyd in the United States by taking a knee around the centre circle at Anfield on Monday.

Red stars including Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold tweeted the same photograph with the words "Unity is strength," accompanied by the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter.

Made famous by former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's kneeling during pre-game renditions of the US national anthem, heading down on one knee has become a symbol in the fight against racial injustice.

AFP

Sammy wants ICC, players to condemn racism

KINGSTON: West Indies' World Cup-winning former captain Darren Sammy on Tuesday urged the ICC and the entire cricketing fraternity to raise their voice against racism or else be ready to be considered "a part of the problem".

"Right now if the cricket world is not standing against the injustice against people of colour after seeing the video of that foot down the neck of my brother, you're also part of the problem," Sammy tweeted.

"ICC and all the other boards, are you guys not seeing what's happening to ppl like me? Are you not gonna speak against this social injustice?" he asked.

PTI

Let's not burn our neighbourhoods: Woods

LOS ANGELES: Golf superstar Tiger Woods called George Floyd's death a "shocking tragedy" but said violent protests were not the answer as unrest flared across the United States on Monday.

Woods said he had the "utmost respect" for police and likened the situation to the Los Angeles riots of 1992, after four police were acquitted over the beating of motorist Rodney King.

America is witnessing its most

widespread protests since the 1960s after Floyd, an unarmed black man, died while being arrested in Minneapolis.

"My heart goes out to George Floyd, his loved ones and all of us who are hurting right now," Woods said in a statement on Twitter. "I have always had

the utmost respect for our law enforcement. They train so diligently to understand how, when and where to use force. This shocking tragedy clearly crossed that line."

Woods' statement follows strong comments from a number of athletes including NBA

legend Michael Jordan, who said he was "plain angry", and tennis player Coco Gauff, who asked "Am I toxic?"

"I remember the LA riots and learned that education is the best path forward," wrote Woods, the 15-time major-winner. "We can make our points without burning the very neighbourhoods that we live in. Those that through constructive, honest conversations we can build a safer, unified society."

AFP

'I have utmost respect for our law enforcement, but the shocking tragedy clearly crossed the line'



Empty pockets for Irshad

International carrom champ Ahmed, who drives an autorickshaw in Nagpur to earn a living, struggles to make ends meet in nationwide lockdown



Irshad Ahmed alongside his autorickshaw near his home in Morinagar, Nagpur yesterday

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AROUND six months ago, Nagpur's Irshad Ahmed, 37, was hailed a hero after winning the International Carrom Federation Cup at Pune's PVC Hindu Gymkhana in December. Today, he is struggling to make ends meet, as his only source of income, his autorickshaw, has not been plying for over two-and-a-half months due to the Coronavirus-caused lockdown.

No income since March

"I used to earn around ₹600 daily by driving my auto but due to the lockdown, no one is travelling, so I have no income. My savings are exhausted. Somehow, I am managing to survive with my family thanks to some generous friends and relatives," Irshad, the sole breadwinner of his family of six (elderly parents, wife and three kids) told mid-day on Tuesday.

Irshad beat two-time World

Champion Prashant More of Mumbai 3-25, 25-14, 25-24 in the final of the ICF Cup which is considered to be the mini World Cup of carrom with players from 16 countries participating. Incidentally, More has been helping Irshad tide over these troubled times.

"I'm very grateful to Prashant, who requested a few international carrom players like UAE's Mohammed Azam, USA's Vishal Rajagurkar and England's Mohammed Ali besides Mumbai's Alimuddin Mulla and Amey Kulkarni to help me financially. I'm most



Irshad after winning the International Carrom Federation Cup in Pune last December

thankful to them too," added Irshad, who has repeatedly requested his state body, the Vidarbha Carrom Association (VCA), for a job but has been turned down each time.

"Whenever I win district or state-level tournaments and politicians felicitate me, I request them for a job but nothing has materialised so far. I represent VCA at the National Championships and have won several tournaments for them. I feel they must help me find employment," added Irshad.

VCA trying to help

VCA secretary Prabhakar Singh Bachher said that they have approached political leaders for help. "Girish Vyaski, patron of the All India Carrom Federation, and myself have met union minister Nitin Gadkari and requested him to provide jobs to some of our top carrom players, including Irshad. We will be meeting Gadkari again in a couple of weeks and are hoping for a positive response," he said.

Team India will train in four phases: R Sridhar

NEW DELHI: India's fielding coach R Sridhar says a four-phased training module is being prepared for the country's elite cricketers, who can attain peak match fitness with four to six weeks of training once the camp gets the go-ahead to start. "I think if you have a camp for 4-6 weeks, we can bring them to peak match readiness...fast bowlers need around six weeks, batsmen might take a bit less time," Sridhar said.

"Once we get a date for start of national camp from the BCCI and approved by the government of India, we can start working backwards

starting from scratch. The challenge is to proceed in right phases as players can get excited when they play after 14 or 15 weeks.

"It's pertinent that we move in right manner forward. Don't want to look

too much ahead," he explained. Sridhar stressed on workload management and

warned that pushing too hard would only cause injuries. "Initially, we have to give them progressive workload. You can't have a sudden spike in workload which could lead to injuries," said the former Hyderabad left-arm spinner.



R Sridhar

PTI

F1 to start with Austrian double header

PARIS: The curtailed Formula One season will start with two races behind closed doors in Austria on July 5 and July 12 followed by six other grands prix in Europe, the organisers said on Tuesday.

Formula One said it hoped to have between 15 and 18 races in total, with the

season being completed in December.

The Hungarian Grand Prix will be brought forward to July 19 before a two-week break, followed by consecutive races in Britain and events in Spain, Italy and Belgium.

AFP

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close of play

Djokovic receives Serbian honour



THE Serbian foreign ministry has rewarded World No. 1 tennis ace Novak Djokovic for his contribution in raising the reputation of his country on the international platform.

According to a report in Tennis World USA, the Minister of foreign affairs, Borko Djodjic presented the award to him on the occasion of Diplomacy Day on May 29.

In a statement, the ministry said that the award was given to, "the famous tennis player, the living legend Novak Djokovic, which is proof that athletes are perhaps the best ambassadors of our country in the world."

After receiving the award,

Novak said: "I will continue to love, respect Serbia and my people. I will continue to respect and appreciate all the other people of the world, because I believe that when acting in this way, with such emotion, it is done unequivocally well."

'I will continue to love, respect Serbia and my people' Novak Djokovic

Watched nature unfold for the first time: Simona

ROMANIAN tennis star Simona Halep is grateful that she got to spend time away from the sport due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I learned a lot from the two-month isolation. The fact that I've been on lockdown for six years [she means full concentration on tennis] has helped me become World No. 1, but now I am slowly trying to experience new feelings, see something else. It occurred to me that I have to change something in my life in order to also develop on the emotional and personal side," Simona was quoted as saying by Romanian news agency, Agerpres.

Simona explained how it was an incredible feeling to spend time amid nature. "I'm lucky to live in a forest area and the trees were turning green from one day to another. I realised that I never stayed home to watch how spring sets in, to watch this beautiful harmony. For the first time, I watched nature unfold...it's incredible. Now I realise these years have been — not hard, but a time of constant rush," she remarked.



'We're very competitive'

Actor Sara Salamo brings up active sex life with Real Madrid footballer Isco on Spanish TV show



Sara Salamo and footballer Isco

SPANISH footballer Isco's partner Sara Salamo has revealed how "competitive" sex makes an exciting personal life for the couple.

The Real Madrid star is spending the COVID-19 pandemic-caused lockdown with the Spanish model/actor and son Theo, 11 months.

Isco has struggled with injuries this season and has spent a lot of time on the bench after managing to score just three goals.

Talking about her life with the footballer, Sara told Spanish TV show *La Novatoca*. "He [Isco] and I didn't want to come on the show until we could say that we did it since a day, but then, my book happened [novel released in May] and we couldn't quite get there. We've had a lot of work and we've had kids. But we're very competitive." The couple have been dating since 2012. Isco has another son — Francisco Alaron Calderon, five — with his ex-partner Victoria Alaron.



Sara's novel which was released in May



DIPIKA WISHES HER NO. 1 LOCKDOWN BUDDY

India's squash star Dipika Pallikal had a sweet message for cricketer hubby Divyanshu Karthik, who turned 35 on Monday. She posted the above picture on Instagram and captioned it: "Happy 35 to the kindest man I know, my favourite MFD & my #1 lockdown buddy!"

Mohd Shami comes to the rescue of migrants in UP

NEW DELHI: Moved by the plight of migrant workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, India cricketer Mohammed Shami has started distributing food packets and masks to refugees travelling back to their homes.

He has also set up food distribution centres for poor migrants near his home in Sahaspur, Uttar Pradesh.

The BCCI posted a video of the cricketer, who is seen wearing a mask and gloves, handing out food packets and masks to people travelling in buses and those at the food

distribution centres.

"As @IndiaRighttoCinema, @MdShami11 comes forward to help people trying to reach home by distributing food packets & masks on National Highway No. 24 in Uttar Pradesh, he has also set up food distribution centres near his home in Sahaspur," the BCCI wrote.

The COVID-19 enforced lockdown has triggered a migrant movement crisis in the country with lakhs of people trying to get back home battling extreme heat and hunger.

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A screenshot of the video BCCI posted of Mohd Shami on Twitter

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