

Jagran

# mid-day

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## UNLOCK MUMBAI WITH MID-DAY

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## BMC lets private hospitals buy PPEs at base rate

Even as civic auditors are slashing inflated COVID bills of private hospitals, BMC boss tells them to buy equipment from the city at lower rates and pass on the benefits to patients

**ARITA SARKAR**  
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FOLLOWING the bed availability crisis in private hospitals, the civic body is now trying to resolve the growing number of complaints around inflated hospital bills. The BMC has directed private hospitals to submit all COVID bills to auditors after a patient is discharged and civic chief Iqbal Singh Chahal has suggested that private hospitals purchase PPE kits from the civic body at lower rates. » P01

**₹900**

Price at which private hospitals buy one PPE kit

**₹1,500**

Price they charge patients

# WHAT WENT WRONG IN MALAD-DAHISAR BELT

Chokepoints and narrow passages created by BMC's containment drive, civic hospitals ignoring symptomatic patients in late May, and casual attitude of residents have combined to send the infection rate in north Mumbai pockets spiralling



BMC has blocked entry-exit points with bin sheets keeping narrow spaces for people's movement. PICS/SATEJ SHINDE

**'Hospital staff advised home quarantine, would roam in markets. No one knows if areas they touched were sanitised'** Dr Nilesh Shejwal, Devki Nagar

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THE northern part of the city, especially slum pockets in Malad and Dahisar, have seen a sudden surge in cases since Unlock 1.0. Team mid-day's visit to the areas revealed some major reasons behind the spike — narrow spaces, absence of social distancing, roaming the markets without face masks, breaking home-quarantine rules, keeping shops open with shutters half closed and BMC's reluctance to provide the right line of treatment. » P05

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**1,118 CASES REPORTED IN CITY; 120 DEATHS » P02**  
**DOCTOR BABUS GIVEN CHARGE OF MMR » P03**

## 'Sent to COVID ward for plaint against VVCMC commissioner'

Civic employee says her complaint against Vasai-Virar municipal chief for alleged ill-treatment at his home has landed her a 'punishment posting'

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AN employee attached to the Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC) has claimed ill-treatment at Municipal Commissioner Gangabaran D's residence when she was on duty there. The woman was allegedly made to cook and clean at the house, yelled at by the commissioner's wife and then sent for work to a COVID centre as 'punishment'. » P05



mid-day's June 3 report

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## MUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



## Deaths inch closer to 4,000-mark in Mumbai

Recovery rate for COVID-19 patients in the state rises to 51.64% and the mortality rate increases to 4.72%

**COVID-19**  
**TICKER**  
**1,42,900**

TOTAL CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MAHARASHTRA AS OF TODAY

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WITH 130 new casualties recorded on Wednesday, the COVID-19 death toll in Mumbai inched closer to 4,000-mark. Maharashtra has recorded nearly 3,900 new infections, including more than 1,300 in the city, taking the total count to 1,42,148 cases. As of Wednesday, city has recorded 3,944 casualties and 69,528 infections.

As many as 208 casualties were recorded in the state on Wednesday. State health department officials said out of 208 deaths, 72 occurred in the past 48 hours, while the rest — 136 — took place earlier. Of the 136 casualties, 62 happened in Mumbai, 13 in Solapur, 10 in Nashik, nine in

Navi Mumbai, eight in Jalgaon, five in Kalyan Dombivli, three in Thane and one each in Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Akota, Satara.

One of the deceased was from another state, said officials. The civic officials said 76 of the patients who died suffered from other ailments, and 34 were senior citizens.

State health department officials said 4,061 patients were discharged on Wednesday after full recovery. The recovery rate of the state increased to 51.64 per cent, and the mortality rate rose to 4.72 per cent. As many as 63,354 COVID-19 patients are currently being treated across the state. Civic officials said while the average growth rate of the city is 1.81 per cent, four administrative wards now have a growth rate above 3 per cent.

With 4,841 cases, K East ward (Kandhari East) continues to have the highest number of cases, while G North ward has now crossed 4,500 cases. On Wednesday, 10 new cases were reported in Dharavi, 17 in Dadar and 21 new cases in Mahim. According to the civic officials, the doubling rate among COVID-19 patients in Mumbai now stands at 39 days.



BMC health workers head for door-to-door COVID-19 test in Kandivli. PIC/SATEJ SHINDE

## 'Aggressive screening, sealing slums helped'

Two months back seven wards mainly in South, South Central Mumbai accounted for 55% of total cases but now they only have a 37% share



Civic workers conduct swab tests at the Dhareshwar Temple compound in Dharavi. PIC/SURESH KARKERA

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ONCE declared the hotspots of the COVID-19 pandemic, seven of 24 wards mainly in the South and South Central parts of Mumbai have started to show a sharp decline in the number of cases. Two months back they accounted for 55 per cent of the total number of cases in the city but now they only have a 37 per cent share and accounts for 30 per cent of the total active cases.

Cases started emerging in K West ward (Jogeshwari West to Vileparle West) in March itself (mainly those with international travel history) and Worli Koliwada in G South ward (Mahalaxmi, Darel) was the first area to be sealed after a cluster of cases were reported from there. While Dharavi (G North ward) did not have that many cases in the first few weeks of the pandemic, the numbers started to increase from May. Slums in Kuria (L ward), Bandra (H East), Wadala (P North) and Byculla (E ward) remained hotspots for at least three months due to a number of cases emerging from these pockets. The BMC adopted a new management policy and started sealing whole slums instead of small Containment Zones in the city from mid-March.

On April 22, these seven wards had a total of 2,088 cases, which was 55.6 per cent of the city's total number of cases (3,754). In the next 35 days, by May 27,

## NOW, SEVEN WARDS HAVE LOWER SHARE OF CASES

WARDS	April 22 (cases)	May 27 (cases)	June 23 (cases)
G South	907	1,900	3,209
E	368	2,438	3,499
L	267	2,321	3,828
K West	264	2,049	4,053
F North	260	2,377	3,349
G North	257	2,728	4,534
H East	165	2,094	3,210
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,088 (55.6%)</b>	<b>15,912 (47%)</b>	<b>25,682 (37.5%)</b>
<b>Cumulative cases of 24 wards</b>	<b>3,754</b>	<b>33,835</b>	<b>68,481</b>

the number of cases in each of these wards increased five to 10 fold. While in G South ward (Worli and Prabhadevi), the cases increased by five fold, in G North, where Dharavi emerged as a hotspot, cases increased by 10 fold. By May 27, these areas accounted for 47 per cent of the total number of cases in the city.

At that time even some other parts of the city, especially K East ward (Jogeshwari East to Vile Parle East) M East ward (Goraldi, Manikhard) and M West ward (Dhatkopar), had started reporting a large number of cases. As of June 23, though these seven wards continue to occupy top spots in terms of the number of cases, they now account for only 37.5 per cent of the city's total. They have a total of 9,425 active

patients, which is 30 per cent of the city's total active cases of 30,158. In the last 38 days, the total number of cases in these wards (except K West) has seen only a 1.6 fold increase. The same in K West ward is two-fold. A BMC official said, "Now the doubling rate-period of the city has improved to 39 days. It was 12 days in the first week of May. In H East, the same is 88 days. It also has the slowest growth rate in the city. The doubling rate-period is 82 days in F North ward, 74 days in E ward and 70 days in L ward." "This is the result of aggressive screening, finding out the suspected cases and testing them. This has also led to early detection, early treatment and a rise in the discharge rate," said Kiran Dighavkar, assistant commissioner of G North ward. Speaking to mid-day, assistant commissioner of H east ward, Ashok Khairnar said, "Sealing whole slums, house-to-house surveys, setting up fever clinics, detecting cases early, tracking close contacts and sending them to institutional quarantine are the key factors that have helped in reducing the number of cases."

**'This is the result of aggressive screening, finding out the suspected cases and testing them. This has also led to early detection, early treatment and a rise in the discharge rate'**

Kiran Dighavkar, assistant commissioner of G North ward

## Market shops can open on alternate days

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DAYS after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) allowed standalone shops to open on alternate days, it has approved the same for shops inside markets across the city. However, ward officials will have to decide on opening markets near Containment Zones. There are around 200 markets in the city under BMC's Market Department.

The decision comes following requests from various traders and shopkeepers associations. All shops in these markets except restaurants and canteens will now be open on alternate days. Earlier, only essential shops in these markets had permission to open. "There are 92 BMC markets, 16 private markets and 92



Lalbagh market will remain shut for two days, as a positive case has been reported from the area. PIC/S/DPN KOKATE

markets developed under reservation policy. All shops in these markets can now open based on certain conditions. Ward officials will have to decide on opening markets in and around CZs," said a BMC official.

The shopkeepers and vendors have

been asked to arrange for masks, hand sanitizers and temperature screening equipment, and also appoint private security guards to manage crowd if needed. Only two people will be allowed inside a shop at a time.

Meanwhile, through a video conference with the CEOs and doctors of private hospitals, municipal commissioner Ishrat Singh Chahal reviewed the circular, which has asked private hospitals to not admit walk-in COVID-19 patients without BMC's permission. He asked the hospitals to inform receptionists and telephone operators about the development. Chahal told them, "Patients will be given beds through BMC's ward rooms only and if symptomatic patients approach hospitals, then they must inform the local ward rooms immediately. Otherwise, hospitals may face action."



SRPF personnel on COVID-19 duty in Mumbai. PIC/S/AMER MURKAPDE

## Doctors-turned-IAS take charge of civic bodies in MMR

Unlike other natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic needs both administrative and medical expertise

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BUREAUCRATS who studied medicine have been given the charge of four municipal corporations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to mitigate the rising COVID-19 cases. The state government thinks that the IAS officers' MBBS degrees will ensure a medico-administrative response.

On Tuesday, the government-appointed Dr Vipin Sharma, Dr Vijay Rathod and Dr Manjada Raja Dayanidhi as commissioners of the civic corporations of Thane, Mira-Bhayandar and Ulhasnagar respectively. On June 19, the government had made Dr Pankaj Astha head of the Bhamburda-Nisarapur Municipal Corporation. A non-medical, Abhijit Bangar, was made the Navi Mumbai civic chief, mid-day has extensively reported the rising COVID-19 cases in these cities.

Dr Ashja had been effective in Malagon in Nashik district and Thane where he worked as a special monitoring officer for COVID-19. Dr Rathod and Dr Dayanidhi worked well as the CEOs (chief executive officers) of Godchitoli and Gordia Zilla Parishads where the COVID-19 positive cases are negligible. Dr Sharma, who had been waiting to be posted, has worked in big municipal corporations.

Luckily, Maharashtra's Indian Administrative Service wing has 22 MBBS degree-holders. Of these, Dr Pradip Kumar Yyas and Dr Sanjay Mukherjee had been heading the public health and medical education departments, respectively, since much before the outbreak. Other doctor-officers have been holding senior and junior positions in different parts of the state and New Delhi. The doctors who work as district collectors and CEOs of Zilla Parishads have been impressive in their work.

Other medico-turned-babus in Mumbai and elsewhere have been given additional roles using their medical background. Dr Nikin Kareer, additional chief secretary (revenue) is part of the apex pandemic mitigation apparatus. District Collectors Dr Abhijit Chaudhari (Sangli), Dr Rupal

Khemnar (Chandrapur), Dr Karanbari Balakwade (Gondia), Dr Rajendra Bharat (Nandurbar), assistant collectors Dr Indurani Jadhav (Gadchiroli) and Dr Shrikrishnanth Panchal (Bhandara), and Divisional Commissioner of Nagpur Dr Sanjay Kumar are among the doctor-officers.

### Need extra efforts

Since the pandemic has been a serious concern in urban areas, the government has rolled heads where felt necessary. Mumbai was the first to get a new municipal commissioner. The corporations in MMR need extra efforts because the cases have been rising even since before Unleak 1 which started in the first week of June. In Mumbai, the doubling period of positive cases has reduced significantly but the administration has returned to a total shutdown in the northern suburbs where the infection has increased manifold.

Last week, the municipal chiefs of Parel and Bhamburda-Nisarapur were shunted out. In April, Vasai-Virar was given D Gangatharan as its civic chief. Shridhar Patankar who was made Ambarnath Municipal Council's CEO recently was shunted on Wednesday. Solapur civic corporation and Jalgaon district collectorate also got new officers following the rising number of cases.

Maharashtra chief secretary Ajay Mehta told mid-day that the pandemic was unlike other natural disasters. "In disasters like floods, earthquakes, etc. the response is purely administrative. But this is a health crisis that needs medico-admin response. And these officers are suitable for both medical and administrative aspects," he said.

Welcoming the decision, chairman of Indian Medical Council's action committee, Dr Sukas Pingale, said, "A trained doctor will always be a better administrator in such a grave health crisis. The non-medical bureaucrats need advice from the doctors, but since the medico-turned-IAS officers are already trained in analysing the data, they will be able to make quick and fair decisions."

## 'Take action against private hospitals that are overcharging'

Leader of opposition in BMC demands strict measures to prevent private hospitals fleeing patients as BMC offers to sell PPE kits at cheap rates

Continued from page 01

THE civic body is currently buying kits at ₹400 each due to the huge quantity. Chahal said that private hospitals, however, purchase them at ₹900 each and then make a profit by selling them at ₹1,500. "While we have fixed the rates of beds, private hospitals are charging a higher amount for PPE kits, masks and gloves. So we are offering them to buy the kits from us at ₹400 and the benefits can then be passed on to the patient," he said.

Chahal said that private hospitals then won't be allowed to charge patients extra for kits and will have to display the rates on the board. "The hospital won't be at a loss and patients will save ₹1,000 on every PPE kit used," he said. The issues were discussed during a meeting between Chahal and the heads of more than 35 leading private hospitals in the city on Wednesday.

### Surprise visits

While auditors were earlier dealing with individual billing-related complaints, Chahal said that after patients are discharged, all private hospitals will now have to share copies of their bills with auditors. This will be implemented immediately. Last month, the state government had fixed the charges for treatment of COVID patients in private hospitals who require general isolation at ₹4,000 a day, ICU beds at ₹7,500 a day and a ventilator at ₹5,000 a day. Despite the regulations, various complaints have been surfacing regarding hospitals levying surcharge,



A doctor in a PPE suit examines a patient at a private hospital

bio-medical waste management charges and inflated PPE kit costs.

### Hospitals overcharge

Stevens Gopalan is among those who had to cough up several lakhs to get his father treated at a private hospital. He had first taken his father, Roddy Joseph Gopalan, to a well-known hospital in Anandri in April after he suffered a stroke and had to be admitted for 51 days. The 60-year-old was rushed back to the hospital in a few days and tested positive for COVID-19. He was put on ventilator support and died on June 22.

Gopalan said that the hospital charged them ₹15 lakh for the first visit, and for the second one, nearly ₹6 lakh for 12 days. "They charged us more when he was admitted for COVID. The hospital charged us more than ₹3,700 for more than 10 PPE kits. In-

stead of helping people during a pandemic, private hospitals are looking for ways to charge people more," he said. He added that the hospital had also demanded a deposit of ₹1 lakh before admitting his father to get the test for COVID and refused to release his father's body until the bill was cleared. With the help of a local corporation, the issue was later resolved.

### 'Punitive action must'

Congress corporator and leader of opposition, Ravi Raja pointed out that private hospitals won't stop overcharging patients unless they face punitive action. "Private hospitals are aware that they won't be shut down during a pandemic and they are taking advantage of the situation. If private hospitals are repeatedly overcharging patients, then criminal action needs to be taken against them," he said. They should no longer be granted concessions for electricity bills and property tax, he said.

₹11 Deposit demanded from Gopalan before admitting his father

# daily dossier



@thevidas: I have a pull-up bar at home. I don't do pull-ups because I hate them. I just have super dry towels.

## CORONIL BUZZ

### Comedian trolled for her joke

Yesterday, city-based stand-up comedian Kajal Srinivasan, like many others, took to making jokes on Coronil. She wrote, "Ramdev launches Coronil — a miracle Corona drug. I don't know if it will cure you, but if you take it along with whatever he is smoking, you may think it does." She was then at the receiving end of comments from several trolls, with some getting personal and even threatening her with sexual violence and rape. Srinivasan chose to take a stand against one such troll, tagging Mumbai Police on Twitter, urging them to take action. "This isn't the first time I am being trolled but this one crossed a line. I discovered he was a government official and he needs to be called out for his vulgar comments. I am not sure

if the police intervenes in these cases but it was important for me to call it out," she told this diatribe.



### Speaking of cures

It wasn't just Kajal Srinivasan. Coronil, the alleged Coronavirus cure by Baba Ramdev's Patanjali, caught Vicky Mishra's (comedian Yashu Thakur's alter ego that takes on current events) attention, too, and he believes he may soon be on his way to his next date with a woman, if Ayush (who, he believes is a person) approves. "We are comedians. The one thing that we do is talk about topics that are in the news. Personally, if this medication works following guidelines, it will be great for everyone. I just don't want anyone to claim stuff without confirmation," Thakur told this diatribe about the video that speaks of how the world is waiting for a cure and if Coronil was to be one, it has to be tested and verified by experts.



Cycling enthusiasts have been demanding councillors for each ward in the city

## Cycle councillors for 24 wards

After a long wait, Mumbai is finally going to get 24 bicycle councillors who will be the groundwork to make the city the bicycle capital of India by 2030. The initiative, titled Cycle Chala City Bacha, is being helmed by Bicycle Mayor of Mumbai Piroza Suresh, who has put together a team of panellists who will select the councillors. The panellists — which include urban planners, architects and transport experts such as Gautam Seltane, Anca Abraham, Zohra Mutaabana, Pallavi Balkar, among others — will later also mentor the councillors.



"More than 50 people have already applied. Each panellist will handle three to four wards and mentor the councillors on how to mobilise key stakeholders, sort out area issues and engage with educational institutions. The councillors will be responsible for promoting cycling in their areas. They will also have interns and volunteers working under them," said Suresh, adding that the councillors will be selected on the basis of interviews. A similar project is unfolding in Guwahati and Bengaluru, too, and is being anchored by bicycle mayors.



### COLOURS FOR HEROES

An artist from 51+art India paints a tribute to essential workers at Mahim station on Wednesday. **PHO/SURESH KARRIDA**

### Playing new tunes

Although the past couple of months have been difficult, people have been coming up with creative ways to sustain themselves. Take for instance DJ and producer Diatonik, also known as Animesh Barthakur, who co-authored a book, titled My Mom Is a DJ, along with content writer Ruma Thakur after the industry shut down, leaving him jobless. However, unable to gather funds to self-publish,



Diatonik has tied up with Ketto for a fundraiser. Explaining his reason for writing the book, he said, "I was supposed to play at Tomorrowland this year, but have been deemed redundant due to the lockdown and collapse of the events industry. To make up for the lost time and to make an income, I have written this book that gives people a peek into the inner workings of the lives of disc jockeys."

### Bed-time woes

Have you realised that you've become a night-crawler in the past few months? Well, you're not alone. A recent survey by a health monitoring device firm revealed that our sleep cycles are changing. According to the study, based on data collected since March 18, while sleep duration has remained the same (450 minutes), the wake-up time has increased by 30 minutes. The time taken to fall asleep, too, has increased during the lockdown. "Time taken to fall asleep is directly linked to insomnia, which is highly



co-morbid with depression. Growing anxiety and financial insecurity might be the leading reasons," the survey stated. Speaking to this diatribe, co-founder Nikhil Dandawate said, "As we move away from our circadian rhythm, there can be harmful impacts in the long run."

## Mayor asks VVCMC chief for clarification over staffer's plaint

Mayor Pravin Shetty says he will approach higher authorities if the commissioner does not respond to his letter

Continued from page 01

IN her letter dated June 9 to the VVCMC Mayor Pravin Shetty, Yogita Jadhav has alleged that she had to face rash behaviour while on duty at the residence of municipal commissioner Gangatharan D.

"The commissioner's wife used to constantly yell and was very loud and rude," the complainant told mid-day over the phone.

A 31-year-old art graduate from Nashik, Jadhav joined the VVCMC in 2014 and was posted at Sr D M Peck Municipal Hospital.

### 'Made to do house chores'

On May 18 she, along with two other employees, was asked to join the civic commissioner's residence for work. Accordingly, on May 19, the three reported for work at Gangatharan's residence.

"I was instructed orally to join the municipal commissioner's residence for work, no official written order was given. I was asked to clean utensils, maintain and clean the house and even cook food. I had no objection to the work. But, the nature of treatment meted out to me by the commissioner's wife was inhuman. Fed up with the treatment given on duty, I finally complained about the same to my superiors and the Mayor," Jadhav said.

On May 23, Jadhav was relieved from duty at the commissioner's residence and asked to join a COVID Care centre, which she feels was "punishment". "I feel the new post was the outcome of raising red flags against the commissioner," she said.

### 'Can't treat staff like this'

On Wednesday, Pravin Darekar, leader of the opposition in the state legislative council, during his visit to the VVCMC was briefed about Jadhav's case. "I told the municipal commissioner that treating any employee,

**'I told the municipal commissioner that treating any employee, especially a graduate in this manner is not a good sign. I will take up this issue with the state government'**

Pravin Darekar, leader of the opposition in the state legislative council



The alleged ill-treatment took place at the commissioner's rented residence as his official residence (pictured) was undergoing repairs

especially a graduate in this manner is not a good sign. I will take up this issue with the state government," Darekar told mid-day.

The BJP leader was visiting different municipal corporations in the MME to take stock of the COVID-19 situation. As part of his visit, Darekar inspected areas within the VVCMC's jurisdiction.

Speaking to the media after his visit, Darekar said, "I had an interaction with the municipal commissioner and have asked the IAS officer to treat civic employees, media and public representatives with respect."

When contacted, Gangatharan said, "I am not aware of any such complaints."

Mayor Shetty, though, continued having received the letter. "I have written to the commissioner asking for clarifications on the matter. So far the VVCMC commissioner has not replied. If the IAS officer doesn't reply, we will have no choice but to take up the case with higher authorities [at Maharashtra]," Shetty said.

## 'People don't wear masks, ignore home quarantine'

Continued from page 01

THE locals of Appapada, Kajupada, Pimpel Para, Kranti Nagar, Daulat Nagar, Nancy Colony and many other slum pockets told mid-day that the BMC sealed the lanes leading to local markets in their vicinity in March.

"Metallic sheets were put up at the entry and exit points as that movement of people could be largely reduced. A narrow 2-foot space has been kept for people to move in and out. Our hutments are by the roadside where people gather around vegetable vendors in large numbers every day," said Balaram Sawant from Appapada.

### Chokepoints creating problems

Talking about why the number of cases suddenly increased in his area, Sawant said, "This is a slum area and people are not ready to abide by government rules. Social distancing is not followed. People move out for shopping without face masks."

Local doctors also agree that people have not been following social distancing norms and the chokepoints and narrow passages were leading to the spread of the virus.

"Many people work at city hospitals as ward boys or sanitary staff. A few of them had been suggested home quarantine, but instead they would roam in the markets. They would also sit together at public places and meet people as well. Nobody knows whether the areas they used to touch were sanitised," said Dr. Nilesh Shejwal from Devdi Nagar chawl, which connects with Appapada in Malad East.

"The narrow spaces between the metallic sheets become chokepoints when a lot of people are out for shopping. Chances of the virus spreading from these chokepoints are very high as these in-home quarantine also move out," added Dr. Shejwal. "I will recommend symptomatic patients to visit BMC hospitals and get COVID-19 tests done. Even the civic doctors were never serious about the symptomatic patients. They used to send them back after prescribing antibiotics instead of asking them to visit hospitals," he said.

### 'Civic does not bothered'

"When a fellow doctor, who was symptomatic, visited Shastri hospital, the doc-



BMC health workers on their way to conduct check-ups at Appapada in Karar Village, Malad, on Wednesday. PICS/SATEL SHINDE

tors there sent him back without taking any swab samples. Thankfully he visited a private hospital and underwent a test, the report for which was positive. Thereafter, civic officials admitted him to one of the isolation wards," said Dr. Shejwal.

He further said, "Public toilets have also played a major role in the spread of the virus, as people are bound to use them. They were not being sanitised properly."

Speaking to mid-day, Dr. Kasturba Pal said, "During the initial days people were not following rules. Shops were opened up, people roamed without masks and social distancing was not followed. Whenever the police patrolled the area, they would hide in their houses and immediately come out after they left."

"As the COVID-19 cases have increased, many houses and lanes in Appapada have been sealed by the BMC. The cops are regularly patrolling the area to see whether all the shops, barring those selling essentials, are shut," Dr. Pal added. However, a woman present at Dr. Pal's clinic said,

"Had the cops been vigilant since the beginning of the pandemic, the cases would not have increased rapidly. Even today some shops are opened with full shutter down. I don't believe that the cops are not aware of this." Bhankar Khursange, husband of corporator Riddhi Khursange, said a large number of chawls, including Daulat Nagar, Abhinavnagar, Kajupada, Nancy Colony, Mahindra and Mahindra, were located on a 100-acre land in Dahisar East connected to the Borlvi National Park. "These

shops were sent him back without taking any swab samples. Thankfully he visited a private hospital and underwent a test, the report for which was positive. Thereafter, civic officials admitted him to one of the isolation wards," said Dr. Shejwal.

There were hardly any cases in these areas but after

**'Earlier, on an average each week we would have one positive case but now that has gone up to four. The reason behind this is that people are not scared anymore'**

Abhishek Ghosalkar, corporator, ward number 1, Dahisar West

are about 150 cases in these chawls. Kajupada is the worst affected among these chawls as 125 cases have been detected there," he added.

### 'People thronged fish markets'

He further said, "There were no cases in Dahisar East till May 31 but when the wine shops opened up, people gathered to purchase liquor and the virus started to spread as social distancing was not followed. Locals were also seen roaming without masks. Above all, public toilets have played a major role in the spread of the infection."

The slum pockets of Madh, Malwan Church, Rathodi area, NCC, OCC and others in Malad West have also seen a huge surge in cases after May 31. Local residents said people would throng fish markets in large numbers.

"There were hardly any cases in these areas but after



Residents pass through narrow passages at entry and exit points in Appapada, Malad

the lockdown was lifted, people started to visit fish markets and then 35 people were found to be positive. Through contact tracing it was learnt that they had gone to the fish markets," said a local ward number 1 covering Gangar Padi Nagar, Kandarpada and K Colony in Dahisar West has a total of 48 positive cases.

### 'People are not scared'

Speaking to mid-day, corporator of the ward, Abhishek Ghosalkar said, "Earlier, on an average each week we would have one positive case but now that has gone up to four. The reason behind this is that people are not scared anymore. They come out on the roads thinking that the pandemic is over, but many from the low income group also feel helpless because they have to run their businesses."

The cops have tightened their vigil on the northern part of the city. Sources said the police stations in the area were registering 10 cases for violating lockdown rules on a daily basis.



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THE family of a 34-year-old man has blamed the KEM Hospital for his death, accusing the doctors and the administration of negligence. They alleged the hospital first delayed his admission even though he was gasping for breath, and then gave him antibiotics despite being warned that he was allergic to them. They allege the medicine killed him in the next two hours.

Dr Vaibhav Sahle, a resident of Manur Wadi who has a Doctorate from Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Maringa, lives with his mother, sister and maternal aunt.

# 'KEM hospital killed my son'

Mother of 34-year-old says hospital didn't send his swabs for virus test, and when questioned, the dean threatened to mark the body as unclaimed if not taken away as 'suspected COVID-19 case'

"On May 14, he started feeling feverish and went to a nearby doctor who prescribed him some medicines. After finding no relief, he went to another. He was still restless when returned home. Later, he drank a lot of water and breathless," his mother Kalpana, told mid-day.

The family took Vaibhav to KEM Hospital around 5 pm, where doctors took his X-ray imaging, which showed patches of water in his lungs. Doctors asked Vaibhav and his family to wait for a while.

"He was admitted around 12.30 am and his swabs were taken for COVID-19 test. Meanwhile, we decided to move him to a private hospital in Wadala, but a KEM doctor said he had contracted COVID-19 and can't be discharged," said Sanghvi Sonawane, his maternal uncle. "We told them we wanted discharge against medical advice



Dr Vaibhav Sahle, the deceased

(EDAMA), but they refused and even called up the private hospital and told them he can't be discharged," he added.

The family alleged that Vaibhav slept in the corridor of the hospital throughout the night of May 14. Next day, they decided to give antibiotics. Kalpana said, "we told the doctor he

is allergic to antibiotics, but he yelled at me saying, 'Don't touch me medicine'. He developed red patches all over his body and within two hours, he was dead, the family said.

In shock, the family returned on May 16 to take the body home, but was told to wait as his COVID-19 report

**'He was admitted around 12.30am and his swabs were taken for COVID-19 test. Meanwhile, we decided to move him to a private hospital in Wadala, but, a KEM doctor said he had contracted COVID-19 and can't be discharged'**

Sanghvi Sonawane, maternal uncle

was awaited. The May 18, they received the same response and decided to go to the laboratory where the hospital claimed to have sent the sample and were shocked to learn they hadn't received.

"We rushed to the KEM's dean office, where the officials said 'either claim the body as 'suspected COVID-19 case' or the administration will mark the body as unclaimed'," Sonawane said.

They took the body on May 20 and conducted the last rites. After the hospital didn't give them any details despite several follow-ups, they submitted a written complaint to the Wadala police on June 20, demanding action against those responsible.

A police officer said they "are working on" the complaint. Calls and messages to KEM Hospital Dean Dr Hemanth Deshmukh went unanswered.

## Sluggish pace of road works irks Matheran locals

Residents say despite several appeals to MMRDA, work pace has reduced drastically post lockdown on the supposedly eco-friendly road

**RANJEET JADHAV**  
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RESIDENTS of Matheran who depend on the internal roads for commuting are not happy with the pace of the road construction undertaken by MMRDA which is building an eco-friendly road using the mud paver blocks.

Talking to mid-day, Sunil Shinde, a resident of Matheran said, "MMRDA is constructing a 5 km eco-friendly clay block road at the cost of 46 crore from Aman Lodge station near Dasturi Naka car parking to Shivaji Nagar in Matheran. But the work is being carried out at a slow pace leading to inconvenience to the locals."

"The 100-metre road is a major hassle for battery-operated e-rickshaws. The road is very stiff with almost 25% gradation. So the road needs to be levelled, for the e-rickshaws to climb. Our Shramik Beeksha Sanghatna has regularly approached MMRDA requesting them to speed up the work," added Shinde.

**'The delays are due to COVID-19 pandemic as the labourers went back to their hometowns. There also has been a shortage of materials from stone quarries. Moreover, we have to stop the work every time there's a positive case in the nearby area'**

MMRDA official

**₹46 CRORE**  
Total cost of the project

In Matheran, MMRDA has taken up various works which include improvement and beautification of four viewpoints i.e. Panorama, Myra, Heart and Erbo point. According to MMRDA, the said work is 60 per cent complete after getting permissions from all hurdles of NGT, Matheran Monitoring Committee etc.

The officials further said that the work order for Dasturi to Matheran pathway and parking work was issued in September 2019 and the completion date is May 2022.

"The parking work is 70 per cent done while the pathway work is 15 per cent complete. The entire work is being carried out in an Eco-sensitive Zone which has stringent restrictions like vehicle material required is to be transported by hand carting



Work order for Dasturi to Matheran pathway and parking work was issued in September 2019

or by horses," an MMRDA official said.

"The delays are due to COVID-19 pandemic as the labourers went back to their hometowns. There also has been a

shortage of materials from stone quarries. Moreover, we have to stop the work every time there's a positive case in the nearby area," he added.

"We requested the collector to allow tractor in restricted hours to help in transporting material. After several follow-ups, we were granted permission. But within 2-3 days, the permission was withdrawn as the Horse union and locals opposed the move," an MMRDA official in charge of the work said.

### Double victory for Matheran residents

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RESIDENTS of Matheran are now a cheerful lot as the authorities have increased the transport connectivity for essentials to the eco-sensitive hill station and are planning to restart freight trains soon.

"The LPG gas tempo will be brought up the hill station three times a week and the Central Railway (CR) is also working on a plan to restart the freight trains carrying essentials in sync with the local business timings. It is a double victory for residents," former president of Matheran Municipal Council, Manoj Khedkar said.

CR chief public relations

officer Shivaji Sutar confirmed the development and said the freight train for essentials and the important milk supply chain to Matheran will be restored in consultation with the local business community later this week. mid-day was the first one to take up the issue on April 6 and consistently highlight how the lack of motorised transport of any kind in Matheran was leading to problems, and how it was becoming difficult for the locals to get their essential supplies like gas cylinders on animal backs. The 6,500 residents had to depend on around 400 horses and a few hand carts for essential supplies.



mid-day's reports on June 11 and 22

# Cannot allow ICSE exams in July: State

Maharashtra government's stand in HC brings relief for ICSE students and parents, all eyes on Supreme Court hearing on CBSE exams which is expected to affect call on these exams too

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IN major relief to students of the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), the pending board examination scheduled for July will not be held. The Maharashtra government on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court (HC) that it cannot permit ICSE to conduct examinations in July, considering the current COVID-19 situation.

The Council of ICSE is expected to provide details on the method to be used to evaluate these children in the absence of exams.

Though the matter remains undecided as the HC is waiting to hear ICSE's alternative plan, Wednesday's hearing brings some much-needed clarity.

Responding to the government's stand, the ICSE council then questioned what will be the fate of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations, which had a similar schedule. The matter is scheduled for a hearing in the Supreme Court on Thursday. Nevertheless, the state's stand has brought cheer for



High court has asked the ICSE council to submit its alternative evaluation method

ICSE children and their parents.

Arvind Tiwari, a concerned parent and an advocate who had moved court against the ICSE's decision to hold examinations, said, "The battle is half complete as the state has denied permission. Now it is important to see what method will be used for evaluation. The HC has asked the council to submit the methodology before the next hearing. While the state's stand is clear, the developments in SC regarding CBSE exams will be important as the verdict will apply all over the country."

When the HC asked the ICSE council

about its evaluation method, it said that the process would vary based on conditions such as whether or not a student has the option to appear for an exam. "Now that Maharashtra government has cleared its stand, the council is waiting for SC's decision as that would clearly which method can be used," said Tiwari.

"This is clearly a good development. But we are waiting for a final decision from the courts. We hope the state government's stand is followed all over the country as that would ensure that students are at par," said Sherif D Costa, a parent. Soon after the hearing, the board also issued a circular for parents through schools stating that the two options given earlier regarding examinations don't exist after Wednesday's hearing. It also clarifies that further details would be given in future.

## Std XI admissions process to be online

Right from candidate registration to seat allotment to uploading of documents, all process to be held online

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AS per the latest Government Resolution (GR) issued by the Maharashtra state government on Tuesday late evening, this year Class XI admission process, which is expected to be held in August, will completely be online in view of the COVID-19 situation.

Not only the booklets will be in PDF format this year, but also the first come first served (FCFS) round from the process has been cancelled. Instead of this, additional online seat allotment rounds will continue to admit remaining candidates in colleges based on merit.

The GR further states that the entire process starting from registration, uploading of documents, allotment of seats to merit fee payment everything will be done online.

"Considering the pandemic situation, the booklet for Class XI online admission which provides each candidate with their unique login ID and password for the system will be distributed as a PDF document, instead of the regular practice of distributing booklets through schools. District schools will have a few printed booklets for better understanding of regulations. All candidates and parents will have to refer to the PDF through the website or mobile app," states the GR adding that the admissions round for bi-locational courses will no longer have a zero round of admissions.

The FCFS round is generally held at the later part of admissions for candidates who could not be allotted seats via online method. In this round, a list of vacancies would be declared and candidates without any seats after multiple online rounds of allotment



The first come first served (FCFS) round from the process has been cancelled. FC/ISTOK

The booklet for Class XI online admission which provides each candidate with their unique login ID and password for the system will be distributed as a PDF document. All candidates will have to refer to the PDF through the website or mobile app' Government Resolution

'This year the FCFS round stands cancelled. Instead, additional centralised seat allotment rounds will be held as per requirement. Seat allotment, in this case, will be based on merit' Government Resolution

would report to those colleges for admissions. "This year the FCFS round stands cancelled. Instead, additional centralised seat allotment rounds will be held as per requirement. Seat allotment, in this case, will be based on merit," read the GR.



The battle is half complete as the state has denied permission. Now it is important to see what method will be used for evaluation. The HC has asked the council to submit the methodology before the next hearing' Arvind Tiwari, parent and advocate

## Medical students still seek refund assured by Fadnavis

After changes in the reserved quota reduced seats in government colleges, the former CM had asked them to take admission in private colleges and said the state would reimburse the difference in fees



Former CM Devendra Fadnavis had advised the students to take admission in private colleges and said the difference in fees would be paid to them by the state. FILE PHOTO

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OVER 259 open category MBBS and dental seven post-graduate merit students, who were denied admission in government colleges due to reservations under the Socially and Economically Backward Category (SEBC), took admissions in private medical/dental colleges, after assurances from the previous state government about reimbursement of fees difference. But they are still awaiting the reimbursement for the current academic year, while colleges are seeking fees for the new courses that will commence from September.

### Difference to be reimbursed

A decision about the reimbursement of difference in fees had been taken and conveyed, vide GR dated September 20, 2019, (mid-day has a copy). As per the GR, students who were denied a seat in government medical/dental colleges, after the reserved quota was increased from 52 per cent to 78 per cent in Maharashtra to accommodate

the Marathi community, could take admission in private medical/dental colleges. The difference between the government and private college fees, would be reimbursed, for students who clear their examination. Former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had advised the students to take admission in private colleges and said the difference in fees would be paid to them by the state. As per the GR, it is a one-time reimbursement.

### Parents, guardians worried

Krishna Maheshwaram, management consultant and the guardian of a student, said, "The previous state government had assured open category MBBS students that their seats will not be compromised at the cost of providing reservation in any community. The Directorate of Medical Education & Research (DMER) has issued a partial list for 106 students for reimbursement, but the students and their families still await it before the next term

commences around September 2020."

Nigul Shah, whose son is in first year MBBS, said that merit students from the open category, who get into government colleges, have to shell out not less than Rs lakh for every academic year and could get further subsidy from the state government, if they are from the economically backward category. "The annual fee in private medical colleges across Maharashtra, range between Rs lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh, which is what we all have paid for the first year with great difficulty," Shah said.

A senior official from the Directorate of Medical Education & Research (DMER) who did not want to be named, said that though he would have to look into the details of the case, "To the best of my knowledge, the current government is positively open to the idea and will honour the promises made in the past, when they were in coalition. The delay could be because of the current pandemic situation."

259

Approximate no. of students seeking the refund

# 'Keep 20% bus empty at starting point'

BEST Undertaking issues new sets of guidelines to ensure social distancing on board the vehicle post first phase of unlock

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IN a new set of protocols to tackle COVID-19, the BEST Undertaking has told its staff to keep 20 per cent of the bus empty at originating stops to allow passengers at subsequent stops to get in and maintain social distancing. The directive from the General Manager's office also states that no more than five standee passengers be allowed onto any bus.

"Why 20 per cent and not 15 or 25 per cent, how do they arrive at these figures? If the decision is based on qualitative input by passengers or BEST staff, then it's wrong. But, if it's based on directional flow data of passengers boarding which clearly indicates that before other passengers start alighting there are 20 per cent new passengers waiting to board, then the decision makes sense," transport expert Parth Rawal said.

As a part of the government's 'Mission Bheg Again' programme, the BEST introduced 2,152 buses operating on 82 routes in the city for essential service staff. Around 600 dedicated buses were introduced on other routes including feeder routes.

"Buses need to have a set rule of guidelines to maintain social distancing inside the bus. With limited passengers inside at originating stops, passengers at subsequent bus stops will be able to enter safely," BEST spokesperson Manoj Varade said.

Trade unions on Wednesday raised a voice against the BEST issuing suspension notices to drivers and conductors who remained absent and did not report to work despite calls and requests. However, BEST officials have said they had warned the



ABEST conductor refusing passengers due to lack of space inside the bus at Dadar T. FILE PIC/SURESH HARKHEA

employees in advance. Issues charge sheets seeking explanations and only then resorted to action.

## Committee for transport

The state government has formed a committee led by Transport Minister Anil Parab to look into the problems related to transport services and suggest measures on how to run them effectively.

## 'Allow us to ply freely'

Mumbai's taxi-pull taxi and auto driver associations have requested the government to roll back its May 31 order limiting the number of passengers in their vehicles.

"On behalf of 1,50,000 taxi operators and 3 lakh rickshaw operators, we request the government to roll back their order of ferrying two essential



Classed that all its autos are being fitted with protective screens to ensure physical separation between the drivers and passengers

passengers. The financial problems faced by the taxi-rickshaw operators since March are immense as they have no other sources of income," Anthony Quadros of Mumbai Taxi-men's Union said.



Doctors say the migrants who miss out on their TB treatment could develop drug resistant TB. REPRESENTATION PIC/SPPH KADANE

## Experts warn of TB outbreak amidst COVID-19 pandemic

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HEALTH experts are worried about the large number of migrant who left the city due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as in the process, some could have missed out on their tuberculosis (TB) treatment. They fear it could develop into drug resistant TB and increase the spread of the disease in other parts of the country, where they have gone. TB experts in the city have cautioned the government not to ignore a TB outbreak amidst the pandemic, as it is a major killer in India.

Dr Wajir Shaikh, senior asthma and allergy specialist, said, "Affected migrant workers will have to be closely monitored by their state governments, to not only continue their anti-tuberculosis treatment, but also to watch out for Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR) TB."

Dr Shaikh warned that TB is an extremely common condition in our country, with a high mortality rate even today. He added, "Approximately five new cases of TB emerge in our country out of every 1,000 people, so around 2.7 million new cases emerge every year. Out of this, (MDR) TB is around 1,30,000 new cases every year. The mortality with TB every year is 4.40 lakh in India. Approximately more than 95 per cent TB cases in the world are mainly seen in developing countries. In fact, 96 per cent of deaths due to TB in the world are from developing countries like India. And 35 per cent of all TB cases are in the economically productive age group of (15 years to 50 years) which is damaging to the country. If TB is properly treated, particularly by adhering to the Directly Observed Therapy (DOTS), the cure rate is more than 85 per cent, so fortunately the majority of patients do not come back for monitoring."

## Worse than COVID-19?

Shaikh further added, "Nearly 4.40 lakh deaths every year in India are attributed to TB, and this is nearly five per cent of the deaths in the country. So COVID-19 is nowhere close to the mortality due to TB."

Dr Lalit Anand, Medical Superintendent at Sewri TB hospital, expressed similar concerns saying, "Many migrant workers who have left the city while under treatment for tuberculosis, carry a high-risk of

spreading the same in the state they have headed to. If they are not traced and given medication for tuberculosis, they carry high risk of slipping into MDR-TB."

Dr Anand added, "The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the immunity of most vulnerable human beings to the lowest level. Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTCF) known for causing TB attacks the human body, when the immunity level falls. The spread of tuberculosis will be rampant, if corrective measures of screening for tuberculosis are not taken up immediately."

Pune-based Dr Padmaja Jogewar, State Tuberculosis Officer, attached to the Central Tuberculosis Division, said, "After the lockdown (March 25 to June 14) the number of patients taking treatment for TB in the state is around 15,689 (government/civic hospitals) and 7,410 patients (in private treatment), which has seen a drastic fall as compared to the January to March number (51,827 patients in government, civic and private hospitals). We have issued letters to all concerned state/civic-run hospitals directing them to keep check on the migrant crowd and touch base with those under treatment from our data bank, so they can be provided the required dosage of medication."

## BMC's pilot project

The Bhatnagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has a new strategy to combat TB after the lockdown. Dr Pranita Tiple, Deputy Health Officer (TB), BMC said, "We have given medicines for a month to all patients before the lockdown started. Thereafter after our staff reached out to them with medicines in case they were residing in Containment Zones. A fortnight ago, we started a pilot project in three BMC ward limits (G/N ward (Dadar), N ward (Ghatkopar) and W/South ward (Gregory), only for screening TB cases and monitoring patients. New patients can avail of the facility by approaching the ward office."

She said they have also started calling TB patients to monitor their treatment. They will also provide free medicines to patients who were seeking private treatment. "Those who have migrated from Mumbai can also contact us, so that we can direct them to the district TB officers in various states, so that their treatment can continue" said Dr Tiple.

## Ajoy Mehta will be CM's principal adviser

Incumbent chief secretary will take on the new job on July 1, the CMO announces

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INCUMBENT Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Ajoy Mehta will take on a new job in the state government a day after retiring on June 30. The senior IAS officer will take charge of the office of the principal adviser to CM Uddhav Thackeray on July 1, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announced on Wednesday.

He will work from office number 603 on the sixth floor of Mani aaya, where the CM sits. In a statement, the CMO said state's economic and administrative set up needed an experienced person. "Mehta will essentially work on COVID-19 situation and industrial boost," it added.

Mehta, the 1984 batch IAS officer, was appointed the chief secretary (CS) in May 2019 by the previous

government. The Devendra Fadnis-government had extended his service by six months from September 2019 to March 2020 in the wake of the Assembly polls. Another extension of three months was given because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He became the first bureaucrat in Maharashtra to get an extension beyond six months.

Mehta is the CM's good book and also well-tuned with NCP boss Sharad Pawar, but some office-bearers in the government and bureaucracy have been at loggerheads with him. Unfazed by criticism from his detractors, Mehta has been steadfast in influ-

encing government decisions.

## Sanjay Kumar is new CS

Mehta's IAS batch mate Sanjay Kumar, additional chief secretary (housing and town), has been appointed the new chief secretary. He will take charge of the post after Mehta relinquishes the office. Former Mumbai municipal commissioner Praveen Paredisi and additional chief secretary (services) Nitaram Kunte

— both from IAS 1985 batch — were next in line on the basis of their seniority.



Ajoy Mehta

# '73.5L COVID tests done till June 23; 1,000 labs set up'

The ICMR says currently 3 lakh samples can be tested on a regular basis

**COVID-19**  
**TICKER**

**4,56,183**

NO. OF CASES IN INDIA AS ON JUNE 23

**NEW DELHI:** Over 73.5 lakh samples have been tested for COVID-19 till June 23, of which 2.15 lakh were estimated on Tuesday, the highest in a day since the beginning of the pandemic, ICMR officials said.

The apex health research body on Tuesday validated the 1,000th testing laboratory, ramping up the capacity for detection of COVID-19 in the country. Currently, three lakh samples can be tested per day, an official said. "A cumulative total of 73,52,911 samples have been tested up to June 23, with 2,15,195 samples being tested on Tuesday," the ICMR said.

Of the 1,000 COVID-19 testing laboratories, 730 are in government setups while 270 are in the private sector. This includes RT-PCR labs (757), TruNat Labs (163) and CSRAAI Labs (80). "However, in spite of these developments, access to testing still remains a huge challenge in a large country like India. There is a definite need to increase the outreach of testing by introducing rapid point of care diagnostic tests," the ICMR noted in its advisory. Also, there is value in conducting serosurvey with IgG-based antibody tests in certain situations, it said.

In view of this, it is now suggested to include additional testing methods to improve access and availability of testing in various parts of the country, the health research body said. The real-time RT-PCR is the gold standard test for detecting cases of COVID-19 and the average time taken is around 4-5 hours from receipt of sample to getting the results. **Agencies**



Medics use Rapid Antigen Kits to conduct COVID-19 tests at an MCD primary school, in New Delhi. **ICMR/PTI**

## 'Will clear stance after reviewing Patanjali report'

MoS for the Union Ayush Ministry Shripad Naik on Wednesday said that his ministry will clear its stance on pharmaceutical giant Patanjali's newly-launched ayurvedic drugs 'Corovail and Swasari' for the novel Coronavirus after reviewing the report sent by it. However, the minister said that it is good that Baba Ramdev has given a new medicine to the country.

## Delhi's isolation coaches receive first COVID patient

The railways modified isolation coaches parked at the Shakur Basti Station received the first suspected COVID-19 patient on Wednesday, officials said, adding around 25 more were expected to arrive. All of the patients are suspected cases, they said. Fifty such modified coaches are stationed at the Shakur Basti Railway Station's maintenance depot.

## Indians need travel authorisation from UAE, says Air India

Passengers wishing to travel to Dubai on residency or work permits would further require special authorisation from the UAE authorities, Air India said. As per the airline, passengers would need to have specific approvals from the UAE Embassy and UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to travel from India to the country on repatriation flights.

**1CR**

No. of jobs Yogi Adityanath is going to announce tomorrow

**66**

No. of pvt hospitals that filed as fever clinics in Gujarat

**14,476**

Total no. of deaths due to the virus in India

## Army chief reviews security situation, commends troops

**NEW DELHI:** Army Chief Gen M M Naravane on Wednesday visited various forward areas in eastern Ladakh and took stock of the Army's combat preparedness in the region in the wake of the border standoff with China, officials said.

General Naravane, who arrived in Leh on a two-day visit to the region, also awarded Commendation Cards to a number of soldiers who fought valiantly during the recent face-offs with the Chinese Army in the region, people familiar with the matter said. The Chief of Army Staff reviewed the overall security situation in the region with Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Yogesh Kumar Joshi, commander of the 14 Corps Lt Gen Harinder Singh and other senior Army officials on Tuesday afternoon.

"General M M Naravane

*The people of Ladakh are of peace-loving nature. But, any threat to sovereignty and territorial integrity will be fought back with equal force. The people of Ladakh will always stand with the Indian Army'* Jangyal Tsering Wangyal GYMP from Ladakh

MCAS visited forward areas in Eastern Ladakh and reviewed operational situation on the ground. MCAS commended the troops for their high morale and exhorted them to continue working with zeal and enthusiasm," the Army said in a tweet.

Soon after arriving in Leh, Gen Naravane visited an Army hospital where 18 soldiers injured in the clash in Galwan Valley on June 15 are undergoing treatment.

**Agencies**



Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane interacts with the troops while reviewing operational situations on the ground during his visit in Eastern Ladakh, on Wednesday. **ICMR/PTI**

## ED to take over probe against Videocon chairman Dhoot

**NEW DELHI:** A day after the CBI booked Videocon Industries Limited (VIL) chairman Venugopal Dhoot and others for alleged irregularities in the acquisition of oil and gas assets in Mozambique and causing loss to a consortium of banks led by the SBI, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is set to take over the probe and could register a case in the coming week. **Agencies**

Sources in the ED said that the financial probe agency will first study the documents pertaining to the alleged corruption by Dhoot and others and then register the case.

The agency is already probing Dhoot in a money laundering case pertaining to the sanction of ₹1,875 crore in loans by the ICICI Bank.

## Don't threaten safety, dignity of bank employees: Sitharaman



**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said nothing should threaten the safety and dignity of bank employees after a Canara Bank female employee was assaulted by a police constable in Surat, Gujarat.

The minister took up the matter with Commissioner of Police, Surat City, R B Brahmabhatt, following which the constable was suspended. "My of-

fice is being informed that the Commissioner of Police stated @canarabank's Surat branch and assured staff of full co-operation; the accused police constable is placed under suspension," Sitharaman tweeted.

A short video went viral on Twitter on Tuesday which showed a policeman, not in uniform, manhandling a female banker.

trending on the social media platforms.

Sitharaman said, "Will be closely following this matter. Wish to assure that the safety of all members of staff in banks

**A video went viral on Twitter on Tuesday which showed a policeman, not in uniform, manhandling a female banker**

is of importance for us. Amid challenges, banks are extending all services to our people. Nothing should threaten their safety and dignity." She further said that she has spoken to Surat Collector Dhanraj Parel on the incident.

"Although currently on leave, he assured me that timely action will be taken on the FIR filed late night," she said.

**Agencies**

**BROWSER**

**Another shooting in US, 1 killed in Virginia mall**

**RICHMOND:** Police in Virginia say at least one person was hurt in a shooting inside a mall. Chesterfield County police posted on their Twitter page that one person was taken to the hospital with injuries after the shooting inside Chesterfield Towne Center outside of Richmond on Tuesday. News sources report shots were fired in the vicinity of the center's food court. It wasn't known how many people were involved.

**Iran warns UN body for nuke site access demand**

**TEHRAN:** Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday warned the UN nuclear watchdog to expect a "stern response" from his country regarding the agency's demands for Iran to provide access to sites where Tehran is thought to have stored or used undeclared nuclear material. In a televised speech, he said a stern response "is easy" for Iran but that the country prefers cooperation with the UN watchdog.

**Powerful quake kills 5 in southern Mexico**



**MEXICO CITY:** A magnitude 7.4 earthquake centered near the southern Mexico resort of Huasteco killed at least five people, swayed buildings in Mexico City and sent thousands fleeing into the streets, Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said one person was killed in a building collapse in Oaxaca. Otherwise, he said, reports were of minor damage, including broken windows and collapsed walls.

**Roadside bombing kills 6 civilians in Afghan**

**KABUL:** A roadside bombing killed at least six Afghan civilians traveling in a rickshaw in a northern province, an official said on Wednesday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. One civilian was also wounded in the explosion.

# China tames new outbreak but elsewhere COVID-19 cases surge

One dies in Australia — the country's first death in a month; in South Africa, scientists warn the worst is yet to come for the nation where infections and deaths doubled in the past fortnight

**BEIJING:** China appears to have tamed a new outbreak of the coronavirus in Beijing, once again demonstrating its ability to quickly mobilize vast resources by testing nearly 2.5 million people in 11 days.

But, elsewhere in the world, cases were surging on Wednesday. Mexico, where testing rates have been low, also set a record with over 6,200 new cases, and reported 800 new deaths. In the US, increases over the past few days have jumped to near the level of the outbreak's previous peak in April. Several states have set single-day records, including Arizona, California, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas.

In China, an outbreak that has infected more than 200 people in the capital this month appeared to be firmly waning. China on Wednesday reported 12 cases, down from 22 the day before. Beijing reported seven new cases, down from 13. Officials in Beijing said they tested more than 2.4 million people between June 12 and June 22. That's more than 10% of the capital's population of about 20 million.

In South Korea, which successfully tamed its first wave of infections, is seeing another rise. While the first outbreak



**2.5MN**  
Approx. no. of Beijing residents tested for COVID-19 in 10 days

Relatives carry the coffin of an alleged victim of the COVID-19 in Tegucigalpa, Brazil. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

was centered in its fourth-largest city, the current outbreak is centered in the Seoul region, where most South Koreans live. Authorities reported 51 cases on Wednesday.

Worldwide, more than 92 million people have contracted the virus, including more than

**In Arizona, which saw 3,600 new cases, hundreds packed a megachurch to hear Trump's call for them to back his reelection bid**

477,000 who have died.

Australia has recorded its first death from COVID-19 in a month, increasing the toll to 33. Authorities in Victoria say a man in his 80s died overnight, lifting the state's total to 20.

The worst of the pandemic is yet to come in South Africa, warned top epidemiologist Salim Abdool Karim as the country's tally crossed the 1 lakh-mark and death toll neared 2,050. The cases and deaths have doubled in the past fortnight after lockdown curbs were eased recently. **Agencies**

**Brazil court orders prez to wear mask**



A Brazilian federal judge on Tuesday ordered President Jair Bolsonaro, who has attended protests and visited bakeries without mask, to wear one whenever he is outdoors. The judge said that Bolsonaro "has exposed other people to the contagion that has caused national calamity."

**'Heart disease, high BP linked to relapse'**

Coexisting medical conditions like heart disease and hypertension may lead to fully recovered COVID-19 patients testing positive for the viral infection again, according to a study which says most such patients with re-positive outcomes "tended to return negative eventually." Researchers from Huazhong University of Science and

Technology in China assessed data on 938 COVID-19 patients from the country's Wuhan Union Hospital. "Among patients over the age of 50, the factors we found to be associated with re-positive results were coronary artery disease, and hypertension," the scientists stated in a study, which is yet to be published.

## Kim suspends attack on South ahead of 70th anniv of Korean war

**SEOUL:** North Korea on Wednesday said leader Kim Jong Un suspended a planned military retaliation against South Korea, a day before the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of a war that killed and hurt millions, left large parts of the Korean Peninsula in rubble and technically still continues.

Last week, the North had declared relations with the South as fully ruptured, destroyed an inter-Korean liaison office at its territory and threatened unprovoked military action to ensure Seoul for a lack of progress in bilateral cooperation and for activists floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

**Analysts say the North, after deliberately raising tensions, may be pulling away just enough to make room for South Korean concessions**



A South Korean soldier passes by a TV showing a image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Seoul on Wednesday. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Kim presided by video conference over a meeting Tuesday of the ruling Workers'

Party's Central Military Commission, which decided to postpone plans for military action against the South brought up by the North's military leaders. KCNA didn't specify why the decision was made. **Agencies**



Palestinians protest against Israel's plans to annex part of the occupied West Bank in Gaza Strip. **AP/WIDEWORLD**

## West Bank annexation would 'be fatal', warn European MPs

**JEERUSALEM:** More than a thousand European lawmakers have signed a joint letter protesting Israel's planned annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank, saying such a move would "be fatal" to hopes for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The letter by 1,080 MPs from 25 European countries was published online on Tuesday.

It called for decisive action by European leaders to "prevent annexation and to safeguard the prospects of the two-state solution and a just resolution to the conflict."

"Failure to adequately respond would encourage other states with territorial claims to disregard basic principles of international law," the letter said. **Agencies**

# comment

THOUGHT  
FOR THE DAY

Fortunate people often have very favorable beginnings and very tragic endings. What matters isn't being applauded when you arrive — for that is common — but being missed when you leave — Baltasar Gracian, philosopher

## A volley of errors from a tennis ace

Tennis ace Novak Djokovic is the talk and roast of the town, with at least him and three other players testing positive for COVID-19 after playing in a tennis exhibition series he organised in Serbia and Croatia.

Djokovic organised the tourney and brought in players from other countries amid a global pandemic.

His wife has also tested positive. The top player has apologised but said the tourney was organised with

a philanthropic objective.

It is a grave fault by the legend, as a celebrity and top player, there would have been players who responded to his call for the tournament.

Yet, it was an error, to begin with, organising the tourney and then, inviting players to play.

This very unfortunate occurrence also blows away misconceptions and stereotypes. First, that the virus does not afflict the young. Secondly, that it has weakened or the wave has less-

ened and we can prioritise playing over precautions.

It also makes the public aware of the fact that the very fit are also susceptible to the virus. While working on fitness and keeping oneself in good health is always a sensible and desirable way to live, even absolute top-of-the-rung fitness, may not be enough to protect one from contracting the virus.

How else do you explain footballers getting the virus, a number of

cricketers also contracting it, and now, these top tennis players testing positive?

International sports stars carry a burden because of their fame. They need to be doubly responsible as they are accountable by the actions to so many impressionable fans, all over the world.

This is a wrong call by Djokovic and while his intention was good, this one should set warning bells ringing through the world of sport in general.

## LETTERS

### Good to know city's cops are fast recovering

This refers to the report 'How city cops flattened the Corona curve'. Kudos to the Mumbai police, which is the backbone of society and a vital part in maintaining law and order to fight the pandemic. It is encouraging to note that 72 per cent of its personnel have recovered.

ANIL TORNE

### BMC needs to do more on garbage segregation

Apropos 'Geet should visit Kanjurmarg dump yard to experience stench', with COVID-19 devastating the city, the BMC and government need to step up the separation of garbage at source, separate collection, get more recycling units and slowly reduce mixed garbage dumping. This will keep the city cleaner, help reduce vectors and spread of disease. An appeal to Aaditya Thakur and all leaders to take note.

AMRITA GHOSH

### Are we making a mountain out of a molehill here?

This refers to Mayank Shekhar's, 'When Sushant Singh Rajput died twice'. If Abhishek Kapoor has said that SSR sought 'validation', then it could perhaps be because of his confusion over the meaning of that term. He must have mixed-up the meaning of the term 'validation' with that of 'evaluation' and 'valuation' or a term that suggests one's worth or worthiness. SSR's ex-publicist Rohini Iyer and Mayank Shekhar seem to have jumped to the occasion to make a mountain out of Abhishek's molehill.

R N SHANBHAG

### have your say!



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# You've got to feel for them

## PAVILION END



Clayton Murzello

What can be more crushing for a cricketer than to be on the cusp of a Test debut — because the side's similar type of bowler and main left-arm spinner is dropped on disciplinary grounds — and then discovering that he is not needed in the playing XI?

This is exactly what happened to Rajinder Goel, who passed away on Sunday in Rohtak. The same Goel went on to claim a record 637 wickets in the national championships.

In his last Ranji Trophy game before that India v West Indies Test at Bangalore, where he missed out, Goel, then 31, bagged 10 wickets in the match to help Haryana beat Railways by five wickets.

Sunder Rajan, the late formidable sports writer, in his book on the 1974-75 series, wrote how wrong the selectors were right from the time they picked Goel because he felt Padmakar Shivalkar would have been a better choice. The wise men, according to Sunder, committed another blunder by announcing on the eve of the Test that two off-spinners — Erapalli Prasanna and Srinivas Venkataraghavan — would be in the XI. "If only they had waited till the morning of the match, they would have realised that Goel could have served India well," wrote Sunder. The start was delayed by rain and the author felt there was no one in the Indian attack to exploit the wet conditions.

That was the closest Goel got to playing Test cricket for India. Surely, he missed out in the most incredible fashion, but those who spoke to him, found no trace of bitterness.

I didn't have the good fortune of meeting the deceased spin great although I once spoke to him over the phone. But I've met and interviewed a few like Goel, who missed out on an India cap.

I interviewed Shivalkar at his Bembay House office a few days before his benefit game in 1995. Naturally, the

Meeting players who missed out on an India cap can leave you with a lump in the throat, memories of which came up as Indian cricket lost another domestic giant in Haryana-based spinner Rajinder Goel



Goel and East Zone wicketkeeper-turned Punjab Cricket Association Stadium captain Dajit Singh with Rahul Dravid in Mohali on October 27, 2005. PICTURE

topic about him not playing for India came up. He stressed that if two offies could play in one team, so could two left-arm spinners. "If you cannot play the highest grade, you can always play at a lower level and be helpful to that team," he said as my colleague, the late J Dey (who was assassinated in 2011), photographed Shivalkar gripping a ball. I saw a man who, despite being dealt a bad hand, was philosophical about his disappointment.

Vijay Shrivast, the former Maharashtra, Baroda and Mumbai batsman, didn't disguise his sadness over not being given a chance to represent his country in the 1960s. He told me in 1995 how he would pray and weep before his deity and ask, "Why are you doing this to me?" The disappointment of not making it to the highest ranks prevented him from watching cricket at either Brabourne or Wankhede Stadium until the first floodlit GDI at the latter in 1996. Shrivast, of course, was at the ground when he was the Mumbai team's manager and a senior selector

in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He revealed how he took off a senior member of the Indian team during a West Zone v South Zone Duleep Trophy match in the 1960s. "I don't play good shots as fast bowlers." Wonder whether that played a role in him not representing the country.

The most memorable interaction I had with a player who could have played for India was during the 1994-95 Mumbai v Punjab Ranji Trophy final at the Wankhede Stadium. During our post-day chats, Dajit Singh, the coach of the Punjab team (before he became a famous cartoon) revealed how he narrowly missed a berth in the Indian team for their historic tour of the West Indies in 1971. Dajit was wicketkeeper for East Zone which clashed with South Zone in the 1970-71 Duleep Trophy final at the Brabourne Stadium. East Zone captain Ramesh Soosa was stopped as he was walking out for the toss with Venkataraghavan. Soosa was told that chief selector Vijay Merchant wanted to see him immediately and the toss

could wait. Soosa hesitantly agreed, went up the pavilion stairs and met Merchant, who told him that Basil Jodhjeebhoy should keep wickets for the final. Jeejeebhoy, it must be noted, did not figure in the semi-final against North Zone at Kolkata.

The national selectors apparently wanted to have one look at how Jeejeebhoy kept wickets. Dajit agreed to play as a batsman as a mark of respect for Soosa. Jeejeebhoy claimed only one catch in the match but was among Ajit Wadekar's warriors in the West Indies. In fact, both wicketkeepers who figured in that Duleep Trophy final were picked for the tour. "I heard later that Merchant told Ramesh that he too was in the running for a place in the West Indies-bound team but they left him out. Ramesh played the best innings of that Duleep final — a brilliant 90 in the first innings — on the day he was told of his recall chances," said Dajit.

I was surprised when Dajit first narrated his tale of woe to me in 1994, but the player who moved me was Pradeep Sunderam when I met him at his Union Bank of India office in Fort many years ago. The injured Chetan Sharma was unable to play the Leach Test on India's 1986 tour of England and the team management pulled out S Madan Lal from the Lancashire league despite Manoj Prabhakar being in the squad. Sunderam, who said he was the first standby for the tour after his 10 wickets in an innings for Rajasthan v Vidarbha in 1985, was told by an official that they couldn't find him. But he was around, playing league cricket in Surrey. It was a reason that was obviously hard to believe. But that's how some stories are of cricketers who missed out on the India cap, Goel being a heart-wrenching example.

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

Send your feedback to mailbag@mid-day.com



### See you in September

After Lucknow schedule was suspended due to lockdown, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 makers plan to resume filming only after three months

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RARTEK Arayan and Rara Advani were shooting for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 in Lucknow when the lockdown was announced in March. Three months since, as the industry is limping back to work, director Anees-Bazmee is keen to revisit the horror-comedy. However, the location is posing a problem as the Uttar Pradesh government has yet to give nod to shoots in the state.

Talking to mid-day from Lonavala, Bazmee states, "We have to go to Lucknow to finish the film. We had built a huge set and it has been standing untouched all these months. It is imperative to shoot the remaining portions there to maintain con-

tinuity." The director, who has about 35 days of shoot pending, is considering filming certain indoor portions in Mumbai before the unit gets a go-ahead for the Lucknow stint.

Producer Bhushan Kumar, who is charting out the way forward for his productions, predicts that the final schedule of the movie may kick off only after three months. "The safety of our cast and crew is of utmost impor-

tance to us. Only when we receive the permission from the [Uttar Pradesh] government, will we resume work on the film. Hopefully, we will revisit Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 by September." The sequel to Akshay Kumar's Bhool Bhulaiyaa (2007) was originally slated to hit the marquee in July 31.



Bhushan Kumar



**'It is imperative to shoot the remaining portion in Lucknow to maintain continuity'** Anees Bazmee

## VEDHA WAITS IN THE WINGS?

As Aamir's calendar goes haywire after the filming of Laal Singh Chaddha is delayed, sources say actor has postponed the shoot of Saif-starrer Vikram Vedha

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AAMIR Khan's ambitious project, Laal Singh Chaddha, is among the many films that have been impacted by the lockdown. Last month, mid-day had reported that the Advait Chandan-directed venture, originally slated for a Christmas 2020 release, is likely to hit the screens in 2021. The deferral of the superstar's cherished project has had a domino effect in his other films. It is learnt that the Hindi adaptation of Vikram Vedha, which was to go on floors in February 2021, has now been pushed by the actor.

A trade source reveals, "Almost 40 per cent of Laal Singh Chaddha remains to be shot.

Aamir is certain that he will not return to the set until the situation improves. He does not want to risk the safety of the cast and crew at any cost. In all likelihood, he will resume shooting only after October and is eyeing a Christmas 2021 release for the film. He has informed Neeraj Pandey, who is producing Vikram

Vedha, that he will begin work on the thriller only after the release of Laal Singh Chaddha."

The noir thriller will mark Aamir's reunion with Saif Ali Khan after Dh Chhata Hai (2008). The adaptation of the 2017 Tamil hit of the same name will see Saif portray the role of Vikram, a righteous cop in pursuit of gangster Vedha, to be essayed by Aamir. The movie traces how Vedha, after surrendering to the police, narrates three stories to Vikram that change his perspective of good and evil.

Pushkar-Gayatri, who penned the original, will take over the directorial reins again with Y. Manikandan serving as the dialogue writer. "The actor, who



The poster of Laal Singh Chaddha (top)/Saif Ali Khan

**'Aamir is likely to resume the Laal Singh Chaddha shoot by October'**

A source

is spending the lockdown in his Panchgani bungalow, will re-work his dates for the movie after he returns to the city," adds the source.



## 'My way of supporting theatre owners'

**MID-DAY IMPACT** » As single screens struggle to stay afloat, Chehre maker to offer five films free of cost, to increase footfalls



(From left) Mid-day's report about single screens in the June 22 edition; Bachchan and Hashmi in Chehre



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THREE days after mid-day reported that several single screens, hit hard by the lockdown, may have to close the shutters by the year-end, producer Anand Pandit is planning to offer a slate of five films in cinema owners free of cost. These movies will, in turn, be screened to the public without any charge. The producer believes that the move will increase footfalls, thus enabling theatres to stay afloat.

"As we slowly come out of this lockdown, I hope to see movie halls running once again. What would be better

than giving our audiences some free entertainment while practicing social distancing? My idea is that online-gone will only have to spend on snacks," says the producer, who has initiated talks with several exhibitors. "We know how their business has been impacted. This might be a good way to get the audience to return to theatres."

Pandit has two produc-

tions on the anvil — the Anilabh Bachchan and Anurag Kashyap-starrer Chehre, and Abhishek Bachchan's The Big Bull. He is unwilling to reveal the films that will be part of the deal until it is signed and sealed.

The move naturally entails having to forgo his earnings from the projects. But Pandit sees it as a win-win situation. "This offering is not to make money. It's my way of supporting exhibitors and theatre owners. My co-producers are more than willing to forgo their earnings. It will benefit all of us in the long run."



Anand Pandit

**Pandit has yet to announce whether his upcoming productions, Chehre and The Big Bull, will be part of the deal**

# have you heard?

**GOLMAAL IN NZ**

Rohit Shetty's *Golmaal* Again (2017) is all set to re-release in New Zealand. It will be the first Hindi film to hit theatres as the country opens up after declaring itself virus-free

## Saroj Khan improving

Saroj Khan, who was hospitalised after she complained of breathing problems, is on the road to recovery. On Wednesday, filmmaker Kunal Kohli spoke to the veteran choreographer's son Raju and shared a health update on social media. "Mamaji is doing better and is recuperating. She was taken to the hospital as she felt breathless. Raju thanks everyone for their prayers and wishes," wrote Rohit. Khan, 71, also underwent a COVID-19 test, which was negative.



## When Arjun replaced SSR



Chetan Bhagat's five-year-old tweet announcing Sushant Singh Rajput's casting in *Half Girlfriend*, based on his book, did the rounds of social media on Wednesday. "So happy to share Sushant Singh Rajput will play the lead in Mohit Suri's directorial venture, *Half Girlfriend*. Shooting begins 2016," the author had posted on November 7, 2015. It provided yet another impetus for SSR's fans to stir up the nepotism

debate and trail Arjun Kapoor, who replaced Rajput in the 2017 film. Angry netizens called Kapoor 'a nepotism kid who grabbed a role from an outsider'. Some questioned his 'acting skills'. The furor again led SSR fans to announce a boycott of star kids.

## Baby on the way

**B Praak** is going to be a father soon. On Wednesday, the composer-singer shared the news on Instagram. "Hey baby... mummy and daddy waiting for you. Blessing on the way!" He also thanked wife **Meera** and referred to her as "gorgeous mummy" and himself as a "hot daddy." Praak is working on the sequel of his romantic single, *Filhaal*, which featured Akshay Kumar and Nupur Sanon in the video.



## Broadening the debate

**Soni Razdan** has spoken on the nepotism controversy, at the centre of which daughter **Alia Bhatt** finds herself in. The veteran actor posted, "Those who are ranting about nepotism today will also have kids. What if they want to join the industry? Will they stop them from doing so?" Razdan's comment came in response to director **Hansal Mehta's** tweets suggesting that the nepotism debate be broadened. He wrote that his son "got a step in the door" because of him but "his success or failure depends on his talent." When addressing nepotism, Mehta said that the real battle is between 'powerful and the rising', 'old and new', 'rigidity and change' and 'secure and insecure'.



## Ready to rock

**Guru Randhawa** has lined up a performance on June 30. This will be his first live show post-lockdown. The singer shared the news on social media and wrote, "It feels great to slowly and steadily resume work." Randhawa will be adhering to the government guidelines on gatherings and social distancing measures for the private gig. For a while now, he had been expressing his disappointment about not being able to travel and perform.



Looks like his wish has finally come true.



## Seeking justice

**Shekhar Suman** has formed an online forum to demand a CBI probe into Sushant Singh Rajput's death. Several netizens extended support to the #Justice for Sushant forum, which was trending on Twitter on Wednesday. Suman feels "there is more than meets the eye in the actor's death."



**TRILLY TATTLE**

## Doctor on call

**Brittli Grewal** is the latest addition to the cast of *Choti Sardaarni*. As the show kicks starts its shooting again post the lifting of the lockdown restrictions, the makers are introducing new characters. Grewal plays a gynaecologist, **Aditi Bedi**, who steps in for protagonist Meher's (Nimrat Kaur) Abuwalla treatment. Says Grewal, "My mother and I are avid watchers of the show and now I am part of it. It is a dream come true. My character takes on Meher's challenging medical case."



## Back after a break

Last seen in *Waaris* in 2017, **Jaswir Kaur** returns to the scene after a three-year break post motherhood. She has been roped in as **Pannet Singh's** Shakti — *Astitva*. Ke Ehsaas Ki. The makers plan to restart shooting next week. "After the lockdown, it is a new start for the industry, it will also mark a fresh beginning for me," says Kaur. She replaces **Gauri Toak**, who quit the show amid fears of shooting during the pandemic.



## Fraudster alert

After falling prey to a fake casting call, Naagin-4 actor **Vijayendra Kumeria** has alerted colleagues to be cautious in an Instagram post. He revealed that he had no doubts as they behaved in a professional manner. After the initial talks and an online audition, they insisted on bare body pictures, which he refused. He then realised something was amiss.

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

**mid-day**  
Made in Mumbai

# SERVICE-CARE-EMPATHY GOVT OF CHHATTISGARH

## Economic Upliftment through 'NYAY'

Cash transfer of 5750 cr to 19 lakh farmers under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna'. Second instalment on 20<sup>th</sup> August, first instalment of 1500 cr transferred in the beneficiaries' accounts on 21<sup>st</sup> May



## Generating Employment for Inclusive Growth

Under MGNREGA, new record in rural employment generation; 60% of the annual budget's target achieved in 3 months. More than 1767.57 cr paid in wages so far

## Sustainable Livelihood, Forest Protection, Empowering Communities

Income of approx. 2500 cr guaranteed to the families dependent on forests for livelihood. Number of forest produce purchased on support price raised from 7 to 31. Support price also increased



**Bhupesh Baghel**  
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



**REACHING OUT TO THE LAST MILE**

# Visual splendour; worth sleep-surrender?

## VIVID REVIEW

**MAYANK SHEKHAR**  
mayank.shek@mid-day.com

THE sky turns deep red as does the entire screen, for significant portions of this film, shown to be shot in natural light, namely fire at night. The setting is a medieval mansion in late 19th Century Bengal. Or what you'd call Raj/Thakur/Zamindar's Bari, with a massive courtyard, and a series of rooms facing the front. The smoky forest with the horse-carriage riding through it look like they could be in Transylvania.

Recently aesthetic, slightly overboard; no, what is this? A Sanjay Leela Bhansali film in the aspirational space? Or Satyajit Ray's *Chalchala* (1964), supplanted from the same time-frame, in a separate context? Is the lead male actor (Avinash Tiwary) styled like he's straight out of *Vikramaditya Motwane's Lootera* (2013)?

And it's not that we haven't seen a Bombay film that, on the face of it, appears to be about ghosts/witches perhaps, but production-design-wise, it is as mainstream as it gets. *Ek Thi Daayan* (2013), produced by Vishal Bhardwaj, comes to mind.

I mean all of the above as genuine compliments, of course. The film does well to visually draw you in. These many allusions anyway mean this is original. It's certainly not a pretense you've seen before. As none should be. This is quite an achievement, in fact. Given that the director (Anvita Dutt) is a first-timer. Although she's been around in the films for long —



mainly in the music department as a popular lyricist, plus as screen/dialogue-writer.

Too many fine titles to her credit (*Utsav*, *Kahaani*, *Gopri*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*). My respect/admiration for her especially comes from the fact that she once went up to personally receive the self-explanatory Golden Kela Award, for her words in the equally self-explanatory song, *Jahe Wala Leve*. That's a true sport.

Do you see any of that playfulness in this picture? If the first few scenes are anything to go by, yes, you do. There is a classical fable-like storytelling to start with.

The opening sequence concerns a child marriage. Actor Babul Bose as the old zamindar shows up next in the bed. And splits into two — meaning a double-role (not, literally). There is a sense of something deeply interesting going on here.

The question is, if the film — once its essential novelty has worn off, as it would be for any movie after the first few minutes — manages to consistently hold your interest. Hones-

**RULBBUL**  
ON: Neelha  
DIR: Anvita Dutt  
CAST: Irishi  
Dinesh, Avinash  
Tiwary, Rahul  
Bose



ly, it doesn't, quite. Not for me. And not for long, long passages, anyway. That's because there is really nothing going on, by way of keeping your mind ticking.

Keeps you guessing, on occasion? Perhaps. But not even so much of that, really. There is low rhythm and drama. But more so, a declining sense of anticipation, in terms of basic plot, the film seems to be binged on the possibility of a witch doing the rounds. There is a relevant refer-

ence to the cult of Kali, in many ways the patron deity of Bengali culture.

The extremely loaded, strong sub-text concerns patriarchy. The lead character, Rubbel (camera-friendly Tripti Dhar), dressed in heavy jewellery all day at home, stands in for a bird in a beautiful cage, but a prison, nonetheless.

Do all these elements envelope/jolt you by the senses, or pull you further in ever so gently to sneak more? Only over the last 10 to 15 minutes. Glad I surrendered my sleep for this visual splendour, right up until then. Wasn't particularly easy. Your turn.

★TUCK ★★WHATEVER ★★★GOOD ★★★★SUPER ★★★★★WESOME

## 'Can resonate with the song in these times'

Angrezi Medium actor Radhika Madan discusses recreating Lata Mangeshkar's hit number *Lag jaa gale*

**UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN**  
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LOCKDOWN collaborations have become the latest virtual trend. Joining the bandwagon is composer-singer-lyricist Jaresh Royal, who kicks off her maiden music video featuring Radhika Madan. The actor will also be seen playing a keyboard for the recreation of veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar's hit song, *Lag jaa gale*, originally written by Madan Mohan Kaul and Raja Mehdi Ali Khan for the 1964 film, *Woh Kaun Thi*.

"We opted for *Lag jaa gale* because it is a deep-dyed classic that continues to delight listeners of all ages," says Royal, adding that she started curating the introduction of the song after discussing the project with

Madan. "Radhika enjoys playing the keyboard and had sent me a few of her jamming videos. I dusted off my accordion for the reinterpretation of the track. With assistance from our household, we wrapped up the shoot within a fortnight."

Madan, who has started honing her music skills during the lockdown, ticked one item off her bucket list. "Learning an instrument has always been on my bucket list. I have been practicing the piano to perfect that craft. *Lag jaa gale* is a song that I can resonate with considering everything seems so uncertain.

You don't know what is in store for you tomorrow," says Madan enthused about her collaborating with Royal. "Jaresh has guided me through the entire piece — the keys, chords and the overall conceptualisation."



## Gibson denies Ryder's claims of making homophobic comments

HOLLYWOOD veteran Mel Gibson has denied the claims of actor Winona Ryder who has alleged that the actor-filmmaker made anti-Semitic and homophobic comments during a party many years ago.

Ryder has levelled the allegation against Gibson many times, including in her 2010 profile interview with a magazine. She rebutted the accusations during another interview, where she was asked if she had ever experienced anti-Semitism in the film industry. The actor, 48, then recalled a Hollywood party in the 1990s and said that Gibson called her an "oven dodger", a derogatory term for a person of Jewish heritage.

Winona Ryder has released a statement to counter Gibson's response. She said, "I hope that Mr Gibson has found a healthy way to deal with his demons, but I am not one of them"



when he learned about her background. "We were at a crowded party with one of my good friends. And Mel Gibson told my friend, who is gay, 'Oh wait, am I gonna get AIDS?'" the actor said.

Ryder further revealed that Gibson, 65, tried to apologise to her at a later date. A representative of Gibson responded to Ryder's claims, calling them as, "100 per cent untrue."

"She lied about it over a decade ago to the press, and she's lying about it now. He did reach out to her, many years ago, to confront her about her lies, and she refused to address it with him," the actor's spokesperson said.

Ryder has released a statement to counter Gibson's response.

Agencies





Harry Styles rehearsing for The Today Show in February this year  
PIC:GETTY IMAGES



Parakh's styling on Parul Gule reflects the modern boho vibe with a crocheted bralette

A semi-formal look with a crocheted top styled by Parakh on Karishma Tanna



# Hooked on to fashion

Harry Styles has inspired a TikTok trend with his crocheted rainbow cardigan. Three stylists tell you how to get the look right if you wish to give crochet a go

### STYLE FILES

**DALREEN RAMOS**  
dalreeram@red-dip.com

SPORTING a rainbow-themed JW Anderson cardigan with a whopping €1,250 (over ₹1 lakh), Harry Styles sparked a crocheted trend on TikTok. Fans and as-trend crocheters filmed videos of themselves attempting to replicate Style's bright, patchy cardigan, and succeeded, too. But the artist's pick has to really do with the trend emerging as a Spring/Summer 2020 trend as it

ruled the runway with Stella McCartney, Jill Sander, Altuzarra and Oscar de la Renta incorporating it. For city-based stylists Eleesha Dsouza, Hima Dargwal and Kayal Parakh, the trend dips into '70s nostalgia. "Back then, it was a lot more boho. The goal right now is to not make it look like grandma's 'crochet,'" Parakh asserts.

### A minimal mind

For Mumbai weather, Dsouza favours crocheted lace trims over going all out. "Pick outfits with a trim detail on the sleeves, saddle shoulders or at the bottom of a knee-length dress. Outfits that are 30 per cent crochet are better suited for tall people," she says. Quiches and shoes with crochet elements should be kept to neutral shades; you can even modify a nose strap by adding crocheted florets.

### Combination is key

Okay, you've got the perfect crochet garment. But what do you pair it with? Dargwal says the texture of the fabric you select is most important. "Lace, corduroy, or a ribbed and sheer textured fabric is perfect while leather and tiling need to be avoided. And ensure you wear nude undergarments," she adds. Picking the right jewellery can be tricky, too. Dargwal suggests thinking of elements with an earthy feel. Pearls can add richness to your outfit and are a good choice for a formal brunch- or dinner-time look. If you wish to go more casual,



Eleesha Dsouza



Hima Dargwal



Kayal Parakh

opt for shell jewellery and work on minimalist chain layering. If your outfit is black or blue, choose silver chains and if white or off-white, then gold. You can also consider crystal jewellery with a moonstone or turquoise fit for a boho-like vibe," she adds.

Given that crochet is intrinsically patterned, don't combine it with bold prints. "Even if you like smarting print-on-print, choose shades close to the crochet garment and pick subtle prints — fine stripes or tiny polka dots," Parakh advises.

### Keep it comfy

You need to assess your comfort while wearing crochet. "There's a lot of peek-a-boo going on. If you don't like that, look at patterns with less or smaller holes. Crochet can be layered easily, too. A tank top can be worn as a vest," says Parakh.

If you wish to experiment with crochet in Indian wear, Parakh suggests sticking to accessories. "It's hard to say how comfortable people will be wearing a crocheted blouse with a lehenga. Crochet pockets are a more elegant option."

### LOVE BYTES



### Groove like no one's watching

Have you ever wanted to shake a leg with your partner? Learn the basics of ballroom, technique, theory, combinations and improvisation at this 10-day workshop by The Juhu Studio. Instructor Abhishek Porwal will take you through customised virtual choreography.

ON Saturdays and Sundays, 5pm  
LOG ON TO Insider.in  
COST ₹300 onwards

### Party online for Pride

The Pride Month is here and this time the party goes online. Inviting LGBTQ+ members and everyone who wants to shake a leg, it will feature performances by Lush Monsoon, Gloria Luna and more.

ON June 28, 6:29 pm  
LOG ON TO Insider.in  
COST ₹500



PIC:GETTY IMAGES

### CTRL + ALT + RELAX

Smart way to unwind end of week

### LEARN: The art of fermentation

Whether it is kimchi, natural sodas or good old curd, the benefits of fermented foods are aplenty. Learn the basics of this technique and make your own immunity-boosting foods.

ON June 25, 1:30 pm  
LOG ON TO Insider.in  
COST ₹499



Oscar de la Renta's ruffled crocheted dress is a good example of adapting the style for partywear.  
PIC:INSTAGRAM



### DIY accessory tutorials



Crocheted dangles might be a popular choice, but make sturdy hoops out of yarn that will

add an edge to your look.

LOG ON TO Claudetta Crochet on YouTube

This knot hairband can be made in under 20 minutes.



LOG ON TO forforthebrills on YouTube



Learn to make the good-old pottli bag which is perfect for stuffing your toiletries.

LOG ON TO KnitersAddict on YouTube

## THURSDAY

## Reel time

**FILMS** - Catch award-winning films like *Mukti Bhawan*, *Lo Sun Choo Sun*, *46 Years: Silent Dictator* and more on the Dharamshala International Film Festival's viewing room for free.

LOG ON TO [dff.co.in/viewing-room/](http://dff.co.in/viewing-room/)



## FRIDAY



## Make-up hacks

**LEARN** - Crushed over Kareena Kapoor's make-up and styling in the song 'Terebin'? Beauty expert Dolphin Saxena will decode her look and share some handy tips on getting make-up right, for when you're ready to step out again.

TIME 2 pm  
LOG ON TO [boompage.com](http://boompage.com)

## SATURDAY

## A natural fix

**CLEAN** - By now, we all know that more time spent at home means more cleaning. But most bleaches and cleaners tend to be harmful. Can you use natural ingredients instead? Yes. Bio-enzymes are pocket- and eco-friendly cleaners made by fermenting fruit peels, jaggery/brown sugar and water over a period of 30 to 90 days. Join this workshop to learn about them and make your own.

LOG ON TO [insider.in](http://insider.in)  
COST ₹300



## SUNDAY



## Into the wild

**WALKTHROUGH** - The Natural History section at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was formed with the intention of increasing awareness about our surrounding flora and fauna. So, if you've been craving

for your annual summer safari in the jungle, head to a virtual walkthrough instead and learn about mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and invertebrates, and their natural habitat.

LOG ON TO [CSMVS.org](http://CSMVS.org) Google Arts and Culture

## TEAM GUIDE RECOMMENDS

## Barbie girl in the real world



DALVEEN PRANIS

coupled with those luscious blonde locks. Yet, we've been conditioned to think of these characteristics as aspirational. That's why I love conceptual artist Annelies Holmeyer's project, *Trophy Wife Barbie*, where Barbie's got tummy rolls, stretch marks, and yes, her period. Holmeyer once said that the goal was to "explore gender issues", and she sure has succeeded in doing that.

Let's be honest, Barbie dolls are anything but reliable. We can't possibly identify with the slim and stately figure

LOG ON TO [@trophywifebarbie](http://@trophywifebarbie) on Instagram



## Matters of the heartland



PRACHI SINGH

Set in a small town in Chhattisgarh, Chaman Bohar is the tale of a paanwalla who sees his business boom with the arrival of a pretty schoolgirl next door. He eventually falls in love with her without ever having had as much as a conversation. Watch it for the setting, and for Jitendra Kumar who is yet again, on point as the innocent heartland hero.

LOG ON TO [netflix.com](http://netflix.com)

## Fits to the tea

With the monsoon here, now's the time to put the tea on the boil. Here's how to perk up your cuppa

## KITCHEN SUPERSTAR

Recipes of the week from Mumbai's hottest chefs

SHUNASHIR SEN  
[shunashir.sen@mid-day.com](http://shunashir.sen@mid-day.com)

NOW that the rains have arrived, it's time for that garam-garam-chai-ko-jaaye feeling. But more beyond the boiling milk-water-tea-sugar concoction. Try these two recipes that Ishiyat Sarri, executive chef and tea aficionado at Another's Pacheco Cafe, suggests for your brew.

## Valley of flavours

Take a trip to Kashmir with *kesari kahwa*, a type of tea typical to the Valley. "It incorporates the ingredients available in the region," Sarri says.

**INGREDIENTS**  
 + Black tea - 1 tbsp  
 + Almonds - 2 tbsp, chopped  
 + Pistachios - 1 tbsp, chopped  
 + Saffron strands - 1 pinch  
 + Water - 1 cup

**METHOD**  
 Pour a cup of water in a pan and add black tea. Bring to a boil for three minutes. Strain the tea in another pan; add the above-mentioned dry fruits, and simmer for two to three minutes. Pour the tea in a tea pot, and add the saffron strands to it. Stir well.



Chef Ishiyat Sarri



## Yummy in Yemen

Condensed tea is popular in Yemen, where it is known as *shabi kabreb*. Follow the recipe below to recreate the drink in Mumbai.

**INGREDIENTS**  
 + Black tea - 1 tbsp  
 + Green cardamom powder - 1 tsp  
 + Clove - 2 pieces  
 + Water - 3/4 cup  
 + Condensed milk - 2 tbsp

**METHOD**  
 Pour water in a pan and then add cardamom powder and cloves. Bring to a boil and add the black tea. Boil the mixture for three minutes. Strain in a cup and add the condensed milk to it.

## Brewing hacks

● Grate ginger if you are using it in tea, instead of crushing it, as it will add better flavour.

● If you like your tea sweet but want to avoid white sugar, you can easily replace it with brown sugar or jaggery powder.

● Strain the tea and toss it between two vessels to get a frothy and thick restaurant-style serving at home.

## Navrattan Music curating a platform for young artists

Sushant Singh Rajput, a talented young actor with a promising future in the film industry, committed suicide and left the entire country in shock. His untimely death has also been frightening for the newcomers who dream of a career in the tinsel town. Sensing their abject disappointment in the current scheme of things and as a tribute to Sushant, Navrattan Group has launched a start-up, Navrattan Music. It would be a platform for the deserving young talent in India. Most importantly, Navrattan

Group is going to invest and promote young artists across the spectrum, without the complications of money or bond involved.

Announcing the launch of Navrattan Music, the Group said in a press release, "Recently, the Indian film industry has lost one of its gems, Sushant Singh Rajput, to an untimely tragedy. It has been a very heartbreaking incident and our thoughts are with his family in this difficult time. We should all take some learning from this incident." The Group insists that "the

platform is open for all without keeping a monopoly for a certain artist."

The start-up has already collaborated with various artists. Speaking about the inspiration behind building this platform, a company release further said, "After this heart-rending incident we realize how difficult it is for an outsider to get a platform and to establish a name in the industry. So, as a tribute to Sushant Singh Rajput, Navrattan Music has decided to give a platform to deserving young, dynamic, and talented

artists from all over the country."

The company also announced that it might also get into the music-making business, with the same principle. Realizing that it is extremely difficult for an outsider to establish himself in the cut-throat industry, Navrattan Music will be the launch-pad for the deserving young, dynamic, and talented artists from every corner of India.

Anyone who is interested can get in touch with us.



## Playing the musical notes

Learning to play a musical instrument is a fine way to pass leisure time in a worthwhile manner. Read on to know how



SHAMEEM KHAN

For music-lovers, music makes their world go round. The rhythmic beats helps them beat their stress and enjoy the timeless moments to the hilt.

Nowadays, learning music has become easy with several music classes and online classes too offering various courses in different musical instruments.

There are several benefits of learning a musical instrument. Here's listing some...

### De-stressing

It has been proven that people benefit tremendously as music has been shown to reduce stress and build the confidence level besides increasing memory and concentration power. In fact, pregnant ladies are often advised by doctors to listen to soft, soothing music to help relax their nerves which will aid in easier delivery. It's a great stress buster which is probably the reason that people like to unwind after a hard days work by playing their favourite music. Mus-

also has the ability to take you down memory lane with a familiar tune, singer or song.

### Brain boosters

Scientists have proven that playing and listening to musical instruments makes one smarter as these activities release elements that strengthen mental capacities. Besides this, it also increases comprehension and math skills, better



### Taking the music route

If you are planning on following your musical instincts, here's where you can find some help:

- There are plenty of music schools in your vicinity that you could join if you want to learn in the traditional way. Take help from google to locate a music class close to your home or work place.
- These days, many schools conduct regular classes for both vocal and instrument training.
- There are several music apps and tutorials available where you can master an instrument faster than ever.
- You could even hire a music teacher who could come to your home and teach you a musical instrument.

coordination, and a greater capacity for memory. In short, studying an instrument is easier than studying another subject as you're growing your brain power as you practice and learn.

### Creative outlet

Music offers a wonderful escape from our routine life. In the scramble for money, power and meeting our daily necessities, one tends to get repetitive and monotonous strokes in unexpected. Since music education plays on your mental, emotional and cognitive abilities, the brain is stimulated to think out of the ordinary. This improves creativity, brings in a dash of hope, optimism and freshness in one's lack-lustre lives.

### Personally fulfilling

Music is proven to strengthen ties in work and personal environments. Music training develops muscles that assist in cooperation, time-management and listening skills, all of which are necessary for healthy relationships.

## Businessmen from every state of India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari said in Unison, "Nayi Subah Aayegi"

A positive song showing the unity of India is getting famous

Chandigarh. In this time of Corona distress, every person is feeling broken from inside and going through a strange fear. No doubt, in such a situation it is getting difficult for him to stay strong and positive. At this time, for him handling himself and his family has become a big challenge. The morale is steadily decreasing. He is just thinking, "When will this new dawn come?"

To strengthen the declining morale and make up hope for a new dawn, Dr. Sanjeev Juneja, the founder of Divya Herbal Care took an incredible initiative. Significantly Dr. Juneja owns brands like Dr. Ortho, Roop Mantra, Sachi Sakshi, Dot Sakti, Icheku, and Eye Mantra. He selected diligent entrepreneurs from every state of India, portrayed them together and presented a beautiful and enthusiastic song... "Nayi Subah Aayegi". This song has been crafted with such a positive energy that on listening to it you start feeling we Indians will certainly win and beat the Coronavirus. Founder of Divya Herbal Care, Dr. Sanjeev Juneja said that the biggest reason for launching this song is to strengthen the youth of today as the young people of nowadays give up so soon. They easily get depressed, feel mentally weak and do not think twice before taking some unnecessary steps. Sometimes, these mental weakness leads them to take some needless steps inadvertently. However, for today's youth it is indeed essential that they should not lose heart and face every circumstance with courage and firmness. He further said, to create this song, determined and fervent entrepreneurs were chosen in which main cast were Viral Shah from Ahmedabad, Pawan Kumar from Andhra

The biggest reason for launching this song is to strengthen the youth of today as the young people of nowadays give up so soon. They easily get depressed, feel mentally weak and do not think twice before taking some unnecessary steps.

Dr. Sanjeev Juneja

Pradesh, Harish Aggarwal from Assam, Ashutosh Tekriwal from Bihar, Prateek Kakkar from Chandigarh, Saraj Nathani, Vikas Nathani from Chhattisgarh, Deepak Arora, Rakesh Arora from Delhi, Amit Jain from Haryana, Rakesh Patil from Himachal Pradesh, Bharat Bhandari, Prateek Jain from Hyderabad, Sanjay Arora from Jammu, Vijay Singhania from Jharkhand, K.N Ramu from Karnataka, Ramnath Bhatt, Bhama Wadhvani, Nihar Dahi from Madhya Pradesh, Shyam Karda, Jayesh Wadhvani, Ramesh Jais from Maharashtra, Vijay Chowdharia, Gautam Jain, Jay-Jay Patra, Bharat Dudani, Viral, Sanjay Patwa, Bharat Dudani, Sahilkant Kedia from Odisha, Gurjit Kapoor from Punjab, Dilok Chand, Ramesh Mittal from Rajasthan, Mohal from Srinagar, Mahendra from Tamil Nadu, Rajendra Kumar from Telangana, Amit Gupta, Ashish Gupta, Ketan Agarwal, Rajeev Khadia, Manoj Gupta, Balash Gupta, Madhukar Gupta, Deepak Arora from Uttar Pradesh, Dilok Bish from Uttarakhand, Vijay Gook, Manoj Kumar, Yogesh Badiani from West Bengal, Bipul Shah and Anwar Ali from Andaman Nicobar everyone said in unison "Nayi Subah Aayegi."



**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**INSTALLATION OF ATMS ON MUMBAI DIVISION**

Tender No. CA/15/47M/20, Date: 24/06/2020, Name of Work: E-tenders are invited from reputed firms (Public Sector Firms) for installation of ATMS on the 15 locations in Western Railway, Mumbai Division. The required documents are available at the website [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in). Since it is an e-tender basis no submission fee.

Sl. No.	e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Work & Location	Final Year Reference Price (₹ Cr)	EMD (₹ Cr)
1	CA-15/47M/20-DIC-204-1-8 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of India, adjacent from south end side, outside PP No. 1, near South side station.	588.470	30000
2	CA-15/47M/20-MAR-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda, behind south end booking office.	671.897	100000
3	CA-15/47M/20-BR/VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda, outside platform no.08 behind PWD office.	671.897	100000
4	CA-15/47M/20-FIX-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda, in circulating area behind bus, S.S. office, opposite K.C. near the station.	757940	30000
5	CA-15/47M/20-ROD-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda, in circulating area behind booking office near SPS/POD South of station.	757940	30000
6	CA-15/47M/20-DND-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Bank of Baroda, in circulating area of road side near south side Station's west fencing.	757940	30000
7	CA-15/47M/20-DRG-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of State Bank of India	162817	23000
8	CA-15/47M/20-WPI-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of State Bank of India	440943	30000
9	CA-15/47M/20-WPI-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Katak Mahadevi Bank	712314	30000
10	CA-15/47M/20-EL-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of State Bank of India	450943	50000
11	CA-15/47M/20-SM-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of State Bank of India, near West booking office.	385254	41000
12	CA-15/47M/20-UON-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of State Bank of India	287102	44000
13	CA-15/47M/20-RTS-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of State Bank of India	895250	30000
14	CA-15/47M/20-ST-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Katak Mahadevi Bank between road work and Aerial station.	650445	100000
15	CA-15/47M/20-ST-VII 24/06/2020	At Existing site of Katak Mahadevi Bank near window no. 01 on south side of booking office.	688502	170000

Dept.: Commercial, Executive, S.C.C.M. Tender Form Cost (₹ Cr): S.No. 1,4,5,8,9,11,12,13, 17, 3,0,0 and S.No. 2,3,14,15, 7,5,0,0 and S.No. 7, 7,2,0,0 Website where Tender Form is Available: [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in), Period: 3 Yrs, Date & Time of closing of submissions: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 20.07.2020 Date & Time of Opening of a tender: At 15:30 Hrs. on 20.07.2020. Mode of updating tender: 24/06/2020. Tender Closing Date & Time: 20.07.2020 at 15:30 Hrs. (1) Reserve Price is 50% of Bids to 75% to 90%.

**S. E. Railway Tender**

e-Tender Notice No. CE-15/00-012-156-27-01, Date: 23.06.2020. Open tender is invited by the S. E. Railway, Ranchi, South Eastern Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work:- Name of the work: Rehabilitation of telecommunication system for improvement of efficiency of emergency, work and control communication in Ranchi Division. Estimated Value: ₹ 2,47,34,500.00. EMD: ₹ 2,75,000.00. Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 10,000.00. Date & Time for closing of a tender: 21.07.2020 at 11:00 hrs. Bidding Room Date: 01.07.2020. Website participation and details: [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in) (online tender).

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ELECTRIC WORK**

The State Electrical Electrical Engineer (Traction Rolling Stock), Electric Loco Shed, Raipur-431 001 is invited and authorized the President of India, invite Open E-tender through website [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in) for following work/services from reputed contractors. Sr. No. 1, Name of work: Rebuilding of Auxiliary Motor of Electric Locomotives of Electric Loco Shed, Raipur. Approximate Cost of the Work: Rs. 14,82,000.00. (Basis Cost): EMD: Rs. 24,000.00. Cost of Tender Form: Rs. 2,000.00. Completion Period: 36 Months. Introduction: 1. Tender closing date & time of above said tenders: Upto 11:00 hours of 22.07.2020 and will be opened after 11:00 hrs and validity of offer is 45 days. 2. Complete details of tenders are available at the website [www.rps.gov.in](http://www.rps.gov.in) and also available in the office of the S.E. ECE (Traction) Office, Raipur. Tender No. CE-15/00-012-156-27-01-AM

**BRHAWAAR**  
**MAHAGARBIKA**

**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 6 number of Tenders of estimated amount Rs. 16517946.00 respective tender documents and process of e-Tendering, please visit [www.mcgm.gov.in](http://www.mcgm.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Public Relations Officer  
PRO/200/MDV/2020-21

**BRHAWAAR**  
**MAHAGARBIKA**

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

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Sd/-  
Public Relations Officer  
PRO/265/MDV/2020-21

**BRHAWAAR**  
**MAHAGARBIKA**

**E-Tender Notice**

Tender Document No.	7100178561
Name of Organization	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
Subject	Supply of portable sylvler mounted 40 KVA DG sets with auto panels for emergency work under AEWV (Main) WS South & for AEWV (Construction) WS division.
Cost of Tender	Rs. 1,899/- (Rs. 1800 + 5% GST as applicable)
Cost of E-Tender (Estimated Cost)	-
Bid Security Deposit/EMD	Rs. 45,000/-
Date of issue and sale of tender	25/06/2020 from 11:00 Hrs
Last date & time for sale of tender & Receipt of Bid Security Deposit	06/07/2020 Upto 18:00 Hrs
Submission of Packet A, B & Packet C (Online)	06/07/2020 Upto 18:00 Hrs
Opening of Packet A	06/07/2020 Upto 18:01 Hrs
Opening of Packet B	06/07/2020 Upto 18:02 Hrs
Opening of Packet C	13/07/2020 Upto 15:00 Hrs
Website	<a href="http://portal.mcgm.gov.in">http://portal.mcgm.gov.in</a>
Contact Person	Shri. R. S. Rishade (SE) - 989280503 Shri. R. V. More (AC) - 993080450
Address for Communication	Assistant Engineer Water Work (Main) Western Suburb - South, Below Captain Vraayak Gore Flyover bridge, Dadasaheb Path, Vile-Parle (West), Mumbai - 400 058.
Venue for opening of Bid	On line in the office of Assistant Engineer Water Work (Main) Western Suburb - South, Below Captain Vraayak Gore Flyover bridge, Dadasaheb Path, Vile-Parle (West), Mumbai - 400 058.

This tender document is not transferable.  
The MCGM reserves the rights to accept any of the applications or reject any or all the application received for above subject without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/-  
Dy. Hydraulic Engineer  
(Main)

PRO / 266/ ADV / 2020-21

MCGM HELPLINE NUMBER: 1800221292 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
E-C: [mcgm@mcgm.gov.in](mailto:mcgm@mcgm.gov.in) or [www.mcgm.gov.in](mailto:www.mcgm.gov.in)

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Cabinet Secretariat Department**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Cabinet Secretariat Department, Old Secretariat, Patna - 800015

- Tender Inviting Authority: Deputy Secretary Cum Nodal Officer, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Govt. of Bihar hereby invites reputed, established and experienced agencies / companies to participate and submit their bids in single stage, two bid system for "AUTOMATION OF LIBRARY WITH OPEN SOURCE INTEGRATED LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE ALONG WITH SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF RFID SOLUTION AND BIOSK SYSTEM" of Bihar State Archives and Bihar Secretariat Library.
- The details and conditions for eligibility, Scope of work, Technical qualifying criteria, Financial bid submission and roles & responsibilities of the Service provider are indicated in the Tender Document. The complete Tender document can be downloaded from below listed websites as the tender fee is charged.
  - [www.ssd.biharkr.in](http://www.ssd.biharkr.in)
  - [www.state.bihar.gov.in/pro/bihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/pro/bihar)
  - [www.tenders.bih.nic.in](http://www.tenders.bih.nic.in)
- Interested and qualified agencies are requested to submit their proposals along with requisite documents through Speed Post / Courier / by hand latest by **5:00 pm of 30 July 2020**. The bids are to be addressed to "The office of Deputy Secretary Cum Nodal Officer, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Old Secretariat, Patna - 800015 Bihar".
- In case of submission of bid proposal by hand the designated person to receive the bid documents are Shri Sand Kumar Laha, Section Officer and Shri Sanjay Mishra, Assistant at Cabinet Secretariat Department.
- CSD will not be responsible for any delay or transit loss or late delivery of bids to the office of the Deputy Secretary Cum Nodal Officer. Bids sent through Email/Post or submitted in unsealed cover(s) will not be accepted and each bid will be treated as non-responsive bid.
- For any query related to tender and its terms and conditions, bidder shall reach out to 0613-2217115/2217196 or email to [cabsco@bihar.gov.in](mailto:cabsco@bihar.gov.in).
- Cabinet Secretariat Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.

Deputy Secretary Cum  
Nodal Officer,  
Cabinet Secretariat Department,  
Govt. of Bihar

PR. No. 003020 (CABINET) 2020-21

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# mid-day classifieds

## BOOKING CENTRES

Hello mid-day  
6831 4848

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# He acts like he is doing me a favour



## DR. LOVE

**My boyfriend and I were together for two years before he asked me to move in with him. I agreed because I thought I knew him well but since that happened, he spends all his time making me feel as if he is doing me a favour. This has affected my self-esteem and I am now questioning whether this relationship will last because I can't imagine being married to someone like this. At the same time, I feel grateful that he asked me to move in with him because it gives me some feeling of security. I am very confused because I can't make up my mind about what decision will be right for me in the long run. Please help.**

**Stockholm syndrome** refers to alliances formed between hostages and their captors during captivity. It is too strong an analogy for what you are going through, but I mention it anyway

because I believe it makes sense for you to try and step away from your situation to evaluate it more objectively. If your boyfriend has changed, and believes your self-esteem doesn't matter, it is a sign of disrespect that doesn't fit in with the notion of an equal partnership. There are no favours in a relationship because partners prop each other up. Speak to family and friends if possible, try and get another opinion, and do what works for you first, not your relationship.

**I am a 29-year old woman and have been in a relationship with a 31-year old guy who says he is very serious about me. The problem is, he still lives with his mother who is a widow. He says he will never live apart from her, which bothers me because it will mean never having a life with just the two of us. What do I do?**

That depends entirely upon how badly you want him in your life, and how much you are prepared to compromise to make that future with him work.

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

## WORDSEARCH GOOD QUALITIES

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.

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

**Attitude, Caring, Charming, Concerned, Considerate, Decent, Empathetic, Fair, Friendly, Generous, Gentle, Honest, Just, Kind, Loving, Loyal, Nice, Noble, Open, Polite, Reliable, Strong, Supportive, True**

## MEDIUM SUDOKU

4				9				
		2	4	8				
	3	7				8		
						7	1	9
9	4					6		5
7	2	1						
		5				9	7	
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**WHAT TO DO** Fill each empty cell with a digit from 1-9, ensuring that no digit is repeated in any row, column or 3x3 square.

## FIENDISH SUDOKU

13	9	12		9		10	22	
		18	10		16			15
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10		10	11		10	9	4	
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16				17	7			
15	4				16			13
	5	8	12	9		10	15	
				12				

**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** You are quite likely to be in a mood to be on your loved ones with all the luxurious comforts of life.

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

**CANCER** Some negative events are foreseen for today, but if you keep faith in the Almighty, you shall tide over them easily.

**LEO** There are chances that you shall find money pouring in from unexpected quarters. You may gain majorly today on the stock market.

**TAURUS** Despite the fact that the cosmos is not in your favour today, you shall remain quite stable. Many positive events are on the cards.

**CAPRICORN** You are likely to be pulled in two directions today: one, the desire to work and, two, to channelise your energies in a positive way.

**LIBRA** Today you are likely to put your professional obligations aside, and devote some quality time to your loved ones.

**SCORPIO** You will not depend on anyone to get your domestic work done today, as you may not trust anyone with important tasks.

**SAGITTARIUS** With practical help not readily forthcoming today, you may have no choice but to attempt to crack your problems yourself.

**VIRGO** An interior decoration project for your home, planned for long, shall get priority today.

**GEMINI** You need to develop some discrimination, or else today some people may try to exploit your soft nature.

**AQUARIUS** Your aesthetic sense shall come to the fore today, and so will your softer or sentimental side.

**PISCES** With the cosmos conspiring in your favour, you need to concentrate on resolving the predicaments of some of your close friends.





# I TOOK THE APPROACHES TOO CASUALLY: SHAKIB

Bangladesh's former World No. 1 all-rounder opens up on reasons that led to a one-year ICC ban

**NEW DELHI:** Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan deeply regrets his "silly mistake" of not reporting a corrupt approach by an Indian bookie to the ICC, leading to his one-year suspension from the game.

#### Happened during IPL

Shakib was banned for two years, one year of it suspended, for failing to report corrupt approaches during the IPL by an alleged Indian bookie Deepak Aggarwal.

"I took the approach too casually. When I met the anti-corruption guy and told them, they knew everything. Gave them all the evidence and they knew everything that happened," Shakib told Cricbuzz. "To be honest, that's the only reason I was banned for a year. Other-

**'It was just a feeling of 'okay, what's going to happen, leave it' and I continued with my life. But that's the mistake I made'**

Shakib Al Hasan

wise, I'd have been banned for five or 10 years."

Shakib, 33, who was in brilliant form before the ban, amassing 606 runs at the 2019 World Cup, said he regrets how he went about the situation. "That was a silly mistake. With my experience and the amount of international matches I've played and the amount of ICC's anti-corruption classes I took, I shouldn't have made that decision."

#### Advice to youngsters

Shakib's advice to young cricketers is to never take any such message lightly. "I regret that. No one should take such messages or calls [from bookies] lightly or leave it away," he added.

The all-rounder, whose ban ends on October 25, said he became arrogant. "Because you do most things right in your life, you tend to get arrogant with some decisions. It was just a feeling of 'okay, what's going to happen, leave it' and I continued with my life. But that's the mistake I made."

PTI



Main agenda is to nominate process for next chairman

#### ICC BOARD MEET

**NEW DELHI:** Deliberation on the nomination process for its next chairman will top the agenda when the International Cricket Council's all-powerful Board converges via video conference on Thursday.

With the ICC already making it clear that a final decision on the fate of this year's T20 World Cup will be taken next month, the primary agenda of discussion will be the nomination process for the chairman's election. The post is currently held by India's Shahankh Manjra. Also, the board could be briefed on the investigations being carried out on the leaking of classified e-mails, a member said.

'Asia Cup in Sept doesn't suit India'

**NEW DELHI:** With the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chief Executive Wasim Khan saying that the Asia Cup will be held either in September or October, the BCCI has made it clear that the window which suits the PCB doesn't suit India.

Speaking to IANS, a board functionary said that the PCB could also look at postponing the Pakistan Super League next season and host the multi-nation event in that window.

"Asia Cup will be a struggle this year. Going by the statement of the PCB, the window that suits them doesn't suit India. Maybe, they can postpone the PSL to next year," he said.

Hafeez is negative a day after being COVID-19 positive



Mohd Hafeez

**KARACHI:** Former Pakistan captain Muhammad Hafeez has tested negative for COVID-19 a day after the PCB found him positive for the deadly virus ahead of the team's tour of England.

Hafeez was among the 10 Pakistan players who tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday. The team are due to leave for England on Sunday for a Test and T20 series in August.

On Wednesday, Hafeez clarified that he and his family have tested negative.

PTI

## India rivalry is right up there with Ashes: Lyon

**MELBOURNE:** Star Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon on Wednesday said that a Test series against India is equivalent to the Ashes and come December, their team will be come out all guns blazing to avenge the series defeat of 2018-19.

India beat Australia 2-1 during the last series in 2018-19, which was first time that the visitors won a series in 73 years. "You definitely don't like losing games or series

while playing for Australia. Obviously, India, a couple of years ago, they outplayed us. So we are looking to have those guys come out here," Lyon told reporters in a video on Cricket Australia's Facebook page.

"It's getting up there to the pinnacle series alongside

Ashes. Obviously, they have got a side full of superstars and it's going to be an amazing challenge this summer when they get out here!"

Lyon was part of the Australian Test side that lost 1-2 to India in the 2018-19 home series. It was incidentally the first time India had won a Test

series on Australian soil. India are scheduled to tour Australia later this year for a four-Test series starting December 3 in Brisbane.

Lyon, 32, has been Australia's premier spinner for the last 10 years but it was first time that he got a pre-season break, courtesy of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I haven't had a pre-season. This is basically my first winter in 10 years. It's exciting to be home," he said.

PTI

**Lyon was part of the Australian Test side that lost 1-2 to India in the 2018-19 home series. It was the first time India had won a Test series on Australian soil**



# I'm fitter than ever: Kane

Tottenham star striker insists he's back to his best after scoring for the first time in six months; 2-0 victory over West Ham keeps Jose Mourinho's men in hunt for Champions League spot

**LONDON** Harry Kane believes he is as fit as he has ever been after setting his first goal of 2020 as Tottenham kicked-started their challenge for a Champions League place next season with a 2-0 win over West Ham on Tuesday.

The England captain looked far more like his old self after a laboured performance in his first appearance for six months against Manchester United on Friday, and was rewarded with a goal eight minutes from time.

## 'Training hard'

"I'm in good shape. I've been working very hard through my rehab, lockdown and training. I feel as fit as I probably ever have done before," said Kane, who had surgery on a ham-

string injury prior to the shut-down due to COVID-19. "When you've been out for six months it is just getting that feeling back on the pitch. You can train as much as you want but being out here is different."

Thomas Soucek's own goal had opened the scoring as West Ham remain precariously poised outside the relegation zone only on goal difference.

Jose Mourinho's men were worthy of a first win in eight games dating back to February. Victory takes Spurs to within six points of the top four and within one of Manchester United in fifth.

Should Manchester City's appeal against a two-season ban from European competitions not prove successful, fifth would be good enough to qualify for the 2020-21 Champions League.

## Mourinho pleased

"I am happy with the result, the clean sheet, it means the team is more solid, the players have less doubts," said Mourinho.

In keeping with many of the 14 games since the EPL's restart seven days ago, this was another slow burner as Spurs took time to start picking holes in West Ham's rearguard, Son He-

ung-min thought he had broken the deadlock on the stroke of half-time, but the goal was ruled out for offside after a VAR review.

Moyes's men were undone by one of their own when Soucek turned a corner into his own net.

The victors had to alter their gameplan of containing Tottenham to look for an equaliser. But in doing so, they left themselves exposed at the back and Kane timed his run perfectly from a Son pass before slotting past Robianski.

"I should have scored one other but it was nice to put that one away," added Kane. "As a striker it's what you want to do, you want to score goals and want to help win the games."

## West Ham manager Moyes slams VAR

**LONDON** West Ham manager David Moyes has lashed out at VAR (Video Assistant Referee) over a decision which went against his team in their EPL clash against Tottenham on Tuesday. VAR's decision not to disallow Spurs's opener for a handball did not go down well with Moyes. "The rules are that any handball that leads to a goal is disallowed. Who was on VAR tonight? They need to be sacked," Moyes said.

## Pep: Focus is on FA Cup rather than Liverpool

### EPL PREVIEW



**LONDON** Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said his priority is Sunday's FA Cup quarter-final at Newcastle rather than postponing Liverpool's coronation as Premier League champions.

Should Liverpool beat Crystal Palace, City will need to beat Chelsea when they travel to Stamford Bridge tonight to keep the title race alive.

The top two then clash in their next league game on July 2. However, with a 20-point gap between the runaway leaders and City, Guardiola is focused on securing more silverware in the FA Cup and the Champions League come August.

"We have to see day-by-day, game-by-game to arrive in the two incredibly important games we have in the next period, which are Newcastle next Sunday and especially Madrid," said Guardiola. "Still the team is not fit for players to play 90 minutes every three days. This is not going to happen," added Guardiola. "We cannot deny we have one eye in the Newcastle game. It is a final for us."

City have already suffered one injury setback since the return as Sergio Aguerro has undergone surgery on a knee problem in Barcelona.

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**Chelsea v Man City** Star Sports Select 1 & Select 1 HD, 00:45 (Fri)

137

No. of goals Tottenham's Harry Kane has scored in 200 EPL appearances



Tottenham's Harry Kane (right) shoots past West Ham United midfielder Pablo Fornals during their English Premier League encounter in London on Tuesday. **PICTURE**

## Rakitic strikes for Barcelona to stress Real

### LA LIGA TITLE RACE

**MADRID** Barcelona limped to a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Tuesday that sends them back to the top of La Liga. For 24 hours at least, three points ahead of Real Madrid.

Only a goal from substitute Ivan Rakitic in the 71st minute prevented Barca from another stalemate after a draw at Sevilla on Friday had allowed Real to go top on head-to-head.

This Barca performance

though was hardly a statement of intent, devoid of chances, lacking zip and tinged with frustration rather than the free-flowing football Quique Setien was appointed to bring in.

"We knew it was going to be complicated," Setien said. "Also because of the situation there is some anxiety because there's less margin for error. Sometimes we did not play with composure and that showed in the first half when we were inaccurate than usu-

al. We gave some belief and confidence to Athletic."

Rakitic is likely to be among a handful of players allowed to leave this summer. He has not been a regular this season and this was his first Barca goal since the Clasico last year. "It's a difficult period but we have to stick together. It was an important goal, it was hard for us to open the game up," said Rakitic.

**AFP**



## Gritty Atletico beat Levante 1-0 to ascend into third place

### LA LIGA

**MADRID** Atletico Madrid continued their surge towards Champions League qualification on Tuesday by winning 1-0 at Levante to climb to third in La Liga.

Since matches restarted in Spain almost two weeks ago, Atletico have taken 10 points from a possible 12 and moved six points clear of fifth.

Atletico have been among

the clubs worst affected financially by the COVID-19 pandemic and they would reportedly stand to lose 200 million euros (€176 cr) if they missed out on the Champions League next season.

Marcos Llorente has flourished in his new role in attacking midfield and it was his turn and cross that was barred in by Bruno Gonzalez for an own-goal on 15 minutes.

**AFP**

# Djoko gets smashed around

COVID-19 positive World No. 1 faces widespread backlash for holding exhibition event amidst pandemic; critics now concerned about restart of ATP Tour and US Open in August

**BELGRADE:** Novak Djokovic was widely condemned for hosting a tennis exhibition where he was one of four players to test positive for the coronavirus, a lapse that sent shudders through a sport struggling to get back on its feet.

The World No. 1 on Tuesday issued an unmitigated apology for the now-cancelled Adria Tour in the Balkans, where social distancing was minimal and matches were played in front of thousands of fans. Djokovic, 33, said he is "so deeply sorry" that the tournament "caused harm". His wife Jelena has also tested positive after the couple travelled back from Croatia to Belgrade to be tested.

Among the scathing criticism of Djokovic, there were questions about whether he, or tennis, should be allowed back on any court in the near future. Many voiced concerns over attempts to restart professional tournaments in August, including the US Open which is scheduled to begin on August 31. Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Benzo Coric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive after taking part in the Adria Tour event in Croatia, where players embraced across the net, played basketball and even danced in a nightclub.

## Not good for tennis: Murray

Britain's Andy Murray, a three-time Grand Slam winner who has known Djokovic since their junior days, said: "I don't think it has been a great look for tennis. In hindsight, it's not something that should have gone ahead," Murray told reporters. "Some people have said maybe this has put the US Open in doubt—which it may well do. But the measures and the protocols they have in place at the USTA (United States Tennis Association) are different to Serbia and Croatia. No fans for a start."

Australia's Nick Kyrgios, so

often in the crosshairs for his own on-court indiscretions, said the incident was pure "stupidity". "Don't @ me for anything I've done that has been 'irresponsible' or classified as 'stupidity'—this takes the cake," tweeted the World No. 49.

## NBA star Jokić positive too

In the latest repercussions, Serbian NBA player Nikola Jokić has reportedly tested positive for the virus after being pictured with Djokovic at a basketball event in Belgrade earlier this month. Jokić's team, the Denver Nuggets, who are ramping up preparations for a resumption of the NBA season, declined to comment on the report in the Denver Post, citing medical privacy. The player is now in quarantine in Serbia.

The president of the Croatian tennis federation insisted that at the time of the Zadar event, it appeared safe to go ahead without strict health regulations. "When we accepted Novak's idea to organise the tour, the epidemiological situation in Croatia was much better," Nikola Pabuc told the Vespak List daily paper on Wednesday.

Martina Navratilova, who won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, tweeted: "Yes, this is not good and it's a pattern... What now, US Open? Roland Garros? We have a lot of work to do."

Brazil's Bruno Soares, a doubles player who sits on the Player Council, called the Adria Tour a "horror show". ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi said it was a lesson for other tournaments. "It's a little bit like when you tell your kids when they try to learn to ride the bike to wear the helmet," Gaudenzi said. "It's 'no, no, no'. And they ride the bike, they fall, and then they wear the helmet."

AFP



## Djokovic's father blames Bulgarian Dimitrov for spreading virus

**BELGRADE:** Novak Djokovic's parents defended their son on Wednesday and blamed another tennis player for spreading the coronavirus, at a series of exhibition matches hosted by the top-ranked player, Djokovic's

outspoken father blamed the cancellation of the tour on Grigor Dimitrov, one of the three other players to test positive in the last few days. There is no evidence to suggest Dimitrov spread the virus to others.

"Why did it happen? Because that man probably came sick, who knows from where," Srđan Djokovic told RTL Croatia TV. "He didn't test here, he tested somewhere else... I think that's not fair."

AP/PTI

## Murray: I'm a bit slow now due to injury problems

**LONDON:** Andy Murray insists he has low expectations on his latest return from injury despite winning his first match for seven months at the Battle of the Brits tournament on Tuesday.

Murray, 33, is aiming to compete in a Grand Slam for the first time since January 2019 at the US and French Opens in the next few months. The Scot had career-saving hip surgery in 2013, before his latest long-term injury layoff due to a pelvic injury. Murray showed plenty of signs of rustiness, but was still too good for World No. 12 Liam Broady to win 6-2, 6-2 at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton. "Rightfully so," said Murray of his low expectations.

"I've had many injury problems, I'm very slow now so not expecting much."

"For a first match in seven months, I have not been practising that much, I have not been doing that well in practice matches, it was alright." Next up, Murray faces British number two Kyle Edmund on Wednesday. "I'd be surprised if I manage to come through that one," added Murray.

AFP



Andy Murray during his match against Liam Broady in London on Tuesday. PICGETTY IMAGES

## Vaishali qualifies for Speed Chess C'ship GP

**CHENNAI:** India's International Master R Vaishali has qualified for the FIDE Chess.com Women's Speed Chess Championship Grand Prix.

The Chennai player, sister of young chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa, joins India's top two players Kovech Humpy and D Harika in the tournament. While Humpy is among the seeded players, Harika qualified for the event through the playoff qualifiers.

PTI

## IOA boss Batra dejected by cold response from NSFs

**NEW DELHI:** India's sporting community, including athletes, hovers a resumption of training as soon as the COVID-19 lockdown ends completely, according to a survey conducted by the Indian Olympic Association. But IOA is disappointed that many stakeholders did not contribute to the exercise.

The IOA President Narinder Batra last month asked athletes, support staff, National Sports Federations (NSFs), State Olympic Associations

(SOAs), to respond to a set of questions on the way forward in the wake of the pandemic which has brought sporting activities to a grinding halt worldwide.

More than 75 per cent of the 450 respondents said it would be appropriate to resume training as soon as the lockdown ends, but with strict protocols on social distancing and personal hygiene. The government imposed the

lockdown in March and began offering relaxations on the restrictions at the end of last month.

"Training for national campers should be allowed immediately upon lifting of lockdown while other training should be put on hold until later in the year," the White Paper said.

Batra expressed disappointment at the lukewarm response from majority of NSFs and State Olympic As-

sociations. Those who responded included national federations of hockey, athletics, boxing and weightlifting among others.

"I am disappointed that most of NSFs or SOAs have not contributed to the study in any way, not even indirectly by sharing the survey with their constituents. In fact, I gathered from a number of athletes that their respective NSFs did not share the survey with them at all," he said.

PTI

## World Karate Federation rejects Indian body

**NEW DELHI:** The World Karate Federation (WKF) has provisionally de-recognised the Karate Association of India with immediate effect for infringing and violating the world body's statutes during its elections last year. WKF said the decision was taken after an inquiry.

WKF made it clear that it was unhappy with the infringing within the KAI, which resulted in a "flawed" election process in January last year.

PTI



Narinder Batra

# close of play

## 'It is disappointing'

Footballer Wayne Rooney's wife Coleen finds Rebekah Vardy's ₹9.41 crore lawsuit against her a waste of time and money

FORMER England football captain Wayne Rooney's wife, Coleen has revealed she is disappointed that Leicester City star Jamie Vardy's wife Rebekah has decided to file a GBP One million (approx. ₹9.41 crore) defamation case against her.

Coleen said an offer of peace talks was on the table. Rebekah recently submitted her legal papers in London High Court to settle the dispute which began last October when Coleen had accused Rebekah of leaking fake stories to the press via social media.

In a statement, Coleen's lawyer,

Paul Lum, of Brabners, said: "It is disappointing that Mrs Vardy has chosen to issue court proceedings."

"Coleen feels that the time and money involved could be put to better use; her offer to meet face-to-face still stands. Mrs Vardy's decision to issue court proceedings does at least mean that Coleen's evidence can be made public, when the time is right." According to a report in British outlet, The Sun, the case is likely to be heard in London's High Court later this year.

**'Coleen feels that the time and money involved could be put to better use; her offer to meet face-to-face still stands'** Coleen's lawyer



## Ayesha Curry launches lifestyle magazine for people of colour

AMERICAN basketball star Stephen Curry's wife Ayesha has launched a lifestyle magazine, Sweet July, under the Meredith Corp banner.

The magazine is named after the month of their wedding anniversary and the month in which all three of her children — Riley, seven, Ryan, four, and Camon, one, — were born. It is to be a platform for business owners and creative people of colour. "It is really hard speaking on the positive things when there's so much work that needs to be done. But people need a bright spot right now," Ayesha told Forbes magazine.

Through the magazine, she wants to showcase black families in a positive way. "I've never seen a magazine that focuses on a black family lifestyle and I want to give a positive representation of that. It's such a powerful moment in that community. If I was going to do this, it had to be on that block. I want to make sure I tell all these women's stories that we're doing these amazing things," she added.



## Wishes pour in as Lionel Messi turns 33

BARCELONA: Social media was flooded with birthday wishes for Argentine football legend Lionel Messi, who turned 33 on Wednesday. The Barcelona star was born in 1987. In his astonishing career, Lionel has won numerous team and individual trophies and continues to remain the force behind Barcelona's surge both in domestic and European competitions. Here are a few wishes:

**Antonela Rocuzzo:** "Congratulations to the love of my life. We will celebrate today, tomorrow and always. Thank you so much. I love you @leomessi!"

**Gary Lineker:** "Happy 33rd Birthday to Lionel Messi. He is reaching the twilight of his astonishing career. 722 games and 699 goals for a player that is creative and un-

selfish for others as he is prolific and deadly in his finishing. We'll miss him when he is gone. Enjoy him while we can."

**Ivan Rakitic:** Happy birthday @leomessi. I wish you all the best. Enjoy your day!

**Carlos Puyol:** "Congratulations Leo. Enjoy your day."

**FC Barcelona:** "Today we are swapping for 'GOAL OF THE DAY' for an even better video because the best in the world deserves the best celebrations. Happy Birthday Leo @Messi!"

**LaLiga:** "Happy 33rd Birthday Lionel Messi!"

For the latest updates, log on to [www.mid-day.com](http://www.mid-day.com)



Antonela Rocuzzo Instagrammed this picture to wish hubby Messi



## Pujara's look impresses Kohli

INDIA cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara was in a mood for formals on Tuesday. Cheteshwar Instagrammed this picture (above) of him looking dapper to his 1.2 million followers and captioned it: "Appreciation & Gratitude."

Cheteshwar's look caught the attention of India captain Virat Kohli, who pointed out: "What a look puji! And Cheteshwar replied: 'Virat, Kohli inspired by you skip!'"



## CARROM TIME FOR PANDYA BROTHERS

India cricketer Harsh Pandya is making the most of the forced break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by spending time with his near and dear ones. On Wednesday, he Instagrammed this picture (left) of him playing carrom with brother Krunal and cousins to his 11.6 million followers and captioned it: "Nothing like a great game of carrom with my brothers. Brings back a lot of memories @PandyaBrothers." The post received 841,685 'likes'.