

Jagran

mid-day



THE LOCKDOWN IS ON MOVEMENT, NOT INFORMATION

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

Restriction on movement means the newspaper cannot reach your door. **H&RA Western India** and **Mid-day** are proud to bring this morning's edition of **Mid-day**, in a breezy digital format to your inbox.

To receive mid-day daily on WhatsApp

Send a 'Hi' on our official WhatsApp No. 88722 22250.

mid-day

For breaking news through the day, you can log on to
🌐 www.mid-day.com

mid-day

May 13, 2020, Wednesday, 24 pages 14, Mumbai | Phone: 6831 4800 | Fax: 2642 6812 | www.mid-day.com

JUGAAD DOES GOVT'S JOB

MID-DAY ON GROUND » As the state machinery heaves and creaks in repatriating migrants amid red tape, truckers make hay, charging ₹4,000 to take migrants to their destinations; auto drivers continue to drive their vehicles to their hometowns

ANURAG KAMBLE, SAMIULLAH KHAN AND RANJEET JADHAV



IN Khalilabad, UP, an exhausted yet smiling Ajay Prajapati, 35, gets up from the charpoy. After travelling 1,700 km in his rickshaw, Prajapati's back is sore and legs are swollen. But he is home. Prajapati is one of the hundreds of families travelling home in autos and taxis in an unprecedented reverse migration. A thousand kilometres away, on the Mumbai-Nashik highway, migrants poured out of a packed truck taking them to MP and UP. One of the several travellers is Lalit Kumar, a native of Varanasi, who has paid ₹4,000 for a place on the truck. » P05



1 Truck drivers are charging migrants thousands of rupees to take them home

2 (From left) Ajay Prajapati with his wife, son and brother

3 Lalit Kumar (in pink shirt) with his friends. They were working in Valsad, Gujarat, in textile mills.

PH: RANJEET JADHAV

'My wife, son, brother and I set out for UP six days ago. No one knows how long the lockdown will last. Now, even if I die, I will have no regrets' Ajay Prajapati

SOCIAL DISTANCING GOES FOR A TOSS

Railways packs people in first train to Delhi

Outsiders who were stuck in city throng Mumbai Central to take the first Rajdhani out; next seven days fully booked

RAJENDRA B. AKLEKAR
rajendra.aklekar@mid-day.com

EVEN as more than a thousand excited passengers set out from Mumbai Central on the very first special Rajdhani Express since the COVID-19 lockdown was imposed, information came in that all the seats were booked, making social distancing inside the air-conditioned train near impossible to maintain. However, the railways defended the move saying that the passengers had been doubly screened and made to wear masks. » P07

1,487

No. of passengers who booked tickets on the train



The first special Rajdhani Express left Mumbai Central around 5.30 pm on Tuesday

MID-DAY COMES TO YOUR PHONE

To receive a replica of the Mid-day newspaper daily on Whatsapp for a clean, digital read:

SEND 'Hi' To our official Whatsapp number
88722 22250

'₹20L CR STIMULUS'

PM announces special package to fight pandemic; nation waits for FM to give details » P09



AT 28, CITY SEES HIGHEST COVID DEATH TOLL

No. of deaths in state inch towards 1,000 mark » P02

BRAVING THE LOCKDOWN AND RACISM

Professional bodybuilder from Manipur who came to Mumbai to collect an award narrates her torrid experience » P06



QUEEN OF PARSIGUJARATI THEATRE

Ruby Patel, part of Indian National Theatre's Parsi wing and headliner of popular plays in the golden age of theatre, no more » P08

MUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



Mumbai records highest daily COVID-19 deaths

State death toll inches closer to 1,000; BMC tries new drug which officials say has shown encouraging results

COVID-19
TICKER
24,427

ACTIVE CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

A CORRESPONDENT
mabg@mid-day.com

MUMBAI on Tuesday recorded highest deaths caused due to the novel Coronavirus. The death toll in the city has increased to 556, with 28 new casualties. Maharashtra health department officials recorded as many as 53 fatalities across the state, which increased the total toll to 521.

The officials said 1026 new infections were reported across Maharashtra, including 426 in the city, on Tuesday, taking the total number of cases in the state to 24,427. Names of additional 206 patients, who tested positive, have not been added to the official figure of confirmed cases that stands at 14,947 now.

According to the state health department, apart from 28 deaths in Mumbai, six each were recorded in Pune and Pimpri, five in Jalgaon, three in Solapur, two in Thane and one each in Nagpur, Aurangabad and Akola. Of the 53 patients who died state-wide, 21 were senior citizens and 27 were in the age group of 40 and 50, and 35 of them all suffered from other ailments.

Dharavi, the worst affected area in the city, continued to report more new cases and deaths. Other parts of G North ward also saw a rise in fig-

14,947
Total no. of confirmed novel Coronavirus cases in the city

ures. Of the 46 new cases reported in Dharavi on Tuesday, eight were from Matunga Labour Camp, seven from Dharavi Cross Road and seven more from 90 Feet Road, taking the total count to 362. One person succumbed to the virus in Dharavi. Mahim saw six new cases, while Dastur II.

BMC tries new med

The civic body, after using Tamiflu and antiviral drugs to treat COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms, is now trying to fitosunab — a drug given to people with arthritis. Civic officials said the medicine was given to patients at Nair, Sion, KEM and SevenHills hospitals and many have responded to the treatment.

"The new drug has been given to approximately 40 COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms, and while 30 patients have shown encouraging results, 14 have recovered. This drug has improved the condition of patients and has helped them in recovery," said a civic official.

A 38-year-old male resident of Dharavi was one of the patients who recovered after being treated with fitosunab at Nair Hospital.

Meanwhile, SevenHills Hospital is working to increase the number of beds. By the end of this month, the hospital's bed capacity will be raised from 884 to 1,300.

Since April 1, as many as 1,006 COVID-19 patients have been discharged

'Chemist shops must be kept operational'

Juhu Koliwada residents ready to co-operate with the sealing of their area in K West ward, but want medical stores to be kept open

PRAJAKTA KASALE
prajakta.kasale@mid-day.com

WHILE Juhu Koliwada residents were initially opposed to the sealing of their area as there are only two COVID-19 patients here, by Tuesday evening they were ready to co-operate with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), convinced the procedure is for their own benefit. Their only issue is that even medical shops are closed and want them to be kept open.

After the number of positive patients gradually started increasing in K West ward comprising areas from Jogeshwari West to Vile Parle West, the BMC decided to completely seal seven slum pockets here (mid-day had reported this, New front, New tactics, on May 12). These include Netru Nagar, Verova, Anand Nagar, Gaondevi Dongri (Gilbert Hill), Insaad Nagar/Samata Nagar, Juhu Gali and Juhu Koliwada with a total population of 1,21,780 people. But while other pockets have a large number of positive cases, there are only two cases reported in the periphery of 550 metres from Juhu Koliwada.

Nicky D'Souza, one of the residents told mid-day, "All the residents will have to go outside for essentials and medicines. This will increase the chances of COVID-19 transmission."

'For the benefit of residents'

"We know there will be some resistance but it is for the benefit of the residents. There are few cases in Juhu Koliwada and that is why the decision has been taken to cut access from the outside. We are talking to the people and need their help to implement it effectively," said the civic team leader for Juhu Koliwada. He said that they are surveying area with the police and will seal more gates and erect watch towers for monitoring.

"There was opposition from a



A resident said if medical stores are also sealed, people will have to go outside for medicines increasing the risk of transmission, hence these should be kept open

few people, but it is beneficial for us. BMC employees will seal the entrance and we will monitor the situation along with them and police," said Amit Mungeji, another resident.

'Open chemist shops'

Another resident, Larson Fernandes said they had requested the BMC to supply essentials to locals. "It is better to act before it is too late. We had a meeting with the BMC and decided some spots where essentials could be provided for a few hours a day. Our only demand now is for them to open chemist shops. It is better to act beforehand before it is too late," said Fernandes. He said there are almost more than 30,000 residents in the area.

"The BMC has appointed one person per shift in three public toilets in the area. The person will clean the toilet after every use."

'K West pattern to be replicated'

The pattern of sealing in K West ward might be replicated in the zone. "It



mid-day's report on the sealing of slums including Juhu Koliwada in K West ward on Tuesday

will be more suitable to manage one big area than seal small parts inside the slum. But it can depend on the geography also, as we can't seal an area if it has many access points. We are monitoring the situation in K West ward and will replicate the pattern in other parts of the zone," said Additional municipal commissioner Suresh Kakani.

Speeding car crashes into parked bus, 18-year-old dies

DIWAKAR SHARMA
diwakar.sharma@mid-day.com

AN 18-year-old resident of Napean Sea Road died after a speeding car rammed into a stationary bus at RD Soman junction on Marine Drive on Tuesday evening. The deceased has been identified as Arpan Rajesh Nagpal, who was seated next to the driver of the vehicle that crashed.

A source said Nagpal is related to Rajesh Nagpal, one of the directors of PLEN Private Ltd that partly owns Taj Presidency at Cuffe Parade.

The driver, Shauryasinh Shikar Joshi, 19, was also a resident of Na-



A 19-year-old was driving the car that rammed into the bus on Marine Drive on Tuesday evening. P/CAJSHIKARJE

pean Sea Road, is undergoing treatment at Harkishan Das hospital. The incident happened around 4.30 pm. The bus was meant to ferry employees working on Coastal Road project.

"Trima facie, it seems that Jain was driving his relative's car at exceedingly high speed and it rammed into one stationary bus," said Mritunjay Hiremath, senior inspector of Marine Drive police station.

They were rushed to Saifee Hospital where Nagpal was declared brought dead. "Jain's ribs broke. He is admitted to ICU at Harkishan Das hospital and is unconscious," said Hiremath. Police are also examining if Jain was driving under the influence. Nagpal's body will be handed over to his family after autopsy.

Jain has been booked for death due to negligence and rash driving.

'Monsoon ailments may worsen COVID situation'

Doctors and health experts are of the opinion that some of these might get wrongly diagnosed as COVID-19 and put more pressure on hospitals

VINOD KUMAR MENON
vmenon@mid-day.com

WITH the rains expected to hit the city tentatively on June 11, health experts fear that the COVID-19 situation in the state might worsen with other monsoon-related ailments surfacing with the change in weather. They are of the opinion that some of these might get wrongly diagnosed as Coronavirus and put more pressure on hospitals, which are already overburdened. The situation might eventually become life-threatening and difficult for the state government to tackle.

Speaking to mid-day, senior allergy and asthma specialist, Dr Wajee Shaikh, said, "With the change in weather, monsoon-related ailments will surface in the country. Ninety per cent of the dengue cases, 80 per cent of chikungunya cases, 53 per cent of malaria cases, 45 per cent of typhoid cases, 90 per cent of leptospirosis, 60 per cent of jaundice/hepatitis A/E cases and most cholera cases are reported during the rains. Besides these, there will also be an increase in viral fevers and diarrhoea/dysentery during monsoon. However, these illnesses when added to the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases in the state, will tremendously burden the hospitals."

'COVID is here to stay'

"Humans have been living in the presence of micro-organisms like viruses, bacteria, rickettsia etc for centuries. By locking down people, we cannot safeguard ourselves from micro-organisms, because most of them are transmitted through the air," added Shaikh.

He further said, "When people suffering from the other ailments approach health centres, there are chances of them getting wrongly diagnosed for COVID-19. This might delay the correct line of treatment, thereby risking the life of patients."

"The COVID-19 virus is here to stay. Already a second wave has been reported from China and South Korea. In the ab-



BMC health workers conduct door-to-door thermal reading and odometer check-ups at Tatyward, Kurla W. PIC/SAYED SAMIAR ABEN

sence of herd immunity, a second wave of COVID-19 in addition to the monsoon-related ailments will result in a massive disaster," said Dr Shaikh.

'Many at risk'

When asked about the vulnerable group, he said that the elderly, children, pregnant women, patients suffering from other co-morbidities such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiac ailments, cancer etc were more prone to both the COVID-19 infection and other monsoon-related ailments. This is the population, which needs to be protected, and they should preferably opt for home quarantine, even after the government lifts the lockdown, he added.

Dr Shaikh even had a word of caution for those who take annual flu shots. He said that it would only protect from influenza virus 'A' and 'B' but not COVID-19. As no vaccine has been developed for Coronavirus yet, he said herd immunity was the only solution.

'The COVID-19 virus is here to stay. Already a second wave has been reported from China and South Korea. In the absence of herd immunity, a second wave of COVID-19 in addition to the monsoon-related ailments will result in a massive disaster'

Dr Wajee Shaikh, senior allergy and asthma specialist

Adding to this, infectious disease expert, Dr Om Shrivastava, said, "Hospitals need to be divided into two sections. While the non-co-sectum COVID patients need to be sent to home quarantine, strict admission guidelines should be in place for those suffering from monsoon ailments. Only the critical patients should be admitted."

He further said, "Usually dengue and leptospirosis cases come in towards July end and we might not have to admit patients until there is internal haemorrhage (bleeding) and hospital care is required. We will have to wait until then to assess the situation and take appropriate measures."

'Situation may worsen'

Meanwhile, Dr B Srikant, senior paediatrician from Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, said, "I fear that due to a dip in temperature during monsoon, the COVID-19 situation may worsen as it will get combined with the regular seasonal flu and other ailments."

Speaking about schools, he said, "Schools should ideally remain closed till monsoon gets over, and emphasis should be given to online sessions, as the chances of children getting infected in classrooms is very high. And even if a child is asymptomatic, he/she can easily carry the virus home. Usually monsoon ailments like cold, cough and the spread to children through the common air-conditioning systems in classrooms, and there is hardly any scope of social distancing there."



Quarantine facility at Catholic Gymkhana. PIC/ANISHRAJ

9,000 teachers called, only 571 report for COVID-19 duty

PALLAVI SMART
pallavismart@mid-day.com

THERE is a sense of panic among BMC and government-aided school teachers after orders were issued asking them to report on duty for COVID-19 related tasks.

While the teachers are complaining that they don't have any training or clarity about their role or the lack of safety gear, the department has raised concerns that very few teachers have reported for duty.

There are a total 9000 teachers under BMC's Education Department who were told to report for COVID-19 duty — except those above 55 years of age or differently able, until now only 571 have reported.

Teachers who are essentially never assigned such tasks are bound to be stressed about it as they do not have any training. Like other frontline fighters, even teachers should be given policy cover or something similar in case they contract

the virus. It is important to note that teachers have six-hour duty otherwise and that should be maintained here," said Rajesh Pandya, President of Teachers Democratic Front.

While teachers are complaining about the lack of clarity, the department is confident that every teacher will be provided with safety gear as per the nature of work assigned.

Education officer at the BMC Mahesh Patkar said, "If a teacher is managing a quarantine centre, he/she will be given face-masks, shield, gloves, sanitizer and if the job is about tracing contacts, then as it will be an office-task, they will have to wear face-masks and basic safety gear. Currently, there are very few teachers who have reported on duty, which is why the burden is on those who did. If more come forward, we will be able to create a timetable where nobody is overburdened. This is why we have issued orders for all."

'Currently, very few teachers have reported on duty which is why the burden is on those who did. If more come forward, we will be able to create a timetable where nobody is burdened with much work'

Mahesh Patkar, BMC education officer

Others to get liquor at doorstep, city left high and dry again

State government allows home delivery of liquor to drinking permit holders; BMC chief clarifies order not for Mumbai



BMC had suspended liquor sales last week after social distancing norms were violated

DHARMENDRA JORE
dharmendra.jore@mid-day.com

THE Maharashtra government on Tuesday allowed licensed vendors to home deliver alcoholic beverages, but the directive would not apply to Mumbai where the BMC shut the liquor shops after two days of reopening due to massive crowd gatherings.

Mumbai civic chief Iqbal Singh Chahal confirmed to mid-day that the order would not be applicable in Mumbai municipal limits.

The two-day liquor retail run turned disastrous in the city when people formed long queues outside stores, violating social distancing norms imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The shop owners were asked to go back to keeping the shutters down, just hours after they finished their second day's business.

Currently, 20 districts are permitted to sell liquor. The Ratnagiri collector had launched a pilot run for home delivery of liquor two weeks

ago, but it hit complications and had to be shut the very first day. The shop owners now issue tokens to the buyers in order to prevent huge gatherings outside the stores.

Liquor secretary Vaisa Nair told mid-day on Tuesday that only the shops that are allowed to run can home deliver liquor. "The local authorities have permission to allow the retail shops to open," she said. The vendors and delivery staff would have to take necessary precautions to prevent the transmission of the novel

Coronavirus.

According to the order signed by Nair, only the drinking permit holders can order liquor for home delivery.

The notification did not mention what mechanism should be used to place the order. Sources said the association of liquor retailers have created an online platform where the contact numbers of retail vendors would be made available.

mid-day could not verify the online platform independently.

daily dossier



@floydmas: i miss ordering "anything, you pick" for lunch from "anywhere, you say"

A stamp of honour

They build the houses we live in, roads that we travel on, put food on our tables and ensure our lives are seamless. And yet, migrant workers have been one of the worst affected sections of the society, during the lockdown. In a tribute to them, India Post, Mumbai, will release a special postal cover at the Bicentennial Hall of Mumbai General Post Office (GPO). "For the past one and a half months, we have been reaching out to migrants and taking care of them. We have realised now, more than ever, that they are the economic backbone of the city. If they don't return, things will not be the same. This is why we wanted to release a cover to commemorate the hands that built Mumbai. Though their contributions are everywhere around us, we chose to highlight four aspects — Bollywood sets, construction, taxis and jewellery-making," said Swati Pandey, postmaster general, India Post, Mumbai, and head of the Mumbai GPO.



PERFECT SETTING

The dome of the Global Vastara Pagoda pierces the evening sky in Gori on Tuesday. PIC/NINESH DAVE



PICT/PTI

When boredom inspires music

It was boredom that led to Aavadi Records' Anurag Rao, to sing popular songs with lyrics that reflect the times. So, Hey there, Dehliah became Hey there, China in the first song released as part of Corona Covers on YouTube. Rao and his friend Shubham Srivastava teamed up for the initiative and will be inviting other musicians. Indian Ocean's Nikhil Rao features in the first one. "I spent the first few weeks [of the lockdown] being depressed and caught up in singing Farida Khanum's ghazal with Coronavirus lyrics, Bahar jaane ki zid na leero," Rao said. The duo plans to release one cover every 10 days.



(Left) Anurag Rao and Shubham Srivastava in the video

Stepping into a new role

Change is afoot within the theatre group, Indian Ensemble, founded by Akhshat Majumdar and Sandeep Shikhar in 2009. Arts manager, curator and film historian, Roy Choudhury, is in



the process of taking over as the company's executive director, replacing Vivek Madan, who will continue to be involved as a trustee. Speaking about what his plans are, Choudhury told this diarist, "We have a production that was stopped mid-way because it was meant to be a public performance in parks and by lakesides. That's going to go ahead as soon as things open up. We are also planning for a training programme, it's an initiative that we had started last year, but which we haven't announced for this year's edition as yet."

Jugaad ideas to cope well



Last year, Unnayed Child Development Center put out a book titled Jugaad to show what mental health looks like to 14 young people. Now, the second copy of the book can be accessed by leaving a DM on the Instagram account generalhealthjugaad. About the move, Joharab Baidwala, director, mental health services, told this diarist, "We made it available in response to the fear people are experiencing while in isolation due to a lack of connection. The book compares know-how on staying hopeful and managing disabilities."

Let's not break the chain

The past month has witnessed artists not just responding to the crisis with art, but also collaborating to help each other out. An initiative called Art Chain India, started by artists Purvai Rai and Ayesha Singh, with assistance from Pranav Kapur and Narashya Jayasingh, among others, is doing just that. How? "They need to post their artworks on their profiles, tag our page [gsArtChainIndia on Instagram] and include #ArtChainIndia. The works are priced at or under ₹10,000. When an artist makes ₹50,000, they have to spend ₹10,000 to buy another artist's work from #ArtChainIndia," said Singh, adding that they started this as a nod to the Artist Support Pledge initiated across multiple countries.



Migrants pitch in to feed each other

Migrants coming from Valsad had to forego a basic meal of chappati-sabzi and share a pack of namkeen



Tea sellers from Mira-Bhayandar near Manor on the Mumbai Ahmedabad highway



Migrants at the Mumbai Nashik highway wait for trucks that convey them to their hometowns. PICS/RAJEEV JADHW

Continued from page 01

KUMAR approaches a dhaba on the highway to buy food for himself and his friends. The group had walked over 50 km that day without any food. Having paid ₹4,000 each for the trip, the group has run out of cash. A plate of vegetable for ₹70 and chapatis at ₹15 each are too costly. So the group of around eight huddles near the dhaba and shares a half-kg packet of namkeen.

"Food has become unaffordable. Our only aim is to reach home now," Kumar said. Kumar and his friends are textile mill workers from Valsad, Gujarat, who left the place on Sunday amid no salaries for a month. The group claims that they could not find any means to travel to Uttar Pradesh so they set out for Maharashtra.

Apart from Kumar, the other workers were identified as Nirala Prasad, Manoj Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Rajlilak, Amit Kumar, and Prahlad Verma. They also claim that to avoid



Textile mill worker Prahlad Verma.

police check posts, the troiked through a forested patch for three hours and entered Maharashtra.

Verma, a native of MP, said the government should have made adequate measures to help migrants go home. "We trekked through a forest area for 50 to 60 km with hardly any food or water. After somehow crossing into Maharashtra, we approached a truck driver going to UP. Each of us has paid ₹4,000," Verma said.

Costly way home

While some don't have any money left, those who have some left are pitching in so

everyone can get some food and water.

Those who have money are paying huge amounts to truck drivers to reach Gujarat. Others are walking.

A group of tea-sellers from Dangapur district in Rajasthan was walking towards Gujarat. The tea-sellers used to operate in the Mira Road-Bhayandar belt.

One such tea-seller, Lokesh Kumar, said, "We used to earn hand-to-mouth as our income depended on daily business. There has been no work for the past month. We are forced to spend whatever little savings we have."

"Recently, we had been relying on food provided by NGOs and other groups of Good Samaritans. But for how long can we depend on them? We don't have money to buy food, so going in a truck is impossible. Hence, we are walking towards Gujarat. Once we reach there, our relatives will arrange for a truck for us," Lokesh said.

Lokesh and his friends left from Mira-Bhayandar on Sunday. At 4:30 pm on Monday, they had reached a toll plaza located right after the Vaitarna river on Mumbai Ahmedabad Highway near Manor.

Highway teeming with travellers

While Numbekars have become used to deserted roads, the scene on the Mumbai Nashik highway is completely different. Hundreds of vehicles including trucks, tempos, and even autorickshaws filled with three to four passengers, are heading to UP and MP, mid-day also spotted some taxis with Mumbai registration numbers on the highway and families with kids, trying to find place in a truck. In the past few days, the highway has seen increased traffic volume. mid-day noticed that police were not stopping vehicles. Even autorickshaws were not stopped at check nakas and toll plazas. A migrant worker who got in a truck headed to UP from Kaljan Phata said that truck drivers are ferrying migrants at exorbitant rates.

'People will flee the city till the lockdown lasts'

Union leader says unless government allows autos and taxis to ply under guidelines, their exodus will continue in phase four of lockdown

Continued from page 01

MY efforts bore fruit. I managed to bring my family home," Prajapati told mid-day on Tuesday.

Over 3,000 autorickshaws and taxi drivers have crammed their families and belongings in the vehicles and left the city. Union leaders say this is bound to continue as a fourth extension of the lockdown in Mumbai and nearby regions looks inevitable.

Prajapati was living in Chinchwad, Nallasopara. After more than 50 days of unemployment, his patience ran out. "Six days ago, my wife, eight-year-old son and my brother set out for Khalilabad district in UP. No one knows how long the lockdown will last. Now, even if I die here, I will have no regrets," he said.

Prajapati spent ₹7,000 for the trip. "I don't know what I am going to do. We don't own land. I will have to work as farm labour or find a job. I have to save up again to return



Mahendar and Pawan Singh's house in Ghazipur, UP. Pawan travelled 1,500 km on his two-wheeler



to Mumbai when things get better," he said.

Mahendar Singh, who was residing in Palghar, journeyed for five days to reach Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. "I started on May 7 with my wife, daughter-in-law and grandson in the auto. My son, Pawan, rode on a two-wheeler for 1,500 kilometres. We would not during the day and travel at night," Mahendar said. "We saw thousands of migrants walking or driving back to their hometowns. It's a really terrible situation."

Mahendar spent over ₹10,000 on food and petrol. "I borrowed money from friends and also used savings from the bank. Usually, it is 'marriage season' in our hometown during this time. But due to Coronavirus, everything has stopped. We have some ancestral land. I am considering cultivating it for the upcoming season or work as farm labour," he said.

Eight in one autorickshaw

Baleshwar Yadav, 54, is going to his native Hazaribagh in Jharkhand with eight others — including two women and

culture and cattle rearing."

'Patience has run out'

Al Qadros general secretary of Mumbai Taximans Union said, "More than 5,000 rickshaw and taxi drivers have left the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). For the past 50 days, their patience was being tested. Now they have neither money nor patience. Many taxi drivers are saying they will return once things get normal. If the government allows autos and taxis to ply with precautions, poor drivers will get some money to feed their families."

There are around 45,000 kashi-peel cabs and five lakh autorickshaws in MMR.

Maharashtra police, which is taking action against public vehicles plying amid the lockdown, said, "During the first two phases of lockdown, we enforced the rules very strictly. But now people have lost patience. Yesterday, I stopped a family travelling in a taxi. The driver literally fell

on my feet requesting not to stop him. People don't want to spend a single day in the city, they want to go home. We cops are human too. Till what extent can we stop migrants?" said a senior police officer.

An auto driver from Yakola left Mumbai last week to reach Uttar Pradesh yesterday. "We carried all documents with us and a medical certificate. We were a group of 50 autos.

We are not stopped at any checkpoints.

In fact some cops were generous and offered food and water. We don't think the lockdowns will end before June so we decided to drive back," he said.

According to union leaders, taxis and autos are leaving the city in groups of 20 to 50, or more, and are heading to UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand. Some taxis are going to Karnataka. RTI officials said auto and taxi permit holders are allowed to travel to native places by getting online temporary permits, which are valid for a few months.

06

Approx. of days it is taking for families to reach home

₹10k

Approx. money spent by families on petrol and food during the trip



Award-winning Manipuri athlete 'abused, stuck' in city

Bodybuilder Rebbita Devi Kongbrailatpam visited the city in February this year to accept an international award; faced a lot of racial abuse amid lockdown woes

ARITA SARKAR
arita.sarkar@mid-day.com

WHEN Rebbita Devi Kongbrailatpam, 29, a renowned body-builder from Manipur, landed in Mumbai in February to collect an international award, she had no idea that she would end up living within the confines of her hotel room for more than two months. Apart from dealing with racial slurs, she is also struggling to find a way back home.

Kongbrailatpam came to Mumbai on February 16 for the 7th World Women Leadership Congress and Awards that was held at Taj Land's End in Bandra and she was presented with the Woman Super Achiever Award. "After the event, I had some meetings since I was looking for an Indian sponsor for an event I am planning. I had to, therefore, stay back for a couple of weeks. But when the lockdown came into effect and I got stuck here," she said.

She soon began to find it difficult to afford a hotel. To add to her woes, the body-builder was also being verbally abused

and was even attacked by a few men which prompted her to get her head shaved off. "They would yell at me 'Go Corona Go' and when I asked them why they said that, they would say that I am from China and I was responsible for spreading the virus. A few weeks ago, a group of four to five men attacked me and even broke my phone. I was terrified and thought that it was safer if I looked like a guy. So I went to a temple and got my head shaved off," she said.

Local civic officials help

Kongbrailatpam was trying to look for budget accommodation when she was put in touch with the H-West ward office. Civic officials put her up in a hotel on Hill Road in Bandra and since the first week of April, her hotel room has been her home. Apart from taking care of her accommodation, civic officials have also been arranging food and supplies



(Left) Rebbita Devi in her hotel room on Tuesday, during one of the body building competitions



16

Days in Feb when Rebbita Devi arrived in Mumbai

for her. Vinayak Vigute, assistant municipal commissioner of H-West ward said that they have written to the Suburban Collectorate as well as to the Bandra Police Station on April 8 asking for assistance to send her back home. They have also tried to contact Manipur CM N Biren Singh's office for help. He added that the ward office has also arranged for a medical certificate for her which is mandatory for inter-state travel.

The H-West ward officials

are now in talks with some travel agencies.

H V Jayesh, executive engineer of H-West ward, said, "We have tried to help her since she is an international athlete and more importantly a woman. There are around 25 Manipuri residents in Navi Mumbai who want to travel back home too. We are trying our best to make arrangements to send all of them back home." While the efforts to find a mode of transport are still underway, a bus that would ferry them back home would cost at least ₹2 lakh.

Family worried

While Kongbrailatpam has been involved in sports since she was seven years old, she has been into international bodybuilding for the past eight years and has also won awards in martial arts. However, without her special diet, Kongbrailatpam has lost a lot of weight over the past couple of months. "My sister is worried about my safety and she has been trying to coordinate with the state government in Manipur to help me get back home. The BMC officials here have been very helpful. We

are all trying and I really hope that I am able to go back home soon," she said.

As per the protocol, the Deputy Commissioner of Police has been deputed as the nodal officer who is arranging for transport, especially for migrant labourers. Train travel, however, is limited and currently, trains are only travelling from Mumbai to New Delhi. When contacted, DCP Abhishek Trimbakha, said, "We will process her application and will try to make arrangements to send her back home."

Hoping to say sayonara Cebu, very soon

Stranded Mumbai men, both software engineers on work assignments, say sweeper flight is their saviour; count days for farewell to the Philippines

HEMAL ASHAR
hemal@mid-day.com

THERE is a glimmer of hope on the horizon, for two Mumbai software engineers, Moses Rajan and Rajat N Durani, who are stranded in the Philippines since the lockdown.

The professionals who were in the Philippines on work assignments, are on the island of Cebu. Cebu is the second largest city after Manila, the capital.

Sweeper flights

Rajan said, "During this evacuation phase, Indians are being flown out from Manila, the capital. Even the Philippines is in lockdown. What they have to do is arrange what are known as 'sweeper flights'. This flight picks up passengers from places like Cebu and transports them to Manila. From there we can board the evacuation flights

to India." Both engineers seem to be enthused about a recent communication with the Embassy that has said the government is thinking about sweeper flights. "We hope we hear about something soon," they said.

Work projects

Rajan has been in Cebu since January this year. The Kandivali native was sent to the Philippines by his company on a work project. Rajan said, "I had a return ticket to Mumbai on March 17. The flight was going via Singapore. It was cancelled. I got another ticket for a March 19 flight, taking off from Cebu, via Singapore to Mumbai. I went to the airport but was not allowed to board the aircraft. The Indians, I was told, were not allowed to board the flight on instructions from the Indian government," he said.

Rajan said, "I have been in regular touch with the Indian



Moses Rajan and (right) Rajat Durani are stranded in Cebu

Embassy and they are responsive. There are so many Indians stranded here."

One amongst those many is

co-worker Durani, who also arrived in Cebu on March 9 also on work but was subsequently stranded. "We have company

accommodation. We go and buy our provisions once a fortnight, things are at walking distance from here, language is not a problem. We are also working from our home here," said the Navi Mumbai (Kharghar) resident.

Tourist trouble

The colleagues acknowledge that they may be in a slightly better position than others Indians, especially tourists who struggled to find accommodation and are paying through their nose to stay on. Durani and Rajan added, "Even when the sweeper flights start it will have to be planned extremely well. We will have to land in Manila in good time for the evacuation flights, via sweeper flight from Cebu, as we should not get stranded for hours or a day even in Manila."

Rajan said, "We have registered with the portal for those stranded here, more than a

month ago. The Indian Embassy could have published our names and passport number on the website, to let us know where we stand on that list. Then, they can publish details on a daily basis, of those who have left. This would help lower the anxiety levels of those stranded here."

Anxiety builds

Rajan said, "The COVID-19 case count in Mumbai is not looking good. I worry for my wife and two children." Durani is concerned about his wife and little daughter. Longing for home, uncertainty about evacuation and challenging times in a foreign land, plus some trepidation about the situation on landing at home, the stranded are juggling so much emotional baggage even as they await that communication from the Embassy saying, pack your bags you are on the next flight home.

'All passengers were doubly screened'



AWR spokespersons says that a total of 1,487 passengers have booked tickets for the train

Continued from page 01

THE railways further said that maintaining social distancing inside the train and downloading the Aarogya Setu App were part of the guidelines. Speaking to mid-day, Western Railway chief public relations officer, Ravinder Bhakar, said, "All the passengers were screened before they boarded the train and only asymptomatic people have been allowed to travel. Proper norms of social distancing have been followed. In addition to this, masks have been made mandatory during travel and even downloading the Aarogya Setu app."

Sixty-year-old passenger, Mamata Khatri was one of the passengers to reach the station as early as 12 noon for the 5:30 pm train. Dressed in a Hazmat PPE suit, Khatri who was staying with her son in Airoli, Navi Mumbai was happy to finally be able to return to her daughter's place in Gurgaon.

"I am happy that finally train services are starting. My journey is important because my daughter in Gurgaon is pregnant and she needs me. I am dressed this way because the journey needs to be safe and I do not want to be a problem for anyone. I had booked the kit on an online booking site on May 1," she said.

'I am happy that finally train services are starting. My journey is important as my daughter in Gurgaon is pregnant and she needs me' Mamata Khatri, a passenger

"I came in early because the railways had asked us to be here much before time and also because I stay far away. I did not want to take a risk, as it is usually a two-hour journey from Airoli to Mumbai Central. If cops stopped me on the way for checks, then I would have got delayed. But I reached the station within an hour. I did not want to miss the train under any circumstances," she added.

Another passenger, Deepak Kumar, said that he was on his way to Mumbai when the lockdown started. "I'm going back to my family almost after two months. It is a great relief," he said.

Another passenger, Sanjay Sonpure, who was on his way to his home in Surat, said that he had also reached early but was asked to wait in the ticket booking hall.

When asked whether he faced any problems on the train later, he said everything went smoothly. Another commuter, Archana said that she was very happy to return to Delhi. "I was stuck here and my parents are in New Delhi. They have been waiting for me to return since two months."

The Mumbai Central station has been barricaded and only those with valid and confirmed tickets were allowed inside. Cycles were marked out on the

Migrant trains to run full

In a late night order on Monday, the railways said that migrant trains would now halt at three stations in between and that train capacity can be equal to the number of sleeper berths in it, instead of the earlier regulation of running at 50 per cent capacity to maintain social distancing.

1,107

No. of passengers on the special train from Mumbai

platform and passengers were made to stand in two queues following social distancing rules.

The special train carried 1,107 passengers from Mumbai. A Western Railway spokesperson said that a total of 1,487 passengers had booked tickets for the train, of which 97 will board at Surat, 83 at Vadodra, 23 at Fatima and 177 at Kota Junction.

A commuter, Malay Tripathi, who has booked a ticket for his mother for May 14, said, "No transport is available. How will we reach Mumbai Central from Mahad?" Another commuter, Akki Sharma said he lives in Virar and there was no way to reach Mumbai Central from there. "The railways should sort this out quickly," he said.

Mulund-based NGO helps cover migrants' feet

The NGO decided to give them footwear after watching hundreds of families walking bare feet in the scorching summer

ANURAG KAMBLE
anurag.kamble@mid-day.com

AMONG the help pouring in for stranded migrant labourers, is also footwear for all the migrants walking home. A Mulund-based NGO has decided to donate a pair of chappals and flipflops to each labourer walking hundreds of miles to reach home.

After watching pictures and videos of children, women and men walking bare feet, Awaaz foundation distributed 700 pairs of footwear on Tuesday at the Mulund check naka.

The foundation has also urged citizens to donate chappals or flipflops.

Due to the nationwide lockdown, many labourers are left with no jobs and no money.

This has led them to the roads to their native states, towns and villages.

Sushma More, founder of Awaaz foundation, told mid-



An NGO worker ensures a migrant gets footwear in his size

day, "It was really painful to watch our people walk bare-foot. We saw some pictures where some had tied plastic bottles to their feet."

"We can't arrange for vehicles so we decided to

distribute food packets and footwear to them. We are urging residents to contact us if they want to donate footwear that are in good condition and can be used," she added.

How does one build immunity against misinformation?

By not settling for anything less than the truth. Every detail of every piece of information must check out. Before it passes through our editors, who have zero patience towards rumours and half-truths. The result? Accurate facts, objective data, knowledge. And the truth. Read the newspapers. And build the kind of immunity we all need right now.

Print is proof.

(read by India's leading newspapers)

mid-day | The Indian Express | The Times of India | The Hindu | The New Indian Express | The Economic Times | The Daily News and Analysis | The New York Times | The Wall Street Journal | The Washington Post | The Guardian | The New York Times | The Washington Post | The Guardian | The New York Times | The Washington Post | The Guardian

Print is proof.

Print is proof.

'SHE WAS THE REAL RUBY OF THEATRE'

Generations of theatrewallahs across English and Gujarati stage pay rich tribute to veteran Ruby Patel who passed away on Monday night

FIONA FERNANDEZ
fiona.fernandez@mid-day.com

MUMBAI'S theatre fraternity had not even recovered from the news of veteran Bomi Kapadia's passing last week that they've had to bear the shock of another loss - that of Ruby Patel, who strode the stage like a colossus despite her petite frame. She was 86, and is survived by her husband Burjee and three children.

"I have tried to never miss a single play in which Ruby acted. In many ways, I wanted to be like her, though the type of theatre I did was different," recalls thespian Dolly Thakore, hailing Patel's craft. "It was honed at the Adl Marzban school of acting. The actors were so good, he let them be and take over on stage. Ruby was in that groove. So many wonderfully confident actors emerged from that stable including Hasi Vasaria, Bomi Kapadia and Scheerzade and Robinson Noddy. They never play-acted; they simply went into character."

Her co-actor for many plays was Bomi Dotiwala since they began working in 1965. "She was a lovely lady. Ruby would get very nervous when something would go wrong." He also remembers her singing talent, and the hit quawl they performed together for the play *Laughter in the House*. Theatre director Sam Kherwala remembers her induction into theatre: "When Ruby was a student at The Alexandra Girls' English Institution, she was taking part in a play as part of a drama competition. Her teacher, Mrs Khandalavala, was impressed and Adl Marzban was informed that she might be of interest to him. The next day, when I accompanied him in school, we saw her acting and could see that she was talented." Kherwala recalls how he had to convince Patela's father about their work and if she, then in her late teens, could be a part of it. "He agreed on the condition that I would have to take her to



Ruby Patel with Dadi Sarkari in *Ghar Ghugro re Ghotalo*. PIC COURTESY/MEHER MARWATA, LAUGHTER IN THE HOUSE 20TH CENTURY INDIAN THEATRE

'I had worked with Burjorji and Rubyben in dramas like *Jaldi Ker Koi Joyi Jeshe*. They were a wonderful couple, kind-hearted and loveable'

Lilly Patel, Gujarati stage actor

the theatre and drop her back home on Princess Street. And so, I took her to every rehearsal and brought her back home. When Adl Marzban made her a secretary in his office, she learnt a lot."

Adman and Sunday mid-day columnist, Rohini da Cunha had directed Ruby Patel in his first three plays. "In the early 80s,

'Losing Ruby aunty is like losing part of your family. I know her as I had acted in many plays by Burjorji Patel Productions, from *Ghar Ghugro Ghotalo* to *Sapnu Badu Shaitani*. Ruby aunty took me under her wing'

Dulcy Irani, Gujarati stage actor

Ruby's advice was invaluable

"Ruby was a quiet observer who gently made suggestions. She thought I should wrap up research on *Laughter in the House* my book on Parsi theatre, at just the right time. I was desperately adding more and more interviews with old stars, fretting how I'd close the book representing them all well enough, while doing the job of publisher too (it was the first title from my imprint 49/50 Books). Even as she showed me the wisdom of cutting off from work like this in a balanced

way, the great Dadi Sarkari, one of her popular co-stars, breathed his last after lunch at the Elphinstone Club. That did it, I quickly closed the book. If not, then after its 2011 release we may have lost the joy of collaborating with our sparkling veteran actors over the next six years on two house-hill seasons of *Laughter in the House* stage productions. I'm really grateful to Ruby for her advice."

- Meher Marwata, author, Sunday mid-day columnist

Shernaz (Ruby's daughter) and I were doing plays together. We found a script called *Nuts*, a courtroom drama. Burjee was keen to produce it, and I was keen to make my debut. Along came Shernaz, Bomi (Dotiwala), and Ruby. I was 23 and everyone except Shernaz was older. It was baptism by fire. She was a director's actor and at the same time would bring her skill to the party," says da Cunha, who also directed her in *The Subject Was Roses* and Neil Simon's *Broadway Bound*. About her and Bomi's on-stage chemistry, he says: "They were inseparable together. It takes professionalism and experience to keep the consistency going, show after show."

And her 61-year-old partnership with husband Burjee was equally magical.

"There was a kind of simple pint, painlessness about how they could tell if a play was appealing to an audience or not," says da Cunha.

"I've never heard her say anything negative about anybody, nor did I hear anything derogatory being said about her. Such was her class. Young Shernaz has inherited a lot of her mother's talent and traits," says Thakore. Dotiwala's homage perhaps summarises it best: "She was a conscientious, dedicated and cooperative soul. She was a real ruby."

With inputs from Dalveen Ramos



The blocked main inlet to Panje wetland

Wetlands being force-dried, allege environmentalists

Despite state govt issuing orders to restore wetlands by opening water inlets, green activists draw attention to the harsh reality

RANJEET JADHAV
ranjeet.jadhav@mid-day.com

WHILE the state government has declared the wetlands at Panje, Bhandkhal, Belpada, Talner and TS Chankya in Navi Mumbai as conservation reserves, a city-based environmentalist has alleged that despite court orders and the government's decision to restore these wetlands by opening up all water inlets, the main inlet in Panje wetland is blocked.

Environmentalist Nandakumar Pawar, head of Sati Ekvira Aoi Pratishthan said, "We thank and appreciate the efforts of Virendra Tiwari, additional principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), Mangrove Cell, and the state government for declaring the wetlands as conservation reserves. However, despite court orders and the government's decision, the ground reality is painful as the main inlet to Panje wetland has been blocked."

The state government owns the Panje wetland and the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) has submitted an affidavit to Bombay High Court stating that the wetland falls under CKZ 1 due to mangrove presence and therefore its preservation is necessary.

"The tidal water flow to Panje is being blocked systematically by miscreants. We see a sinister plan to make the wetland go dry and then grab it to create a concrete jungle. In fact, CIDCO has already admitted that the wetland has been transferred to a famous company which it named during a wetland committee meeting. At our instance, en-

'The tidal water flow to the Panje wetland is being blocked systematically by miscreants. We see a sinister plan to make the wetland go dry and then grab it to create a concrete jungle'

B N Kumar, Director, NatConnect Foundation

vironment minister Aaditya Thackeray ordered halting of construction at Panje. Yet, taking advantage of the lockdown, Navi Mumbai Special Economic Zone (NMSEZ) built security cabins at Panje," B N Kumar, Director, NatConnect Foundation said.

"We drew the attention of the chief minister to this violation and he has asked principal environment secretary Anil Digikar to take it up," he added. Kumar also said that they have opposed the CIDCO development plan to incorporate Panje and other wetlands and mangrove zones as part of its development plan for the Dronagiri node.

Environmentalists said that the wetlands committee ordered the restoration of Bhandkhal and Pagote wetlands, most of which have been reclaimed and the district administration filed FIRs against NMSEZ.

Modi calls for a self-reliant India, announces ₹20 lakh crore package

Says emphasis has been given on land, labour and liquidity in the package, which is almost 10% of the country's GDP

COVID-19
TICKER
70,756
ACTIVE CORONAVIRUS CASES IN INDIA AS OF TODAY

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a ₹20 lakh crore fiscal stimulus to deal with the COVID-19 situation in the country. The package is the second largest in Asia after Japan.

"I announce a special economic package today. This will play an important role in the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. The announcements made by the government over COVID, decisions of RBI and today's package totals to ₹20 lakh crore (₹265 billion). This is 10 per cent of India's GDP," the PM said in his address to the nation. "This economic package is for our small-scale industries, MSMEs, which are the means of livelihood of cores of people and is the strong base of our resolve for self-reliant India. To prove the resolve of self-reliant India, the emphasis has been given on land, labour, liquidity and laws. In this package," he said.

Prime Minister Modi said the 'economic package is for the country's workers, farmers, who are working hard day and night for the countrymen in every season. This economic package is for the middle class of our country, who contributes to the development of the country."

While most of the countries struggling with the Coronavirus crisis have focused on financial packages only, India has gone much further in its efforts to revive the economy by effectively containing the virus as well and its impact on the people's livelihood.

According to the PM, it is now the time to make India self-sufficient in every way and every Indian should buy and promote local goods.

He said that the package would give emphasis on land, labour, liquidity and laws. The package will also focus on the

'Our only worry with the PM Cares fund is that it's not being spent on the victims of COVID-19. This use can be both direct and incidental. We only demand an independent audit by CAG or any other credible independent agency and daily updates. Not too much to ask from a public fund' Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Cong senior spokesperson



Migrant workers gather outside Dhulevi to board a bus that will take them to the railway terminus to board a special train back home, in Mumbai on Tuesday. PIC/AFP

States look at relaxations post May 17

Goa Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant during a video conference with PM Narendra Modi on Monday pitched for lifting of inter-state travel curbs, while also making a plea for revival of tourism and mining industries.

Having controlled Coronavirus spread to the extent possible, Karnataka wants lockdown restrictions



Stranded people stand in queues to enter the New Delhi railway station on Tuesday. PIC/AFP

farmers and the labourers who support the nation during the times of crisis.

The PM further said that the package will give rise to a national tax sys-

tem, strong financial system besides encouraging businesses and bringing in investments into India.

Industry experts welcomed the announcements, saying that there are many ways in which the schemes announced on Tuesday can be financed, including from the extra ₹200,000 lakh crore the Centre will get from higher taxes on petrol and diesel.

Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday sought suggestions from people on how to ease the curbs after May 17, but made it clear that lockdown cannot be lifted completely given that the city was recording a high number of Coronavirus cases daily.



'I believe that the spirit of the federal structure has been respected by the Prime Minister of India. He has taken all decisions after consulting chief ministers of all states. No PM would have done it' Shrawaj Singh Chouhan, Madhya Pradesh chief minister

After worker tests positive, AI office sealed

Air India (AI) headquarters has been sealed for two days after an employee was tested positive for COVID-19. "One of the employees attending office at Airlines House has tested positive for COVID-19. As AI accords top priority to the safety and wellbeing of its employees, the building will be closed for sanitisation adhering to protocol. All support is being extended to the employee concerned," AI spokesperson said. The airline staff who tested positive



Security personnel stand outside the sealed Air India Delhi office on Tuesday. PIC/PTI

works in the commercial department. The national carrier has been crisscrossing the globe to bring stranded Indians back home.

CISF ASI succumbs to Coronavirus

An assistant sub inspector (ASI) in the CISF has succumbed to COVID-19 infection during treatment in Kolkata, raising serious concern as it is the first death reported in the force so far and 68 personnel have been infected. Of the infected, five fresh cases were reported in the last 24 hours. Two CISF personnel have also recovered from the virus. The 55-year-old CISF ASI passed away during treatment on Monday. He was found to be COVID-19 positive on May 5 and was being treated at a hospital in Kolkata.

Ministry works on SOP for flights

Filing up of a detailed questionnaire related to COVID-19, carrying no cabin baggage, using Aarogya Setu app and reaching airport at least two hours before a flight departure might well be among the requirements for air passengers during the initial phase after resumption of commercial flights. The civil aviation ministry has come out with a draft standard operating procedure for restarting commercial air passenger services in the country, which remains suspended since March 25 in the wake of the lockdown to curb spreading of Coronavirus infections.

Railways make Aarogya Setu app compulsory

The Indian Railways, which had on Monday "advised" the passengers availing the special trains that started operating from Tuesday to install the government's Aarogya Setu mobile

application, has now made it "mandatory" to do so. However, officials said any "exception" will be decided on a "case-by-case basis", but did not rule out disallowing passengers who do not have the app installed on their mobile phones. While the guidelines issued by the railways for the 15-pair of special trains running between Delhi and major cities of the country did not say installing the mobile app was mandatory, a late night (12-24 am) tweet by the railway ministry made it compulsory.



Stranded people carrying their train tickets stand outside the Delhi railway station. PIC/AFP

Wuhan to test 11 million in 10 days

China scrambles to control the new cluster of COVID-19 cases that emerged days after it eased 76-day lockdown

WUHAN: The authorities in Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus in China, plan to test city's entire population after new cases emerged for the first time in weeks in the cradle of the global pandemic, state media reported on Tuesday.

All Wuhan districts have been ordered to submit plans to administer nucleic acid tests on all residents in the city of 11 million within 10 days. But an official from the Dongchui District epidemic prevention and control commanding office told AFP that they have "not yet received news about this notice".

Meanwhile, National Health Commission spokesman Mi Feng said re-emergence of cases suggested that the country cannot ease the counter-epidemic measures, reported Reuters. China on Tuesday reported one new case and 15 asymptomatic infections. The total tally of cases increased to 82,519 in China.

New infections in South Korea surpassed 100, with 27 new cases in the past 24 hours. The recent transmissions linked to club-goers have alarmed a nation that had eased up on social distancing and scheduled a reopening of schools, which was pushed back till May 20. It is so-called "staying humophobia as the nightspets in Seoul" included popular with gay men.

In Russia, factory and construction works resumed on Tuesday, a day after President Vladimir Putin announced gradual easing of lockdown, reported Reuters. On Tuesday 10,899 new cases emerged, taking the total tally to 1,32,243. Russian government spokesman Dmitry Peskov has also been admitted with COVID-19, media reported. **Agencies**



A nurse helps a patient speak to his kin via a video call in Seoul; a woman looks at a mural of a health worker with wings holding a globe on International Nurses Day on Tuesday. **PG&WP**



Trump asks Asian-American journalist to question China

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump abruptly ended his White House news conference Monday following combative exchanges with reporters Wei-Jia Jiang of CBS News and Kaitlan Collins of CNN.

Jiang asked Trump why he was putting so much emphasis on the amount of Coronavirus tests that have been conducted in the US. "Why does that matter?" Jiang asked. "Why is this a global competition to you if everyday Americans are still losing their lives and we're still seeing more cases every day?" Trump replied that "they're losing their lives everywhere in the world. And maybe that's a question you should ask China. Don't ask me. Ask China that question." He called for another question, and there was no immediate response.



They're [people] losing their lives everywhere in the world. And maybe that's a question you should ask China. Don't ask me!

Donald Trump, US president

"Sir, why are you saying that to me, specifically?" Jiang asked. Jiang, who has worked for CBS News since 2015, was born in Xiamen, China, and emigrated to the United States with her family at age 1.

Trump said he would say that to "anyone who asks a nasty question." It's not a nasty question," Jiang said. Trump again asked for another question, then said, "Nah, that's OK" and waved off CNN's Collins when she approached, and left. **Agencies**

'New York City to be closed till June'

NEW YORK CITY: The epicentre of the pandemic in the US, is likely to stay closed until June. Mayor Bill de Blasio said, even as three regions of New York State are set to reopen on May 15, New York has been recording a decline in daily hospitalisations, but Blasio said such progress must continue further before officials consider reopening the city.

'People reselling masks found in trash'

THE MEXICAN PHARMACY OWNERS UNIONS ON Monday 8 has received reports about people picking used surgical face masks out of the trash and reselling them. Masks are frequently sold individually on the street by unlicensed vendors. The unions have advised Mexicans to cut their used masks into pieces before throwing them away.

100

Approx. no. of cases linked to South Korea nightclub

COVID-19 evolved naturally, not in lab

Scientists have identified a close relative of SARS-CoV-2 in bats that offers more proof that the virus behind COVID-19 evolved naturally, and not in a lab. The new virus, BmYN02, contains insertions of amino acids at the junction of the S1 and S2 subunits of the virus's spike protein similar to SAR-CoV-2 that occurs naturally in wildlife, said researchers in China.

Kids face greater risk from virus than previously thought: study

NEW YORK: Children, teens, and young adults are at greater risk for severe complications from COVID-19 than previously thought, according to a study which says those with underlying health conditions are at even greater risk. "The idea that COVID-19 is sparing of young people is just false," said study co-author Lawrence Kleinman from Rutgers University in the US.

According to the study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, children are more likely to get very sick if they have other chronic conditions like obesity. "It is also important to note that children without



Students wearing mask play in the school yard in France. **PG&WP**

chronic illnesses are also at risk," Kleinman cautioned.

Another study said children suffering from non-respiratory

illness symptoms like diarrhea and fever should be suspected of having COVID-19. **Agencies**

'Vaccine may never be found'

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a COVID-19 survivor, has warned that a mass vaccine for the disease may be many years away and may infect never be found.

He laid out plans for businesses to gradually start reopening with 'COVID-19 Secure' measures of social distancing and for the public to use 'good solid British common sense' as the economy is unlocked.

"A mass vaccine or treatment may be more than a year away," said Johnson. "Indeed, in a worst-case scenario, we may never find a vaccine. So our plan must contemplate a situation where we are in this, together, for the long haul, even while doing all we can to avoid that outcome," he said. **Agencies**



A 'Kill the Virus' mural. **PG&WP**

"We have some treatments that seem to be in very early studies, but we do not have anything that can kill or stop the virus" Margaret Harris, WHO spokesperson

comment

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Prison is a recruitment center for the army of crime. That is what it achieves — Michel Foucault, French historian

Beware of creative criminals amid lockdown

Some time ago, this paper had featured a small piece on a theft attempt at a Parsi holy site in South Mumbai. The criminals failed to dislodge the huge donation box at the Bhikha Behram Well and their plans to do away with those ill-gotten gains were stymied.

Then, we had a report where thieves made away with a stash of alcohol at a swish SoHo club. Only the alcohol was filched from the club's first-floor bar, there was no attempt

to try and break the cash boxes inside. We are in dire times and may have to brace for a surge in thefts as these times means people are on the edge, and a large section, practically penniless. Watch out as we may see chain snatching, wallet and purse snatching, petty thefts at workplaces, including stores and showrooms, as desperate times call for desperate and, at times, criminal measures.

Be wary on near-empty roads and even more careful at ATMs or when you exit from banks. Near-empty streets mean relatively easy pickings for criminals, who may plan and pick their targets with precision and planning.

Good CCTV surveillance around residential colonies, especially mammoth housing facilities is needed now more than ever. This is because security at some of these buildings is thinner than before, with some watchmen unable to come to work because of the lockdown.

A pandemic changes the pattern and nature of the crime. Remember too that criminals will be masked, arousing no suspicion as this is the new normal these days, and, therefore recognition is doubly difficult. As criminal behaviour adapts, our safety and security goals must shift too. We must make alertness, neighbourhood watches, cautious behaviour the norm. We must become watchful, not paranoid though. In our responses to new times and new ways of crime.

LETTERS

Starting railways an ill-conceived move

Apropos 'Booked in minutes', is a rather belated move, the government has allowed migrant workers, students, tourists and pilgrims to return to their homes amid the growing crisis. Why had they not been allowed to go home at a time when the country had only a few hundred cases? Would that not have been better than to allow movement now that cases have crossed 70,000 and are growing at an alarming rate?

IBNE QASUDDIN

Resuming rail services is step in right direction

Resumption of railway services is perhaps a sensible and the right step towards bringing about normalcy in the near future. The 'lifeline' of the nation is back on track. Of course, it is to be noted that the railways is moving cautiously with regard to running of train services. This, perhaps is the best and most appropriate step and can be made regular practice even during normal times.

MELVILLE X D'SOUZA

Transgenders prove they are better than us

This is with reference to 'Transgenders rush to help migrants in Uttar Pradesh'. It was heartening to read that the group of transgenders helped the migrants to reach their hometowns. We people don't consider them part of the society, yet they are far better than us. They have proved themselves Good Samaritans as well as taught a lesson in humanity.

KATY MARFATIA

have your say!



www.facebook.com/mid-day
www.twitter.com/mid_day
plus.google.com/mid-day
Write to us: mailbag@mid-day.com

Printed and published by Shashi Kant Gauri on behalf of Mid-Day Information Ltd, incorporated at 1/2473, TTC, International Area, N.D.C., Raipur, New Mumbai.
Editorial and Advertising offices at 6th floor, BMA Corporate Park, off Western Express Highway, Kurla West, Mumbai 400 051, Telephone No: 022-4850. Fax No: 2442612, 180 Number 3562739 (Print) Registration No. MCE/2015/2015-2017. Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher is prohibited. Editor: "Dear Noobin!" Responsible for circulation of news under the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867.

Don't worry, Bihari (no, really?)

MS WORD



Mayank Shekhar

Let me tell you a little bit about Bihar. That it's not the same as Uttar Pradesh, UP, or Go-Pee, as natives pronounce it. Or "UP-Bihar", as Bombaywalehs love to dub-sandwich it, while they've encountered very few Biharis, in fact.

It appears to me that sometime in the '70s, there were two trains simultaneously starting from Bihar and UP, heading for Bombay and Calcutta. And between each other, the two states had to pick one train. Biharis chose Calcutta, UP-ites betted on Bombay. Don't need to advertise who made the better choice.

Seven-level Kolkata, among hawkers and cabbies, feels like Bihar. Just as Mumbai on the road sounds much like Go-Pee — mainly among migrant men, mind you. The ladies are still back in UP-Bihar, working the field, managing home, raising kids, chiefly resulting from the husband's last vacation. This explains that the boy, the surrogate man, in Mumbai, is almost always from Maharashtra and thereabouts.

Sons of toil, like seasonal birds, will go wherever they can make hay while the sun shines. I've discovered Biharis in Khandala and Kerala; Delhi is currently India's migration capital, and it is trains to Punjab that primarily pack in the most Biharis during cropping months.

To gauge the importance of trains, you only have to look up the number of Biharis who've served as railway ministers in India — talked with making movements of their constituents easier, and build a brand for themselves in the home state. The sense I get is it's not that there isn't equivalent work for Biharis in their village/block/district. It's just that they must settle for a third of the pay, or less, if at all.

They travel therefore for watan, chakri (wage), work since tankhwa, nakhi (salary), job is out of bounds — hugely benefitting Indian capitalists.

In more ways than one, Bihar has been to India, what India has been to West; and that could be a good thing



Of the seven, bright college-boys I hung out with in a town called Patna only one wished upon himself a government job; the rest wanted to do some thing of their own

in turn. This exploitation on a planet isn't limited to micro, small and medium-scale enterprises, or what are called MSMEs.

The quickest/easiest observation reporting I've ever done was to prove that labourers in the world's top cycle factories in Ludhiana were being paid even less than Punjab's minimum wage. A casual walk down labour camps in the filthy by-lanes behind the plush factories and my job was done. They'd all indeed signed up for wages higher than the cash eventually handed to them, month-end.

A Danish newspaper had commissioned this piece since UNICEF Denmark was apparently buying cycles in bulk from these firms. Nobody in Ludhiana, or indeed other Karnal Indians, could've cared for this article-story. I drank beers with them instead, with a Polish singer entertaining us at a five-star Ludhiana bar.

Can't recall exactly, if those labourers were from Bihar, UP or Jharkhand. In "bahar gaon" (the world outside your own world), migrants from similar geography typically merge into common identity stronger than their specific parental roots. They're all proud Bihariyas in Bombay. Just as

the top scholars — be it engineering, science/medicine, or (corporate) state bureaucracy. It's only lately that you see some shift towards what are called "cooler jobs" — films, television, YouTube, news, stand-up comedy, etc.

Either way, both Biharis in India, as Indians in the West, have traditionally been subjected to an onslaught of clichés and stereotyping for where they come from, while those worlds have simultaneously changed so much in the interim.

Feeling like a foreign correspondent within my own country, the villages of Bihar I covered during 2019 general elections seemed wholly transformed to me, with the recent arrival of smart-phones, and cheap internet. Its effects will get sharper still. The air around was cleaner, electricity not an issue, access roads in place. The state's capital seemed a complete hell-hole in comparison.

Of the seven, bright college-boys I hung out with in a town called Patna — unless they were statistical outliers — only one wished upon himself a government job; the rest wanted to do something of their own. A 20-year-old in the group already ran an e-commerce website, sourcing stock from China. They spoke to me about agro-business, entrepreneurship, money, but not migration.

Will this lot and similar others reverse a bad hand dealt to them over decades? Apply their skill/talent to build an opportunity locally? I know poverty is a vicious cycle, but could such opportunities hold back the labourer from further humiliation, away from home, in places where he's considered a resource, but not human? India has had a soft, gradual change in its global rep since the early 2000s. Something tells me, for the same advantages, so would Bihar. Hoping. Eventually. Must. Has to!

Mayank Shekhar attempts to make sense of mass culture. He tweets @msword14

Send your feedback to: mailbag@mid-day.com

hitlist

SO IS THE BUZZ

SALMAN'S TRILOGY OF SONGS?

After *Pyaar karona, Tere bina*, sources say Khan penning another love ballad; shot-at-home video to feature Waluscha

UNABLE to face the camera for his film, Salman Khan has taken to writing with a vigour. After penning the lyrics of *Pyaar karona* and the recent *Tere bina* that featured Jacqueline Fernandez (right), word is that the superstar is currently on a high in his third ballad. A source reveals, "Those around Salman are keen that he complete his trilogy of music videos. The new track will hinge on love in the time of lockdown, and



the road for harmony in the world. Once the song is written, the actor will rope in a music director."

Like its predecessors, this one will be shot in Paris. "Salman and his family have been trying

their hand at different aspects of filmmaking through these numbers. While Jacqueline usually takes care of styling and makeup, Waluscha De Souza pitches in as a set coordinator. Though the direction duty for the new track is yet to be assigned, it may feature Salman and Waluscha," adds the source.

Mohar Basu



Tiwaris believe *Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain* (above) and some of Ekta Kapoor's (below) shows will be among the first to resume shooting

Clause for a cause

As post-COVID shoot clause, FWICE to appeal to producers to offer ₹50 lakh compensation in case of daily wagger's death on set

UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN
umaf@mid-day.com

AT a time when cine bodies are working together to draft new guidelines and safety measures that can be followed when the industry resumes work, the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has put

the spotlight on the well-being of the daily-wage workers. The association intends to propose to channels and producers to offer ₹50 lakh compensation in case of a daily wagger's death due to the Coronavirus. The matter will be discussed over a virtual meeting that is slated for early next week.

"It is our sole objective to stand by our workers. We will appeal for ₹50 lakh compensation in case of a death due to COVID-19 while shooting. The relief should be provided to the daily wagger's family even if the death has resulted from an accident on set," says BN Tiwari, president, FWICE. He will also urge filmmakers and television producers to bear the medical expenses of a daily wagger working on their project, in the event of him testing positive for the virus.

A discussion on when shooting can resume is also on the agenda. "The television industry will be the first to resume work. *Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain* and some of Ekta Kapoor's shows will kick off with minimal crew," he says, refusing to put a timeline to it.



'Based on his book, but nothing to do with Tarun'

As sources say Amazon US initially axed Paatal Lok during #MeToo in 2018, creator claims series uses rape-accused Tejpal's work as only starting point



Tarun Tejpal



Neeraj Kabi in the show

UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN AND MOHAR BASU
umaf@mid-day.com

AMAZON Prime's upcoming offering, *Paatal Lok*, has caught the audience's attention as much for its gritty treatment as for its source material. The *Anusika* Sharma-backed show is based on former *Tejko* editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal's book, *The Story of my Assassination*, which in turn is a "fictionalised tale" of the 2001 incident where five suspects were arrested for allegedly plotting his assassination. While the *Jaikeye* Adawat and Neeraj Kabi show follows a similar narrative, it is told from the perspective of a cop, essayed by the former.

Sources suggest that the crime thriller was in the works over the past five years, and had faced a hurdle in 2018. According to sources, Amazon US

had decided to pull the plug on it when the #MeToo movement gathered steam in India, considering Tejpal was accused of rape by a colleague in 2013 and has been on bail since July 2014. "However, creator Sudip Sharma and Amazon India had faith in their product and reasoned that the book was only the starting point. They pointed out that they had consciously distanced themselves and their offering from Tejpal. It was also a collective decision to develop Neeraj's journalist as a grey character, thus keeping the messaging of the show in the right place," adds the source.

When mid-day quizzed

Sharma on how Amazon US had apparently wanted to axe the series, he refrained from discussing the episode, saying, "I wouldn't be in a position to comment on that."

Sharma, who has also served as one of the writers of the series, acknowledged that the book stayed with him ever since he read it a decade ago. "This book was a small part of it. We took a one-line plot from there, and then the writers explored many different situations. There are several other factors that have been added in our story. We decided to explore the life of a cop. [That character] is not based on a [real-life] person," he said, be-

fore stating, "The author of the book was not involved in the development or production of the show."

He also dismissed talk of Kabi's character being modelled on Tejpal. "Neeraj Kabi's role has got nothing to do with Tarun; it's a fictional character," he emphasised.

The Amazon Prime spokesperson remained mum on the 2018 episode, when a colleague accused Tejpal of assaulting her at a Goa event, instead stating, "Paatal Lok is loosely inspired by an idea from the book. Creator-writer Sudip Sharma took inspiration from it, and with his team of writers, crafted a nuanced and sensitive crime thriller. Tarun Tejpal was not involved in any phase of the development and production of the show. It is the story of an honest cop who unravels a deep nest of crime. The characters are fictional and not based on any real-life personalities or incidents."



'We took a one-line plot from the book... The author was not involved in the development or production of the show' Sudip Sharma

fitness

TAKE IT TO THE STREET

Celebrity trainer Ramona Braganza, who counts Amanda Seyfried as her client, encourages people to take their workouts outdoors, even so often. She reportedly said it poses new challenges to the muscle

THE CHEATS

Momri Roy



What's your cheat meal? Although not a cheat meal, being a Bengali, I consume rice often.
Cheat meal vs cheat day: Rice is part of my daily diet. I don't follow a strict diet because I usually eat clean and prefer home-cooked meals.
Do you compensate for it? Since I know rice is a high-carbohydrate food, I try to monitor the rest of my meals. If there is an important shoot coming up, and I need to look fit, I will take to a regimen involving light dinner, and couple it with stretching and flexibility training, on a regular basis.

IN MITHILA PALKAR'S FRIDGE

Eggs
Bread
Chocolate
Carrot
Butter



FITNESS TIP THAT WORKS FOR

SAIYAMI KHER

When taking to endurance sports like running and swimming, patience, consistency and commitment are key. With these, you can achieve significant results in six months.



REVERSE AILING

Eight years since hormonal imbalances and injuries landed her at her trainer's door, Sonam Ahuja on going from strength to strength

SONIA LULLA
sollulla@mid-day.com

THEY may have struck a chord with only a defined group of cinephiles, but offerings like *Alshah* and *Veere Di Wedding* serve as food for thought as to why Sonam K Ahuja shone in films that bank heavily on meaningful friendships. Our guess is, as is with several aptly cast movies, it drew from her off-screen persona. Past interviews are testimony of the earnestness with which she pursued relations with the women in her life — be it with sister Rhea, friend Masaba Gupta, or mother Sumita. But why are we discussing Ahuja's relationships in an interview directed to break down her fitness regimen, you ask? Because fitness is no longer (never was) about the physique alone. Ahuja was quick to learn how every aspect of her life defined her emotional and mental state. "You'll know what to do if you love yourself," she says at one point, making a case for her vegan lifestyle when citing studies that indicate dairy (sugar) food can cause cancer.

A string of "crazy stupid things", involving hours of gym training and insalubrious diets, enabled her to shake off the 35 kilos she had gained in her teens due to hormonal imbalances; before she made her industry debut. But, even five years later, in 2012, when she first met her current trainer Radhika Karche, the actor was fragile, with an immunity that was severely hit following a

relapse of typhoid. "In addition, I had hernias in my knees since I had been dancing. Even though I've not done films that needed me to dance, I am trained in classical dance and [practised it] since the age of three. Also, I am double-jointed and hyper-mobile, and had damaged my feet and knees."

She landed at Karle's doorstep in pursuit of a trainer who promoted holistic approach to fitness. "She didn't enjoy that all," says Karle, of Ahuja's introductory sessions. "She wanted to do weights, and high-intensity work. But I had to keep assuring her that she need not [plate]. Gaining muscle mass keeps the body's fat per cent in check. She had achieved weight loss but hadn't gained strength."

Every 'body' is different

If you haven't had a first-hand account of tackling obesity, it's tough to comprehend why Ahuja — with a seemingly idyllic figure that has lent life to creations of the world's top brass of fashion designers — harbours body-related insecurities. It is

her unwavering sense of self that kept her in good stead. "Everyone has a different body, and all one can do is be the best version of that body-type. My friend Masaba [Gupta, designer] doesn't have what one would consider a 'model's body'. But she runs for an hour each day, practices yoga, eats healthy, and is extremely strong. Having a low fat-percentage doesn't mean you must starve. I eat everything, all that I do is monitor how and when I eat it. I had hormone issues, a lot of which were solved through Radhika's nutrition plan."

Being vegan in India, which doesn't spoil you with choice, demands ace negotiation. With plant-based proteins contraindicated within fatty high-carbohydrate foods, it is a tight between topping muscle mass and retaining a healthy waistline. "I constantly tweak her nutrition plan, which varies for each film. We went on a high-protein diet for *Rhooombur* because she had to be lean. Now that she isn't shooting, she's off grains," Karle informs.

SONAM ON TAKING SMALL STEPS FOR BIG RESULTS

- My biggest lesson has been to not eat at night, and keep a few hours between the last meal and bedtime. I suffered from acidity. This tip cured me.
- Hydration is important. I still struggle with it but have a minimum of three litres of water, daily.
- Anything in a package must be avoided, as most refined foods like flour and sugar. It's like putting poison in the body. I love packaged food, but find substitutes, or make my own version of it. If I crave for something sweet, I have jaggery or peanuts.
- You don't need to have more than two fruits a day. It's eventually sugar.
- Salads must be consumed at lunch, not in the evening. Also, half of your food plate must comprise greens.

When travelling with Ahuja on outdoor shoots, Karle, owner of Radhika's Reformed Body, has to be particularly mindful of the food being offered to her. "If we are [shooting] close to home, we will have a team member deliver the meals. Else, I will take something whipped up in my kitchen. If we are in a hotel, I will speak to the chef to create meals according to her plan."

Like the one she is currently on, a regimen involving a mix of pilates and cardiovascular work has usually worked well for Ahuja. The duo kicks off the day with a cardio session in the morning. At her home-gym in Delhi, the actor usually spends evenings tweaking the resistance of her reformer and following the cues belted out by Karle over a video call. "She has been [diligent] with her routine. We've been loading the [reformer's] springs heavy so that the resistance training [component is met with]"

Battle won, and done

"Being slim is the by-product of pursuing a healthy lifestyle," Ahuja tells us when we ask her how she managed to break free from the clutches of obesity, which continues to haunt several B-Town actors. She's quick to express gratitude for her good genes. "For the most part [of my childhood], I was skinny. Also, although I love [junk food], I won't start eating and drinking. Just because I've lost weight. You can't suddenly let go of the lifestyle you follow."

KARLE ON SONAM'S DIET

- Before breakfast, she has lemon water. Then, jeera water.
- For lunch, it's sabzi and dal. We may give her curd to soothe her stomach in the Delhi heat.
- Before the evening workout, she has a coffee concoction, fruits, peanut or almond butter.
- Dinner, comprising cooked vegetables and dal, is consumed by 7 pm.



have you heard?

OSCARS
DELAYED?

Plans are afoot to postpone the Oscars, scheduled for February 28, 2021, by about four to five months due to the lack of releases during the pandemic

Animal farm

Dharmendra and his pet calf are inseparable at his Kharakda farm. The veteran actor, who is spending lockdown amid the hills, posted a picture on Instagram with the "latest love of his life". "Hum insaan, pooh bhii kar bhii aise nahin ho sakte," he wrote to explain the animal's deep, unconditional love. Garam Dharam also finds it therapeutic.



Not happening

Kanika Kapoor's offer to donate plasma for the treatment of other COVID-19 patients was rejected because of her family's medical history. Doctors at Lucknow's King George's Medical University stated that it is against medical ethics to spell out the reasons.



Reading PeeCee's eyes

Priyanka Chopra Jonas stepped out of her California home for the first time in two months amid the lockdown. Wearing a designer mask, PeeCee said

the 'eyes are never quiet'. Pizzled mittens looked into her eyes to decipher what she was trying to say. Perhaps she was out to soak in some sun.

It's official

On Tuesday, Rana Daggubati made his relationship with girlfriend Mithika Rajaj official. The Telugu star shared a photo on social media with his ladylove and captioned it, "And she said yes." The Housefull 4 (2019) actor prefers to keep his personal life under wraps, so the announcement came as a surprise to colleagues who flooded the post with congratulatory messages. Rajaj is an interior designer.



Balance problems

A Madhya Pradesh cop, who seems to be an Ajay Devgn fan, recreated the star's trademark stunt of balancing himself on two moving cars. The viral video landed sub-inspector Manoj Yadav in trouble. He was fined ₹5,000 and given a warning. Yadav is posted at Narsinghgarh in Damoh district. Devgn performed the stunt in Phool Aur Kanto (1991) and Golmaal Returns (2008).



The bestie edit

Sahana Khan turned editor for buddy Ananya Panday. Shah Rukh Khan's daughter put together behind-the-scenes clips of the actor from her photo shoots. Panday marvelled at her skills and referred to her as the 'queen'.



GRAB A CHAIR OPPOSITE INDIA'S BIGGEST STARS



mid-day
SIT
with
hitlist

Sit across the finest creative minds on Sit With Hitlist as they open up on their life, and the art and craft that makes them tick

Where did the dog Pluto, voiced by Asmir Khan, come from in Dil Dhadakne Do? Sit across Bollywood's most loved filmmaker, Zoya Akhtar, to find out this and more, on Sit With Hitlist ON MAY 15



Nursing the world to health

To mark International Nurses Day on Tuesday, Madhuri Dixit-Nene shared a picture of mother Snehlata along with her nurse. The actor lauded the frontline warriors

as well as the entire healthcare community who're putting their lives at risk to treat the ailing. She described the nursing profession as helping, curing and curing.





Summer in a glass

With alcohol in short supply, this World Cocktail Day, mixologists suggest simple seasonal concoctions, both booze-free and spiked, to add some cheer to your evenings



PRACHI SIBAL
prachisibal@red-day.com

THE first celebration of World Cocktail Day dates back to early 20th century Britain. It has included several concoctions from classics like the mojito, martini, negroni and more recently, localised versions found at city bars. As we remain shut indoors this time and the hipple runs dry with liquor shops shut, you could still opt for a refreshing cooler. Here are some mocktails (and a cocktail for good measure) to keep you going through the summer.



Beetroot kanji

INGREDIENTS
Beetroot - 2 to 3
Mustard seeds - 2 tsp
Green chillies - 2
Water - 500 ml

METHOD
Finely chop and boil the beetroot. Mix all the ingredients together in a

jar and keep in sunlight for three days. Keep stirring the mixture once every day. On the fourth day, check for taste, add salt and some lime juice, and mix it well. Finally, double strain the drink and refrigerate. It will remain fresh for a long time.



Watermelon & basil Mary

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh watermelon juice - 120 ml
- Basil leaves - 6-8
- Tabasco - 3-4 drops
- Worcestershire sauce - 3-4 drops
- Fresh lime juice - 20 ml
- Sugar syrup - 10 ml
- Freshly crushed pepper and salt as per taste

METHOD

Muddle basil leaves along with Tabasco, Worcestershire sauce, fresh lime juice and sugar syrup till you get a whiff of the basil. Fill the glass with ice and add the watermelon juice. Rim the glass with salt (optional). Finish the drink with freshly crushed black pepper and salt. Give it a stir and enjoy the drink. Instead of basil, you can also use mint, which is easily available.

NILUSH PATEL, beverage head (West), Impresario Handmade Restaurants



Mangozoi (cocktail)

- INGREDIENTS**
- Vodka / white rum / tequila - 60ml
 - Freshly pressed mango juice - 100ml
 - Coriander leaves - 6 to 8
 - Fennel water - 30ml
 - Ginger slice - 2
 - Lime juice - 15 ml
 - Sugar syrup - 5 ml

METHOD
Remove pulp of a freshly cut mango and make puree of it. Take a cocktail shaker, add ice, add preferred spirit, muddle co-



runder leaf and ginger, add fennel water, lime and sugar. Shake it well and serve it in a rock glass.

DINESH MONKAR, bar supervisor, The Bishop Cafe



Paint the town red

Sign up for a free online graffiti workshop to embrace your creativity



Grffiti on the wall by The Dharavi Project

RITU AILANI
rituailani@red-day.com

THE Dharavi Dream Project is an NGO running in the bylanes of Asia's largest slum since 2014, with the aim of empowering under-resourced hip-hop talent by way of grooming, mentoring, nurturing and creating opportunities to showcase their talent. Through their latest initiative WAH! School Of Hip Hop, the organisation has launched a stay-at-home graffiti workshop to enable people to embrace their creativity in this period.

Under the guidance of graf-



(Left and above) Kids from Dharavi at an earlier session

fit instructor Gauri Dabholkar, participants will be taken through basic design principles by learning various typographic methods via Zoom sessions. The workshops are free for anyone around the world. "Graffiti is all about funny characters and loud messages. For anyone to learn drawing, sketching or doodling, having the basics in

place is a priority," says Dolly Rameshwar, co-founder, The Dharavi Dream Project.

"It's working really well because the kids from Dharavi are now joining us online. Whenever I would call them, all they would ask is, 'School kab khulega?' They were tired of being caged in a 10x20 sq ft space with nothing to do. Now,

they've learned to operate the Zoom app and are spending their time creating art, either digitally or in their drawing books, and sharing them on various social media platforms," she shares about the initiative.

FREE ON THU May 16, 11 am to 12 pm
LOG ON TO [insider.in](#)



Cat call

The latest crochet trend has got people making mini couches for their felines. An expert suggests similar projects for your furry friends



DALREEN RAMOS
dalreen.ramos@mid-day.com

YOU might think that the times we're living in are weird, but what about your pets? They probably think you're weird for staying home all day, too. And a few cat parents have begun making the most of the lockdown by crocheting mini couches for the felines so they stay put. We invite crochet expert Rujuta Jhanjhanwala to suggest other mini pet-centric crochet projects.



Rujuta Jhanjhanwala



Ball of fun

Jhanjhanwala, creative director of Iresha, says that making play balls are a great way of engaging pets. "There won't be a problem if your pet puts their mouth to it," she shares. This design is achieved by starting out with the magic circle i.e. a tight ring in the centre and then increasing stitches in each round followed by even single crochet rounds in the middle. At the end, the stitches need to be decreased and then you can stuff the ball.

LOG ON TO thespinescrofts.com for the detailed method

Basket chill-time

A basket is a crazy option for pets that also want to Netflix and chill with you. This pattern beginning with the magic loop is just a combina-

tion of stitches such as single crochet, double crochet, slip and chain. You could also make a smaller one for their toys or to cover their bowls. Jhanjhanwala suggests, "You could also add a tiny comforter inside so it is easier for you to carry them around. Besides the comfort factor, the good thing about this piece is that it is washable."

LOG ON TO www.larkana.fi for the detailed method



BESIDES the comfort factor for pets, the good thing about crocheted baskets is that they are easily washable

Simple sitar strains

Attend an online workshop where a sitar maestro will simplify the instrument

WORKSHOP

Purbayan Chatterjee is a sitar maestro who has played with the who's who of the Indian classical world, such

as Ustad Zakir Hussain. He will host an online workshop this week where he will try and make the nuances of his instrument easy for people to understand. He will also talk

about how the sound of the sitar fits into various soundscapes, and will approach playing techniques in a comprehensive manner. Sign up even if you are a beginner to get a lowdown from the expert.

ON May 15, 5.30 pm
LOG ON TO insider.in
COST ₹800



Mani Bhawan is located on a leafy road in Garden

Mahatma comes home

Check out a new virtual tour to understand the Mahatma's connect with Mumbai

SHUNASHIR SEN
shunashir.sen@mid-day.com

HAVEN'T ever been inside Mani Bhawan? Now is your chance despite the lockdown. The authorities at the museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi — housed in a historic building on Laburnum Road in Garden — have started a virtual tour of the premises that you can view online.

The project is still in its beta phase. Mani Bhawan secretary Yogesh Kamdar says that there are a couple of minor errors in terms of spellings and phone numbers, which will be sorted out in a jiffy when the lockdown is lifted. Surveen as it stands, the tour offers a 360-degree insight into the different rooms with rare photographs and memorabilia, aimed at building an image of Gandhi that goes beyond him just being an icon of the freedom struggle. As Kamdar explains, "Of course, he was an icon of India's independence. But he was also much more than that in terms of his philosophy, world vision, and certain values he espoused, which might or might not have had any bearing on the freedom movement. His ideas about the equality of women, dignity of labour and the need for cleanliness are of perennial importance, for example, but [as a country] we have tried to put Gandhi in a narrower box."

He adds that when the Mani Bhawan team was

'A video would have been less interactive, and more one-sided'

Yogesh Kamdar



The museum houses rare photographs of Gandhi

building the virtual tour, these were people who said that since the Mahatma was opposed to technology, they were sullying his image with this modern-day endeavour.

"But I said, no, he wasn't opposed to technology or machines at all. He was simply opposed to them being our masters," the museum secretary says.

But why a virtual tour and not a video to detail the interiors and its treasures? It's because the latter is a more passive art form, Kamdar answers, reasoning, "It would be less interactive, and more one-sided. Also, in a video, you zoom past everything. In a virtual tour, I can wait. I can reflect on an exhibit, and see different perspectives and close-ups."

The online walkthrough will be available on the main Mani Bhawan website once the minor errors are corrected. Right now, it's available on a separate URL, listed below. The viewing begins from outside the main gate, on a leafy road. And those curious about the history: building's interiors simply have to follow the arrows that guide a visitor inside.

LOG ON TO bit.ly/2z6tN69



Sounds like a reality check

Iconic Goth band **Evanescence** releases a timely track from their new album that mirrors the world caught in a pandemic. Edited excerpts from an interview

KARISHMA KUENZANG
theguide@mid-day.com

Fallen brought along with it a revolution in the music scene worldwide. Besides the instrumental music, Amy, your vocal skills and overall sound draws inspiration from many. What are your influences?

Amy Lee: I was inspired in my youth by a combination of Mozart, Beethoven and film score composers like Danny Elfman, as well as hard rock and alternative music. I loved Tori Amos, Nine Inch Nails, Korn, Alanis, Björk, Smashing Pumpkins, Portishead, Soundgarden, who all made such good music in the '90s. Lately, I love Billie Eilish, Lana Del Rey, and Aurora. I've been

recently obsessed with Every Day by Buddy Holly. There's something really special about that simple recording that I can't stop listening to. I get inspired by all kinds of music and art. Most of it is very different from my own.

How has your music evolved since you started out in 2003?

AL: I've always tried to be true to myself, to making music I love and putting my whole heart into it. Over 20 years, my perspective has changed a lot, my band has got tight and strong — I am so proud of today's members; we

are a real family, we respect each other and work like a functional machine. We've been through a lot together and that is something you can feel in the music we make together.

How did this video that debuted on VH1 take shape, what inspired the sound, lyrics and the concept?

AL: Honestly, when I came up with the initial idea, the Coronavirus pandemic wasn't on my radar yet. I was just writing a break-up song. It was about feeling trapped and needing more but facing the struggle of change. We were planning to release another song first, to set out on a big new European tour, and had a video treatment in the works for the other song. When everything changed, so did the meaning of

the song. Suddenly, the words "Wasted on you" felt so right that we had to put that one out now instead. I wanted to make a video even though we couldn't get together and wanted to take it to a level beyond just playing our instruments at home. Director Paul Brown empowered us by teaching us lighting, composition tricks and ideas, and guided each of us through making a video on our iPhones that is more personal than anything we've ever done. It is a picture of the real-life us, in self-isolation in our homes, going crazy like everyone else and finding joy and common ground through music, specifically by finishing this song.

Could you tell us about your upcoming projects?

AL: We're releasing the first part of this album, one song at a time, as we continue writing and recording the rest. We've never done it this way and it feels really good. We intend to live more in the moment.

"When things changed, so did the meaning of the song. Suddenly, the words Wasted on you felt so right that we had to put it out now instead"

Amy Lee

(From left) Band members Jim Mojus, Troy McLawhorn, Amy Lee, Tim McCord and Will Hunt.
PH: PABROWN

Keeping up with the spirits



SIGN UP

A LOT of people may boast about their fine wine and spirits collection, but how many can claim to have extensive knowledge about it? This might be a good time to brush up on some facts to understand and in turn, appreciate, your drink better. Sommelier Nikhil Agarwal's platform All Things Nice is conducting online masterclasses for wine and spirits, which will include courses such as introduction to the world of wine, pairing the spirit with food, discovering cognac and armagnac, a lowdown on gin as well as beer, and the fundamentals of Scotch whisky.

The latter will be a day-long certification course conducted in association with the Edinburgh Whisky Academy and will cover a range of topics including historical development and the business of Scotch whisky, production process, batch distillation, maturation, bottling, grain distillation, blending as well as the art of whiskey tasting. These sessions can be one-on-one or group ones, depending on your choice.

EMAIL: info@allthingsnice.in
COST: ₹2,500 plus GST for the one-hour masterclasses; ₹10,000 plus GST for the whiskey course



All talk and action

Successor to India's top ventriloquist is ready to teach you a few tricks so that you can rock at your kid's next birthday party

SHUNASHIR SEN
shunashir_sen@mid-day.com

CHHOTU Singh is someone who gets special attention in the Padhye household in Mumbai. He has a wardrobe all to himself and resides in a safe corner of the home. There's also a close bond he shares with Neeva. His master Sateyaji's three-year-old daughter, who sometimes listens to him more than her parents. No wonder then that he has a permanent smile on his face. Except that this face isn't made

of flesh and blood. It's made of foam, as is the rest of Chhotu's body as Sateyaji is a ventriloquist and Chhotu is his puppet, though in this family, he's treated like a real human being.

He belongs to a third generation of puppets because Sateyaji's grandfather, YK Padhye, was one of the country's earliest ventriloquists, starting his career in 1916. YK's son, Ramdas, picked up the mantle in 1967 before passing the baton on to his offspring when the latter was just 10. Sateyaji tells us that ventri-

lism is his second nature to him. "I've been doing this for 20 years, and my father taught me certain exercises that I practise to this day," he says, adding that he'll share some of those techniques at an online workshop this week. "I'll teach five or six exercises people can practise at home. And I'll tell them how ventriloquism is like learning Indian classical music, because you need daily riyazat," he adds.

The expert will also touch upon how this form of enter-

tainment marries together other performance arts including puppetry, stand-up comedy, acting, and even singing and dancing. Ventriloquists need to play the role of a puppet-master sometimes. Sateyaji tells us about how he built Chhotu himself, after learning the ropes from his father. The two of them have since travelled the world together for shows. But right now Chhotu is at home due to the lockdown, and Sateyaji reveals he's spending time talking to Neeva and Elmo, the child's favourite among the many puppets in the house.

ON May 16, LOG ON TO inside.in **COST** ₹350



classifieds

NOTICES

Public Notice

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation
(P.C.) Kerala Ltd.
A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking
Kudamuttu, Thiruvananthapuram
Ph: 0471-245841, 245842, 245843
Email: purchase@oushadhi.org

Re-E-Tender Notice

02/10/20-21 03.5.2020
Online tenders are invited for the supply of (i) Plastic Mats 8" June 2020 to 30 September 2020 and (ii) Containers & Packing Materials for the period 8" June 2020 to 31" March 2021. Tenders can be downloaded from the website www.eenders.kerala.gov.in. For more details please visit our website www.oushadhi.org or contact our Purchase Division at Kudamuttu (541) Thiruvananthapuram Managing Director 3991132

Tenders & Notices

SRINAGAR MAHARAJARAJA
No. Dy. Ch. EM&E/102/E.S. Dt. 12.05.2020
E-TENDER NOTICE

Department	Chief Engineer (Mech & Elect)
Sub Dept	Dy. Chief Engineer (Mech & Elect) E. Sub
E-Tender No.	710077801
Subject	Repairs & Replacement of 1-sections of M. S. platform of 60 ton weightbridge no. 1 at Mumbai-Panvel Highway Octorai Naka.
Tender Sale	Bid start Date : 13.05.2020 Time : 11.00 Hrs Bid End Date : 15.05.2020 Time : 16.00 Hrs
Website	http://portal.mcgm.gov.in
Contact Officer	
A) Name	Shri K. Y. Jagtap
B) Office Telephone	022-25545280 to 84 ELEM. 304
C) Mobile No.	7400159163
D) E-mail address	aves03.me@mcgm.gov.in

PRG / 74 / ADV / 2020-21

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Shri. K. Y. Jagtap)
Ex. Eng. (M&E) E.S. II (JC)

MCGM HELPLINE NUMBER: 1800221202 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
FOR Homeless/undernourished migrants/workers for food & shelter.

NORTH-CENTRAL RAILWAY, VARANASI
CORRIGENDUM-02
Tender No.: J-SW-M-PART-2019-20-35
Name of Work: Exterior Painting and Bleaching of WCPMS, SCORCON Waggonrucking Underframe and bogie
Field Name: Tender Corrigendum 02
Existing Date: 15.04.2020, 11.00 AM
Modified Date: 13.05.2020, 11.00 AM
Production Engineer Workshop, N.C. Rly Varanasi
402076
Security Helpline No. 182

NORTH-CENTRAL RAILWAY, VARANASI
2nd CORRIGENDUM
In Tender Notice No. J-SW-M-PART-2019-20-35
It is notified that the date tendered by Divisional Railway Manager (Works) North Central Railway, Varanasi vide Tender notice No. J-SW-M-PART-2019-20-35, which is due to be opened on 11.05.2020 is hereby postponed and now will be opened on 25.05.2020. Other terms and conditions of the original tender notification shall remain unchanged.
Ex. Divisional Engineer (Work) North Central Railway, Varanasi
402076
Security Helpline No. 182

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Sd No.01 E-Tenders Date: 05.05.2020
Tenders are invited for on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only a offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class 'B' Digital Signature and registration in IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence: S.No - Tender No. (Date, Date, Description and Quantity, S.N. 1, 04201217, 02.05.2020, M.T. Spring (Jewel) 02 Part No. 11419048, 368 Nos. & M.T. Spring (Jewel), Part No. 11819236, 500 Nos., S.N. 2, 04201048, 02.05.2020, Sand Box Assy. Part No. 28672058, 204 Nos., S.N. 3, 04201001, 02.05.2020, Fibre Glass Insulation Kit Part No. 29721187, 400 Nos., S.N. 4, 04201077, 02.05.2020, Set of Filter Frame, Part No. 29400273, 204 Nos. Note: The terms and conditions can be seen and noted vendor also on website www.dlw.indiansrws.com & www.dlw.com
PRG-CLW-02 PCMM
#diesellocworks Website: www.dlw.indiansrws.gov.in

mid-day classifieds

NOW BOOKING AN AD IN MID-DAY CLASSIFIEDS IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
RENUKA K
9664885984/
022 68314848/47



The Readers are recommended to make appropriate inquiry before sending money, incurring any expenses or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. Midday Infomedia Limited does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The Director, Key Managerial Personnel, Printer, Publisher & Editor of Midday Infomedia Limited shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.
MDDAY INFOMEDIA LIMITED

SRINAGAR MAHARAJARAJA
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT & TRANSPORT (CITY) DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai invites the following online tender :

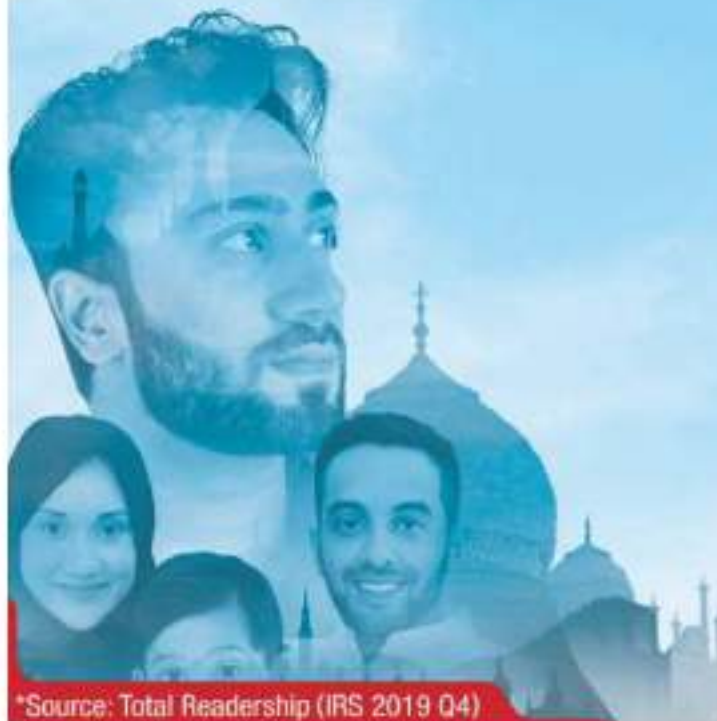
Name of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Tender Procuring Charges	Bid Start Date & Time	Bid End Date & Time
Supply of Non A.C. Indica or Swift D'zine or equivalent type of vehicle for the use of various officials / wards / essential services related works pertaining to Prevention & Containment of COVID-19				
Zone - I ('A', 'B', 'C', 'D' & 'E' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177650	Rs. 20,950/-			
Zone - II ('F', 'G', 'H', 'I', 'J' & 'K' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177660	Rs. 16,767/-			
Zone - III ('L', 'M', 'N', 'O', 'P' & 'Q' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177671	Rs. 12,575/-	Rs. 300/- + Applicable GST For each Bid	13.05.2020 11.00 A.M.	15.05.2020 04.00 P.M.
Zone - IV ('R', 'S', 'T', 'U' & 'V' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177682	Rs. 12,575/-			
Zone - V ('W', 'X', 'Y', 'Z' & 'AA' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177693	Rs. 12,575/-			
Zone - VI ('AB', 'AC', 'AD' & 'AE' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177704	Rs. 12,575/-			
Zone - VII ('AF', 'AG', 'AH' & 'AI' Wards) - Bid No. 7100177715	Rs. 12,575/-			

The tender copy can be downloaded from MCGM's portal (<http://www.mcgm.gov.in>) under "e-procurement" section.
For more details, log on to <http://www.mcgm.gov.in>

PRG / 77 / ADV / 2020-21

Sd/-
(A. H. Yedav)
Executive Engineer
Transport (City)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (METEOROL. & SWR) JALAN PEARL, PHULKA, PUNJAB 151001
M. No. 0175 (2020) / P. No. 0175 (2020) e-mail: pscpl@pscpl.com
Corporate Identification Number: U95400PB2000000001
Registration Number: 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753, 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757, 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 2823, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827, 2828, 2829, 2830, 2831, 2832, 2833, 2834, 2835, 2836, 2837, 2838, 2839, 2840, 2841, 2842, 2843, 2844, 2845, 2846, 2847, 2848, 2849, 2850, 2851, 2852, 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856, 2857, 2858, 2859, 2860, 2861, 2862, 2863, 2864, 2865, 2866, 2867, 2868, 2869, 2870, 2871, 2872, 2873, 2874, 2875, 2876, 2877, 2878, 2879, 2880, 2881, 2882, 2883, 2884, 2885, 2886, 2887, 2888, 2889, 2890, 2891, 2892, 2893, 2894, 2895, 2896, 2897, 2898, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2902, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2906, 2907, 2908, 2909, 2910, 2911, 2912, 2913, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2917, 2918, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2930, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2934, 2935, 2936, 2937, 2938, 2939, 2940, 2941, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957, 2958, 2959, 2960, 2961, 2962, 2963, 2964, 2965, 2966, 2967, 2968, 2969, 2970, 2971, 2972, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2985, 2986, 2987, 2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3026, 3027, 3028, 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3037, 3038, 3039, 3040, 3041, 3042, 3043, 3044, 3045, 3046, 3047, 3048, 3049, 3050, 3051, 3052, 3053, 3054, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3058, 3059, 3060, 3061, 3062, 3063, 3064, 3065, 3066, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072, 3073, 3074, 3075, 3076, 3077, 3078, 3079, 3080, 3081, 3082, 3083, 3084, 3085, 3086, 3087, 3088, 3089, 3090, 3091, 3092, 3093, 3094, 3095, 3096, 3097, 3098, 3099, 3100, 3101, 3102, 3103, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3107, 3108, 3109, 3110, 3111, 3112, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120, 3121, 3122, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140, 3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149, 3150, 3151, 3152, 3153, 3154, 3155, 3156, 3157, 3158, 3159, 3160, 3161, 3162, 3163, 3164, 3165, 3166, 3167, 3168, 3169, 3170, 3171, 3172, 3173, 3174, 3175, 3176, 3177, 3178, 3179, 3180, 3181, 3182, 3183, 3184, 3185, 3186, 3187, 3188, 3189, 3190, 3191, 3192, 3193, 3194, 3195, 3196, 3197, 3198, 3199, 3200, 3201, 3202, 3203, 3204, 3205, 3206, 3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3211, 3212, 3213, 3214, 3215, 3216, 3217, 3218, 3219, 3220, 3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227, 3228, 3229,



*Source: Total Readership (IRS 2019 Q4)

**ALWAYS
 NUMBER
 ONE**

Inqilab stays the undisputed Number 1 daily for Urdu Readers

All India : Read 2.5 times over the next Urdu daily

Maharashtra : 11% more readers across the state prefer us

Mumbai : An additional 13% have chosen us

THANK YOU READERS
 FOR ALL YOUR LOVE, LOYALTY AND SUPPORT

Tenders & Notices

एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited
 (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Class 7, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
 Corporate Identification Number: L26101DL19750000998

1. The applicant above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for Westyashah STPS Stage-V (2000 MW) from 21.03.2019 to 31.03.2024.

2. The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

- Mahaes Power Management Company Limited (MPMCL), 39/60 Bhowan, Vidyut Bhawan, New Delhi-110002
- Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (MSDEDL), Prantapada, Baramulla, Mumbai-400015
- Orissa Usha Veda Nigam Limited (OUNL), Vidyut Bhawan, Race Course, Kolkata-700007
- Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Co. Ltd (CSPDCL), P.O. Sander Nagar, Durgaya, Raipur-491012
- Electricity Department, Govt. of Goa, Vidyut Bhawan, Panaji, Goa
- Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu, Daman-395210
- DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited, U7 of DNH, Silvassa-110233

3. Capacity of the generating station : 2000 MW (2X1000 MW)

4. Approved capital cost at the current date as on 21.03.2019 : Rs.2801.7895 Crores

5. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CGERC

6. Detailed data of commercial operation : Not Applicable

7. Actual date of commercial operation of station : 20.12.2018

8. Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station: Not Applicable

9. Details of tariff

Particulars	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined					
	2018-19*	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1. Capacity Charges (Rs/Lakh/year)	82000.23	82113.64	82190.28	82271.18	82318.00	82380.88
2. Energy Charges (Paise/kWh)	140.187		155.1			

* As per Petition for fixing up of tariff for 2018-19 period for Westyashah STPS Stage-V (2000 MW) CGERC.

10. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab 'Notices'.

11. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff, contained in the application as filed by any person, including the beneficiaries before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Chandrabh Building, 28, Janshodh, New Delhi - 110001, with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : New Delhi (E.P. Seal)
 Date : 03.02.2020 Auth. General Manager (Contract)

Leading the Power Sector

WESTERN RAILWAY
ELECTRICAL REPAIRING OF RAILWAY QUARTERS

Tender Notice No. and Date - E.L. 01/755/WAQ Dated 12/09/2020 Name of Work - Mutual Director - Improvement to railway quarters by electrical wiring and strengthening of power supply system. Approx. cost - ₹22,51,819 Cost of EMD - ₹2,63,680 Date and Time of Submission 24.10.2020 10.30 AM. Date and Time of Opening - on 12.05.2021 at 10.30 AM. Please visit our website www.westernrailways.co.in to download the tender document. corrigendum for further details.

Visit us @ [www.westernrailways.co.in](http://westernrailways.co.in)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
CORRIGENDUM-04

Tender No.: JH5W-08/
UNIFLOW-2019-20-38

Name of Work: Facilities for UIN (Directional Flow of wagons at Jhansi workshop).

Field Name: Tender-Closing date time: Bidding Date: 18.05.2020, 11:00 AM. Modified Date: 28.05.2020, 11:00 AM.

Production Engineer Workshop, M.C. Bly, Jhansi.

Security Hashing No. 182

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्य प्रदेश
8, अंरा क्लिंस, जेल रोड, भोपाल
सूचना पत्र

क्रमांक/स.स्व.स्व./स्व.अ./2020/6327 भोपाल, दिनांक 16.05.2020

कोविड-19 महामारी को रोकथाम के विशेष परिपत्र में राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्य प्रदेश के अंतर्गत 01 वर्ष के लिए संविदा राज्य डाटा मैनेजर (आईटीएफपी) के निम्न पत्र को पूर्ण हेतु ऑनलाईन आवेदन आयोजित किए जाते हैं।

अर्हतापत्री आवेदन वेबसाइट www.sams.co.in पर दिनांक 22/05/2020 तक ऑनलाईन आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

मिशन संचालक
 राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्य प्रदेश
 जलद से हमें सेवा दें, कोविड से सुरक्षा दें।

एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited
 (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Class 7, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
 Corporate Identification Number: L26101DL19750000998

1. The applicant above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for Westyashah STPS Stage-IV (1600 MW) from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024.

2. The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

- Mahaes Power Management Company Limited (MPMCL), 39/60 Bhowan, Vidyut Bhawan, New Delhi-110002
- Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (MSDEDL), Prantapada, Baramulla, Mumbai-400015
- Orissa Usha Veda Nigam Limited (OUNL), Vidyut Bhawan, Race Course, Kolkata-700007
- Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Co. Ltd (CSPDCL), P.O. Sander Nagar, Durgaya, Raipur-491012
- Electricity Department, Govt. of Goa, Vidyut Bhawan, Panaji, Goa
- Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu, Daman-395210
- DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited, U7 of DNH, Silvassa-110233

3. Capacity of the generating station : 1600 MW (2X800 MW)

4. Approved capital cost of the project (as on 21.03.2019) : Rs.886.44 Crores

5. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CGERC

6. Schedule of commercial operation : Not Applicable

7. Actual date of commercial operation of station : 21.02.2019

8. Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station : Not Applicable

9. Details of tariff

Particulars	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined					
	2018-19*	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1. Capacity Charges (Rs/Lakh/year)	122145.30	120054.75	118013.30	116449.07	114607.76	112800.46
2. Energy Charges (Paise/kWh)	135.211		151.5			

* As per Petition for fixing up of tariff for 2018-19 period for Westyashah STPS Stage-IV (1600 MW) CGERC.

10. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab 'Notices'.

11. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff, contained in the application as filed by any person, including the beneficiaries before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Chandrabh Building, 28, Janshodh, New Delhi - 110001, with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : New Delhi (E.P. Seal)
 Date : 03.02.2020 Auth. General Manager (Contract)

Leading the Power Sector

Is my boyfriend ghosting me?



DR. LOVE

My boyfriend recently stopped messaging or calling for no reason. It has been six days, and he hasn't been responding. I was worried at first because I thought he was ill, but I know he is fine because common friends of ours have been meeting him regularly and he is active on Instagram and Twitter. I don't know what the problem is because we didn't have a fight or anything. We have been together for around three months, so I don't know him that well and can't say if he always does something like this. I think it is very strange though, because it is starting to feel as if he has broken up with me. I don't know if I am being pessimistic, but what else am I supposed to assume from his behaviour? If it has been six days, it shows a lack of respect or an inability to be honest or open. Either way, if

he doesn't give you a reasonable explanation for this soon, you are well within your rights to assume he has not had the decency to communicate with you. He owes you a response and, if he chooses not to give you one, you should consider ending this anyway.

I had a crush on a guy for over two years and didn't think it would work out, so I started dating someone else. I recently found out that my crush likes me, too, and I think I have blown my chances now. What should I do? You haven't mentioned how you feel about the relationship you see currently in. If you feel as if it is worth it to give that up and try to suitate one with the person you have had a crush on, it may make sense to evaluate the pros and cons of both approaches first. Why not try meeting with this guy, spend some time with him, and think about whether your feelings for him have changed in any way since you began dating your boyfriend?

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

WORDSEARCH FRISBEE

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.

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

Agility, Catch, Database, Dogs, Events, Feats, Flight, Games, Golf, Hands, Moves, Play/Puzzles, Precision, Recreation, Skills, Spinning, Sport, Target, Teams, Throw Toys, Tournament, Tricks

MEDIUM SUDOKU

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

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

8	6	10	9	10	12		16	10
					11			
14		15			12		10	7
16			17	10	12			
10		10	5				4	
10				10			17	
14			15	9	3	17		7
17		18						
3			8			21		

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
A good day for making new friends, but be very discriminating while confiding your feelings and emotions to people.

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



CANCER
Although as a rule, it is your reason that dominates your heart, today things are likely to be the other way to end, much to your pleasure.



LEO
In your hurry to finish your tasks for the day, you are likely to over-exert yourself which could harm your health.



TAURUS
You may feel downcast, uneasy, lazy, or over-tired today. Visit a doctor for a health check-up. Do not exert yourself physically.



CAPRICORN
The stars are likely to throw new light on your relationships. You may be puzzled, but keep an open mind.



LIBRA
A romantic encounter is likely today. Although you will enjoy the attention from him/her, you may end up spending too much money.



SCORPIO
You may not be too happy with your outer appearance, and so are likely to go in for a complete image overhaul. Overall, a fun day.



SAGITTARIUS
Circumstances today shall make you feel very depressed, and your outlook may become very negative.



VIRGO
Both your intuition and your perception will be extremely sharp today, and nobody will be able to take you for a ride.



GEMINI
Money matters and jointly held property issues may keep you preoccupied today. You shall be over-sensitive.



AQUARIUS
Expect your past labours to be rewarded today. However, you will have to be very careful of rivals.



PISCES
Confusion and anxiety are likely to haunt you for most of the day. However, later in the evening, you may throw worries to the winds.



SEB, FERRARI FALL OUT

Four-time champ Sebastian Vettel will quit Italian F1 team after 2020, citing lack of common desire to work together

FORMULA ONE

PARIS: Four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel on Tuesday announced his dramatic departure from Ferrari at the end of the season, saying there was no 'common desire' to work together any more.

The team named no replacement for the German, who dominated F1 with Red Bull before switching to the Italian marque in 2015.

Vettel said his shock exit from one of the dream drives on the grid was a "joint decision". "My relationship with Scuderia Ferrari will finish at the end of 2020," Vettel, 32, said in a statement from the team.

"In order to get the best possible results in this sport, it's vital for all parties to work in perfect harmony. The team and I have realised that there is no longer a common desire

to stay together beyond the end of this season."

Vettel, who has won 14 races with Ferrari and 53 overall in his career, insisted financial considerations played no role in his decision. Yet it has been widely reported that after being outpaced by teammate Charles Leclerc in 2019, Ferrari had offered Vettel only a one-year contract extension at a significantly reduced salary.

Vettel said he would "reflect on what really matters when it comes to my future".

Team principal Mattia Binotto said Vettel's departure was "a decision taken jointly

by ourselves and Sebastian, one which both parties feel is for the best. It was not an easy decision to reach, given Sebastian's worth as a driver and as a person.

"There was no specific reason that led to this decision, apart from the common and amicable belief that the time had come to go our separate ways in order to reach our respective objectives."

Vettel's departure will spark intense speculation about his replacement, with reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton among the drivers previously linked with a move to Maranello. The Italian has indicated however he will be staying at Mercedes.

APP

14

No. of races won by Sebastian Vettel with Ferrari

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel at Melbourne in March; (below) Vettel driving for Ferrari at Barcelona, Spain in February. **PICS: GETTY IMAGES**

'In order to get the best possible results in this sport, it's vital for all parties to work in perfect harmony' Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel



Akhil re-inducted into NADA panel

NEW DELHI: Former Commonwealth Games gold-winning boxer Akhil Kumar has been re-inducted into the National Anti-Doping Agency's Disciplinary Panel.



Akhil, who is also serving in Haryana Police as ACP Gurgaram, was formerly in the panel from 2017 to 2019. "Not an extension, it's a case of re-induction in anti-doping disciplinary panel," NADA Director General Navin Agarwal said.

The Arjuna award-winning Olympian is among the most accomplished names in Indian boxing and has also been the government observer for the sport between 2017 and 2019.

"I have been a part of this panel earlier and I am looking forward to being a member again," he said.

PTI

Balbir Singh Sr suffers cardiac arrest

NEW DELHI: Hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr on Tuesday suffered a cardiac arrest. The triple Olympic gold medalist's condition has since improved but remains in critical state at Fortis Mohali where he was admitted on Friday. "Doctors will continuously assess his condition over the next 24-48 hours before any further statements about his condition are issued. He continues to be on ventilator assistance," his grandson Kabir said in a statement.

IANS

RWITC chairman Poonawalla optimistic about Pune racing season

PRAKASH GOSAVI
gosa@mid-day.com

THE Mumbai racing season was abruptly called off due to the lockdown imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even now uncertainty prevails over the start of the Pune monsoon season, scheduled to begin in July, because racehorses are still stranded at Maharashtra.

Zavary Poonawalla, chairman of the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) was however optimistic

while speaking to mid-day, explaining the measures put in place, and how he intends to press the re-start button for the sport.

Edited excerpts from the interview:

In view of the current pandemic and with the May heat already upon us, what about the plan to shift the horses to Pune?
Let me assure all racegoers and readers that I inspire



Zavary Poonawalla

of this dreadful pandemic, things at the Maharashtra racecourse are under control, and I am optimistic of not only racing coming back to near normalcy, but would also like everyone to know that our racecourse

is in good shape and that we are taking good care of our horses and workers. We are in touch with the government authorities to procure necessary permissions

and organising logistics to transport horses to Pune prior to the onset of the monsoons.

How are the horses and the syces (attendants) being looked after?

Horses are getting their daily exercise as per their needs. As far as the feed is concerned, at this stage, they are on lighter diet but all their requirements are being fulfilled. The syces within the racecourse are being well looked after. The basic needs

of all other staff and workers are also being catered to. They are provided one meal daily by horse owners. So all in all, things are good within the parameters of our racecourse.

Are you looking at the possibility of conducting the Pune season without the spectators if need be (like Hong Kong) or would you rather wait till the pandemic situation gets better?

To conduct racing without spectators is a

huge effort and requires special arrangements in co-ordination with the government. We are working towards the same, including some novel ideas which could be the new silver lining to racing in India. We are also preparing the Pune track in a way that whenever racing gets the green signal, we will be ready to race.

For interview on
www.mid-day.com

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held next February

NEW DELHI: The postponed FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India was on Tuesday rescheduled to next year from February 17 to March 7 after the world body made a thorough assessment of the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be held from November 3 to 23 this year but was postponed last month due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

The world football governing body announced that the tournament will keep its original eligibility criteria and permit players born on or after January 1, 2003 and on or before December 31, 2005

FIFA announced that the tournament will keep its original eligibility criteria and allow "players born on or after January 1, 2003 and on or before December 31, 2005" to compete.

Following a thorough

assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent recommendations made by the FIFA Confederations COVID-19 Working Group, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has taken the decision to confirm the proposed new

tournament dates, subject to further monitoring," the FIFA said in a statement.

The tournament will be held at five venues in the country—Kolkata, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad and New Mumbai—and competed among 16 teams, with hosts India being automatic qualifiers in what will be the country's maiden appearance in the U-17 Women's World Cup.

PTI

I am not scared but reserved: Sterling

England and Man City winger Raheem unsure of EPL's plan to resume season amid COVID-19 pandemic; says safety of everyone involved should be priority

MANCHESTER: Manchester City winger Raheem Sterling expressed concerns regarding Premier League's plan to resume football in the country.

All sporting activities have been suspended in England since March as a precautionary measure against the spread of COVID-19.

Sterling stated that he isn't scared about the prospect of returning to the field during such unprecedented times, but he wants the conditions to be safe not just for the footballers but also for others who are associated with the game.

"The moment we do go back it just needs to be a moment where it's not just for footballing reasons, it's safe for not just us footballers but the whole medical staff, referees," Sterling told in a video uploaded on his YouTube channel.

"I don't know how that's going to work, but I feel like once that side of the people's safety and the players' safety is secured and their wellbeing is looked after, then that's the right time to go back in."

"Until then, I'm...how can I say...not scared but reserved and thinking what the worst outcome could be," he added.

Earlier on Monday, the British government published its detailed COVID-19 recovery strategy. It has ruled out any elite sports event to be held in England before June 1.

The Premier League has been suspended since March 13 and is aiming at restarting the season in June.

IANS



England's Raheem Sterling during a training session last year. PIC/GETTY IMAGES

EPL braces for losses due to no TV coverage

LONDON: Premier League clubs face having to pay a huge refund to broadcasters even if they manage to complete the Coronavirus-disrupted season behind closed doors.

Broadcasters would be reimbursed for matches not being played as scheduled and the lack of atmosphere in empty stadiums is also a factor. The BBC reported the bill facing the English top-flight, which continued talks on "Project Restart" on Monday, could be as high as £140 million (£140cr).

"We were able to update our clubs today on our situation with broadcasters, which is obviously confidential," said EFL CEO Richard Masters.

"Whatever happens, there's going to be significant loss of revenue for clubs. That is inevitable. We were able to paint a picture today about what would happen in various scenarios, playing out the season and not playing out the season, to allow them to have a picture of that as we stand in the early part of May."

The rebate to broadcasters would surge to an estimated £700 million if the season cannot be completed.

Masters has previously warned of a £1 billion loss once the absence of gate receipts is taken into account. For the first time on Monday, the 20 EPL clubs discussed models that may have to be used to decide final standings if it is not deemed safe to resume.

AFP

India may play 2 extra ODIs v Aus, no 5th Test

HARIT N JOSHI
harit.joshi@mid-day.com

TEAM India are likely to reject Australia's proposal for an additional 5th Test in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy during their tour Down Under later this year, mid-day has learnt.

However, they could agree to two more ODIs as the tour could consist of four Tests, five ODIs and three T20s.

The tour is scheduled from October to January but that is likely to change.

While Cricket Australia is looking at the India tour to pull them out of their financial crisis, the BCCI is seen to hold a star-studded IPL in October-November as the ICC is likely to postpone the T20 World Cup to next year. An official announcement from

the ICC is expected shortly.

The BCCI's willingness to play two extra ODIs comes with a rider. Since Australia does not permit their players to participate in T20 leagues while their home season is on, the Indian cricket board is expecting their Australian counterpart to make an exception and allow the presence of Australians in the IPL.

BCCI sources said that overseas players will be flown in on chartered flights for the T20 extravaganza. Four to five venues in close proximity of each other will be shortlisted by the BCCI to conduct the IPL. Mumbai (three venues) and Pune (one) could be on the BCCI's list presuming the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control by then.



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly

'No IPL could cost BCCI ₹40 billion'

NEW DELHI: Scrapping the money-spinning IPL this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic would cost more than half a billion dollars, but cutting players' pay was not yet being considered, a top official has said. The T20 tournament was postponed repeatedly. Cancellation of the IPL for 2020 would mean a huge financial hit. "The BCCI is looking at a big revenue loss. In case the IPL does not take place, the loss would be close to 40 billion rupees (\$300 million), or even more," said Board of Control for Cricket in India treasurer Arun Dhumal.

AFP

Aussie pace great Jeff Thomson reveals ball tampering with razor

A CORRESPONDENT
sports@mid-day.com

AUSTRALIAN pace great Jeff Thomson on Tuesday made a shocking revelation of once tampering with the ball during a Sheffield match between Queensland and Tasmania.

Speaking on The Betoota Advocate Podcast, Thomson confessed to using a razor on the match ball. "We were playing at the Gabba, playing Tasmania on a flat as s*** wicket.

I was bowling, Boony (David Boon) was bowling I think," said Thomson, who claimed 200 wickets in 51 Tests.

"The ball was s***. Skoba-bura started making really bad balls because there was no opposition. So the s*** that they made was crap and soft. I told the umpire before the lunch break, 'This ball's s***! Besaid, There's nothing wrong with this! It was like a marshmallow.'"

"At the lunch break, Greg

Chappell said to me, 'We've got to get rid of this ball,' I said, 'I'll fix this freakin' thing up,'" added the fiery pacer.

Thomson then went into the details of how he tampered with the ball. "This is a true story. Remember those old razor blades? Just a blade on either side, a flat piece of steel, I put that in my pocket. I've run around the quarter seam with it and around the main seam but I pushed it a bit hard. I showed this ball to Boony, and

the thing was nearly fallen in quarters like an orange.

"After lunch, I said, 'I told you this ball was s***, look at this!' and [the umpire] has gone, 'Jesus, I've never seen a ball do this!'"

"It's got clean cuts, it's not even frayed on the stitching. It's f***ing clean cut, it was very odd. Anyway, we got a new ball and I got him out and we won the f***ing match. That's how you cheat," said Thomson.



Jeff Thomson

close of play

I still care about Liz: Shane Warne



FORMER Australia cricketer Shane Warne, who enjoyed a romantic alliance with British actor Elizabeth Hurley from 2010 to 2013, has said that he still cares for her and fondly recalls the time they spent together.

In a documentary series titled, *A Week With Warne* to be aired on Foxel, Shane, 50, said he is sad that his relationship with Liz ended abruptly. "[I'm] quite sad it's over because I still care about her deeply and she's a wonderful person," said Shane, claiming the relationship became a media circus given the publicity it attracted.

He recalled the chaos outside his Melbourne home when Liz, 54, came to visit him a few months into their romance. "Six months down the track when Liz finally comes to meet the children in Australia, it was an absolute circus. I mean, the next door neighbour's kids were selling cordial for a buck out the front," said Shane, adding that some people even left gull clubs at his door, hoping the British star would sign them.

Shane and Elizabeth split after it became tough to manage their long-distance relationship as he lives in Australia while she resides in London.



'It's been so amazing'

India cricket captain Virat Kohli cherishes the time he has got to spend with actor wife Anushka Sharma

ONE is captain of the Indian cricket team; the other a leading Bollywood actor. So on regular days, finding time for each other becomes a challenge for cricketer Virat Kohli and wife Anushka Sharma. But the COVID-19 pandemic-caused lockdown has given the couple a rare opportunity to spend time together.

"Since we have known each other, this is honestly the longest we have spent together. Usually, I am on tour or Anushka has been working. I go see her or she's working in Mumbai and I happened to be home during these days," Virat told Star Sports' show *Crickle Connected*.

"There's something or the other happening! There's one person going to work or doing something that has to be done, but this is the time when both of us have just been together every day and it's been so amazing."

"We never thought that we would get to spend so much time like this. It's so nice to know that there's a silver lining in any situation in life. For us, together, this is a positive way to look at a phase like this. It's been a blessing of sorts that we have had this time together," he added.

IANS



Hugo Lloris buys ₹14 lakh guard dog

FOOTBALLER Hugo Lloris, 33, has bought a guard dog for a whopping GBP 15,000 (₹14 lakh). The France skipper purchased the dog from London's Elbe Protection Dogs, reported British tabloid, *The Sun*.

As the Tottenham goalkeeper's professional engagements keep him away from his family for long periods, the dog's main purpose is guarding his family while he is away. The security firm only uses German and Belgian Shepherds that are brought in from military or police backgrounds.

The firm's website says: "The dogs are dedicated to shield you from any possible danger or threat as taught through intense training, mental stability and obedience." It also claims that the "dogs have the highest IQ in the protection dog category."

Guard dogs ideally operate independently and the nature of their work involves protecting gated communities from strangers or any foreign entry. They are trained to raise an alarm by barking or attack anyone perceived to be a security threat.

Kane tells Steve: A few more coffee net sessions for me

SYDNEY: Australia cricketer Steve Smith has been keeping himself busy with various activities as he spends time with his family during the forced break amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, he posted a video on Instagram, trying his hand at latte art. In the video, Steve is seen trying to draw a fern (NZ players have a fern-crested logo on their caps and shirts) design over his coffee (screenshot right).

"Cricketers and their latte art! Here we go mate, this is my attempt! Any feedback? Kane Williamson, Maybe we should stick to hitting balls," he captioned the video.

To this post, Kane reacted

by saying: "Haha bro I'm not surprised that you've mastered this too! A few more coffee net sessions for me."

Steve's teammate David Warner commented: "Haha I am not even trying to attempt." Earlier on Monday, the New Zealand skipper had also posted a video of him making a latte.

"After six weeks of lockdown this is my attempt at a fern. Any tips are welcome! Available for a cafe which needs a volunteer?" Kane wrote. "When you are doing the last flick you have to lift the pouring cup so it's a thin line and not splashing the milk in," Steve had commented.

IANS



Steve Smith and Kane Williamson

No child is ever old for any mother, says Dhoni's mum

BANGALORE: Mahendra Singh Dhoni's mother Devaki Devi reacted to the latest photo of the cricketer that has been doing the rounds on social media.

Dhoni's image went viral when a video was uploaded on his daughter Ziva's Instagram handle.

Dhoni looked significantly different in the video thanks to the grey beard that he was sporting.

Dhoni's mother took note of his appearance and stated he isn't that old. "Yes, I have seen his new look but he isn't that old. No child is ever old for any mother," Dhoni's mother was quoted as



MS Dhoni and Devaki Devi

saying by @criticline.

Dhoni's latest look inspired memes and nostalgic posts from fans on social media.

While some said that this reflects the fact that many are struggling to get haircuts, there were some who were said that their favourite player is now growing old.

IANS

mid-day
A NEWSPAPER

BRINGING YOU NEWS IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

If the newspaper hasn't managed to reach you, Mid-Day's experienced and committed journalists will bring it to your phone. We continue to work on ground to keep you up to date with the latest developments so you don't miss a thing.

If the print copy of Mid-day hasn't reached you, call Rohit : +91 89992 82617.
To receive a replica of the Mid-day newspaper daily
on WhatsApp for a clean digital read,
send a 'Hi' to our official WhatsApp No. 88722 22250.

