

Sunday mid-day

Will Sunak make the cut for PM?

Rishi Sunak supporters claim he has hit the threshold of having the support of 100 MPs, even as ex-PM Boris Johnson returns from the Caribbean to give neck-to-neck fight. **P11**



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Sunday mid-day

Will you dish it out for Virat?

As top cricket star's Juhu restaurant opens, we ask if a celebrity's fame is enough to ensure that the diners keep coming back. **P28**



'Won't buy an e-bike ever again'

The Centre might be creating EV-friendly policies to secure India's green future, but a man who lost his six-year-old to an EV fire in September isn't convinced. Automobile experts say tech is still too nascent and far from foolproof. **P22**

06

No. of incidents of EVs catching fire reported in April this year

1.27L

Litres of water used to douse the flames of a Tesla that caught fire in Colorado

SHAHNAWAZ ANSARI, Vasai resident who lost his son on September 30

'The e-bike manual mentioned charging the battery for three to three-and-a-half hours. I kept it for charging [in the room where my son was sleeping] at around 3 am and went to sleep... it had been around two hours when all of a sudden, it exploded'



VIKAS YOGI, automotive journalist
'If a company has done its R&D in Europe—which has a different climate than India—it will have to go through all those R&D steps in India too. The [EV] battery management system needs to be tweaked according to our needs here'



'Khatarnaak, my husband would call me'

A bypoll critical to Uddhav's BMC win centres around a woman who stands at a bitter-sweet fork. **P24, 25**



SUNDAY SPECIAL

Meet Hiwali's unbelievable baccha log

A Zilla Parishad school in Nashik is producing little geniuses who write with both hands, are GK whizzes and grow their own food.

P06, 08



Justice Chandrachud who takes over as India's 50th CJI next month is a favourite with millennials for his empathetic views and stance on fundamental rights. **PIC/GETTY IMAGES**

'Danny is the CJI India needs now'

Cathedral school's Jai-Veeru—Dhananjaya 'Danny' Yeshwant Chandrachud and Ashok 'Juggy' Jahagirdar— are now Chief Justice of India in waiting, and IT consultant respectively. The latter joins Mumbai advocates to paint a picture of a man who they say is a unique legal mind because of the city that shaped him

YUSRA HUSAIN ON P18, 19

Despite ban, barium found in firecrackers

NGO demands state intervention after test reveals that most firecrackers available in market contain harmful chemicals

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THE Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and NGO Awaaz Foundation that conducted a chemical testing of firecrackers available in the local markets have found that many of these crackers comprise chemical contents that have been banned by the Supreme Court. The contents of the firecrackers tested also included barium, which is said to be hazardous to health.

Of the 18 samples of various firecrackers tested, 13 were found to be having barium. Lead was found in one of the samples, while traces of arsenic were seen in two samples; six samples contained chlorine and all 18 contained sulphur.

Sumaira Abdulali, convenor of NGO Awaaz Foundation, has written to the Maharashtra government and Mumbai Police

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Firecrackers being tested in Chembur. PIC/SAYYED SAMEER ABEDI

Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar requesting them to consider the "serious hazard" to human health indicated by the test result of chemicals contained in the firecrackers.

"There is a blanket ban on firecrackers containing barium, however, some manufacturers have been selling it without mentioning it on the packages. The contents can only be verified through chemical analysis," Awaaz Foundation stated.

Speaking on the issue, Abdulali said, "In 2021, the Supreme Court expressed serious concern about the effect of hazardous chemicals on people's health. The SC placed on record Awaaz Foundation's findings in their order dated October 29, 2021.

The SC also reiterated the ban on barium," she said, adding, "The court has also directed that any lapse on the part of the State Governments/State Agencies and Union Territories shall be viewed very seriously and if it is found that any banned firecrackers are manufactured, sold and used in any particular area, the Chief Secretary of the concerned state(s), the Secretary (Homes) of the concerned state(s) and the Commissioner of Police of the concerned area, District Superintendent of Police of the concerned area and the SHO/police officer-in-charge of the concerned police station shall be held personally liable. Nobody can be permitted to flout and/or disobey the directions issued."



GOLD RUSH

A woman tries out a gold necklace at a jewellery store in Dadar, on the occasion of Dhanteras. PIC/ASHISH RAJE

Diwali bonus for staff costs man ₹3.5 crore

Gujarat-based road constructor files complaint against conmen who called him to Navi Mumbai to exchange his old currency for new ones

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THE CBD Belapur police have booked over half a dozen people for allegedly cheating a road constructor from Gujarat, who wanted new currency notes that he planned to distribute as Diwali bonus to his employees. The constructor had travelled to Navi Mumbai in September to exchange his old notes for new ones. The fraudsters claimed that they had good relations with the RBI bank officials and duped him of ₹3.5 crore.

The complainant, Babu Jayeshsingh Thakur, 45, is based out of Vapi, Gujarat and has a staff of 200 men working under him. Every year on Diwali, Thakur gives his employees a salary and a bonus. Since the last few years, his associate Ajay Mishra was helping him get new currency notes. In August, Thakur contacted Mishra, who in turn put him in touch with two other men, one of whom introduced himself as Vishal Viroja.

Mishra claimed that Viroja had a friend in the RBI treasury who could help exchange notes in return for a three per cent commission. Viroja told Thakur that the RBI official would only undertake the task, if there was a minimum amount of ₹10 crore involved. When Thakur said that he just had ₹3.5 crore on him, Viroja said he'd try and work things out as he had to exchange ₹1.5 crore as well. He told him he'd facilitate a meeting if he came to Navi Mumbai.

The modus operandi

In his complaint, Thakur said that he and a friend went to Navi Mumbai on September 6. The duo had checked into a hotel, where a person named Moin Qadri met them and Viroja. Qadri said he knew the RBI treasurer, whom he identified as Sushil Kulkarni, and asked him to hand him over the money. Thakur insisted on meeting Kulkarni in person, and left for Gujarat the same day. On September 11, when he visited Navi Mumbai again, Qadri introduced Thakur to one Kulkarni, who said that he'd get the job done. He also asked Thakur to be in touch with Qadri.

Thakur returned to Navi Mumbai on September 25, and met Kulkarni, along with Viroja, the following day in Belapur. Both of them handed over the cash to him. Kulkarni



took the duo and Qadri in his car and headed towards the RBI office in Belapur. He stopped the car at a distance from the office, and asked them to wait till he generated a gate pass to enter. After a couple of hours, Kulkarni called them up, and said that a pick-up van, carrying new currency notes worth ₹5 crore, would arrive near the RBI gate. When the van arrived, Thakur demanded to check the cash, but Kulkarni told them not to open the bags in the van, as it was a high security zone and they could land into trouble. Qadri sat in the van, while Thakur and Viroja followed him, in another vehicle.

'We've been duped'

According to the FIR, when they reached Taloja, an Innova intercepted the van and got hold of Qadri, and took away the van, too. Thakur and Viroja, who were watching the scene from a distance got scared and returned to their hotel in Vashi. A few hours later, they got a call from Qadri, who claimed he had been caught by the Crime Branch and that their cash had been seized. Thakur suggested Viroja to go to the Crime Branch office and get information on the raid, but Viroja refused.

The following day, Kulkarni met them near the RBI office, Fort and handed over ₹1 crore to Thakur. On the same day he was asked to return that ₹1 crore. On October 2, when Thakur rang up Kulkarni, he was asked to get another cheque of ₹1 crore, if he needed the rest of the money back. Sensing something amiss, he met up with Viroja, who told him that they'd been duped and that they'd have to wait longer to get the money. Since then, Viroja too has gone into hiding.

Thakur then lodged a complaint with the CBD Belapur police station against Viroja, Qadri, and Kulkarni. "We have registered an FIR against the fraudsters under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the search is on," said Anil Patil, senior inspector, CBD Belapur police station.

Bandra woman loses ₹8.5 lakh over free thali

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EVEN after a consistent campaign has been launched to create awareness against cyber frauds by various authorities, people continue to get trapped. Recently, a woman from Bandra lost ₹8.46 lakh as she wanted to avail a one-time-free meal at a popular restaurant chain.

The 57-year-old resident of Hill Road in Bandra saw an advertisement on Wednesday on Facebook offering a thali (meal) for ₹200 and another thali for free at a restaurant chain. She clicked on the link given below and entered her debit card details. Soon, she received a call from a person named Deepak, who claimed to be calling from the head office of restaurant and messaged her a link.

The woman opened the link and once again entered her card details. She was then asked to download a screen-sharing application. It was only the next day when she realised that she was duped after finding several transaction alert messages. When she enquired with the bank, she found that a total ₹8.46 lakh had been withdrawn from her account in 27 multiple transactions.

The Bandra police has registered an offence of cheating under relevant sections of the IPC and Information Technology (IT) Act. The investigation is currently on.

The woman opened the link and once again entered her card details. She was then asked to download a screen-sharing application. It was only the next day when she realised that she was duped after finding transaction alert messages

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Sharing the limelight

HUSBAND-wife Ishita Moitra and Neeraj Udhwani are truly having a bumper Diwali weekend. Both of them had shows that released last Friday—Moitra is part of the writing team of *Four More Shots Please!* and Udhwani has directed *Tripling 3*. “We didn’t know that they would release on the same day. It was a happy coincidence,” said Udhwani, adding that at home, the energy is maniacal. Moitra says her heart is full. “There was a lot of nervousness, excitement and also a whole lot of self-doubt in the run up to this. We both periodically kept reassuring each other that both shows have an existing fan base, so it’s going to be fine. On Thursday, we attended each other’s premieres and cheered for one another. On Friday, there was a sense of calm, because both shows dropped, and have been accepted well by audiences.”



TOUGH CHOICE

A young woman ponders over Diwali lantern designs at a Matunga stall ahead of the festive weekend. PIC/SHADAB KHAN

Handmade with love

IF you are bored of the usual kandeel designs, available at every nook and cranny, find Sushant Birje outside the Mango store near Thane station. A photographer by profession, this Dombivli-based man, along with his friends, has been making beautiful kandeels for seven years. The kandeels made of handmade paper are available in a combination of colours and motifs, like peacock and elephant, that go far beyond the designs readily available. What makes them further interesting is that they are plastic free. This diarist met him earlier this week and instantly fell in love with the designs. He said that because they are full-time professionals, the kandeels are designed between work hours. He does not promote his work via social media, because designs get easily copied. The kandeel is priced at ₹550.



No short memories for Kalli's tall deeds

ALVIN Kallicharran, the former West Indies cricket captain, arrived on these shores earlier this week to be part of the 24x7 Omtex ICWC Cricket Institute. Kalli, as he is known to his friends, has always had a close association with India and is often spoken in the same breath as Sunil Gavaskar and Gundappa Viswanath when it comes to the finest short-statured batsmen of the 1970s and 1980s.

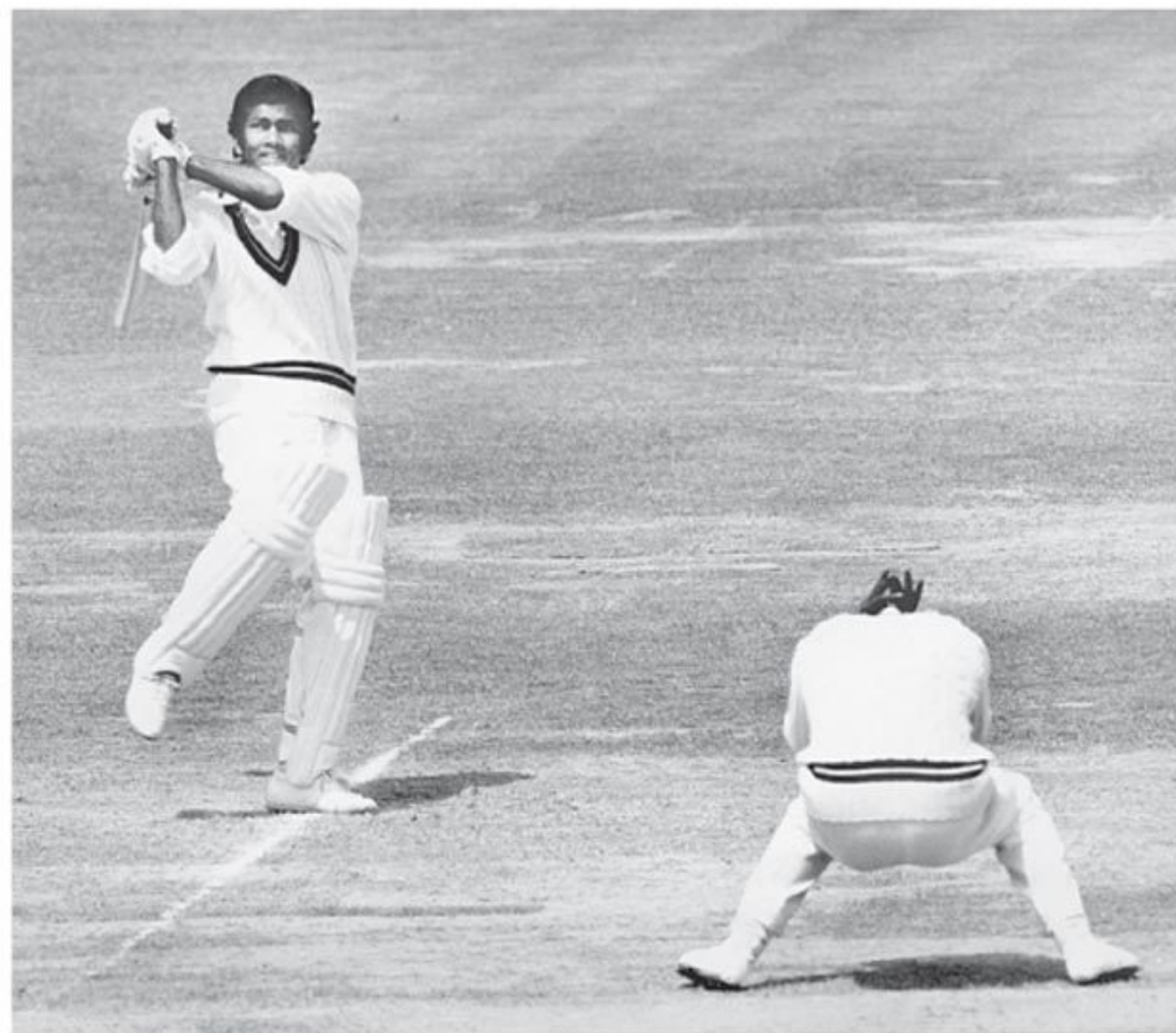
Like these two Indian masters, Kallicharran kicked off his international career with a flourish. Gavaskar amassed 774 runs in his debut Test series in the West Indies in 1970-71, while Viswanath carved a hundred on Test debut against a top Australian side at Kanpur in 1969-70.

Kallicharran smashed an unbeaten 100 on Test debut against New Zealand at Georgetown in 1971-72 and followed it up with another ton in the next game at Trinidad. Thus, he ended his maiden series with an impressive average of 109.50

and went on to serve West Indies for nearly a decade.

The southpaw probably didn't get the high billing he deserved in an era when Viv Richards and Clive Lloyd played in the same team as him. Kallicharran's Guyanese teammate Roy Fredericks was another

'little' batsman who could murder the best attacks in business. What's with these short men, cricket lovers may wonder. Probably, there is no explanation to genius and let's not forget Don Bradman, the greatest of all batsmen was not a tall man too.



West Indies' Alvin Kallicharran hooks while playing a game against Middlesex on July 5, 1973 at Lords Cricket Ground in London. PIC/GETTY IMAGES



(From left) S Mukherjee, V Dilawari, R Padamsee, M Kamat and R Potkar at the discussion. PIC/ASHISH RAJE

The culture culture tribe and vibe

THE cultural cognoscenti congregated on a late Thursday evening at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) museum for a panel discussion, Mumbai@75: Making of a Cultural Metropolis. The panellists, that included Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director General, CSMVS, Vikas Dilawari, conservation architect, Dr Manjiri Kamat, history professor, and Rochelle Potkar, writer-poet, all agreed that the city, where every inch is so precious, needs more spaces for cultural events. It was not all pessimistic though. In fact, the tenor

of the discussion, while admitting challenges of space and fund crunch was upbeat. Some statements eliciting cheers was that “the citizens were actively involved in building the heritage of this city.” Yet another stated that, “a museum has to evolve with the times. We are 100 years-old today, the history of the CSMVS is the history of Mumbai.” Another which resulted in some hurrahs was, “there should be no GST on tickets.” As the stimulating evening drew to a close, it was decided that all points need to be collated and then pushed through for policy change.

What an idea!

AN up and coming indie publishing house, Let's Author, is hoping to get readers to invest in books and authors, through a one-of-a-kind crowdfunding model. Started by Bengaluru entrepreneur Saumita Banerjee, Let's Author follows an open innovation approach. As per the model, a lead author proposes an idea for a book. They submit a proposal to Let's Author, which then builds an author team comprising writers. Following this, a crowdfunding campaign is launched. “The authors pitch the book idea to their networks and ask their support in making the book a reality. After the crowdfunding target is met, the authors

complete writing the book,” shares Banerjee. The first book is already under development.



One million tonne done, 6 to go

Processing of waste at Mulund dumping ground takes flight

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WHILE the process of closure of the Deonar dumping ground is still in limbo, the operation of closing down Mulund dumping ground is going ahead, one step at a time. Though there was a delay to start the project, it is now on track and out of the seven million tonne waste, one million tonne waste has already been processed.

The Mulund dumping ground has been closed since 2018. The contract was awarded in October 2018 with approximately seven million metric tons of waste on the ground. The project was supposed to be completed within six years. "The project was delayed



Mulund dumping ground

due to fulfilment of criteria to get various permissions from the authorities. The reasons for delay included inadequate machinery and the pandemic. Then things were figured out last year and it's now functioning," said an official from the BMC.

In 2018, the BMC appointed a consortium of Prakash Constrow-

ell Ltd, Infotech International Ltd and EB Enviro Biotech Pvt Ltd to process the waste at the dump using the latest technology for ₹731 crore. The closure of Mulund dumping ground was supposed to take place in phases over the period of six years. In the first year, the construction work was supposed to be completed and in the next five years, the garbage was to be processed.

"Now with half of the duration already completed, the contractor processed 1,05,005 tonnes till October 21," said an official from the Solid Waste Management of the BMC. He added, "Bio mining and disposal of around 24 lakh tonnes of waste is planned in the year 2022-23."

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The school of extraordinary children

A remote Zilla Parishad school, powered by the resolve of its lone teacher, is teaching three-year-olds multiplication tables up till 16, and producing students who can draw and solve maths simultaneously

Sunshine Story

DIPTI SINGH
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NASHIK: STUDENTS aged six to 13 write using both hands, and in two different languages; children in Class V to VII have multiplication tables up to 970 down to pat, sections of the Constitution are at the tip of their tongues, and solving a Rubik's cube is as easy as connect-the-dots. Not blue-blooded pupils of an international school or private school, these children go to the Zilla Parishad school (ZP) in Nashik's Hiwali village. And they can also name most highways and capitals of nations.

This is thanks to their teacher, Keshav Gavit. Instead of a decrepit structure, the Hiwali ZP school is colourful, surrounded by lush greenery, and covered in educational posters inside and outside. "If a child's attention wanders, everywhere s/he turns, they will only see educational material," says Gavit. There are just two classrooms and two small rooms, one of which houses 150 to 200 books, and the other serves as a project room. The students paint and decorate the school with Gavit's help. On a hillock close-by, they grow vegetables for their mid-day meal.

The school never shuts, and the learning does not slow down. If 36-year-old Gavit can't take class, one of the senior students takes over. "We were closed only for a week during the

pandemic," says Gavit. "However, since 'None of us travelled out of Thanapda or Hiwali; and on the parents' insistence, we opened the school and followed social distancing and hygiene.' When the monsoons flood the village, it shifts to a tent on a hillock that is fitted with solar panels to generate electricity.

Nothing stops this march to progress. "Because of this school, our children have dreams that we never dared to dream," says Haridas Usare, a farmer and daily-wage labourer. My daughter is in class X, and is already planning to become an IAS officer."

Gavit was posted at Hiwali ZP School in January 2009. Armed with an MA and D.Ed degree, he was appointed to the primary school. The village did not have proper roads, and the school building was falling apart. The

Where is Hiwali?

Hiwali is an adivasi pada (tribal village) located near the Maharashtra-Gujarat border. It is roughly 80 km from Nashik city, and has about 30 houses inhabited by 45 families. The 215 people belong to Kokna and Mahadev Koli tribes. No one in the village has a permanent job; they rely on farming and temporary employment to make a living.



The school never shuts. If the teacher can't take class, one of the senior students takes over. When the monsoon floods the village, it shifts to a tent on a hillock which is fitted with solar panels to generate electricity. PICS/SATEJ SHINDE

Zilla Parishad had no funds to help. He first tackled the structure, and raised money by contributing personally; the villagers and the NGO Give added to the kitty. Give also took care of stationary, uniforms and other educational paraphernalia.

"After this 30-35 mile stretch, hardly anyone knows about Hiwali," says Gavit, who lives 13 km away in Thanapada. "There were no roads, no electricity, no phone connections, and water supply concerns. Shops selling necessities are 30 to 35 kilometres away." Gavit trekked 16 km to and fro every day until 2016, over hilly terrain, to do his job. When pukka roads were finally laid, he could use transport.

The school had only nine students, of which many would join their parents in the morning to look for work. "Only four to five kids were regular," he says. "I began with fundamental learning and writing exercises. After 2014, we had more children from Class I to Class IV. They could read and write not only Marathi, but also English." He showed the villagers the difference in pace of progress of the children who were regular, to those who were not. This convinced the villagers to send their children to school. By 2016, the students were reciting multiplication tables. This caught the attention of the zilla parishad, which began encouraging and supporting them.

Gavit's education encompasses life-skills such as solving the Rubik's cube and general knowledge which boosts self worth. The children sing village songs such as the popular Bapu

nana, Shembde nana. The older students teach the lower classes English poems.

When Kailash Pagare—an IAS officer and project director at Samagra Shiksha (Maharashtra)—visited the school last month, he noticed the children had brought art into their homes. "They painted Warli scenes on the walls of all the huts in the village."

Maya Shantaram Kirkire lives with her parents and her little brother. Like all others, they don't have a steady flow of income, but that doesn't stop the 11-year-old from dreaming of being an IAS officer. "Our school is very beautiful," she says. "I get to learn new things every day and it's our responsibility to

It shows how a teacher's efforts can transform a [brick-and-mortar] school, students, and even a village, regardless of the remoteness of its location and lack of resources. We will determine which strategies can be replicated to be applied in other schools. I had planned on staying for half-an-hour, but ended up spending three hours

Kailash Pagare, IAS officer and Project director at Samagra Shiksha (Maharashtra)



decorate the school. We don't sit in one place all day like in the other schools, we keep doing different things, and keep changing our places. When I become an IAS officer, I will not only solve the problems in our village, but also across the country."

Her friend Lalita Waghmare is also determined to better herself and her family's situation through education. "My mother says there is no way we can have a better life if I do not go to school," says the 12-year-old. "She's right. I will be able to help my family only if I study and get a job. I hope I can help other students like me."

But is it boring to study for nearly 12 hours every day? Pat comes the reply from class I student Darshan More: "Mala shalet khup majja yete; khau bheto, shikayala milta. [I have fun in school. I get snacks and I get to learn]." He can recite tables up to 55.

Pagare was left speechless on his visit when a 13-year-old marched up to him and asked him how to become an IAS officer.

Gavit has taught all his students to be ambidextrous. But for those in Balwadi (kindergarten), practically all of them write using both hands. They can also write in Hindi and English, simultaneously. Some of them write with one hand while drawing with the other.

"We practise writing with both hands daily for an hour," says 13-year-old Kiran Bhoje, who can write and draw at the same time. Three-year-olds, who start school, are encouraged to scribble with both hands. Gavit got the idea from the Internet. "I saw a video clip from Madhya Pradesh, which inspired my experiment," he says. "They happily took to it, and needed to practice only for four-five month to master it. Now I want to answer two question papers simultaneously; they will finish their exam paper in half the time. It will be very helpful in competitive exams."

Continued on page 08



Children as young as three can rattle off multiplication tables up to 16; Class I and II students can take it to beyond 100; (right) Maya Shantaram Kirkire's family doesn't have a steady flow of income, but the 11-year-old is intent on becoming an IAS officer





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MATHERAN QUEEN RETURNS

After a few years of no show, the Matheran Queen train resumed service on Saturday taking excited tourists up the hill. The toy train starts from Neral railway station. PIC/SATEJ SHINDE



BMC to help solve your debris problem

BAKULESH TRIVEDI
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IT'S common for residents to collect the debris that is generated during Diwali renovations in small gunny bags, which leads to the society taking objection and fining homeowners for the same. But BMC has come up with a solution. The civic body has announced that it will collect this debris after Diwali. This scheme has received a good response in the 'F' ward of the Matunga Central area.

Speaking with mid-day, F ward Assistant Commissioner Gajanan Bellale said, "According to the policy, debris can't be thrown in the garbage van. If anyone is caught, the BMC will fine them. The Deonar dumping ground has a placed reserved for such debris, and the BMC has appointed contractors to collect it. Many societies are opting for this scheme."

F Ward Solid Management Department Assistant Engineer Sachin Gaikwad said, "Citizens can take benefit of this scheme. We have sent pamphlets to all residents so that they can get the contact number of all contractors."

Debris from Diwali renovations can't be thrown in garbage vans

SOS booths dead on Mum-Ahmd NH

Businessman Cyrus Mistry met with a fatal accident on this highway last month

PRAKASH BAMBROLIYA
prakash.bambhroliya@mid-day.com

AS many as 50 emergency booths installed on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad national highway to be useful in times of emergency, now lay dead and dysfunctional. Called Save Our Souls (SOS) booths, they come with a button which when pressed alert emergency services to rush to the spot. But an on-ground investigation by this mid-day reporter has unearthed shocking conditions, where even the telephones installed inside these booths have been stolen.

According to statistics, around 30,000 vehicles ply on the highway daily, and on a mere stretch of 120 km between Dahisar checknaka and Gujarat border, about 250 accidents take place on an average every year.

This reporter could locate only a few SOS booths on either side of the highway, and none of them had a working system. "All booths installed on the highway for emergency purposes are now dysfunctional and the telephones have been stolen. There is no maintenance being done either. To make up for this loss, signboards with emergency contacts like that of the police



30K
No. of vehicles plying on the highway daily

250
No. of accidents on an average in a year

and ambulance have been put up," a police officer stationed at the highway told mid-day.

He added, "To get through the emergency numbers is sometimes very difficult when the location is practically a no man's land on the highway. But with the SOS booths and the buttons fixed therein, the location of the emergency would reach the control room, police and medical services in real time."

Continued from page 06

Children as young as three can rattle off multiplication tables up to 16; Class I and II students can take it to beyond 100. Seven to eight children from Class IV and V students go up to 970.

"This helps us with mental maths," says 13-year-old Maheswari Bhoje, who studies in class VII. "It's tough initially, but once you know the tables up to 100 and 200, you know the trick to calculate quickly in your mind. The numbers start flowing once you practise every day. I couldn't believe that I was able to multiply up to 970." We asked her for a short demo with the number 969, and she was neither hesitant nor incorrect.

"The next goal is to know tables up to 1,000 by December," says Gavit, and looks at the students. "YES!" they all agree. Gavit's daughter Anya, who just turned three, can answer 237 random general knowledge questions she and her father practice on their school run. These include capitals of state and countries, names of places, national animals and national heroes, national and international leaders, women achievers and mathematical questions. Kartavya, his nephew (also three years old), can recite tables up to 16 just like Anya.

Important sections of the Indian Penal Code, and clauses from the Constitution are written on the walls of the small room that serves as the school library. A seven-year-old can tell you more about a particular IPC section or constitutional clause as well as a 13-year-old. "Zilla Parishad officials and other visitors are astonished how students have these at the tip of their tongues, when randomly," Gavit makes no effort to hide the pride he takes in his students. He encourages them to read different kinds of books, because of which they are ahead of their age and grade on the learning curve.

Prakash Bhivsan, the local head of the Schools Management and Improvement committee bears witness to these achievements. "Ten years ago, I would not have believed this was possible," he says. "We have seen their talents grow and skills progress. Our students are on par with those of any urban school."

"I had heard about this school," says Pagare, "and we promote similar case studies through Samagra Shiksha. On my visit last month, I was left impressed by the abilities of the students. It shows how a



The children of the school grow their own vegetables, which are then used to make their mid-day meals



Gavit has taught all his students to be ambidextrous. They can also write in Hindi and English, simultaneously



The only teacher at the school, Keshav Gavit, started teaching in January 2009. He is armed with an MA and D.Ed and lives in Thanapada

teacher's efforts can transform a [brick-and-mortar] school, students, and even a village, regardless of the remoteness of location and lack of resources. The aim of my visit was to determine strategies or methods which can be replicated in other schools. I had planned on staying for half-an-hour, but ended up spending three hours talking to them and watching their skills. Their cursive writing is so neat and beautiful."

In 2019, the NGO Give took two girls from the school to Nashik city, where a coach taught them how to solve the Rubik's cube. Those girls, in turn, taught the others in school.

Most students, save for those in kindergarten, can harmonise the cube in less than two minutes; a few just need one.

"Even I can't solve the Rubik's cube yet," admits Gavit. "But these kids need no effort at all. The little ones just play with it for now, but I'm sure they will learn it very soon too. The [mental] exercise helps them focus and stay determined. They can apply that to studies too."

Vaishali Veer, the district Education Officer for Nashik and Deputy Director of Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (MPSP) Mumbai says the school is a model for others. "The progress of the Hiwali ZP School is due to years of effort and determination by Keshav Gavit," she says. "The students' enthusiasm and active participation by villagers have brought about the kind of transformation elite urban schools may want to study and replicate. Located in such a remote and backward region, these students are a ray of hope for many."

The students' enthusiasm and active participation by villagers has brought about the kind of transformation elite urban schools may want to study and replicate

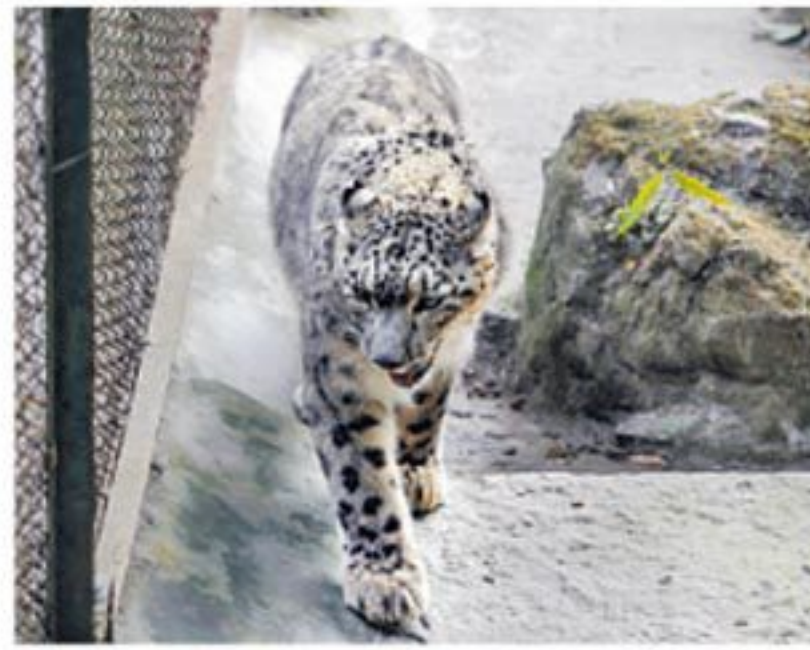
Vaishali Veer, (Nashik) District Education Officer & Deputy Director of Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad



Snow leopards cross 100 mark in Uttarakhand

Only 12 countries in the world have snow leopards and India is one of them. In the last survey held in 2016, 86 leopards were found in the state

REPRESENTATION PIC/GETTY IMAGES



RISHIKESH: The number of snow leopards has increased to 121 in Uttarakhand, according to the latest census.

State's Chief Wildlife Warden Samir Sinha said the 2022 snow leopard census was conducted on the orders of the Centre and it has shown encouraging results.

Eighty-six snow leopards were found in the state when the last such census was conducted six years ago.

Expressing happiness over the results of the census, Uttarakhand Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal said conservation of wildlife in the state is in the right direction and it will give

further impetus to wildlife tourism in the future.

Only 12 countries in the world have snow leopards and India is one of them. The population of snow leopards in these countries is estimated to be between 3,000 and 7,000. In the 2016 census, 516 snow leopards were found in India.

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TIRED OF ABUSE, 12 OF DALIT FAMILY DECIDE TO CONVERT

KOTA: Twelve members of a Dalit family in Rajasthan's Baran district have converted to Buddhism. The family reportedly took the decision after they failed to get the name of the sarpanch's husband incorporated as an accused in an assault case despite submitting a memorandum to the superintendent of police. They took the oath of conversion and floated the idols and pictures of Hindu deities into the Baithli river of the village.

'KERALA REPLACING PUNJAB AS DRUG CAPITAL'

KOCHI: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Saturday said the state is replacing Punjab as the "capital of drugs" and felt ashamed that the two main sources of revenue of the southern state were lottery and alcohol. "I, as the head of the state, feel ashamed that the two main sources of revenue of my state are lottery and alcohol. What is a lottery? Only very poor people buy lottery tickets. You are robbing them. You are making your people addicted to alcohol," Khan said.

'DON'T GO ON STRIKES, TIE BLACK RIBBON INSTEAD'



JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday appealed to the doctors to not go on strikes every time they have a demand and instead tie a black ribbon to express displeasure to avoid any inconvenience to the patients. Gehlot also assured that there will be no shortage of funds for the medical sector as it is a top priority of the state government.

CYCLONE 'SITRANG' LIKELY TO BE FORMED BY OCT 24

BHUBANESWAR: A low-pressure area over the north Andaman sea that on Saturday intensified into a depression, around 1,460 km south-southeast of Sagar Island in West Bengal, is expected to take the shape of a cyclonic storm by October 24, the IMD said in its bulletin. The IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the deep sea area of central Bay of Bengal from Saturday, and along and off Odisha and Bengal coasts between October 23 and 26.

AGENCIES

15 killed, 40 injured as UP-bound bus rams into truck in MP

Bus was carrying labourers who were heading home for Diwali

REWA: Fifteen persons were killed and 40 others injured after an Uttar Pradesh-bound private bus, mostly carrying labourers going home for Diwali, rammed into a trailer-truck from behind in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Saturday.

The accident occurred around 11.30 pm on Friday near Teonthar town, when the bus was going to Gorakhpur from Hyderabad, they said.

The bus, a sleeper coach, was negotiating a mountain road in Sohagi ghati, about 60 km from the district headquarters, when it rammed into the trailer-truck on national highway-30, Rewa Superintendent of Police (SP) Navneet Bhasin said.

The impact of the crash was so severe that the bodies of the bus driver and conductor had to be pulled out with the help of gas cutters, Bhasin said.

Rewa district collector Manoj Pushp said 12 persons were killed on the spot, and two others succumbed while being taken to a hospital from Teonthar to Rewa. Later, one more person died at the hospital in Rewa, he said.

While most of the injured persons were admitted to a

NH30

the highway where the accident took place



Wrecked remains of the bus, (bottom) an injured survivor. PICS/PTI

hospital in Teonthar, those who suffered serious injuries were shifted to Rewa, the SP said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the bus accident.

In a tweet, the PMO said, "The PM has announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF for the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000."

One of the bus passengers, Subhash Choudhary, said he was going to his hometown Maharajganj in UP from Hyderabad to celebrate Diwali, but the accident left him shattered.

"I was fast asleep and celebrating Diwali in my dream. I woke up to a loud thud. In a second or two, cries like 'God save me, God help me' resonated in our bus," he said, adding,



"My dream soon turned into a nightmare. I was writhing in pain and there were several others like me. I saw helpless people in pools of blood inside the bus." Choudhary suffered injuries on his hand and legs and is being treated in a hospital in Rewa.

AGENCIES

PM Modi inaugurates Rozgar Mela, appointment letters given to 75,000

He also remarked that the 100-year-old problem of unemployment cannot be solved in 100 days

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that completion of the process of selection for lakhs of vacancies in a few months and issuing appointment letters is an indication of the change that the government system has undergone in the last seven-eight years.

He made these observations while virtually inaugurating a Rozgar Mela, where appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 newly inducted appointees.

The Prime Minister also shared that keeping in mind the 75 years of independence, the Central government is giving appointment letters to 75,000 youngsters under a programme. "Today marks the day when a new link in the form of Rozgar Mela is being anchored to the employment and self-employment campaigns in the country that are going on for the last eight years."

PM Modi further said that the Government had provided assistance of more than ₹3 lakh crore to MSME sector during the pandemic, which helped prevent loss of crores of jobs. He also informed that the Centre is focussed on manufacturing and tourism sectors as they generate maximum jobs.

"India is today the fifth largest economy in the world. In

India, with full force, new initiatives and some risks, has been trying to save itself from the global crisis

PM Narendra Modi



the last eight years, we have jumped to the fifth position from the tenth position. It's true that many big economies of the world are struggling with inflation, unemployment... side effects of the biggest crisis in 100 years cannot just go away in 100 days," PM Modi said in his virtual address.

He added that despite the challenges, "India, with full force, new initiatives and some risks, has been trying to save itself from the global crisis. We've been able to save ourselves till now with your cooperation. We have, in the last eight years, minimised the issues which created obstacles in our way".

The Prime Minister also recalled the days when applying for government jobs was a cumbersome process and favouritism and corruption were rampant in selections. He said that the steps during the initial years of his government, like self-attestation and abolition of interviews in Group C and Group D posts of the Central Government, have helped the youth.

AGENCIES

26-year-old techie gang-raped in Jharkhand, 12 detained

CHAIBASA: A 26-year-old software engineer was allegedly raped by a group of 10 men in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, police said on Saturday.

The woman, who works at a well-known IT company, was out with her boyfriend on a two-wheeler on Thursday evening when a group of eight men stopped the couple. They allegedly beat up the boyfriend and raped the woman after taking her to a secluded spot, police said.

After raping her, they left her at the spot and fled, and took away her wallet and mobile phone. The woman somehow managed to reach home,

and told her family about the incident after which they filed a police complaint. Her medical check-up was conducted at the Sadar Hospital.

Twelve people have been detained for interrogation in connection with the incident.

The BJP demanded Chief Minister Hemant Soren's resignation over the incident.

AGENCIES

On Thursday evening, the woman was out with her boyfriend when 8-10 men stopped the couple, beat up the boyfriend and raped the woman

'Going to Delhi soon, wait and watch'

CHITRADURGA: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said he will soon be travelling to New Delhi to meet BJP central leadership to discuss the cabinet exercise, but maintained suspense on whether it will be expansion or reshuffle of the Ministry.

He said the BJP high command will finally decide on who has to be inducted into the cabinet.

When asked whether opportunity will be given to seniors from the district, who have been subjected to "step motherly" treatment, he said, "it is not step motherly treatment. Due to political situation, representation could not be given [to Chitradurga], will try to



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai

give representation."

Responding to a question on whether it will be expansion or reshuffle of the cabinet, he merely said, "wait and watch."

Earlier, Bommai on Tuesday had said that he will be travelling to New Delhi this week to discuss with the party leader-

ship on the cabinet exercise.

The CM has been under intense pressure for some time now, over expansion and rejig of Cabinet not taking place, to make way for the fresh faces, ahead of assembly elections next year.

Though there were reports of Cabinet expansion by filling in six vacant posts or some kind of a rejig by dropping a few and inducting equal number of new faces as well as talks that there might be Gujarat-like top to bottom overhaul of the state ministry, nothing has happened so far, and many aspirants feel it is "too late now" with polls fast approaching.

AGENCIES



Former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak outside his home in London on Saturday. PIC/AP

Rishi Sunak hits 100 MPs mark, gets shortlisted for UK PM

LONDON: Rishi Sunak's supporters claimed on Saturday that the Indian-origin former chancellor has hit the threshold of 100 members of Parliament required to make it to the shortlist for the race to replace Liz Truss as Conservative Party leader and British PM.

The 42-year-old frontrunner's tally continues to grow even as former Prime Minister Boris Johnson flies back from his Caribbean holiday to also join the contest. Johnson was pictured

by a news agency on a flight back to London from the Dominican Republic with his wife and children. Boris Johnson has enough support to enter the race to become Britain's next prime minister, his ally and Conservative lawmaker James Duddridge said on Saturday, reporting that the former leader had reached the 100 endorsement threshold.

Neither Sunak nor Johnson have officially declared their intention to contest the leadership election, yet the Leader of the

Commons Penny Mordaunt is the only candidate to formally announce her candidacy so far. However, the former finance minister has taken a comfortable lead with some heavyweight ministers and MPs from different factions of the Tory party throwing their weight behind

him. The betting odds also continue to rise in his favour.

"Rishi had the right plan in the summer and I think it is the right plan now," former Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said. "I think he is the best-placed candidate to provide some stability, to provide con-

fidence for the millions of workers and businesses up and down the country," he said. Raab also warned against a comeback by the party gate scandal-hit former leader, Johnson, just over three months after being forced to resign, pointing out that the UK Parliament is still conducting an inquiry.

There is widespread speculation among backers of both candidates that Sunak and Johnson may strike some kind of a deal.

AGENCIES

Rishi had the right plan in the summer and I think it is the right plan now. He is the best placed candidate

Dominic Raab, former Deputy Prime Minister

Browser INDO-CANADIAN MAN JAILED FOR KILLING GF

TORONTO: An Indo-Canadian man, who accidentally shot and killed his girlfriend and then tried to burn her body, has been sentenced to seven years in prison in Canada's British Columbia province, a media report said on Saturday. British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Jeanne Watchuck sentenced Harjot Singh Deo to five years on Tuesday for manslaughter and two for the indignity charges to be served consecutively as they were two separate occurrences.

HURRICANE ROSLYN HEADS TO MEXICO'S COAST

MEXICO CITY: Hurricane Roslyn grew to Category 3 force on Saturday as it headed for a collision with Mexico's Pacific coast, likely north of the resort of Puerto Vallarta. The US National Hurricane Centre said Roslyn's maximum sustained winds had increased to 120 mph early on Saturday, and it was expected to grow still further.

AUS TO INCREASE FINES FOR DATA BREACHES

CANBERRA: Australian companies that fail to protect customers' data will face fines worth tens of millions of dollars under new laws proposed by the government, Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said on Saturday. Dreyfus said he would introduce legislation to Parliament that will increase the maximum fines for serious or repeated data breaches from the current limit of A\$2.2 million. Under the changes, the maximum penalty will become A\$50 million or 30 per cent of a company's turnover in the relevant period, or three times the value of any financial benefit obtained through the misuse of data, whichever is highest.

AGENCIES

Chinese Prez Xi Jinping to start his third term

The once-in-a-five-year National Congress, held on Saturday, saw the formation of a newly formed Central Committee

BEIJING: Chinese president Xi Jinping is all set to start his unprecedented third term with even greater concentration of power as he is retiring top Chinese Communist Party leaders to make way for his own allies.

The once-in-five-year National Congress was concluded on Saturday. The Congress revealed newly-formed Central Committee, the party's main leadership body. Of the 205 members listed, only 11 are women. Xi's name is included in the list of new Central Committee members. The newly-formed Central Committee will select a new slate of top leaders, and Xi were appointed as CCP's general secretary today. The Chinese Premier, the second most powerful official after Xi, is not listed in the new Central Committee, which means that Li will retire

The party's newly formed leadership body, Central Committee had 205 members listed, including Xi Jinping and only 11 were women



Chinese President Xi and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the closing ceremony of the 20th National Congress of China's ruling Communist Party. PIC/AP

from his party role. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and three other members of the elite Politburo Standing Committee of the ruling Communist Party were excluded.

At the closing ceremony of Chinese national Congress, the Communist Party claimed Taiwan as its territory, despite the fact that they have never controlled it. Meanwhile, today, during the closing ceremony of National Congress, former Chinese president Hu Jintao was unexpectedly escorted out of

the "Great Hall of the People" in Beijing. The reason is unclear as to why the Chinese leader was removed, and more details were awaited.

Today, the new members of the party's Standing Committee will make their first appearance in the "Great Hall of the People," where the entire 20th National congress took place, and is expected to confirm Xi's step into a norm-breaking third term and cement his place as China's most powerful leader in decades.

AGENCIES

Russian authorities order evacuation of Kherson

KYIV: Russian-installed authorities ordered all residents of the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson to leave immediately on Saturday ahead of an expected advance by Ukrainian troops waging a counteroffensive to recapture the occupied area.

In a Telegram post, the regional pro-Kremlin administration called on civilians to use boat crossings over the Dnieper River to move deeper into Russian-held territory, citing a tense situation on the front and the threat of shelling and alleged terror attacks by Kyiv.

Kherson has been in Russian hands since the early days of the invasion in February. The city is the capital of a region of the same name, one of four Russian President Vladimir Putin



A woman was welcomed after she left Russian occupied Kherson. PIC/AFP

illegally annexed last month.

The region's Kremlin-backed authorities previously announced plans to evacuate all Russian-appointed officials and as many as 60,000 civilians across the river, in what local leader Volodymyr Saldo said would be an "organised, gradual displacement."

AGENCIES

East Iran sees new protests

DUBAI: A city in Iran that was the scene of a bloody crackdown last month awoke to new destruction on Saturday, after tensions erupted the day before. In Zahedan, a southeastern city, protests after Friday prayers left the city battered.

Shops gaped open to the street, their windows smashed. Sidewalks were littered with broken glass. ATMs were damaged. Cleaning crews came out, sweeping debris from vandalised stores. The outburst of protests in Zahedan came as demonstrations

across Iran continue over the September 16 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police.

Although the protests first focused on the country's mandatory hijab, they have transformed into the greatest challenge to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement over disputed elections. Security forces have dispersed gatherings with live ammunition and tear gas, leaving over 200 people dead, according to rights groups.

AGENCIES

Inflation protests across Europe threaten political turmoil



Protesters burn symbolic energy bills in Birmingham. PIC/AP

LONDON: In Romania, protesters blew horns and banged drums to voice their dismay over the rising cost of living. People across France took to the streets to demand pay increases that keep pace with inflation.

Czech demonstrators rallied against government handling of the energy crisis. British railway staff and German pilots held strikes to push for better pay as prices rise.

Across Europe, soaring inflation is behind a wave of

protests and strikes that underscores growing discontent with the spiralling cost of living and threatens to unleash political turmoil.

Energy prices have driven inflation in the 19 countries that use the Euro currency to a record 9.9 per cent, making it harder for people to buy what they need.

Energy prices have driven inflation in the 19 countries that use Euro currency

Some see little choice but to hit the streets. "Today, people are obliged to use pressure tactics in order to get an increase in pay," said Rachid Ouchem, a medic who was among more than 1,00,000 people that joined protest marches this week in multiple French cities.

The fallout from the war in Ukraine has sharply raised the risk of civil unrest in Europe, according to risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft.

AGENCIES

Chhello story of light beyond bollywood

MEENAKSHI SHEDDE

PAN Nalin's *Chhello Show* (Last Film Show, an Indo-French collaboration in Gujarati), India's entry for the Oscars, is a nostalgic love letter to cinema, as seen on nearly-vanished, 35-mm celluloid film, in single screen cinema theatres. It's a coming of age drama that was at the Tribeca and BFI London Film Festivals. Perfectly timed, as exhibitors try to lure OTT-addicted audiences back to the theatres with the magic of the big screen, the film is now running in all-India cinemas. Tragically, there's hardly any public cinema in India regularly showing 35-mm celluloid prints, apart from the National Film Archive of India theatre in Pune, or similar. Ironically, *Chhello Show*, shot in glorious 1:2.35 ratio or 'Cinemascope' (think *Sholay*), is a tribute to celluloid film that was shot digitally on an Arri Alexa.



Samay (Bhavin Rabari), 9, growing up in Chalala, a small village in Gujarat, bunks school to watch movies at Galaxy cinema. He exchanges his dabba (Lunchbox, remember?) with the projectionist Fazal (Bhavesh Shrimali), who lets him watch films

from the projection room. A Gujarati Cinema Paradiso that draws from Giuseppe Tornatore's 1988 film, it extends the story of a kid and a film projectionist, with a reflection on the evolution of cinema itself.

Gujarati cinema prefers tawdry melodrama; a decade or two can pass between artistic Gujarati films: Ketan Mehta's *Bhavni Bhavai*, 1981, Sanjiv Shah's *Hun Hunshi Hunshilal* (Love in the Time of Malaria), 1992, Gyan Correa's *The Good Road*, India's Oscar entry, 2013, and Abhishek Shah's *Hellaro* (National Film Award for Best Feature Film), 2019. Pan Nalin—originally Nalin Kumar Pandya from Adtala village, Gujarat, but long based in Paris—who has made films in Tibetan, Ladakhi, English and Hindi, finally makes a film in Gujarati.

Nalin has always had a sharp instinct for what makes India exotic for the Western gaze; his films include *Khajuraho*, *Tulkus*, *Devadasi*, *Ayurveda: Art of Being*, *Samsara*, *Valley of Flowers* and *Faith Connections* (he later made *Angry Indian Goddesses*); that gaze holds here too. This contrasts with the approach of, say, Shivendra Singh Dungar-

pur's documentary *Celluloid Man*. In *Chhello Show*, writer-director Nalin directs with assurance a story that is partly autobiographical, if faltering a few times. The kitchen is set in the verandah to better shoot food recipes in bright tropical colours, never mind if a Gujarati dish is translated as spinach ravioli, and there are shots of *Gir lions*. "I want to study light, because light becomes stories, and stories become films," is a profound line, but it sounds odd being spouted by a Gujarati village kid selling tea. There's the conceit of the hero being called *Samay* (time); he's the son of a chaiwallah; interesting, coming in the era of a Supreme Leader, also originally from the same state and profession, retro-glorifying the chaiwallah. But in fairness, Nalin, by including a Muslim projectionist, Fazal, quietly emphasises how our love of cinema is inclusive and secular.

The screenplay doesn't create enough emotional investment in the Samay-Fazal relationship that will transform Samay's life. Yet, it creates moments of wonder, and observes the harsh impact of advancing technology: a small digital box replaces Fazal, the enormous projection machine and reels. Nalin also addresses caste: high caste Samay's dad allows him to see



films only if they are religious, like *Jai Mahakali*. We willingly suspend disbelief during those marvellous moments when the kids do *jugaad* and create their own theatre in an abandoned building, projecting silent film bits and creating their own soundtrack. But it's hard to do the same when Samay mentions greats like *Guru Dutt* and *Kamal Amrohi*.

Dilip Shankar takes risks, casting key protagonists Bhavin Rabari, a Rabari tribal, as Samay, and Bhavesh Shrimali as Fazal: the screenplay makes neither attractive nor lovable as such, yet their screen presence holds you. Richa Meena and Dipen Rawal are OK as Samay's parents.

Cinematographer Swapnil Sonawane's use of 'Cinemas-

cope' immediately envelops us; he shoots in warm, glowing colours, with many wonderful moments, including a remarkable sequence as *Samay* watches the passing landscape from a train with new eyes. Editor Shreyas Beltangdy and Pavan Bhat keep us fairly engrossed. Music composer Cyril Morin and sound designers Gilles Benardeau and Harikumar M Nair are effective. The producers/backers include Roy Kapur Films, Orange Studio (France), *Jugaad* and *Monsoon Films*; Samuel Goldwyn Films is the US distributor. The women's contribution includes CoProducers Virginie Lacombe and Malvika Khatri, costume designer Sia Seth and production designer consultant Namra Parikh. Recommended.

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Love song for hectic hearts? paro-normal activity

PAROMITA VOHRA

WHAT could be wrong with a festive heart? A lot, we were informed, after Durga puja. Bengalis were reeling from festive heart syndrome, said the papers. I snorted, exercising all the rights bestowed on me by my quarter Bengali ancestry, to mock Bengalis—"finally they're ambling on from ombol." 'Festive' heart troubles apparently result from too much roaming, shouting, sweating in silks, jolly-bolly, and of course mutton, mithai, mathri and whisky-shisky yaniki average desi holiday behaviour. Later, one of those online accounts which are always trying to reform us with a perpendicular air, informed ki it is properly called hectic heart syndrome. When are our hearts not hectic, one might ask. Isn't that



the job description?

Earlier, we would read about depression during Christmas among those in cold countries. Festival sadness, lonely heart syndrome now has crept up in these parts around Diwali we are told, it being considered a family festival. Capitalism unites us in gloom. But, isn't it true that despite celebration, festivals are also always a sharp time of missing someone. A loved one no longer in the world, a friend no longer a friend you wish, a you no longer so simple. This year I miss the golden oriole that arrived at the end of the rains in the tree outside my window. The tree died. The oriole is here, but I've not glimpsed its flashes of handsome yellow, only heard it singing each morning in some other tree. I guess I must content myself with that.

Maybe it's easier to let the heart do the missing it needs to

rather than hectically avoiding it. The season almost invites us to this with its lengthening lines of light sloping down towards winter and its quiet, deepening colours filling the bazaar. Papayas and guavas lie splayed open, cut in star-shapes to reveal their deep amber and pearly pink insides. The carts are full of things you must patiently wait to have peeled, hot-pink shrimp, smelling salty and pungent and sunshine-yellow pineapples filling the air with sticky sweetness, urging you to unite them in a passionate salad. The shy green of pears, the artless orange of tangerines, the stoic red of apples, the expensive maroon of grapes are holding up their round cheeks for you to gently cup. The greens are dark and bitter as truth, but healthful and helpful, methi's bob-cut leaves, fat poi shaak, before-time mustard and silky-fingered green garlic. Prices can give you some hectic heart of course, but you can still walk home with an armload of Nature's Diwali presents (and one kandeel).



You can cook them with recipes that take time, so you have their company as you contemplate all your missing and your limits and disappointments and maybe some hoping-shopping love-shove, cook it all down into a sharp and savoury or bitter-sweet dish, that gentles your heartbeat, why not? Autumnal festivals come with a bellyful of second chances—all about

harvesting what you've sown and well, a cascade of lunar new years, but a bit of ongoing solar year available, as if to say chances come round again like the orioles in neighbouring trees and fruits in the bazaar. Maybe you will take one, maybe you will make one. Dekh lo.

I wish you lots of second chances this Diwali then. And gentle heart syndrome.

Paromita Vohra is an award-winning Mumbai-based filmmaker, writer and curator working with fiction and non-fiction. Reach her at paromita.vohra@mid-day.com

Distracted by Balaram's beauty

devlok

DEVDUPT PATTANAIAK



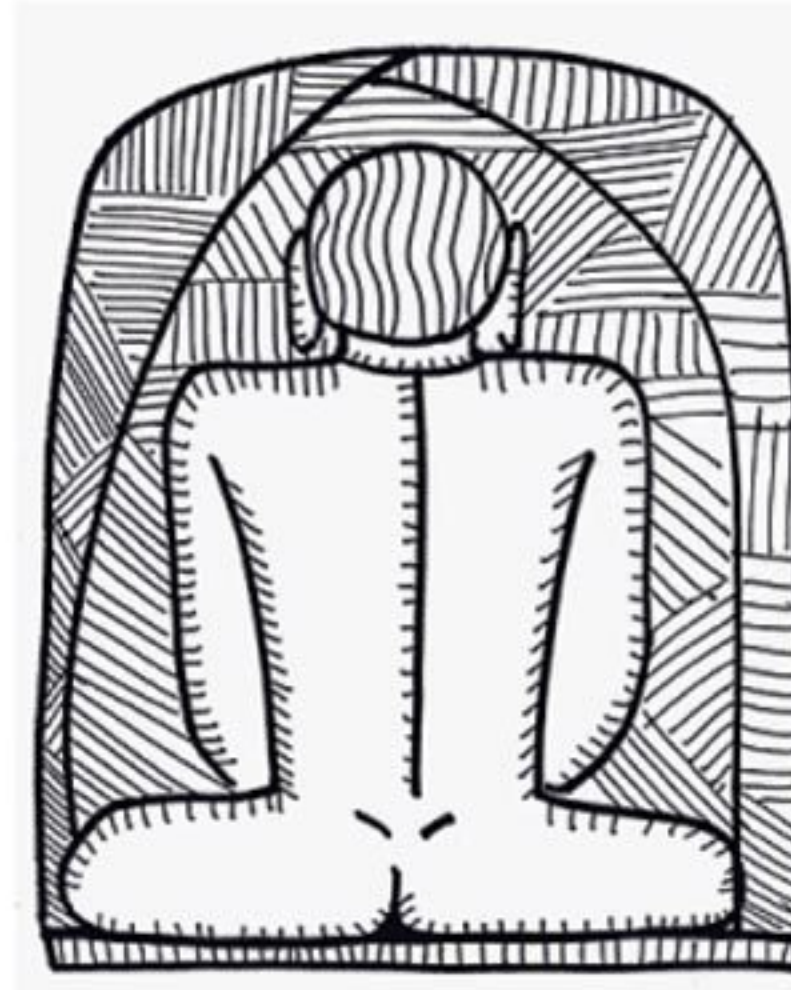
STORIES of men smitten by the beauty of women are common. Stories of women smitten by the beauty of men are rare.

In Persian lore, we hear the story of Yusuf (biblical Joseph), the son of Yaqub (Jacob). Yusuf was a very nice person, very handsome, extremely talented, much loved by his father, to the point that his brothers became jealous and sold him in slavery in Egypt. Yusuf was bought by an Egyptian General whose wife Zulekha fell in love with Yusuf. In the Christian story, the wife tries to seduce Joseph, but fails and which is why he's thrown in prison. But in the Persian story, this love is true and not just based on lust.

There is a gossip in the city that Zulekha is in love with a slave and embarrassed Zule-

kha calls all the women in the city to her house to eat, and she places fruits and knives in front of them as refreshments. As the women are cutting the fruit she asks Yusuf to enter and display his beauty to all the women. The stunning looks of the slave distract the women to the point that instead of cutting fruit, they start cutting their own hands and do not feel the pain. When they leave the women look at their blood soaked hands and realise the beauty of Yusuf and realise Zulekha is not to blame. Perhaps this is a Persian commentary demanding men to cover their faces for the safety of women, just as women are asked to cover their heads to protect men from temptation.

At Mangi-Tungi hills in Northern Maharashtra near Nashik is a very unique image of a Jain sage meditating with his back to the people. Jains identify this image with that of Balaram (Padma), the brother of Krishna, as described in the Jain



ILLUSTRATION/DEVDUPT PATTANAIAK

Harivamsa Purana (Jain Mahabharata). He was so handsome that looking at him, women would not be able to work. One day Balaram noticed a woman staring at him, while drawing water from a well. Distracted by his looks, she was looping the rope around her son's neck instead of the pot. Embarrassed, he decided never to enter the village or show his face ever again. So he began meditating

with his back to the world. Being a monastic order, there is a clear discomfort with sensuality in Jain lore. Even Buddhist texts state that a monk's meditation makes him so magnetic that it is best he shun women, for both their sakes.

Hinduism is relatively more comfortable with the erotic. In the Mahabharata, Nakula the fifth Pandava while going into the forest after the gambling match, smears his face with dust and dirt so that women enchanted by his beauty do not follow him. In the Bhagavata, Usha abducts the handsome Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna, while he is sleeping. In the Puranic literature, there are tales where women chase Shiva, Rama or Krishna, spellbound by their beauty. However, as the Tantrik Age gave way to the Bhakti Age, people preferred to rationalise these stories as the result of spiritual magnetism. The male body thus was made invisible, as was women's desire.

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Nats and the uncle brigade

zara hatke

RAHUL DACUNHA



IT was 10 pm, last night... I heard my neighbour, 19-year-old Natasha, aka Nats' front door shut.

I popped out to confirm she was home safely, only to see her decked up to go out.

"Rahul Bruh, hey, sup," she said, double locking her door.

"Are you heading out, Nats?", I asked, cautiously.

"(Eye roll) Bruh... no! I just double lock my door for fun."

"Lose the attitude, please. Are going out partying... uhhh... dressed like ... uhm... that?"

"(Double eye roll + 'pffffff') Dressed like what? What's wrong with what I'm wearing?" (nostrils flare + 'pffff')

"Look, I'm as liberal as the next guy, but that dress, can it get any... uhh... it ah leaves nothing to the imagination."

"So what's the point you're making, uncle?"

"I would prefer you wear something a little less uhm..."

"Revealing?"

I nodded.

"Rahul uncle, I left Hoshiarpur to get away from this 'Big Brother Concern Masquerading As Conservatism' and just my bad luck, I landed up next door to you. What were the chances

of that happening (hand on hips, tea pot like)?"

"Nats, if you..."

"Dude, just get off my back, you don't have the right."

"I understand. Good night." And I began to go back inside.

"Dude where you going, I'm not done venting!"

"Think we should just agree to disagree. You wanna go out attired like this, with your JLo figure... be my guest!"

"I don't know if I should take that as a compliment, but seriously, don't have a Menty B about my dress. Chill it yo!" she said.

"What's a Menty B?"

"(Wide disbelieving eyes) Menty B... it's so obvio! Mental breakdown."

"Look Nats, you can wear anything you want, but if it gets the wrong attention, you know how it is, it'll be all 'your fault'."

"That's fine."

"It's not fine. Aamir's daughter wears a bikini on her birthday, she's trolled, Suhana Khan is criticised for wearing a sexy sari for a Diwali bash. Enough already. It's our frikkin' choice!"

(Triple eye roll + steam from nostrils) You know Rahul uncle, I'm so done with you and the rest of your tribe deciding everything for us."

"Tribe what tribe?"

"You guys... you you...UGGs."

"What's UGG?"

"Uncles Giving Gyan."

"Nats come on... that's unfair..."

what do we decide for you?"

"Ohohoh don't get me started, everything—'You're wearing that?', 'You can't wear that!', 'You're not wearing enough', 'You're wearing too much', 'You're exposing your legs', 'You're covering your head', 'Eat now', 'Don't eat now', 'Don't eat today'—I'm so done with this relentless patriarchy. This humourless sanctimoniousness!" (Thump of table)

"What do you mean by, 'Eat now, don't eat now'?" I asked.

"Dude... tell me that Karva Chauth in this day and age, is outdated. Why should one have to fast for the longevity of their husbands?"

"Why shouldn't they?"

"Husbands should just do a quick daily 90-minute workout, instead of making their spouses fast for a day. Better for longevity, I say, and no one suffers."

"These are ancient Indian customs," I attempted.

"Dude, tradition has no place in the Millennial age... cappeesh? These are one-sided customs... created to make a woman suffer by chauvinistic men. Name me one custom created in our favour?"

"Bhai Dooj."

"Bruh, even on this day, I have to be the hard working one making his favourite dishes, praying for the long life of my brother, my asshole bro-in-law insists that my sister make him dinner after a whole day of fast-



ing. Shouldn't men also pray for our long life, dude? I tell you, patriarchy is in our DNA."

"Hmmm," I said.

"Rahul bruh, this dude I was dating, has the cheek to tell me 'I appreciate you observing Karva Chauth for me, even though we aren't married!'"

"Why did he think that?" I asked, fascinated.

"(Eyes twinkling) Bruh! I'm on a new diet, it's called Intermittent fasting. The moron mistook my intermittent fasting, thinking I was fasting for him!"

(Pause)

"Basically my philosophy to most men is W.O.M.E.N.," Nats said, spelling out the word.

"WOMEN... uhm does that stand for something?" I asked surprised.

"Yeah WOMEN spells out - We're Over (your) Misogynistic Endless Nonsense!"

Rahul da Cunha is an adman, theatre director/playwright, photographer and traveller. Reach him at rahul.dacunha@mid-day.com

Letters

Ah, nostalgia!

Loved Rahul Da Cunha's column—LL and the Big B—was a nostalgic walk down memory lane bunking school for first day first shows and be hounded by the guys selling in black outside Gaiety Galaxy. I can taste the simba chips and breathe in the popcorn and ice cream sandwiches.

AYESHA PHOENIX DOMINICA

Single-screen love

Rahul's LL and the Big B—just loved this piece, brought back memories of watching movies in the single-screen stinky theatres.

SHARIKA KAUL

PS-1 rocks

Regarding Meenakshi Shedde's Ratnam's Son of a River on PS-1, I watched it last night and really enjoyed it. Especially Trisha and Karthik. Also eagerly awaiting Part 2!

HEATHER WILSON

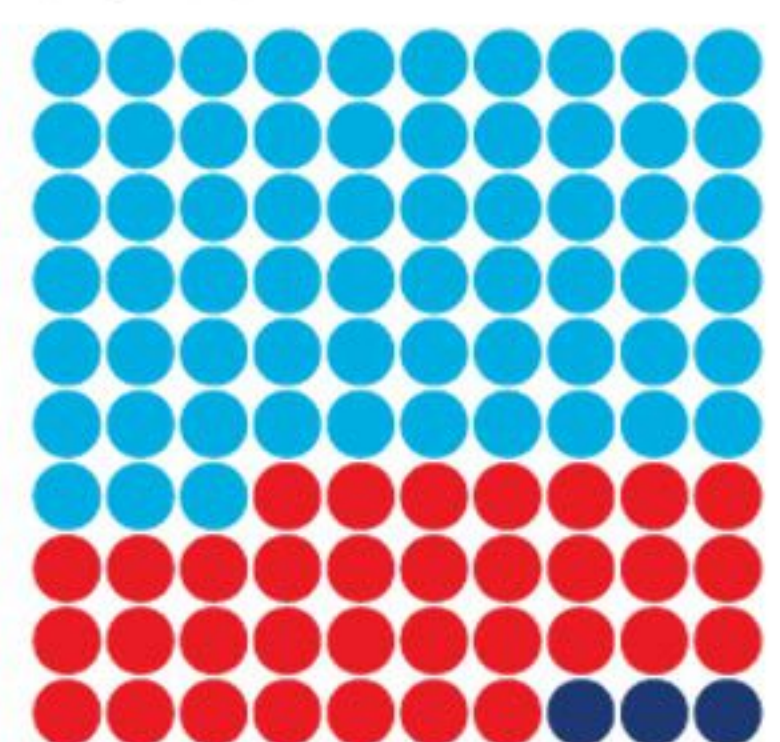
Rap it out

In love—I am member of the Srushti Tawade fan-club ever since I heard her. Such a stunning, scintillating and brilliant rapper.

VANITA NAYAK MUKHERJEE

mid-day Poll

Do you support BCCI's decision for India not to travel to Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023?



63% YES

34% NO

3% CAN'T SAY

have your say!



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There's a body in my backyard

Police investigate a Halloween display



A UK woman's Halloween display was so lifelike that it prompted a real police investigation. The police mistook it for an actual body, according to a TikTok clip of the mix-up with over 5.9 million views.

The user @Danielleft23 posted the video with a caption "Not everyday you get blue lights and sirens outside," which was posted last week by TikTok.

The footage shows police officers approaching what appears to be a

body wrapped in garbage bags with sneaker-clad feet poking out and a guitar resting nearby like something out of a true crime documentary.

The cop takes an exploratory kick at the macabre prop, accidentally knocking its shoe loose.

The clip concludes with the officer preparing to leave the scene, apparently satisfied that the display wasn't actually stiff. The viewers were in hysterics over the misunderstanding.



OUT OF LEFT FIELD

Wondering why mosquitoes only bite you and not friends?

A new study finds that some people really are "mosquito magnets" and it probably has to do with the way they smell. The researchers found that people produce a lot "greasy molecules" that are skin's natural moisturising layer, with a smell that attracts mosquitoes, and people produce them in different amounts. "If you have high levels of this stuff on your skin, you're going the one targeted," said study author Leslie Vosshall, a neurobiologist at Rockefeller University in New York.

ITS A VIRAL Crazy Swiftie

Victoria Browne took her fangirling a step further by dedicating her wedding day to her idol Taylor Swift. The fan shared a video, which garnered 1.8 million views on TikTok, where she even mentioned the star in her vows.



BRIEFS

What are pants for?

A New York City man has been charged with smuggling three venomous snakes in his pants at a US-Canadian border crossing. Calvin Bautista, 36, was accused of bringing a Burmese python, one of the world's largest snakes, listed as injurious to human beings.



Crushed hopes

The Northeastern University School of Law in Massachusetts was found guilty of accidentally sending acceptance emails to thousands about 200 current, 4,000 former applicants and some who are already enrolled. They blamed a "technical error" for sending erroneous emails.



The save becomes a threat

A Massachusetts woman who released a swarm of bees on cops as they tried to serve an eviction notice is facing multiple assault and battery charges. Rorie Woods, 55, had arrived in an SUV towing a trailer carrying beehives and broke the cover off one and causing hundreds of bees to swarm out and sting a cop.

A FAMILY LOST AND FOUND



Happy reunion

Texas couple who donated their embryos meets their biological triplets after 20 years

A TEXAS couple experienced a sweet moment, when they met the children who were born from their donated frozen embryos 20 years ago.

Brooke and Chris Martin faced infertility struggles in their late 20s and eventually resorted to in vitro fertilisation (IVF) to get pregnant. The couple, who lived in Tennessee at the time, went to a fertility clinic in Nashville to start the process.

The Martins ended up with two implanted embryos, and their twin boys Matthew and Christopher were later born. They still had eight frozen embryos remaining and had to decide what to do: use them, let them thaw out, donate them to science or give them back to the fertility clinic.

Fast-forward almost 20 years later and the Martins were told by a family member that a boy, who

could be their son, found them and reached out.

Thomas Monroe, one of the triplets, called the family member and said something along the lines of "Hey, I'm on your family tree. I don't know if you know anybody in your family who donated embryos or just gave away some kids."

"I saw his picture and my husband and I burst into tears and said that's our kid. There's no doubt, he looked just like our boys," Brooke said.

I saw his picture and my husband and I burst into tears and said that's our kid. There's no doubt, he looked just like our boys

Brooke Martin, Biological mother

This is when the Martins found out Thomas is a triplet, which meant they had three biological children out in the world two decades after deciding to donate their embryos. The now 18-year-old triplets, two boys and a girl, grew up in Nashville with their loving parents Trey and Becky, who told the kids about the embryo adoption when they were younger.

After losing Becky to cancer, Trey decided to fulfil Thomas's wishes for a DNA test and gifted it to him on his 18th birthday. "I had a little trepidation, but I also had a history of having found my own biological family through DNA testing and that has been nothing but wonderful, so I was positive that it could work very well," said Trey.

Brooke said even though the children all grew up separately, there are similarities between all five of them, from music interest to athletics to having similar posture when walking.

Brooke added that she wants to make sure people are aware of the option to adopt embryos: "Now, you can actually go through an official adoption where you can choose the family that adopts the embryos and goes through in vitro, so it's a lot more technological now."

PIC OF THE DAY



HAN SOLO BAKE OFF

A bakery in the San Francisco Bay area has created a 6-foot-tall bread sculpture of the Star Wars character Han Solo, as he appeared after being frozen in carbon in the 1980 film, *The Empire Strikes Back*. PIC/AP

TECHNOPHILE

Stop scrolling, play an arcade game instead. **P29**

FOOD

La Loca Maria is an ode to a 'crazy' mom. **P35**

SHOW STOPPER

What a Sikh immigrant feels in America. **P17**

GALLERIE

15
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Mangalmay!

Charpoy-inspired bed, Kantha-work spacesuit and mustard seeds pillow. A Lucknow designer looks to India for inspiration to create elements for a house perfect for Mars. **P27**

YUSRA HUSAIN

Astro Anurita on Mars, an alter-ego created by spacewear designer Anurita Chandola from Lucknow who dresses herself in a bright pink Kantha work spacesuit that can transform into a sleeping bag. Chandola has designed fabrics and textiles for the UK-based project, Building A Martian House. She got herself shot for this photograph at a construction site in Lucknow, the heap behind her mirroring the gravel-covered surface of Mars. **PIC/ALINA HASAN**



Where mirror walls whisper

Sporting shared looks and lineage, twinned buildings across town tell engaging tales

once upon a city

MEHER MARFATIA

THE more you stare, the less you see at times. But rest the gaze closer on certain buildings and a veritable storm of stories flies into your face. Bombay is strewn with “sister structures”, either simply resembling or outright reflecting each other.

To begin with, two evocatively christened buildings at the Churchgate corner where Madam Cama Road meets Maharshi Karve Road, opposite the Oval Maidan. Theatre actor Farid Currim's family has lived in Moonlight ever since GB Mhatre designed this Deco jewel in 1938, having already completed Sunshine next door. They were commissioned by Phirozshaw Mistry, whose granddaughter, Katie Engineer, offers Currim and me coffee in her flat.

Forced by the family's flagging fortunes to leave school, Mistry studied by streetlight. That sight much moved textile tycoon Morarji Gokuldas. “Apprenticing with Morarji, Phirozshaw ended up partnering his own brother-in-law, Nanabhoy Motabhoy,” Katie explains. “Their company, Phiroz N Motabhoy, manufactured Sun and Moon brand machine bobbins with Japanese technology. Deciding his buildings would be Moonlight and Sunshine, he indulgently laid them with fine Italian marble.”

We are joined by Engineer's cousin. A privilege indeed to encounter the country's pioneer karate exponent, Sensei Pervez Mistry. Qualifying in Kyoto, from where he returned in 1969 as India's first Black Belt instructor, he taught and graded Karate-do under the auspices of the Seibukan Academy of Japan. Like all the best teachers, he fondly remembers an early pupil after 50 years—my brother who hopped aboard buses and trains from Bandra to follow his guru with keen regularity.

Coincidentally, a little girl cousin of the Currims, who spent her first eight years in Moonlight, shifted to another one of two rather intriguing buildings on Gamadia Road, near Haji Ali. Silver Foil and Gold Cornet rose as the absolute joy of her grandfather Vali Mohammad Sonavala and his brother Ghulam Hussein Sonavala. Silver Foil's projecting balconies

and continuous chhajjas exemplify the appeal of reinforced concrete, a rampantly explored material in the 1930s. “My grandfather was the President of the Gold Association. He had an office in Zaveri Bazar where deals were struck in silver and gold. Hence, the name must have come to his mind—Silver Foil or varak, silver leaf,” says education consultant Mariam Shaikh from Dubai. “Silver Foil has Burma teak columns and very unusual tiling, which we've maintained for almost a hundred years. The buildings were constructed with immense love and dedication for the Sonavala families to traditionally stay there. Gold Cornet could also relate to the gold trade.”

Shaikh's guess about Silver Foil's soul structure, 1935-dated Gold Cornet—cemented with striking “eyebrows”, lightning-bolt ziggurats and horizontal bands—is validated by Ghulam Hussein's granddaughter. Prithy Gandevia from Singapore writes, “Being in the gold refining business for the Government of India, my great-grandfather Haji Alarakhia and grandfather wanted one of the buildings to be Gold Cornet. This was a cottage converted into a double-storey by my father Mohammed Ali, who finally made it four-storeyed. Haji Alarakhia is believed to have introduced platinum in India. A local lagdi coin, used to buy gold, had his name imprinted on it.”

It is hardly just Deco deserving a second dekho. On the shaded lanes off Colaba Causeway, architecture infuses enough French elements to transport tourists to a sense of New Orleans. The 1902-constructed Sargent House on Allana Road reflects Jenkins House on parallel Henry Road. They touch back-to-back, trimmed by a thinning lace of copper pod, gulmohar, sitafal and badam trees, together forming an impressively scenic section of their

The 1902-constructed Sargent House on Allana Road reflects Jenkins House on parallel Henry Road. They touch back-to-back, trimmed by a thinning lace of copper pod, gulmohar, sitafal and badam trees, together forming an impressively scenic section of their respective streetscapes. Sturdy red brick walls are adorned with architrave bands, floor-level cornice bands and features like friezes, projecting verandahs supported on decorative wooden brackets, elegant railings and balusters



Katie Engineer and Pervez Mistry outside Moonlight and Sunshine, built by their grandfather at Churchgate

respective streetscapes. Sturdy red brick walls are adorned with architrave bands, floor-level cornice bands and features like friezes, projecting verandahs supported on decorative wooden brackets, elegant railings and balusters.

Sargent House acknowledges a municipal councillor by that name. Jenkins House exudes a permanent poise, lofty arches lauding the luminary it honours—most likely Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, if not Port Trust engineer Jenkins. They are among six properties in

the vicinity acquired by the Indian Institute of Science. Jamsetji Tata intended that the rent they fetched contributed to the institute's development. The Tata group founder strategically marketed these properties to prominent colonials.

To quote RM Lala in *For the Love of India: The Life and Times of Jamsetji Tata*, “Jamsetji was to fight some battles with the British. On an individual level he remained a warm friend to scores of Englishmen, including several judges of the city High Court. It is not accidental that the buildings he had built behind the Taj—before the hotel came up—were named after Englishmen: Reay House, Roosevelt House, Sargent House, Sandhurst House, Jenkins House and Candy House. It is significant too that it was Justice Candy of the Bombay High Court and not Jamsetji that led the delegation to Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, on Jamsetji's scheme to establish a research university.”

Incidentally, from Jamsetji's half a dozen investments in the area, Reay House and Sandhurst House sport handsome resemblances, though perhaps not as obviously as Sargent House and Jenkins House do.

Other apartments stand in conjunction without always appearing so, for varied reasons. Nudging the Apollo Bunder promenade, the facades of Ionic and Corinthian, erected by Vazifdar Builders in the mid-1950s, essentially wear similar elements, except for being hung with differently shaped balconies.

The classic quartet girdling Dadar East's former tram terminal at Khodadad Circle—clockwise as Tilak Bridge ends, Empress Mahal, Empire Mahal, Imperial Mahal and Harganga Mahal—are fronted by humongous, unchecked shop signage. This, tragically, all but wipes out their striking Indo-Saracenic chhajjas and jaali windows.

Continued on page 17



Author-publisher Meher Marfatia writes fortnightly on everything that makes her love Mumbai and adore Bombay. You can reach her at meher.marfatia@mid-day.com / www.mehermarfatia.com





(Left) Twin blocks of the PM Kaka Buildings on Firdausi Road, Dadar Parsi Colony; (above) Juvekar House at Chembur. COURTESY/ART DECO MUMBAI; and Ronald Jeffries outside Sunkist cottage in Santa Cruz. FILE PIC

Continued from page 16

As the leafy open enclave of Parsi Colony starts, on Ashoka tree-lined Jame Jamshed Road the twin roofs of Family House teamed organically from the 1920s. Till the second plot succumbed to redesign in recent decades. Why mention buildings that aren't a set anymore? Because of an emotional tug. Family House is my family house—home to three generations of Dasturs. My father's childhood turf where I continue visiting aunts and cousins. This is Family House denoted No. 793. Bang beside it, No. 794 sports the changed avatar.

Further in, the identical Swiss

cottage-contours of PM Kaka Charity Fund Buildings on Firdausi Road, are brushed by mahogany boughs. Both structure and verdure boast almost a century's vintage. The pair is refreshingly well maintained, a matter of evident pride for their oldest residents like 78-year-old Noshir Anklesaria. Within, flights of beautiful wooden stairs connect floors, the longer stretching over 13 steps and the shorter nine, with a separating platform. Rushing to school or for fun alone, young Anklesaria would take a single flying leap from top to bottom of the nine steps.

From literal leaps to the figurative... Allowing myself a broadish

bit of writer's licence, I confess to find fleeting resonances between Juvekar House at Chembur and quite distant Sunkist bungalow in Santa Cruz. The latter, belonging to the Jeffries, has witnessed an episode of uncommon gallantry.

Ahead of assigning homes evocative names, of course, came the task of locating them wisely. Ronald Jeffries' West Indian grandfather Frank Thomas came from Ratlam, silver-medalled for his distinguished services to the BB&CI (Bombay, Baroda & Central India) Railway, at King George VI's proclamation. He constructed Sunkist in 1939, opposite the Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana, when this

club was a mere asbestos-roofed shed. Frank Thomas' sons—Ronald's father and uncles—steered prestigious inaugural runs of the Frontier Mail, Flying Rani and Rajdhani Express. "A confirmed Railways man, my grandfather chose this spot to be able to see Khar Station on one side, Santa Cruz Station on the other."

The grills through which Frank Thomas gazed on his beloved engines are interesting. The Art Deco design weaves the initials "ftj" from within and "jef", for "Jeffries", from out. "Dad and his brothers would sit for meals on this eight-seater dining table," says Ronald. "Knowing exactly which

train passed when, they jumped up with torches, signalling the trains to slow and throw them mango baskets from Balsar."

Courtesy and civility not yet extinct, Frank Thomas heeded a request from the lady living across, in Kenville. Could the gentleman possibly please position the porch of his dream home to not obstruct her view of the gymkhana?

The main door of Sunkist does lie fairly recessed from the road. "There was such great understanding then," Ronald sighs. "We're the original settlers here. It hurts that people brashly muscling into the neighbourhood regard us as strangers instead today."

Living many lives, on and off stage

A Sikh-American's solo show, born out of racial violence, probes the precarity inherent in the dual identities and experiences of immigrants

SUCHETA CHAKRABORTY

RAG-HEAD is a pejorative, and I chose that because it was the first slur I heard someone call my dad," writer and performer Sundeep Morrison tells us about the title of their solo off-Broadway show, which will premiere this month. "As a kid I knew what a rag was and what a head was, but what he wore was almost like a cloth crown as it had such a sacred meaning. I remember that moment of trying to ask my dad why someone would say that and seeing the pain on his face."

Rag Head: An American Story was a visceral response to a mass shooting incident that occurred on August 5, 2012 at a gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, where a white supremacist murdered six people and wounded four others. "I was in Los Angeles when the shooting was unfolding," recalls Morrison. "Both my parents have lived there for about 20 years now. It devastated me, our community and our family, and it was the first time that I was questioning how safe my parents were [in this country]. My mom does kirtan on Sundays and I wondered, 'what if she had been on that stage that day?'"

Morrison, a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, started writing the piece initially as a short story.



Writer and performer Sundeep Morrison's solo show Rag Head: An American Story was a visceral response to a mass shooting incident that occurred on August 5, 2012 at a gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin

Storytelling was a seminal part of their family history, they say, their 'Biji' or maternal grandmother sparking an early love of being able to connect with others through narratives. Morrison's debut novel, Lady Bitch Whore, written after the birth of their daughter, was a way of reflecting on their own journey of navigating dual cultures, finding autonomy and sharing the life lessons learnt from their grandmother.

Rag Head, however, was written to purge and process their immediate feelings of fear, anger and anxiety in the aftermath of the shooting. "I was writing to get it out of my

heart," says the fan of Maya Angelou's poetry. "It was a reflection too of the climate for immigrants and for us—children of immigrants—in post 9/11 America." Morrison is the child of Punjabi Sikh parents and grew up in Calgary, Alberta Canada.

As they began sharing the piece, it started to take on the life of a narrative that needed to be put out into the world. In it, characters like those of an American Sikh gas station owner, a Sikh doctor, a young Sikh poet and a Muslim lawyer who

Every person in the story is someone I draw from my life. I write what I know and what I know is pain, marginalisation, racialisation, and the feeling of being 'othered'. The main characters are based on my mom, dad, aunts, uncles, cousins—people I grew up with. It turned out to be a very healing practice and also a way to tell a story in the most personal sense

wears a hijab, reveal moments of racial hatred and violence as they navigate their fraught American lives and identities. Included in this piece are also characters like those of a bigoted army veteran and the executive director of a medical clinic incapable of effecting real change in discriminatory institutional hiring policies.

Initially, considering casting other actors in the roles, upon the suggestion of a member in their writing group, Morrison decided to present the piece as a solo show, portraying all seven roles. "Each of the characters is so personal," Morrison explains. "Every person in the story is someone I draw from my life. I write what I know and what I know is pain, marginalisation, racialisation, and the feeling of being 'othered'. The main characters are based on my mom, dad, aunts, uncles, cousins—people I grew up with. It turned out to be a very healing practice and also a way to tell a story in the most personal sense."

The show has elicited a variety of responses, says its creator. Performances since 2017 and social media exposure has brought about messages from white supremacists, who, because of the play's title, have believed it to be a piece sympathising with their ideology. "When they learn that it is completely antithetical to what they believe and is an advocacy piece, there are strong feelings there," shares Morrison. While they admit that as a queer non-binary Punjabi Sikh performer, they have received support from the South Asian community, "it is still difficult because once people find out my identity, they are going to have their critiques."

Justice DY Chandrachud, then Supreme Court judge, at The Literature Live Independence Lecture "u201cImagining Freedom Through Art" in 2019, Mumbai. He is set to assume office as the 50th Chief Justice of India next month for a two-year term. He succeeds Justice UU Lalit. PIC/GETTY IMAGES



'He'd never shout even if advocate made a nonsensical point'

YUSRA HUSAIN

SPORTING a bright red tee representing Barham house, IT consultant Ashok Jahagirdar touches a stone wall of the 162-year-old Cathedral and John Connon School in Fort. It has taken him back to 1969 when a young Danny would loiter with him through these corridors. Outside the gates of the school, they'd play cricket, swim, and grab lunch at Bombay Gymkhana next door.

Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, who is all set to take over as India's 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI) is good ol' Danny for his childhood friend.

Chandrachud will take oath of office on November 9, two days before his 63rd birthday. The man who spent his formative years in the city and later, returned to practice as Senior Advocate at the Bombay High Court and then as permanent judge, say his colleagues and opponents, is hugely influenced by Mumbai.

The son of classical singer Prabha Chandrachud and Justice YV Chandrachud, India's 16th and longest serving CJI, he was born on November 11, 1959 and continued to live in Mumbai until the family moved to Delhi when his father was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1972. He continued his schooling at Delhi St Columba's, and acquired an Honours in Economics and Mathematics from St Stephen's

The man who will assume the post of highest ranking officer of the Indian judiciary is of open mind, wicked wit and rare modesty. And some of it may have to do with his beginnings in Mumbai



Senior Advocate Yusuf Hatim Muchhala believes Mumbai certainly impacted Justice Chandrachud's personality. He remembers him as the most sought after junior counsel in the 1980s for his objective, logical and excellent court craft. PICS/ASHISH RAJE



"His intervention led to my getting my gown as Senior Advocate," says Arif Bookwala, who has argued against Justice Chandrachud during his time at Bombay High Court and appeared before him when the latter was judge there



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College. This, he followed, with a law degree from Delhi University before he joined one of the most prestigious law schools at Harvard University for a Masters and Doctor of Judicial Sciences degree.

"Danny and I go back ages, right from the time the universe existed..." laughs Jahagirdar, whose grandfather PB Gajendragadkar served as CJI from 1964 to 1966. Both boys belonged to Cathedral's red—Barham house, were on the same cricket team and sat beside each other in class. "The school once arranged for what is called the hot lunch at Bombay Gymkhana club next door. Danny and I went. But we were vegetarians, so for two days, we only ate daal-chawal and papad. On the third day, we were given a cutlet which was a bit dry and coarse. They gave us gravy too, but it didn't occur to us that the cutlet had to be eaten with the gravy to soften it. Danny held on to the hard cutlet and asked me to pull it from the other end. I dug my head into the table. He insisted: 'pull, Juggy, pull!'. He was and still is a fun guy."

Not too many are aware that Chandrachud is hugely passionate about cricket. "When his father became a judge at the Bombay HC, they moved into this huge bungalow with a lawn. There was space to play cricket which was his passion. He is a fast bowler and took pride in being one. Till today, he remains the guy who will slip on his cricket shoes when an opportunity presents itself." Jahagirdar says it was a teacher in the third standard who thought it was easier to call him Danny instead of the convoluted Dhananjaya; parents fondly call him "Dhanu". Jahagirdar is allowed to call him either. He describes his childhood friend as "an uncomplicated personality", a non-conformist who intervenes for change. Senior advocate at the Bombay High Court, Arif Bookwala agrees.

"Sometime around 2004, a few of us lawyers, were to be designated as Senior Advocates. But there was opposition to this from some judges. When it came to the notice of Justice Chandrachud, he requested his fellow judges to not fight over the matter, but to be brothers in law. Immediately after, we got our letters stating our new posts. That's how I got my gown with his intervention."

A humble man despite his privileged background, as Bookwala puts it, Chandrachud rarely lost his temper in court. Pleasant and encouraging to colleagues and juniors is how most remember him. "There are judges who shout in court; Justice Chandrachud was not one of them, even if he knew



Ashok Jahagirdar visits a classroom at Fort's Cathedral and John Connon School where he and Justice Chandrachud belonged to Barham house, were on the same cricket team and sat beside each other in class. PIC/ASHISH RAJE

the advocate was making a nonsensical point." A silent wit was also apparent during hearings chaired by him. "I was in court once, even though it was not my case, and the advocate on record kept on calling one Act of Parliament unfair. Justice Chandrachud smiled at the advocate and asked him to name his local MP. The advocate unable to understand where the judge was heading, asked how the case and the question were connected? Justice Chandrachud then asked the advocate to approach his local MP, tell him the Act is wrong and coax the politician to move a Bill in Parliament to change it," laughs Bookwala. "Bolte hai na, haste-haste qurbani kar dena; something of that sort could happen to you; you wouldn't even realise that you've lost to him or that he has just passed an order against you. He does it all with a smile." Bookwala has appeared both against Justice Chandrachud in court as advocate, and also before him when he was judge.

Even before he was in the race to be the next CJI, he seemed to have gained recognition outside of the legal fraternity, courtesy his liberal, forward-looking judgments that touched many. This includes the decriminalisation of Section 377 of the IPC in the Navtej Johar versus Union of India case, thereby legalising same-sex intercourse between consenting adults. This allows India's LGBTQAI+ community to hold this up as guarantee of their constitutional rights. Justice Chandrachud also made headlines when he was the sole dissenter in the Justice KS Puttaswamy versus

Union of India case, holding on to his own, stating that Aadhar was unconstitutionally passed as a Money Bill.

"A Senior Advocate at the Bombay HC once told me that one of his cases concerning copyright issues was not coming before Justice Chandrachud and that he was the only man who would understand the matter. That's his reputation within the legal fraternity—of a fair and objective man with new views," says Bookwala. "As an advocate too, he made beautiful arguments, which he would keep to himself, rarely interrupting another advocate. When it was his turn though, he would silently checkmate with a smile."

Yusuf Hatim Muchhala is a Senior Advocate at the Bombay HC and the Supreme Court. He is also an executive committee member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. He remembers Justice Chandrachud as a young man in the '70s and '80s, who started his practice under Senior Advocate YS Chitale in Delhi after his return from Harvard. "I had the chance to work with him on quite a few matters along with YS Chitale. He was a brilliant young man. Later, he shifted to Bombay and soon developed a lucrative practice on the original side of the Bombay HC. He was a much sought after junior counsel by leading firms and solicitors. His quick grasp of subjects, excellent court craft and articulation made him one of the most promising young counsels in the '80s."

Muchhala adds that when the Srikrishna Commission of Inquiry was constituted by the Government

His career in dates

Additional Solicitor General for Union of India
1998 - March 2000

Senior Advocate, Bombay High Court
June 1998 - March 2000

Permanent Judge of Bombay High Court
March 2000 - October 2013

Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court
October 2013 - May 2016

Supreme Court Judge
May 2016 to retire in November 2024

To assume Chief Justice of India office
November 9, 2022



Then Allahabad High Court Chief Justice, DY Chandrachud administered the oath of office to Aziz Qureshi as the Uttar Pradesh governor at Raj Bhavan in 2014 in Lucknow. PIC/GETTY IMAGES

of Maharashtra under Justice Srikrishna for investigating the causes of the Bombay riots of 1992-93, Justice Chandrachud was the first choice to be the commissioner's counsel. "He appeared on a few occasions, but then excused himself from the commission's proceedings. He did not offer a reason, but he was the go-to person for it because of his reputation as an objective man who had a grasp of the facts and law."

Mumbai, thinks Muchhala, helped define the legal mind's approach to sensitive cases. "Bombay certainly shaped his personality. The city has a cosmopolitan character; that perhaps may have impacted him. He was fortunate to come from a family, which had Justice YV Chandrachud at its helm. Congenial family surroundings, the healthy atmosphere of the city and his education and travels abroad, all shaped him into the open-minded person he is."

Mumbai's casual stance, his

friends say, reflects in his character too. They say he doesn't believe in formalities; surprising, given his choice of profession. Jahagirdar remembers a moot court competition held at Ismailsaheb Mulla Law College in Satara some years back, in honour of his grandfather PB Ganjedragadkar, who Danny and his father looked up to as mentor. "Danny couldn't attend because he had sprained his ankle playing cricket the day before, so he attended it virtually. I was on the dais with the Vice-Chancellor (VC). When Danny saw me on screen, he immediately shouted out, 'Hey, Juggy! How are you man?' The VC was stumped."

That's the man his childhood mates know. For everyone else, he is the legal eagle with an intimidating serious stance. "He may have a deadpan face, but he is an emotional person," says Jahagirdar. He gives the example of him backing virtual courtrooms. "He has done it often... he feels the litigants' pain, many of whom are affected by repeated physical appearances over several years."

Jahagirdar says he is just the man the country needs right now to helm the judiciary. "He has after all, even upturned his father's judgments, not once, but twice—in the adultery law of 2018 and in the right to privacy case of 2017."



Justice DY Chandrachud (second from left) and Ashok Jahagirdar (third from right) at a birthday party of their friend Vivek Hurry (third from left), in 1969

Who is training whom?

Human-animal communication is a two-way street, and your cat or dog is training you to do things for them without using commands or rewards. So, who's the clever girl now?

MITALI PAREKH

A CYNIC may say humans love dogs because they do what you want them to. There's evidence to suggest that cats say the same about humans: "Oh Felix, you're only keen on that human because she shares her food at one meow," Tom, the colony cat, might

say. And so would Casper, the yellow Labrador.

Training a pet is a two-way process. S/he is also moulding your behaviour to get what s/he wants, just as you are. And instead of giving a command and rewarding that desired behaviour with treats, our cat or dog rewards us by purring, cuddling, rubbing or wagging her

tail; or by stopping that godawful mewing. We won't insult you, dear reader, by asking who the better trainer is. The happy fact is, just like any relationship, you give a bit to receive a lot more.

Cats and dogs have evolved to read humans better. Dogs were the first animal domesticated by us, and they adapted—helped by selective breeding—to display behaviours that assured a warm place to sleep and an unending supply of food. That's how they learnt to make bigger puppy eyes, move their eyebrows, have more control over facial muscles to mimic wide smiles, tucking in of the upper or lower lips. They also developed a physical and verbal vocabulary: whining, a small, short bark, nosing us with their cold, wet proboscis, pawing to indicate a toilet break, and chinning.

Cats domesticated themselves, and that's why they haven't changed much as a species besides an imperceptible change in size. "The brains got smaller over time with domestication," says feline behaviourist Amanda Tong, "the amygdala—the fear centre in the brain—shrunk. They didn't need to be so vigilant all the time as dangers decreased as they adapted to human society." Don't be fooled, though. Cats can still survive in the wild and look very much like the African wild cat they evolved from. Compare that to the difference between a wolf and a pug. As humankind began storing food grains, vermin flocked to the buffet and cats followed. Humans then adjusted the environment to keep the useful



Urvashi Pant's Smarty Pants was taken off dairy for a while for medical reasons. But she noticed Pant pours some into her evening tea, and pops up in the kitchen every time she smells the tea brewing and stares at the milk carton in Pant's hand. "I usually give her some in the cup of my hand, and on most occasions, it's chilled."

PIC/ANURAG AHIRE

pest control agents around, and built temples for them. House cats no longer need to hunt, but humans are trained to play games that mimic hunting moves such as stealth, stalking, pounce, grab. "We have adapted to their needs," says Tong. That's the truth about cats and dogs. You may lure them with food to come to you, but play makes them stay.

Irrefutable evidence that all this 'talking' is just for us is that both species do not use this vocabulary to communicate within their peer groups. Cats don't meow at each other: They hiss at arch enemies and mewl for mothers. Dogs don't use puppy eyes on the pack leader or prospective mate

(but humans do...).

"Cats mainly use olfactory cues within the species," says Tong, "So, the vocalisation [mewing] is for us. Because of their stereotyping as an unfeeling, selfish species, we miss out on noticing their range and association."

Cats and dogs are acutely observant and cats have mimicked our range to communicate with us. "They have about 21 different ranges of vocalisation," says Tong of The Animal Behaviour Academy. "Just as our high tones indicate excitement and happiness, high-pitched meows indicate positive emotion, while lower ranges are negative." Just like our mother's low-pitched threat that we take most seriously. "Cats appear to have modulated their pitch to bridge that communication," says Tong.

The level of socialisation determines how good a cat or dog gets at training humans. The more people they meet as young, and wider the range of people, the more they pick up on human body language and patterns.

It's devious that the pitch of the 'meow' for food is at the same decibel levels as a human infant's cry for nourishment. A pitch we are hardwired to respond to as species to ensure our survival. Cats deserved ancient Egypt.

Further, cats communicate differently with each human. Raj Mariwala, a canine and feline behaviourist, would know. Her cat, Buggy, lightly licks her brows to wake her up for a midnight snack, but whacks any other sleeping family member across the face to

Rory the Weimaraner is sensitive to loud sounds, and starts barking at Pradnya Hattiangadi and her husband Sanket Chaudhary when they get into spirited conversations. Pradnya is similarly discouraged when she says, "Oh shit!" and has now deleted it from her vocabulary. PIC/SAMEER MARKANDE



@PRADNYA58

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reach the same end. "I am a light sleeper," reasons Mariwala, who lives in Bandra. So cats change the sound of their meow, depending on the response of the human. "They will bring an urgency [or irritability] to it that you can't ignore," she says. "They will escalate matters till they get what they want."

And if you are a quick-thinking human, the cat will just use her/his gaze or stare. And if you are a dense one, s/he knows how to train you too. "Cats are extremely observant of small things about humans, because it links to survival," says Tong. "And know how to get the attention of a specific human; so s/he may pull the tissues from a box to get one person in the house to look up; and push the specs off the table for the other one to look up. A cat I know does this only to ask for physical affection. She values it enough to modify her behaviour to seek it."

Our benevolent dictators, of both species, also wait patiently until we go through a trial-and-error process to guess what they want to say. "If you offer a cat affection when s/he meows," says Mariwala, "S/he'll accept it, but will still meow as you keep offering another alternative—a toy perhaps—and stop only when you hit the bullseye." Rest assured, you will offer the treat first, the next time s/he meows. A good rule of thumb, offers Tong, whatever stops the cat meowing is what s/he wanted in the first place.

This writer's dog trained her two years ago to switch on the AC. He pawed her, which is usually a request for food or walks, but in the middle of the night. He then waited for her to associate his heavy panting with discomfort, and turned around to go to bed the instant he heard the beep of the air-conditioner being switched on. It's the first thing she reaches for when he wakes her in the middle of the night now.

They'll also drop environmental cues, and the communication widens depending on the ingenuity of the human. "I had to learn associations," says Tong. "Most cats will go to where the food is kept to indicate hunger, but my cat goes to the fridge to indicate AC and to his bowl for food. "Tong's field of education makes her a quick learner.

A scared cat who boards with Mariwala when the cat's parents travel has learnt to keep Mariwala close. "We keep him in a separate room and he eats only in the presence of humans," she says. "He knows that if I eat when no one is there, the human visits will get fewer. Longer human visits mean affection and play. And he does this behaviour here only. He will only eat if a human is in the room talking to him, and he is not really a food-centric cat."

Think of how a cat has taught you where s/he likes to be touched. A scratch behind the ears will get a purr, but a quick swipe teaches you to never touch the stomach or the tip of the tail.

Not just humans, cats also learn to communicate with dogs they



@OSCARTHEBULLCAT

Oscar politely wags his tail to tell Amanda Tong to stop rubbing his belly. Tail wags mean different things in dogs and cats. PIC/BARK BUTLER

live with and love. Chom chom, the black moggie will groom, sits next to Tequila, the dog, and purrs when the latter is agitated by fireworks.

Dogs bring the whole body into the conversation, as well as the stare. "Between dogs," says Mariwala, "a head-on stare is a challenge or provocation, but they know it can be used on humans to communicate more benignly. Dogs learn to modify our behaviours through looking and pointing (Ask your dog 'What?' the next time s/he stares at you, and s/he may lead to a toy or point to the door), but they observe and note our patterns." They know you head to the biscuit box at a certain point in the evening and sit down for tea, and every dog worth her nose is in the kitchen at the appointed time.

And they are stoic optimists. "I have an evening coffee ritual," says Mariwala, "and I played with my

black cat a few times during it. Now she will come and stare at me and initiate play at that time."

Socialisation is key to how good a cat or dog gets at training humans. The more people they meet as young, and the wider range of people, the more they pick up on human body language and patterns. As their survival is far more dependent on humans, dogs are more invested in teaching you what they want and will drop ample cues to goad you along.

If a pointed stare does not do it, they will go to the door or pick up the leash to tell you it's time for a walk. "They pick and choose cues," says Mariwala, "They will pick up a toy, push through our legs, bark at you, steal your shoes, giving you different clues until you catch up." Once the connection is established, they try it on new humans and you helpfully tell the guests that your dog wants a belly rub when s/he puts her legs up in the air. Good girl, you.

Dogs also have the ability to connect things. "Nimbu [her Mudhol hound] knows the difference between the boxer shorts I wear at



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Raj Mariwala's Mudhol hound Nimbu knows that when she goes up the flight of stairs at night, Mariwala is retiring for the day. If he wants some kind of engagement, he will block her way and they play. Scooty the cat also gangs up with Nimbu to get what they want from the humans of the house

home and the clothes I wear to train other dogs, and the clothes I wear to walk him. He only stirs when I wear the last ensemble," says Mariwala."

He also knows that when she goes up the flight of stairs at night, Mariwala is retiring for the day and will not come back down until the morning. "If he wants some kind of engagement," she says. "He will stop me from going up the stairs by blocking me. He doesn't do this during the day because he knows I will come back down."

The ace up the pet's sleeve for modifying our behaviour is the realisation of how much we value the young of our species. Dogs and cats are known to hang around babies and children, and be alert to their cries because they notice how quickly we respond to it. We also display favourable body language when we see a dog or cat around a baby—our facial features soften, we smile or coo, reach down to pet the animal or even toss a treat. And so they park themselves near the crib.

What's more? Cats and dogs will work together to jointly manipulate humans. A cat may rub against your legs and mew intolerably until you go to the cupboard where her treats are. And the dog is already waiting there, to remind

you with puppy eyes, that you can't be heartless enough to leave him out, would you?

So how do you know if your pet is training you? Does a pointed look at 3 pm send you to the fridge? Does she do a 'Sit' before you even ask, and then you reward her for it? Clever human, you.

smdmail@mid-day.com

The ace up the pet's sleeve for modifying our behaviour is the realisation of how much we value the young of our species. Dogs and cats are known to hang around babies and children, and be alert to their cries because they notice how quickly we respond to it



Et Tu, EV?

The Electronic Vehicle, meant to usher us into the era of green mobility, has a lot of troubleshooting to do. Rise in cases of battery explosions, lack of firefighting infra, and unforeseen environmental hazards mean that you may have to choose wisely before you sit in one

NIDHI LODAYA

ON October 20, the day this writer made a call to Vasai resident Shahnawaz Ansari, his home was enveloped in a blanket of gloom. "My son would have been seven today," he tells us. More than angry, his voice indicates that he is bereft of hope. On September 30, Ansari's son succumbed to burn injuries after his electric bike battery exploded in the living room. His son was sleeping there when the incident occurred. Ansari had bought the Batt:Re LO:EV, an entry-level scooter for ₹82,000 in August 2021—the rise in fuel prices made it unaffordable to own anything else. "The government was also supporting use of Electric Vehicles, so I thought it was a reliable option," adds the 35-year-old, who works as a driver for a transport company. His e-scooter had a removable battery, which he had plugged in for charging. "The bike manual mentioned charging the battery for three to three-and-a-half hours. I kept it for charging at around 3 am and went to sleep... it had been around two hours when all of a sudden, it exploded," he recalls.

Investigations are still on in the case. Ansari is hoping for a settlement with the company. If that doesn't happen, he will give the two-wheeler to a scrap dealer. One thing he is sure of: "I won't buy an e-bike ever again."

Ansari's disappointment is being felt by many Electric Vehicle (EV) owners in the country. In the last one year, there has been a spike in incidents of EVs catching fire. This has also dented the central

What causes fire incidents in EVs

- Using more temperature-sensitive battery chemistry called NMC
- Overcharging batteries or charging them at wrong intervals
- Not charging it at designated charging stations which leads to short circuit
- Using unauthorised chargers
- Buying an EV from an unreliable brand

government's plans to boost the EV ecosystem, as part of its goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2022 Union Budget had proposed a battery swapping policy to support EV manufacturers. NITI Aayog, the nodal agency tasked with catalysing economic development, even introduced the draft battery swapping policy in April this year, "to level the field across business modes for EV sales with fixed or swappable batteries". That same month, six fire incidents were reported across the country, which led the NITI Aayog to formulate a team of independent experts to investigate these cases. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, while issuing orders to recall defective EVs, had announced that any EV



Shahnawaz Ansari, 35, lost his six-year-old son in September to an EV battery blast at his home in Vasai. Experts say that charging your battery inside the house is a "recipe for disaster", as one two-wheeler battery can draw current equivalent to three air conditioners.

PICS/HANIF PATEL



company found to be negligent with customer safety would be penalised.

In June this year, a Tata Nexon EV that caught fire at an intersection on Vasai Road, was reportedly the first case involving an electric car in the country.

Hemant Parab, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade, BMC, admits that EV fires are difficult to tackle, because the technology used is still novel. Speaking with mid-day, Parab says that at present, there is no mechanism to douse EV fires, besides pouring a generous amount of water. "And there's no calculation on the volume of water required either. It all depends on the intensity of the fire," adds Parab. "Even if it [the fire] is extinguished, there are chances of it restarting, sometimes even after an hour, and that is more dangerous." A Tesla, which caught fire in Colorado, US, in June last year, according to a report, required 28 firefighters, seven hours and 28,000 gallons (1,27,290.52 litres) of water—the same amount of water which serves an average American home for two years—

to douse it. A typical fire involving an internal combustion car can be put out using approximately 300 gallons (1,135.62) of water.

Rohit Paradkar, who has been an automotive journalist for 17 years, says that EV tech hasn't reached its full potential yet. "When we compare the number of fuel-run vehicles that put out CO2 emissions daily to the water needed to douse the not-so-frequent EV fires that happen once in a while, the

debate about which is more taxing wouldn't even hold." He believes that the discourse about EVs not being environmentally-friendly, would only arise if we had one out of every five or 10 incidents of EVs catching fire.

Andheri-based Aneesh Bhasin has been using a Tata Nexon EV for the past seven months. According to him, EVs are cheaper and better in terms of drivability. Bhasin wasn't aware of the reports about EVs catching fire, until this writer brought it up. His only grouse is the lack of charging stations in the city. "Even the company's website didn't have a lot of information or a manual on what to do, what not to, and where to charge in public," he says.

A spokesperson at Tata Motors admits that this is a problem. They have been facing four key barriers in this segment. "A price premium, charging infrastructure, range anxiety [a driver's fear that a vehicle has insufficient energy storage to cover the road distance needed to reach the intended destination] and limited choices. Therefore, our

At present there is no mechanism to douse EV fires, besides pouring a generous amount of water. And there's no calculation on the volume of water required either. It all depends on the intensity of the fire. Even if it [the fire] is extinguished, there are chances of it starting again, and that is more dangerous

Hemant Parab, Chief Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade, BMC



Rajendra Awasthi bought his Ola E-scooter in August this year because he felt it was a known brand. The EV scooter has an indicator, which a lot of companies have now started to install after seeing an increase in EV fires.

PIC/ SAYYED SAMEER ABEDI

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strategy has been to position EVs as not just as an alternate drivetrain option, but as a primary mode of travel that provides superior drive and ownership experience."

According to experts, lithium-ion batteries used in EVs are the primary reason for them catching fire. "Given the significantly smaller space a two-wheeler provides compared to a car, designing a robust thermal management or cooling system is very challenging and therefore the risk of overheating and fires is a lot higher [in two-wheelers] compared to electric cars," explains Paradkar.

Moreover, "the technology for four-wheeler EVs has been around for a while in European countries and the US, whereas two-wheelers and three-wheelers are new. Indian brands are still evolving and working from scratch on the technology for these vehicles," says Sheetanshu Tyagi, co-founder of Emo Energy, which is based out of Bengaluru and has its factory in Mysore.

Emo is a deep-tech mobility firm that is building safe and powerful battery packets to enable mass EV adoption. The team is working on designing a battery solution, which is an integrated battery plan to avoid, prevent and douse fires. They work with OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturer) and have come up with a design for two-wheelers and will be rolling out something for three and four-wheelers soon. "It is a three-fold problem," says Tyagi, speaking about EV fires. "The temperature outside is a big reason. The second is charging, which includes not being able to charge, overcharging and poor detection of charging; the third is short circuit."

Using unauthorised chargers can also result in a fire, says Vikas Yogi, an automotive journalist, who runs an online portal called India Car News. "Buying chargers off the shelf is unsafe. They need to be tested and need approval before being used," he says.

At present, batteries are sourced mainly from China, Taiwan and South Korea. "A battery will react differently in different regions,

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based on the external environment [extreme cold, humid or hot]," says Yogi. "If a company has done its R&D in Europe—which has a different climate than India—it will have to go through all those R&D steps in India, too. The battery management system needs to be tweaked, according to our needs here," he explains.

Tyagi says foolproof thermal management or a thermal runaway protection system can help counter the problem. Thermal runaway is the scenario where one cell ignites for another reason and then propagates that energy to other cells, thus causing a devastating chain reaction. Tyagi's company Emo specialises in preventing thermal runaway. "We have special materials along with a fluid within the battery that absorbs and prevents transfer of energy to adjacent cells. Our thermal system detects well in advance and allows prevention and mitigation against fires."

Tata Motors told mid-day that currently, they have more than 45,000 EV cars on Indian roads. "Tata Motors is working towards battery protection.

Rishi Aggarwal, environmentalist and director at Mumbai Sustainability Centre, highlights a more long-term environmental impact of these batteries. "First, is the mining of precious minerals such as nickel, magnesium and others to manufacture these batteries. The other issue is the recyclability of the lithium-ion battery. After 10-20 years, when all these batteries get discharged, how will we recycle them?" he asks



Battery protection comes from numerous aspects, including durability, thermal, geometric, and external impacts. To make the battery completely durable, a number of ageing tests are run specifically through a series of cycles designed to stress-test the batteries. This gives us accurate data on the deterioration pattern, and we are able to feed this back, to run optimisation loops for improving them," the spokesperson said in an email interaction.

Pankaj Sharma, co-founder of Log9 Materials has been working in the space of batteries for the past seven years. The company is spearheading the manufacturing of premium lithium-ion batteries in India. He says that an EV battery can be described by its chemistry. There are three major lithium-ion cells in the market—namely NMC (a combination of nickel, magnesium and cobalt), LFP (lithium, ferrous and phosphate) and LTO (lithium, titanate and oxide). Out of the three, NMC is the cheapest and widely available and can be bought from China at a good price, says Sharma. "In India, most EVs were on NMC, but they are now slowly moving to LFP," he says.

According to him, NMC batteries can catch fire easily. Once they reach a temperature of 60-70 degrees Celsius, NMC cells have a reaction and that in turn increases the temperature of the cells to anywhere between 100 and 200 degrees Celsius. "This makes it one of the trickiest cells to control." LFP batteries release smoke when they hit 175-180 degrees. The safest in chemistry is LTO. "They don't catch fire and neither release smoke. They can go up to 200-210 degrees," adds Sharma, who says his company is the only one in the country that specialises in LTO batteries.

NMC also has high-cell density, which stores more energy in each cell. "In NMC," says Sharma, "You get three things—cheaper price, better energy density and better supply in the market." A two-wheeler NMC battery of 2 kilowatts would cost around ₹20,000, whereas the LFP battery would be 20 per cent higher and an LTO battery would be 1.6 times that of NMC.

That's why the choice of chem-



Emo Energy, founded a year ago by Sheetanshu Tyagi and Rahul Patel, has its headquarters in Bengaluru and their factory in Mysore. Their work involves building safe and reliable battery packs for lighter electric vehicles



Entrepreneur Aneesh Bhasin opted for a Tata Nexon EV seven months ago; "it was reliable and economical," he says. His only grouse is that there aren't enough EV charging stations in the city. PIC/ANURAG AHIRE

istry by the battery manufacturer and the vehicle manufacturer is important, Tyagi and Sharma feel.

Rishi Aggarwal, environmentalist and director at Mumbai Sustainability Centre, however, highlights a more long-term environmental impact of these batteries. "First, is the mining of precious minerals such as nickel, magnesium and others to manufacture these batteries. The other issue is the recyclability of the lithium-ion battery. After 10-20 years, when all these batteries get discharged, how will we recycle them?" he asks.

Tyagi is hopeful that the EV fire incidents will come down over a period of time. But precaution is going to be key.

For starters, Sharma of Log9 Materials says don't charge batteries at home—"it's a recipe for disaster". "Home is not a charging station and it was never designed to charge a battery. One two-wheeler battery can draw a current equivalent to three air conditioners at peak power. If you try to take that much energy, the wiring at home will melt and it would result in a fire or a short circuit."

Sharma suggests developing tech to make this possible, like an indicator to show when the temperature rises. Besides the alert system, there should also be auto shutdown protocols. "We don't have to wait till it catches fire—you should be able to get an advance alert," says Sharma.

Chembur-based Rajendra Awas-

thi bought the Ola S1 Pro E-scooter in August this year. His EV scooter has an indicator. "Ola is a well known brand and it was more expensive than other e-scooters, so we assumed there wouldn't be any compromise on safety," he says.

Despite these fire incidents, customers are continuing to invest in EVs post the pandemic in India. Collectively, experts in the industry believe that the government should be more stringent with its laws, guidelines and norms when it comes to EV batteries. "The Government of India needs to come up with training on firefighting lithium-ion fire. The firefighter should be aware of how to treat it based on which cell. Instead of water they should have other inert materials," says Sharma, adding that there are advanced extinguishers in the market. "But they are not easily available and are in the higher price range."

Yogi believes that the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 156 guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways should be implemented more stringently as "it is the most comprehensive and toughest test out there". The guidelines in AIS 156 were enforced to strengthen the safety parameters for the testing of the batteries used in EVs and part of the amendment was implemented October 1 onwards. Sharma says, "The good news is that manufacturers have already started going back to the drawing board. The tech is only going to get better."

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Seven-year-old Log9 Materials claims to be the only Indian company that manufactures LTO (lithium, titanate and oxide) batteries, which are the safest and do not catch fire

Beginner's luck

Post Shiv Sena's split, the Andheri East Assembly bypoll is a litmus test for Uddhav. The woman on whom he has hedged his bets is a rank novice to politics who "fears no one" and has a muse in her late husband

JANE BORGES

THE harsh summer has made an unwelcome comeback this October. At Filter Pada in Powai, more so. Rutuja Latke, who is making her way through an overzealous crowd of women flaunting saffron caps and sashes, is reeling under the strain of the hot afternoon sun. She halts briefly to sip some water, while a female party worker wipes off the smudged red tikka that's bleeding in her sweat. In a matter of minutes, a large group encircles her. Standing on the periphery is a Congress karyakarta who has the palm of a hand printed on her sash. She holds up a flaming torch, crying out: "Mashaal, mashaal, mashaal. Garibo ki nishaani mashaal." The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance is playing out on field.

Latke takes a moment to get her bearings together, before turning back to face the crowd. She straightens her dupatta, folds her hands, and smiles. "Don't let [Ramesh] Latke sahebachi good work go waste. Give your blessings

to his wife, Rutuja tai... Remember you have to come out and vote on November 3. Your support is important," a party worker appeals in Marathi, the loudspeaker carrying his voice to a distance.

Latke stands quietly besides him—it's the last leg of this morning's campaign. The 45-year-old has been in the slum pocket for two hours, reaching out to the residents, many of whom voted for her late husband and Shiv Sena leader Ramesh Latke in the 2019 Assembly

I never imagined a day without him, and perhaps, that's why, I never saw a life in politics. My husband didn't mix his personal and professional lives, so his work was always out of bounds

elections. The senior leader died in May this year, while on holiday in Dubai. The door-to-door campaign began in full measure on October 14, right after Latke, a clerk in the K East Ward of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), filed her nomination papers for the November 3 Andheri East Assembly byelection, amidst much fanfare and sloganeering.

Earlier in the week, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) backed out from contesting, barely 72 hours after their candidate Murji Patel had filed his nomination. Their ally, CM Eknath Shinde of Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena had said that they had withdrawn, despite being assured of a win, due to "requests" made by leaders from across the spectrum to smoothen the path ahead for Ramesh Latke's widow. Political pundits called this claim an eyewash; a face-saving exercise in light of the close election battle that lay ahead. The tide of sympathy for Latke would mean an unopposed victory, they felt. Latke has heard the word



Latke inaugurating a new Shiv Sena shakha in Andheri East. PIC/RANE ASHISH

"sympathy" being thrown at her once too many times since she began campaigning.

When we join her in the car, she is still attending to her supporters. "I will see you soon," she tells them, rolling up her window gently, careful enough to continue the exchange of words, even though brief and consolatory. She takes another sip of water from her bottle, visibly perturbed about us having broached the "sympathy factor". She refuses to comment, but says matter-of-factly: "My husband has done a lot of good work in this constituency."

We are still a 25-minute ride away from her husband's office in Gundavali, where she is now heading to complete paperwork before going home for lunch. A day prior, Latke had inaugurated a new Shiv

Sena shakha in Andheri East. Latke admits that being interviewed, "is all very new for me." The initial discomfort, one that this writer suspects also came from the language barrier—Latke is comfortable in Marathi, while we struggle with it—soon thwarted. "You know, my husband was a good observer," she tells us, manoeuvring the conversation back to him. "He would take one look at you, and be able to gauge, why you are here, and what's your purpose. That's something I wish to learn, even if slowly." She smiles and continues, "Saheb also knew how to speak with people, and did so, with great respect. He treated everyone equally, irrespective of their religion or caste. Filter Pada has a huge Muslim population that respects him. He could speak their language. He'd never talk down to people. It was a rare gift. He was not a politician in that sense... he didn't play politics."

Ramesh Latke, a three-time corporator in the BMC, was elected twice as MLA from the Andheri East constituency (2014 and 2019)—his last tenure remained incomplete, following his untimely passing on May 11 this year, at the age of 52. With the seat vacant, there had been murmurs about his wife contesting. "It was my life's biggest conundrum," she confesses. "I never imagined a day without him, and perhaps, that's why, I never saw a life in politics. My husband didn't mix his personal and professional lives, so his work was always out of bounds. To be honest, politics never interested me."

If there's one thing that Latke was determined about, it was to become financially independent. Born into a family that hailed from Chiplun, Latke grew up in Thane, with four other siblings. Her father had a job with the Reserve Bank of India, where he looked after the lodging of senior banking staff, while her mother was a homemaker. "Because my father worked in the RBI, I wished to become a banker," she recalls. After graduating in commerce from at NG Bedekar College of Commerce in Thane, she took up odd jobs, first as a typist earning ₹700, and then with Natraj Pencils, working as an accountant near Haj House in CSMT, making a monthly sum

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Rutuja Latke, who is contesting the upcoming Andheri East bypolls seen during a door-to-door campaign at Filter Pada, Powai. PICS/ PRADEEP DHIVAR



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of ₹1,500. This was in 1998. A year later, her marriage was fixed with Ramesh Latke, who was then a young corporator. The couple was married on April 25, 1999. She tells us how her husband rejected 22 women, before he agreed to marry her. "He had only one expectation from his future wife—he wanted her to have a degree. I wanted the same in a husband. We both gave a lot of importance to education. Today, a degree has no real worth; back then, it did."

The birth of her son, Ameya, soon after, compelled Latke to focus homewards. "But somehow, I had this urge to go back and work." In 2004, she happened to chance on a newspaper advertisement for an accountant in the BMC, where her husband was now serving as corporator for the second term. But the candidate needed to have a Maharashtra State Certificate in Information Technology (MS-CIT), an IT literacy course started by the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation. "I didn't have the bandwidth to do the course, so I applied for a clerk's position," she says, adding that it was done clandestinely, without keeping her husband in the loop. The call for the written test came many months later, when she was expecting her second child, daughter Bhargavi. "My parents didn't understand why I wanted to work, when my husband was doing well. But, I had received an education, and wanted to make use of it."

When she was finally shortlisted for the interview in March 2005, her daughter was already a few months old. "That's when I told my husband. He said, 'Now, if you've gone and done it, what do you expect me to say? Go ahead.'" Latke remembers taking her daughter for the BMC job interview, where hundred other applications had arrived. It was only many months later that she was told that she had got the job. "The process took nearly 1.5 years, but I was happy it worked out, because I really wanted to get back to work," she says, adding, "See, my husband was not opposed to my working, but he wanted me to take up something worth my salt." She, however, insists that he didn't see any job as inferior. His own parents, Kondiram and Savitri Latke, lived modestly. Savitri used to sell vegetables outside Shree Vanchha Siddhivinayak Ganesh Mandir near Andheri East station, while her father-in-law, a flower vendor, would also sweep and clean the temple premises. "They did this until before COVID," she says, adding, "Many people would tell him, 'Saheb, you are an MLA now... tell your mother to stop selling vegetables on the street'. But, he never interfered. He respected what his parents did, and knew it brought them happiness, gave them a purpose."

Having worked with the BMC for nearly 17 years, dispatching birth and death certificate and handling clerical tasks with the storm water department, Latke has come a long way. She didn't get a promotion, because she didn't clear the test. "But I couldn't be bothered, because I had

too many responsibilities at home." After getting done with work post 6 pm, she'd go home and cook every day, making fresh rotis for the family who would join the late MLA for dinner. "He loved my cooking, and wouldn't eat anything else." Latke's ward office was in Chakala, until they moved to Gundavali in 2019, a stone's throw away from her late husband's workplace. "Initially, when I joined work, people were cautious around me, because they thought she is Saheb's wife. But when they realised that I didn't carry the weight of my husband's status, they dropped their guard. I've had the most fulfilling career with the BMC."

The most gruelling phase of her career, she remembers, was during COVID-19. "Both my husband and I were working throughout the pandemic. We would isolate in separate rooms, so that we wouldn't pass on the infection." Despite taking enough care and precaution, Ramesh Latke, she says, contracted the virus in September 2020. "While the infection was mild, the viral slowly started taking a toll on his health," she feels, adding, that he developed thyroid sometime later, and started losing weight drastically. From 99 kg, his weight had dropped to 82 kg. "This had never happened before... But there were some positives. We had just moved into our new flat last year, which we had purchased after taking a home loan with his salary."

Life took a 360 degree turn for the Latkes in May. Ameya, who was pursuing a Masters degree in the UK, had a seminar in Dubai. The family decided to go visit him. "This was our first trip abroad as a family. My husband wasn't too keen, because for some reason, Dubai didn't appeal to him. But, we went anyway." The family had been in the Emirates for barely a day. The following morning, Latke, her husband, and children met for breakfast at the hotel's restaurant. "My children were busy discussing plans for the day. Saheb wasn't feeling too well, so he left his breakfast and went to freshen up in the room. He said he'd join us in a bit. Meanwhile, my kids decided to go shopping. Now that I look back, I feel I should have followed him to the room. But there was no way, I'd have known." When Latke returned to the room after her kids had left, she realised the door was locked from inside. Worried, she got the hotel staff to intervene. By then, Ramesh Latke had passed on due to a heart attack.

Latke breaks down while narrating the incident. We do not discuss this again.

We are outside the K East Ward office, which was where she spent

His own parents, Kondiram and Savitri Latke, lived modestly. Savitri used to sell vegetables outside Shree Vanchha Siddhivinayak Ganesh Mandir near Andheri East station, while her father-in-law, a flower vendor, would also sweep and clean the temple premises. "They did this until before COVID," she says, adding, "Many people would tell him, 'Saheb, you are an MLA now... tell your mother to stop selling vegetables on the street'



The Shree Vanchha Siddhivinayak Ganesh Mandir near Andheri East station is patronised by the Latke family

nearly eight hours daily until last week, when she resigned and left office. The security staff takes one look at her, and gets up from his seat. She tells him that she'll be returning a while later, as she needs to complete some paperwork.

Her decision to quit her job had stirred up a hornet's nest when the BMC had refused to accept her resignation. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, which blamed the Eknath Shinde government for "using the civic body for their own political gain", moved the Bombay high court, which directed the municipal body to relieve Latke. She clears the air: "The thing is that I was in two minds about contesting the elections. We've taken a home loan, and that needs clearing. I am now the sole breadwinner; I was conscious about how not having a job would play out." She says that the Thackeray family was considerate. "Uddhavji asked me to take my time, and mull over it. He also

told me that only if I wasn't ready, would he consider having another senior party worker contest the elections."

In an affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, Latke had stated that she has ₹43.89 lakh in cash, bank deposits, FDs, mutual funds, jewellery, etc. and the process of transferring her husband's assets of ₹22.58 lakh is still under process. She also owns a house in Chiplun worth ₹51 lakh and the real estate on her husband's name is worth ₹8.03 crore. She and her husband have a loan of ₹2.20 crore.

Interestingly, it was Latke's superior in the BMC who motivated her to take on the challenge. "She told me that I shouldn't let my husband's work go down the drain. He would have wanted me to continue what he started."

In the first week of September, Latke wrote to BMC chief Iqbal Singh Chahal requesting if she could contest the polls, while in office. And if she could have her job back, if she didn't win. The response came late in September, and as per BMC protocol, she was told that this wasn't possible. "So, I had to submit my resignation in October. But with the last date for filing nominations inching closer, and me not receiving any response, we had to move court. I don't have any problem with my seniors in

the BMC; all of them have been very supportive, and stood by me through my ups and downs."

While BJP's Murji Patel has withdrawn from the fight, Latke still has a few Independents—Milind Kamble and Neena Khedekar—and candidates from smaller parties, to fight. "The future is still not certain. We will only know post November 3."

Latke is well aware of the responsibility that comes with power. "The Assembly is a different ball game. When I was in the BMC, I was coordinating with one corporator; now I will have nine others, all from different parties. I want to take them along with me, to ensure the development of our constituency, which my husband has so carefully nurtured."

Her mother, she says, moved in with her recently. She tears up again. "Aai is in her late 60s, but she has stood by me like a rock. She knows that it's becoming difficult for me to juggle home and the campaign. My in-laws are also doing everything possible to help me through this."

If she wins the elections, she has her work set out. "I will first complete the tasks that my husband started and remains unfinished. As a woman, I also want to help other women. I want them to come to me, and tell me about their problems, so that we can address them together. Getting an education saved me; I want that for all women."

Latke tells us that she has never been comfortable about being in the limelight. "Many didn't even know who Ramesh Latke's wife was. Even now... this media attention is unsettling. But the one quality I have, is that I don't fear anyone. My husband used to tease me, call me, 'khatarnaak'. This year has been tough on us. There have been transitions personally and politically. But it has made me stronger. In the last few days, my confidence has increased. I will see this through."

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Supporters from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance join Latke's campaign trail, wielding the mashaal, which is the new Shiv Sena symbol of Uddhav Thackeray's faction

Houses that talk

Heritage activist and Saligao resident Heta Pandit's new book explores the ancestors and legends that take up space in old Goan houses through their owners



HETA PANDIT

JANE BORGES

THERE'S a centuries-old legend from Sanvordekar Wada in Sanvordem that lives and breathes in the stories shared by its occupiers. Goa-based heritage activist Heta Pandit, who has had the rare opportunity of visiting the wada, tells us that it's a unique structure, with five inter-connected homes around a main courtyard, and another for women called the bailancho aagan. "The village was named after the family, not the other way round. They were wealthy with huge plantations," she says. "Legend is that dacoits once arrived on horseback, fully-armed at the front door of the wada. But suddenly they stopped, because they saw a lady, sitting on the second step. It was late into the night, and normally a woman wouldn't be seated there at that hour. She was dressed beautifully in a nine-yard saree, decked in gold, her hair left open, and a big red bindi on her forehead. They knew right then that it was Goddess Shree Shantadurga, and so they quietly left," says Pandit. Ever since, nobody has set foot on that second step.

For the last many years, Pandit has been on a unique quest, visiting homes that draw their heritage from the ancestors who lived there, their myths and the unique architecture that make them quintessentially Goan. Her soon-to-release book, *Stories From Goan Houses*, which comes nearly 24 years after *Houses of Goa* (published by

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Trikaya, Bennita, Feni, Ganesh and Trusha on the front steps of the restored Neemrana Arco Iris, Curtorim



Katarina, Fatima and Pedro Figueiredo Novais with Lourdes Figueiredo at the Mansion. PICS COURTESY/STORIES FROM GOAN HOUSES BY HETA PANDIT

Gerard Da Cunha and co-written by Annabel Mascarenhas Lopes) that focussed more on the architecture, explores why these structures also have a beating heart.

Pandit, who co-founded the Goa Heritage Action Group in the year 2000 with architects Raya Shankwalker and Poonam Verma Mascarenhas, and has written numerous books that map the coastal state's vibrant and rich cultural history, says "there is more awareness about Goan architecture now. We don't have to begin at the beginning anymore." She felt instead, that she needed to turn to its inhabitants. "I followed a completely new approach to interact with the house-owners. In fact, the book has been written by them. I have only done the introduction and ending, and of course, guided them, so that the stories [I was seeking] emerged. It's a talking book, where the custodians are the authors."

The book features 21 homes, with photographs by Daniel D'Souza. Nisha Albuquerque has designed the title, juxtaposing photographs, which Pandit says, speak to each other. Artist-sculptor Bianca Menezes has given every home featured, a drawing, offering a birds-eye view of the houses. "You can see the house from the top, the roofline, and the greenery that surrounds the houses. You will also notice that almost every home has a water body, either a lake or river." Pandit has only included two houses from her first book: Costa Frias in Candolim and Figueiredo House in Loutolim, in this title. "That's for a reason. These houses have come a long way since the first feature. Both the families [who own these homes] have struggled hard over the last 22 years... they have also taken bank loans, to restore these to near perfection," she shares.

What shines are the legends, and there are innumerable. "Mostly,

what preoccupies the residents the most is their ancestors, and how the house emerged," she says, citing the example of Kundaikar House in village Kundai. "They believe that the first person who started the family here was a lady who was widowed and had a two-year-old son. She hailed from South Goa, and had been abandoned by both, her marital and maternal families. She came looking for shelter, and was taken in by the Kamats, becoming the sambhalnaari, the lady who looks after the house." The story goes that there was a huge flood in the area, and the residents, who saw no respite from the monsoon, thought they'd have to sacrifice a child. "The lady overheard the conversation, and fearing that her son would be taken, prayed to Goddess Shree Shantadurga. Legend is that the goddess told her to place her son under the sluice gate boulders. She kept the child there, despite the risk of losing him to the flood. The water did recede and the child was unharmed. The villagers believe that she had been touched by divinity and gave her a plot of land to start her life there. That's why today in Kundai they say, 'You make a vow and you get a gao,'" says Pandit, smiling.

Her first book since its release has become a manual of sorts, for architectural students and firms, alike, especially those engaged in conservation and restoration. "I hope this one also becomes a reference material for those studying the cultural and social history of Goa, because they will see the changes that are taking place in a home, not just materially. The house is an organic and dynamic space... speaking to you, based on how you respond to it. I hope it inspires younger people to not leave Goa, and find a way to put their old home back on its feet."

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Artist Bianca Menezes gives readers a bird's eye view of every house in the book



This house, like many houses in Goa, has been built over several decades. The Souza Monteiro House completes 100 years this year

Home alone on Mars

A UK-based project that challenged artists to create a home that's perfect for travellers to Mars sees a Lucknow designer use India-inspired traditions for sustainable and resourceful living

YUSRA HUSAIN

LUCKNOW resident Anurita Chandola says that she has always harboured an inexplicable curiosity about space and all things celestial. Taking after her brother, who watched movies inspired by the cosmos, Chandola remembers spending hours dreaming about a world beyond. "I just don't know how and why..." she says to us over a call from London.

The day dreaming has paid off. Chandola, 30, is on a team in Southwest England that's working on a unique project to create a home that's perfect for living on planet Mars. She has created clothes and fabrics that can make it to the Martian pad.

Building a Martian House is a public art project that involves conceiving, designing and creating the prototype of a home for Mars. The project, which was open for public viewing between August and mid-October, is led and conceived by artists Ella Good and Nicki Kent, and designed by Hugh Broughton Architects and Pearce+. Stationed currently in Bristol, the prototype is presented in partnership with M Shed and has received funding from The Edward Marshall Trust.

"The idea isn't to move to Mars, or have it ready as plan B. The house is more about conceiving a hopeful future on Mars and how we can mirror sustainable living that's possible on Earth, there," she explains.

A single way journey to the planet would take seven months, so you cannot carry a lot of weight or order something you have forgotten to pack. "Which

means that everything you carry must be well thought out, reusable, recyclable, minimal waste-producing."

On their website, Ella and Nicki, write that the, "Martian house is designed to protect the people that live in it", since Mars has both, a thin atmosphere and high levels of radiation. According to the design, the house sits partly above the surface, with an inflatable golden-hued upper floor, and the lower level designed to sit underground. The lower floor can be in the lava tubes that are already on Mars. It can be pre-fabricated on Earth, re-using life support systems from the rocket, and dropped into the ground on arrival. It contains a special Environment Control and Life Support System room that can keep humans alive on Mars. The upper floor will travel to the planet, packed flat and can be inflated on landing. This will make it as light and small as possible. The walls would be filled with the Martian soil [regolith] on arrival because it's best to use local, readily available materials. This soil can be solidified using a bacteria that has been tested in the Sahara desert where it helps solidify sand. Our prototype uses air, instead of regolith, so that we can reuse it, the designers have said.

The top level has a big window for people to enjoy a view of the unique landscape of the planet. Here, artist Katy Connor has created a hydroponic plant living room where plants grow without soil and can be used to make food. The underground level will come in handy during solar storms when the risk of radiation is higher.



Lucknow girl and spacewear designer Anurita Chandola has designed this pink Kantha work spacesuit, for her alter-ego Astro Anurita, from a bed sheet her mother gifted. The multi-functional space suit turns into a sleeping bag to take a nap. It has pinned on it things dear to Chandola, photos of her family, a packet of her favourite instant noodles and bare necessities for space travel

Born to parents who hail from Uttarakhand, Chandola says that like other pahadi families, they learnt sustainable and resourceful living early. As fate would have it, she moved to the UK in January 2018, a month after she was married. Having previously worked as a designer with firms in India and England, she enrolled herself at the Royal College of Arts for a graduate diploma in fashion textile. "I think I was extremely lucky to get in," she says. It was here that she made the shift in focus to researching clothes that can be worn in outer space, work well in microgravity situations, which otherwise make objects and people appear weightless.

From this research was born the special spacesuit that can be worn on Mars, where the gravitational pull is one-third of Earth's gravity. "The drape and fall that we achieve on Earth when we tailor a beautiful skirt or dress, isn't possible on Mars because of decreased gravitational pull. So, I had to create clothes that could hold their shape and structure."

She says that research on the project included dipping into Barbara Brownie's work, who in her book, *Spacewear: Weightlessness and the Final Frontier of Fashion*, talks about customisable spacesuits for the future. Shape-changing clothes are one of her other innovations. "You cannot carry 10



A side view of the Martian house at Bristol. The double-storey prototype is an art project, Building a Martian House, led by artists Ella Good and Nicki Kent and designed by Hugh Broughton Architects and Pearce+. **PIC/LUKE O'DONOVAN**



Bedding for the house has been designed by Chandola, inspired from the Indian charpoy. Material from a used parachute of an astronaut has been weaved together to make the charpoy bed. Mustard seeds are stuffed inside the pillow, generally used for newborns in India to help maintain their head-shape. The fabric is naturally dyed with flowers and food waste generated by the house

different outfits to the planet and add to the luggage weight. "More weight means more fuel," Chandola says, "but my shape-changing kinetic clothes can alter according to the pulse rate. It means different garments can be created from the same piece." Chandola projects into the future when she says that spacesuits are the next big bespoke couture trend with space travel becoming a possibility. "I have made those with extra cushioning inside, so that they are safe for the rocket. They can also be converted into sleeping bags, which the astronauts use to sleep in. The point was to create things that are multi-functional."

Interestingly, several of the

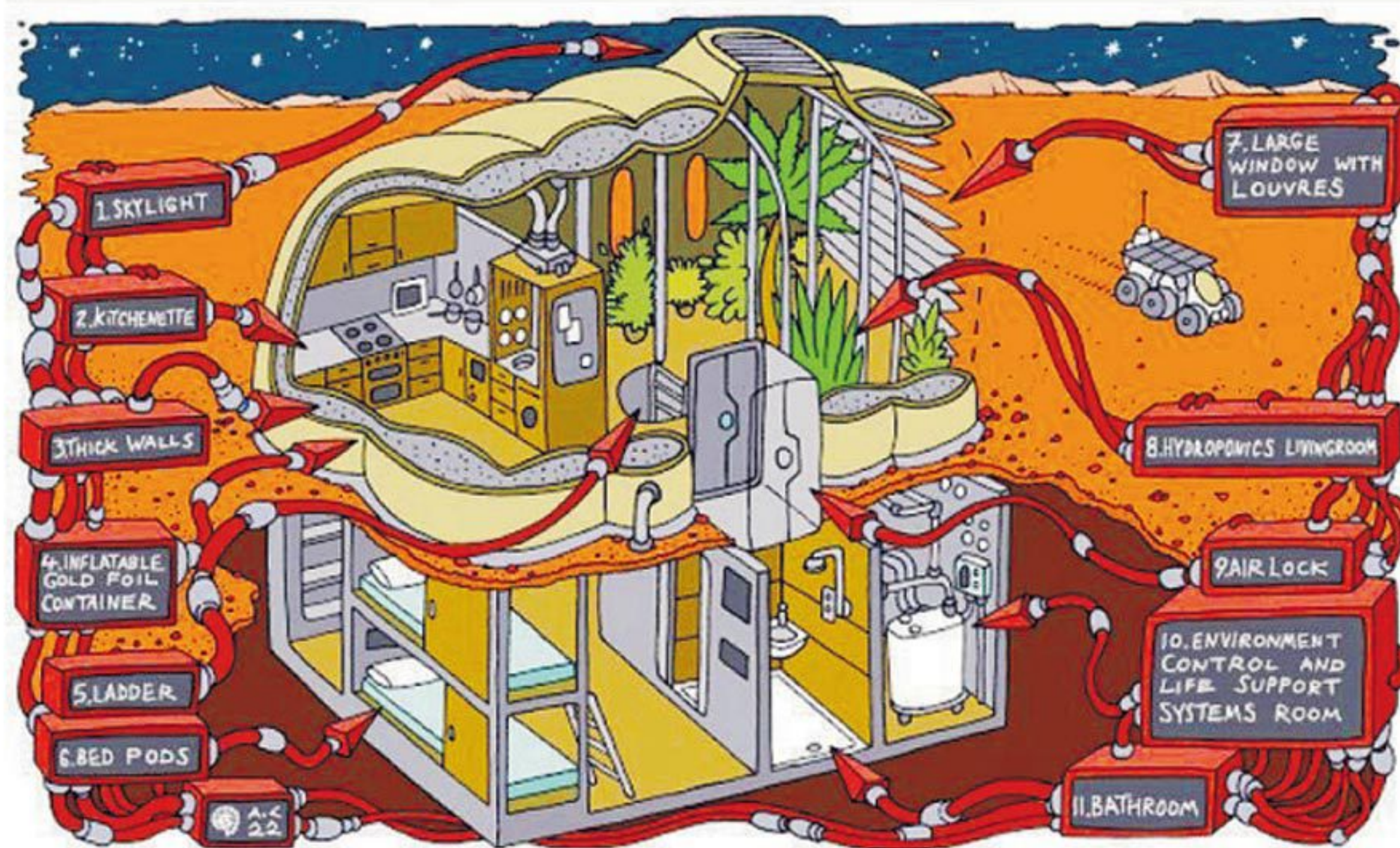
When it came to deciding on a mattress, we concluded that foam would be heavy, expensive and not durable. I thought of the coconut coir bed my parents have used and is still going strong. Ultimately, we decided to use the charpoy weaving method to create a bed from braided strips of material recycled from a parachute

ideas carry an India stamp. It's a way for travellers not to miss home, she reasons. Her space alter-ego, Astro Anurita, dresses in a customised bright pink spacesuit with Kantha work. "I made it from a blanket my mother gave me." The multi-functional space suit turns into a sleeping bag to take a nap. It has pinned on it things dear to Chandola, photos of her family, a packet of her favourite instant noodles Maggie, a solar lamp and pen. Fabrics for the bedding have been bundle-dyed using flowers, berries, food waste like onion and avocado peels, coffee waste and used tea bags. The pillow is stuffed with mustard seeds like the ones used for newborns in India so that the shape of their head is maintained.

The bed is inspired by the Indian charpoy design. "When it came to deciding on a mattress, we concluded that foam would be heavy, expensive and not durable. I thought of the coconut coir bed my parents have used and is still going strong. Ultimately, we decided to use the charpoy weaving method to create a bed from braided strips of material recycled from a parachute. When the astronaut uses a parachute, instead of discarding it, s/he can use the material to weave a bed."

The top inflatable level of the home is set to tour the world, while the lower level, which consists of the bedrooms and the Martian toilet that uses minimal water, will be handed out to a family that is in need of extra space."

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Building A Martian House is a public art project that involves designing a prototype of a house that's Mars-friendly. It can withstand extreme climatic conditions, atmospheric pressure and decreased gravitational pull. The house has an upper inflatable floor, which can reflect radiation and a lower floor, which will sit underground and consist of two bedroom pods. It is solar-powered, can grow its own food and has a toilet customised for the red planet. **ILLUSTRATION/BUILDING A MARTIAN HOUSE**

Can a star guarantee a hit restaurant?

Karan Johar has one, so do Virat Kohli and Shilpa Shetty. As more and more celebrities try their hand at the restaurant business, we ask veterans of the notoriously tough industry what will succeed, and what's poised for failure



GAURI DEVIDAYAL



RIYAAZ AMLANI



ZORAWAR KALRA



YASH BHANAGE



PAWAN SHAHRI



CHIRAG MARU

HEENA KHANDELWAL

TO be fair, I haven't met anyone in my life who hadn't at some point in their life contemplated having their own restaurant," says Riyaaz Amlani, founder and managing director of Impresario Handmade Restaurants and the man behind SOCIAL. "People from all walks of life want to get into the restaurant business, including professionals who quit their corporate job. Celebrities are no different."

Perhaps that explains the growing interest celebrities have taken of late in the restaurant business. After Shilpa Shetty Kundra got a piece of the successful Bastian pie, we saw Karan Johar opening Neuma in Colaba in May, and just earlier this month, Virat Kohli's One8 Commune made its way to Juhu. India's most-famous export Priyanka Chopra Jonas has even opened Sona all the way in New York! There are also other OGs—Sachin Tendulkar, Dino Morea, Virender Sehwag, Sourav Ganguly, Govinda—whose restaurants have long shut down.

"The restaurant and the entertainment industry are related as they both are about entertaining people. If you look at food as an entertainment business, it is 40 times larger than Bollywood. In a way, it is a logical extension to what they [actors] already do," says restaurateur Zorawar Kalra, adding that it is happening all over the world. "Nobu, which is the largest Japanese restaurant chain in the world, is funded by actor Robert De Niro. If done right, it can be a very lucrative business. So, it makes sense for them [celebrities] to be a part of it," adds the founder and managing director of Massive Restaurants Pvt. Ltd.

Vartik Tihara, co-founder of True Palate Pvt Ltd, and Kohli's partner at One8 Commune, agrees. Tihara and Kohli's partnership goes back to the time when they would play cricket in Delhi. "About five years ago, when he was about to launch One8 in New Delhi, I reached out to him and told him about Commune, and the idea to cater to people of all ages. He suggested collaboration, saying it

would give my concept a push." And it did, admits Tihara. "Currently, we have six restaurants [three in Delhi, and one each in Pune, Kolkata and Mumbai]. His fan following is so massive that whenever we open a restaurant, the response that we see in a week or 10 days is what other outlets would see in six to eight months. Even yesterday, I wanted to book a table for two at One8 Commune Juhu, but I couldn't."

What worked in his favour, says Tihara, is that Kohli was actively involved throughout. "He would come often. He tried every dish and because he is well travelled and a foodie, we took his feedback seriously." Tihara also added that when a celebrity comes on board, so does the attention. "You have to be extra cautious. If anything goes wrong, people are watching. In the hospitality business, irrespective of however much you do, many would find a small reason to complain, saying they weren't treated well. So there is no room for error."

Restaurants need money, and who is investing that money depends on the kind of partnership: One is where a well-off restaurateur reaches out to a potential celebrity asking to get associated with his brand in exchange for equity. Another is where a celebrity wants to open a restaurant and reaches out to a restaurateur/operator to come on board in exchange of equity, and third is where both the parties invest money to put together a restaurant.

"A celebrity would invest if the property is spectacular, like Shilpa Shetty in Bastian or Karan Johar in Neuma. The property also has to suit them and their profile. I have heard that SRK has also invested in a restaurant and it is again located in Bandra," says real estate consultant Chirag Maru, who specialises in sourcing of restaurant real-estate spaces for the city's biggest F&B companies, adding that whether a celebrity would invest or not depends on three factors—location,



Vartik Tihara, Virat Kohli with marketing head of True Palate Sushree Vaish at One8 Commune, Juhu

property and their social standing.

Bastian, which opened in 2016, was known for its food fashion by Canada-born chef Kevin Cheung and was already a hit with celebrities. It saw Shetty, a regular diner at the eatery, acquire a stake in 2019. Maru calls the restaurant that's now also at a second location—Worli—a hub to meet interesting people. "It has become a networking bar of sorts. Instead of meeting all my clients separately, I can easily go to Bastian and bump into all of them," he says. But another industry insider said that the same may not be true for Neuma. "It is too big and intimidating, which may work against making it 'the place.'"

In terms of investment, adds Gauri Devidayal, the restaurateur behind The Table and Mag St. Kitchen, it is a capital-heavy business. "The big restaurants tend to be at prime locations, so there is a real estate cost to it. Plus, when a celebrity is involved, it is likely to be fancier as opposed to a more casual space, which makes it a more costly business," says Devidayal, adding that there is no minimum or maximum when it comes to cost. Neuma, she points out, has clearly gone all out in terms of decor. Her estimate for decor for a fine-dining restaurant is



Bastian, which opened in 2016, saw Shilpa Shetty Kundra coming on board in 2019 as its co-owner. Today, it is one of the successful restaurants in the city. PIC/INSTAGRAM



Karan Johar opened Neuma in May this year. An industry insider feels that it might not have longevity as the restaurant is intimidating, which works against it. PIC/TWITTER

a minimum of ₹10,000 per sq feet, excluding kitchen equipment.

When it comes to real estate, a partner at a realtor firm who also has a stake in a Bandra restaurant says that a casual or fine dining restaurant in Bandra, say something of the standard of Joshi House, would end up having to cough up a rent between ₹7 and 10 lakh for a 2,000 to 3,000 sq feet area. The prices drop as you go deeper into the suburbs.

The trend is not restricted to India. The reason, says Amlani, is because "lending their name brings a lot of excitement, creates curiosity, and gets attention from traditional media like a newspaper, which is good for a restaurant". "It also makes for new age marketing like influencer marketing, which is all about cross-leveraging your celebrity status. It does help get the word out there sooner—what someone would take six months to achieve, a celebrity restaurant would do in a week." But none of this guarantees success. "At the end of the day, it is about the product, quality of food and the vibe of the place."

Pawan Shahri, founder of Chrome Hospitality, the brand behind Blah!, and Butterfly High, agrees. "Tendulkar's in Mumbai, Sehwag's Favourites in Delhi and Sourav Ganguly's restaurant in Kolkata, they all shut down and didn't see their fan following keeping up with the restaurant offerings for too long. The promoters of Tendulkar's said that it was not a success commercially and they

couldn't keep up with the offerings and sale value of the restaurant."

"India's food industry is like the folk tale The Emperor's New Clothes. At the end of the day, if you are just going to focus on the outlook and not think that it needs to be supported by a strong team, which includes the chef, it can't be a good product," says Yash Bhanage, co-founder and COO at Hunger Inc. Hospitality, the company behind The Bombay Canteen. "Although we have finished eight and five years with TBC and O Pedro, respectively, we know we are as good as our last meal. Of course, celebrities help, not only do they bring attention, but they also come with better design outlook and can curate better experiences. If you have that on one end and on another a really powerful chef/restaurateur, then it could make for a perfect combination. But if not, the party stops after six months."

Tihara of One8 Commune says things also go south when the restaurants overdo it "because a celebrity is involved". "Say, they would offer a cuisine which is not meant for the Indian palette or their price point is such that while people come once because of its celebrity status, they don't find it value for money and don't return, which is important in the long run." Tihara says that at the Juhu outpost of their chain, a meal for two costs ₹2,000.

When restaurateurs were asked if we would see more such partnerships taking place in the future, they seemed divided. "Never say never," says Bhanage. Amlani said that he doesn't think a lot of seasoned restaurateurs would lean towards this wave because they know, it is hard work that brings the ultimate success. Devidayal says, "For me, it is counter intuitive to be a part of something where you are not actively involved, but maybe, for them, they really trust the chef or the operator, and see it as a good business investment." Kalra adds, "I think getting the tie-ups with the right people can be a beautiful thing."

technophile

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The Gardens Between+

The Gardens Between is a re-make of an older game. It is a single-player game where you play as Arina and Frenndt, who try to navigate a surreal garden that tests the significance of their friendship. You have to solve puzzles and manipulate time to progress in the game. However, there is no time pressure. You can enjoy the emotional journey this game takes you on at your own pace. The game also has simple controls, which makes it great for casual gamers as well.

Arcade Amusements

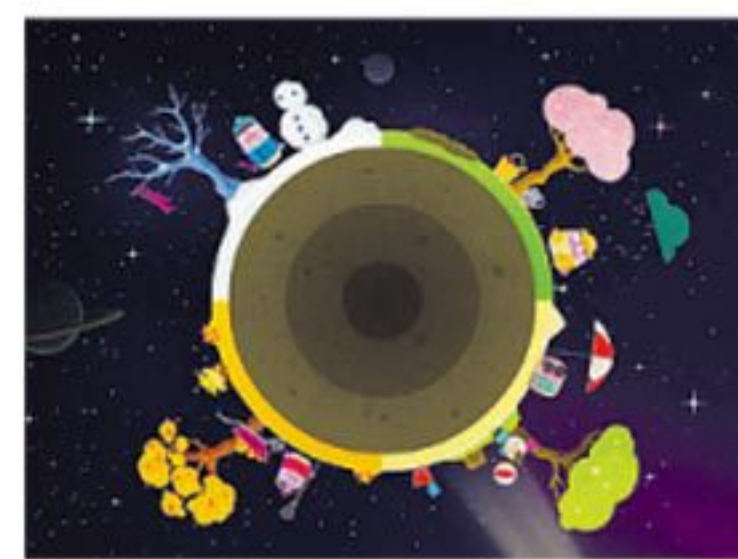
Get in on some of the newest games to hit Apple Arcade.

Apple Arcade has been around for a while, but it is still going strong mostly because of the subscription model of bundling it free when you get Apple One service which includes Apple TV, Apple Music, and Arcade, amongst others.



Samsorost 3+

Samorost is an award-winning puzzle-based adventure game. You play a gnome-like space creature that uses a magical flute to travel across the universe. The game is full of strange creatures, unique alien worlds, and, most important of all, challenging puzzles. The first two installations of this game were excellent, so it goes without saying that this one will be amazing too. In case you haven't played the first two, they are part of Arcade as well.



Love You to Bits+

Love you to Bits is a sweet point-and-click adventure game where you play Kosmo, who is exploring the cosmos in search of pieces of his robotic girlfriend. You have to assemble all the pieces to rebuild her. The game has lots of puzzles, strange alien worlds, and hidden Easter eggs, enough to keep you coming back for more. It is the perfect game if you are in the mood to give your brain a little workout.

Jetpack Joyride 2

You know you spent weeks playing the first version of this game. Jetpack Joyride was a smash hit on every mobile platform it was released on. The sequel is an Apple Arcade exclusive. In addition to going the furthest with your jetpack, the new game also has you tackling boss battles and tricky hazards that require much more finesse. You can, of course, collect coins and upgrade your jetpack with performance upgrades.



HEROish

Tower defence games are so much fun, and HEROish is one of them. You play as one of six heroes, and your character goes against other players either in a 1v1 or a 2v2 match. Your chosen hero can summon troops, cast spells, and perform attacks on your enemies and their towers. A deck of cards is also involved; the cards can upgrade and fortify your team. The campaign is an excellent place to familiarise you with the game mechanics.



Horizon Chase 2

Do you miss how car racing games felt in the 90s and don't like the impeccable and frankly sanitised game play? Then Horizon Chase is for you. The game ticks all the right nostalgia boxes, including fantastic music, retro console-style car racing looks, and easy controls. The latest iteration also brings multiplayer, either in co-op mode or to compete head-to-head.



NBA 2K23 Arcade Edition

NBA 2K22 is one of the most popular games on Apple arcade, and 2k23 is its latest version. 2K23 has a new mode that lets you complete challenges and even lets you play against current NBA stars and legends like Michael Jordan. You can play career mode as well as street-style basketball games. The game supports controllers, and you can play real-time multiplayer matches.



GRIS+

In this 2D side scroller, you play a girl called Gris, who has just gone through a traumatic experience and is dealing with it while lost in a strange new world. Her dress helps her navigate this new world, and as you progress, Gris's abilities expand, allowing you to explore the world even more. There is no death or frustrating bottlenecks in this game. It is all about progress and enjoying the experience.



tailor-made

BY SHWETA SHIWARE

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Shivam Dubey in a design by Rajesh Pratap Singh



Lakmé brand ambassador Mrunal Thakur in a Rajesh Pratap Singh ensemble. PICS/SHADAB KHAN



There is always hope

FDCI X LAKMÉ FASHION WEEK We sat through sundry fashion shows at the just-ended fashion week in Mumbai and just as we'd begin to feel uninspired, there came along clothes makers who'd rescue us from resignation

OF course, nearly all fashion brands revel in the design process as a creative mix of instinct, necessity, marketing and merchandising. A practice that imagines clothes through the lens of a muse, context and technique now seems tailor-made exclusively for maximum influence on social media and little else.

The show is the moment the clothes connect with people. But when the clothes lack points of view, how can they engage

with the wearer? Those are the overarching sensibilities we assimilated after carefully considering the "fashion" presented at the just-concluded FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week.

The clothes may have been well-made (a few designers easily ticked the aspiration box), but it's not often that we appreciated a collection for presenting content with commerce, technical brilliance, critical design thinking or in lieu of having a pulse on identity politics. Very few designers harvested

notes from the brand's heritage or pushed boundaries as shapeshifters, or bothered to give us clothes expressing an emotion or narrative.

But like with life, at fashion week too, all is not lost. When everything is available 24/7, and we are inundated with information in every style, shape and form, we are calling time on overcrowding and window display of "lewks", to single out (in a good way) those who continue to inspire.

Rajesh Pratap Singh

SO many moods, so many incarnations... Rajesh Pratap Singh's curtain-closer show for Lakmé Fashion Week held in partnership with FDCI asserted the eternal allure of the classic "Pratap white shirt" in every avatar; dinner and tuxedo, peplum and pleats.

His interpretation of clothing styles from the 1950s felt self-consciously retrospective (without being burdened by direct references); harking back to the time when India was young and resolute as a newly independent nation. Flower Duet, the first act of Leo Delibes's Lakmé (a French rendering of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth) performed by singers of the Neemrana Music Foundation, offered an emotional purge.

Meanwhile, in a wistful throwback to mannered elegance, the erstwhile salon styles of the '50s—cinched waists and balloon hemlines, cocoon and opera coat styles in dropped shoulder seams, statement sleeves and sharp tailoring, and finally issuing the cult of sarees—took stage in the virtuoso display. This chapter in history also speaks powerfully about homegrown beauty brand, Lakmé's leading lady Simone Tata, the defining icon of modern elegance and of signature pearl necklace in the 1950s.

RPS is a cerebral and controlled clothes maker, with an unusual gift for making the complex seem simple while stating the obvious, but oh so cleverly. Because what's more obvious than a black and white pairing, which he presented in a modern dance of long dress hybrid (a blend of a wide-peaked lapel, double-breasted sleeveless blouse and a draped skirt), short dresses, shorter jackets with immaculate cuffs and ghungroo-stacked boots styling detail.

Adarsh wears a Rajesh Pratap Singh look, styled with ghungroos on boots



Rachel Bayros in a Gaurav Gupta ensemble

Gaurav Gupta

DESPITE the theme and set design that screamed "Instagram me", the clothing ideas by Gaurav Gupta came across as well-thought-out. He knows how to make Indian costume traditions live, by playing with materials and techniques and giving them a voice of today. The designer revisited the lehenga-choli pair and presented what his brand is now synonymous with: a one-piece gown comprising a georgette skirt attached to the tulle bodice and dupatta. "The idea is to celebrate goth, futuristic elements in modern Indian couture which is essentially the saree and the lehenga-choli," Gupta explains.

We suspect that Gupta foraged through a hundred shades of grey before he found his "galactic lava grey" for the gown, while his knowledge of

fabric manipulation and dressmaking allowed him to infuse a hard-to-copy sculptural quality in his clothes. The use of 3-D glass bugle beads and sequin embroidery seemed to mimic meteor showers sprayed on the wearer of his ensemble, with a hint of art nouveau-inspired gilded threadwork strewn on the blouse. The mask, as a styling detail, not only interpolated imagined galaxies but also made the best case for a gender-blurring future.

The use of 3-D glass bugle beads and sequin embroidery seemed to mimic meteor showers sprayed on the wearer of his ensemble, with a touch of art nouveau-inspired gilded threadwork strewn on the blouse

Abraham & Thakore

IF you accept that fashion reflects the times—and this writer does—then you have to concede that the Abraham & Thakore show that celebrated three decades of the brand, was impressive, even prescient. The collection caught the mood, thoughts and values of the present. The triumph of logo rebranding. The need for simple messaging on social media: “...for all the days you’re not getting married”. The return of the black and white houndstooth pattern on a handwoven double ikat silk saree, first modelled by Carol Gracias at their debut show at the 2010 Delhi fashion week. (The saree with a matching shirt ensemble is part of permanent archives at London’s Victoria & Albert Museum.)

This was not, however, a trip down memory lane, but a fresh look at the brand’s past hits, reigniting the reciprocal affair they continue to enjoy. Teamed with towering Oxford shoes, the saree was once again draped by Gracias but this time with a high-neck sleeveless blouse. What could only be interpreted by this writer as a hat tip to the original design idea, Gaia Kaur’s ensemble at the show was reconceptualised with the colour palette of char-trueuse (yellow), black and white, without the houndstooth pattern. The Victorian puff-sleeve blouse replaced the formal shirt from the original; the saree winked and smiled in pearlescent sequins. It was as clear and canny a message as any about A&T knowing how women want to look.

The collection caught the mood and values of the present. The triumph of logo rebranding. The need for simple messaging on social media: “...for all the days you’re not getting married”



Gaia Kaur in an Abraham & Thakore ensemble



Carol Gracias wears Abraham & Thakore's black and white houndstooth patterned, double ikat saree

Anand Kabra

ANAND Kabra's refusal to scramble to achieve a “position” in an industry that once feted him, is refreshing. Five people worked on a metallic thread and pearl embroidery slip dress over seven days. Kabra first designed the pattern, which was transferred to a kha-ka, traced and handed over for embroidery. “We had one person solely assigned to burn holes with agarbatti (incense sticks) and get rid of the negative spaces to create effective results,” Kabra says about the process.

This piece brings to mind the jali wall and minarets on the facades of Hyderabad's Toli Masjid (1671 AD) in cutwork and delicacy. “It is craft, it is handmade, it is ultimate couture. You can layer this piece over a kurta, shirt or a dress, and if you are daring, wear it sheer with lingerie. Separates is where I see the future of Indian fashion. Let's celebrate individuality.”

Reha Sukheja in an Anand Kabra ensemble



Nachiket Barve

STRAIGHT up representation, Nachiket Barve argues, is a bit banal. “The abstract version of a flower or maybe an anemone, or even a stylised constellation is exciting for me,” Barve says of what's become the brand's signature motif. Once perceived as a feminine cliché, Barve's interpretation brings to mind the Baroque round mandala pattern (a circular figure representing the universe in Hindu and Buddhist symbolism).

This long dress made from 21 meters of handwoven silk organza took 1,284 hours of intricate, eye-straining handwork to create the cutwork, applique, beading and thread embroidery. And yet, it weighs only 280 grams. “This piece amalgamates the effortless minimal luxury that I have always strived to express. I've learned over the years to get out of my head and carefully look at the women I dress and consider what they want. In a way that feels authentic and uncompromising to me.”



Daman Brar in an ensemble by Nachiket Barve



Vanshika Saxena in a Bloni ensemble

Bloni by Akshat Bansal

The crazier the world gets, the more Akshat Bansal's super-sized clothing ideas make sense. By contrast to the usual lineup of look-at-me-baby (insert jazz hands here), the harnesses, the skin and dystopia-core finery at the Bloni show didn't exactly scream “wear me”. His clothes carry an overall approach of dealing with the body, its pleasure and power. And the ways in which it can be fetishized, co-opted and curbed suggests that this young designer understands the direc-

tion in which things are whizzing about ahead.

He calls the show, “the first instinctive frontline of experiencing reconstructed emotions revealed via stories and truths in the future”. His appropriation of emotions as single-mindedly gender agnostic come undone with the play of proportions in the form of cropped jackets with exaggerated shoulders, sliced jumpsuits, and a line of low-waist, cavernous jeans with its zips and fastenings relocated to the side panel; bye-bye saggy crotch.

The future is key for Bansal. The austere medieval-style pewter gown was crafted from recycling stainless steel metal waste, converted into yarn of soft metal; on sight and touch, it looks and feels no different than any luxe fabric

The future is key for Bansal. The austere medieval-style pewter gown is crafted from recycling stainless steel metal waste, converted into yarn of soft metal; on sight and touch, it looks and feels no different than any luxe fabric. Bansal pairs this ensemble with a sculpted boxy jacket with jagged power shoulders, created entirely from rubber.

Flowers with a fruity twist

If you want more from your floral decoration, go to Bloom Barn. Their floral arrangements come with an edible element—a hyperlocal seasonal produce. Conceived by 54-year-old Archana Raniwala last year, the boutique florist offers a unique combination of flowers and fruits, including berries, exotic grapes paired with lilies, sunflowers, etc. If you want to go beyond the usual, they also have interesting torans. Expect same-day delivery for Bandra, Borivli and Malad.

PRICE: ₹1,100 onwards
CALL: 8080218000



ARCHANA RANIWALA

Phoolo ka, taaron ka...

Need last-minute Diwali décor ideas? We have quick hacks just for you

TEAM SMD

DIWALI is all about coming together as a family at your home, and just like you, the house needs decking up too. But if you didn't get time to go shopping or are in the mood to do it yourself, here are some hacks to dress your home up, with the help of professionals who will lead the way.

A floral tray for the festivities

Do you think you could make a revolving mithai tray for Diwali at home all by yourself? Well, if you follow Shweta Mahadik on Instagram, who calls herself a crazy DIY lady, you could make one, and that too, in a jiffy using household items. In one of her reels, Mahadik takes a revolving cake stand, a thali, some cylindrical jars, a baking dish and another thali on top to create a three-

tier revolving mithai tray. She fixes them all together with glue, spray paints them bright red and then makes floral motifs for that extra edge. There's a detailed video of how to do this on her YouTube channel. Watch the reel for yourself and try it at home for some last-minute serving ideas.

WHERE: @shwetmahadik, Instagram



For your endless drinks

In order to make your Diwali table spreads look more celebratory, mixed media and mandala artist Khyati Ajay Hakani suggests decorative coasters. She recently experimented on MDF coasters, which are available at almost all craft stores and stationery shops. "Paint the coasters with chalk paint in your preferred base colour," says Hakani. After 10 minutes, place a transfer sheet with motifs of your choice on the coaster. "The only time-consuming bit about this process is the fussy cutting to create the pattern," says Hakani. Seal with a coat of varnish, following which you could stick on diamond studs. "For a good finishing, give a resin coat. This makes it waterproof as well."

WHERE: @kcraft_world, Instagram



KHYATI AJAY HAKANI



Blooms take over

Uurmi Bhatia has been a paper florist for five years, and has four DIY ideas. For the centre table, she suggests paper flowers combined with candles, diyas or even fairy lights. Adding flowers to a rangoli or keeping them in stands at the entrance is one way to decorate your doorway. "Paper flowers, built on wires, can be easily



UURMI BHATIA

coiled around napkins as napkin rings," she says. "Or place each flower with a name tag on it as place setting holders." She recommends including paper or fresh flowers when you wrap the gift.

WHERE: @mi_ikigai, Instagram
PRICE: ₹2,500 onwards
CALL: 8928055236



Flowers like the stars

If you marvelled at the floral decorations at Ali Fazal and Richa Chhada's wedding, meet educationist-turned-entrepreneur Anuja Joshi. Her company specialises in all sorts of flower arrangements that use native as well as exotic flowers. And they grow all of these (apart from non-indigenous flowers that have to be imported) in their farms in Nashik, Ooty, and other places around the country. They have Diwali hampers packed with candles, dry fruits and chocolates. If you want to do it yourself, Joshi suggests locally-sourced blooms paired with gold accessories to create a soft traditional look. "A combination of marigolds and lamps will help you get the classic look, and to compliment it, use soft pastels and foliage," says Joshi.



ANUJA JOSHI

WHERE: interflora.in
PRICE: ₹1,745 onwards



Skip the roses, opt for shevanti

For DIY creator Nikita Rakshe, who also goes by the moniker The Junk Drawer, everything around the house, can be utilised to hold flowers during the festive season. "Don't use the same old vase. Use copper vessels at home, wine glasses or earthen pots to make a unique statement," she says. But she suggests you decide the theme, and colour combination first. For example, for copper vessels use whites and dark-coloured flowers, or roses and baby's breath. "If using earthen pots, add traditional flowers like genda or mogra.



NIKITA RAKSHE

While using glass vessels, go for roses and chrysanthemum. Genda phool can also be put in longer vases, but pin them on to small bamboo skewers then," she says. Pro tip: Choose flowers that will stay for long. Marigold, ashter, shevanti or chrysanthemum are some good options, if you want to skip the cliched roses.

WHERE: @the_junkdrawer, Instagram



Make your own fairyland

Dhara Patel, a DIY art YouTuber, shares a quick hack for home decor using freely available paper doilies. "Cut a lace-paper doily in half and roll it into a cone. You could also try coloured paper," says Patel. Now put the string lights inside the cone and, glue it up to close the end. You will get beautiful floral shadows from the fairy lights on your walls."

WHERE: Dhara Patel, YouTube

One With Nature

Looking for a fun activity with kids that doesn't involve a screen? The Maharashtra Nature Park Society is conducting a two-hour walk for children over the age of five, and their parents. Expect to be mesmerised as this city haven boasts of 125 species of birds, 85 species of butterflies and 300 species of plants.

▶▶▶
WHEN: October 23, 8 AM onwards
WHERE: Sion-Bandra Link Road
PRICE: ₹400
CALL: 8291595371



Tent-full of fun

The award-winning Rambo Circus is bringing together artistes from all over the world. They have also added new and fascinating acts such as roller skating, ladder balancing, German wheel, Rolla Bolla, and aerial acrobatic, along with the star performers—the clowns!

▶▶▶
WHEN: October 24 to 30, 1.30 PM, 4.30 PM, 7.30 PM
Where: St. Andrew's Auditorium
PRICE: ₹500
TO BOOK: rambocircus.in



Get Adventurous

Take a trip to Sondal, a relatively lesser-known fort located just a few kilometres from Katraj. The medium-intensity hike lends great views of Morbe Dam, Prabalgad, Irshalgad, Rajmachi, Songiri and Karnala Forts, as well as the Matheran mountain range. Once used as a watchtower to oversee the trade route, today it is famous for the Sondal Devi temple.

▶▶▶
WHEN: October 23, 4.30 AM
WHERE: The meeting point is Borivali National Park
PRICE: ₹1,199 with transportation
TO BOOK: treksandtrails.org



SCRATCHPAD | Festive agenda

Looking for fun things to do in and around Mumbai over the long Diwali weekend? We have a list for you!

KASTURI GADGE

A FOUR-day weekend is nothing short of a mini vacation for the working class hero. Once done with the obligatory Diwali visits, fill your days with some of these treats.



Regress a bit

If you take fun seriously, head to Andheri's newest game zone that has a lot to offer adults. There's a trampoline and trampoline basketball, Virtual Reality games, bowling, wall

climbing, adult-size ball pool, rope climbing and more.

▶▶▶
WHEN: 10 AM to 12 AM
WHERE: Shreyas Industrial Estate, B-62, SR 41A, first floor, off New Link Rd, Andheri West
PRICE: Per activity

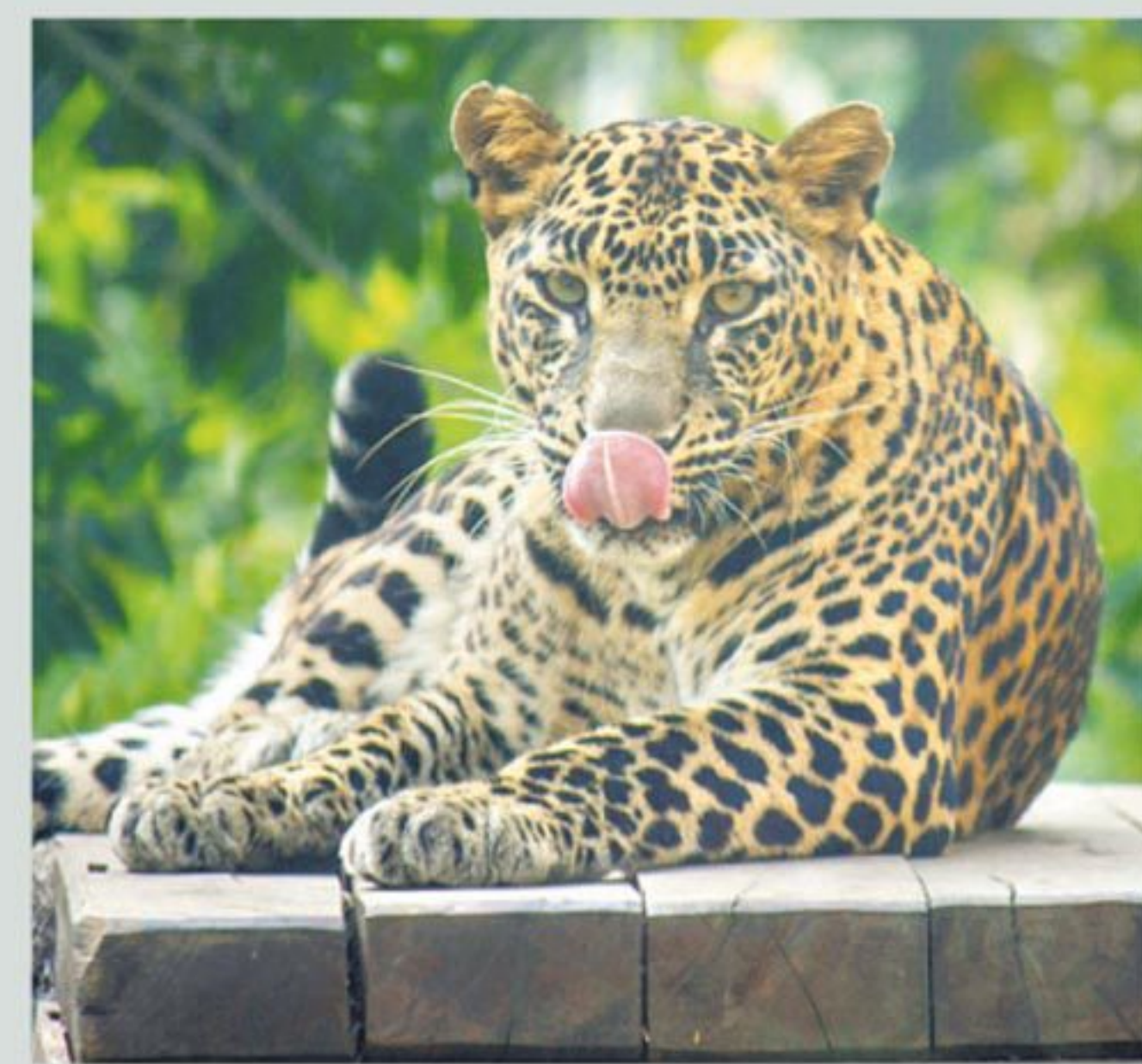


Laugh Out Loud

Diwali Pahat is an iconic event that take place during the festive season in Maharashtra. It is traditionally a get-together for performing artistes at a neighbourhood garden. BhaDiPa, a production company that specialises in creating Marathi content, is hosting its version of Diwali Pahat. It will be a musical

experience with poems and songs by upcoming artistes, along with standup comedy by Sarang Sathaye, Mandar Bhide and Omkar Rege.

▶▶▶
WHEN: October 26, 10.30 AM
WHERE: Swantanryaveer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak, Shivaji Nagar, Dadar
PRICE: ₹499 (regular tickets)/ ₹999 (VIP + meet and greet)
CALL: 24465877



Animal Kingdom

Veermata Jijabai Bhonsale Udyan is a 50-acre botanical garden in the heart of the city. The zoo is divided into various sections such as the Zoo Campus, Penguins' Room, Aquatic birds' aviary and a botanical garden that is home to over 3,000 trees casting the perfect shade for a picnic. You can also fit in art and culture into the day by checking out the archaeological artefacts and historical photographs at Dr Bhaui Daji Lad Museum. The 75ft high David Sassoon Clock Tower and some installations make for a great Instagram photo op.

▶▶▶
WHEN: Daily, 8 AM to 5 PM (Closed on Wednesdays)
WHERE: 91A, Lalbaug Flyover, near Railway Station, Byculla East
PRICE: ₹100 per person for adults (includes the visit to the Humboldt Penguins Room)

DIRECTORY |

Meet a person with a skill you can use

Mayank Kabra, 44
Personalised poem writer

▶▶▶
CHARGES: ₹501 onwards
CONTACT: 9282438042

WE always want to gift something memorable to our loved ones, a gift filled with thoughts, emotions and meaningfulness. A poem is an amalgamation of all of these. If you are not a person of words, Mayank Kabra will make gifting easier for you. He writes personalised poems, and has written over 8,000 of them over three years. All you have to do is fill out a questionnaire that tells him about the personality of the person concerned and your relationship with them. Add some anecdotes, and in two hours (to a maximum of seven days), he churns out the perfect rhyme to melt the receiver's heart. He and his colleagues can craft a poem in Hindi, Gujarati, English, Punjabi, Tamil, and Urdu.

RECOMMENDED BY: Girisha Nadarajah, says, "I came across personalised poetry through Instagram, and was sceptical at first, but then I saw the poem, I was very happy. I gifted it to my brother on his birthday, and he was overwhelmed. It worked to strengthen our bond."



Art about Identity

Art night at TARQ will feature Sarah Naqvi with their first-ever solo show titled How Many Songs From A Single Note, which is inspired by the artist's battle with identity-based injustice. They are an Indian artist based in Mumbai/Amsterdam, and their work spans video installations, drawings, paintings, sculptures and tapestry. The show also features some poems and essays, which use humour and visuals, while the paintings show intimacy.

▶▶▶
WHEN: Till November 19, 6 PM to 9 PM
WHERE: F35/36 Dhanraj Mahal, CSM Marg, Apollo Bunder, Colaba

FREE

smdmail@mid-day.com

His mother's son

TASTE TEST Back at a new Bandra address after a six-month break, chef Manuel Oliveira puts up his culinary chops and yearning for perfection on display at the all-access open kitchen

NASRIN MODAK SIDDIQI

THE old place was on Turner Road, and we were big fans of its sea bass crudo. La Loca Maria's chef-owner Manuel Oliveira, who has worked with Michelin chefs Sergi Arola and Paco Perez, and as Chef de Cuisine at five-stars in Mumbai and UAE, is back after a six-month break. This time, at Pali Hill where Indigo used to stand. The place is larger, grander, and the menu, he says is Spanish and

Mediterranean. We are wondering why Oliveira chose to "diversify" when the city is already home to competent Mediterranean and Levantine eateries.

We drop by on the first day of operations, and the interiors look every bit Spanish. The murals by Zahabiya of Zaworks present hand-painted iconography on natural stone that clads the arches and the impressive dome. Think raging bull to flamenco dancers and octopus! The Art Deco chandelier, ornate mirrors, tapestry-clad bar façade and a selection of pottery add to the mood.

Oliveira's wife, Mickee, brainstormed with designer Minal Chopra to bring to the Bandra address a hint of the architecture from Toledo, the ancient city that is the chef's home. There's a private dining room that can seat eight to 10 guests, and sports aged, hand-painted ceiling murals and heavily textured walls.

Almost every table has a view of the buzzing kitchen that occupies half the restaurant. "It's his working space and we didn't want to compromise," says Mickee. The eatery is named after Oliveira's mother who used to run the kitchen with an iron fist. The

apple doesn't fall far from the tree. We get a glimpse of this when we see Oliveira work the kitchen, and lose his cool in an instant, during one course.

La Loca Maria translates to the crazy Maria, informs Mickee. "She is the reason he discovered his love for cooking and takes great pride in serving dishes created from scratch—from fresh homemade pasta to sauces, to artisanal bread and icecreams."

Oliveira says that in Spain, the food focuses on fresh quality produce, and traditional cooking techniques. "A dish should taste, smell and look exceptional," he says, "I turn to my classic culinary heritage, but use local produce to create dishes that are modern and elegantly plated."

The sea bass ceviche (₹650) on the new menu, he says is a different take on the crudo. Seabass,

Food should taste, smell and look exceptional. I turn to my classic culinary heritage, but use local produce to create dishes that are modern and elegantly plated

Chef Manuel Oliveira



ME LLAMA
MARACUYA



Chef Manuel Oliveira's La Loca Maria is back with a larger, grander space and menu

Now you see me, now you don't



The Crossing, Dubai's Executive Chef Sunil Rai, with JW Marriott's Executive Sous Chef Rohit Chadha cooking up a storm in Saffron's kitchen

TASTE TEST A Dubai restaurant is offering nouveau Indian flavours to guests that remind them of home but not quite. Its collaboration with a Mumbai hotel transforms into a homecoming for desi ingredients but in an unrecognisable garb

NASRIN MODAK SIDDIQI

THE adage, food unites, makes sense when we meet Jarret D'abreo, managing partner at Dubai's iconic Indian eatery, The Crossing. A culinary popup at JW Marriott Mumbai's Saffron, as part of the Masters of Marriott Bonvoy's mission to bring the world's best chefs to India, sees the Bombay lad return home to introduce us to neo-Indian flavours served in interiors inspired by the waiting lounges of India's stations. This has managed to

gather a fan following in Dubai.

The Crossing isn't an Indian restaurant in the typical sense. This made the task tougher for Saffron's executive sous chef Rohit Chadha, who had to source ingredients to ensure the replicated flavours stood close to the original.

At an exclusive preview orchestrated for mid-day, we start with a chaat made with shiso leaf crisp, chickpea, curd and chutney—a cross between pakoda and chaat. A different take on palak chaat, the shiso leaf lends grassy notes of anise or mild basil. "Here, you get to experience two different stories, in distinct layers. The pickled

chickpea is the surprise package," adds Rai. The chhena khandvi is the popular snack rolled with house-made fresh cottage cheese, tempered with curry leaf and mustard dressing is to be served chilled. The taste is familiar, but different. The tiny balls of Japanese rice crackers add an unexpected crunch. Rai tells us that since someone or the other they know is flying to Dubai all the time, they manage to get their stock of favourites. "The mustard we use comes from a trader in Delhi," says Rai.

The gunpowder (dish) on the menu is fresh prawns, sautéed in butter-pepper-garlic with gunpowder masala gravy on the side, it is served with freshly (made pav (made using Japanese baking techniques). The humble dish is a tweaked interpretation of one of the chef's grandmother's recipe.

Next comes the Kalimpong dumpling together with stories about how the dish came to be in the region. It started with just the dumpling and the thupka (soup) that came on the side, offered by the smaller restaurants as a palate

Continued on page 35

CHHENA
KHANDVI

mandarin leche de tigre, melon, red onion, avocado, coriander—the freshness of ingredients comes through in every spoon. Tapas represents the essence of how Spaniards eat and socialise, and here, the list has the classic gambas al ajillo or garlic prawns in chilli oil (₹610) served with sour-dough bread, mushrooms and truffle croquettes (₹450) topped with garlic alioli. The pincho de calamares (₹450) or skewers serve roasted calamari with a tartar dip.

We tried cocas, Spanish-style light, crunchy flatbread for the first time; it's a light eat with a play of toppings. The coca de queso brie (₹590) has caramelised onion, brie cheese, charred grapes, walnuts, and arugula—the mild, buttery and creamy taste of brie goes well with the sweetness of charred grapes.

If you like meat, try the braised lamb (₹1,100) with parsnip purée, herb and tomato polenta, and pickled beets. Our favourite, though, was the grilled John Dory (₹1,200) beurre blanc, mousse gnocchi, braised fennel, and purple cabbage purée. The coming together of so many flavours—as one—made it a dish to remember.

What's Spanish food without the arroceria or Spanish-style rice dishes? Their black paella (₹1,500) has Spanish bomba rice cooked in seafood and squid ink broth, saffron, cuttlefish, scampi scallops, and green peas. Oliveira says he extracts the squid ink from fresh catch so that the taste is fresh and no preservatives are needed. "It's a skill I had to learn."

They do a deconstructed tiramisu (₹550), with coffee crisps and ice cream that has been put on the menu by popular demand. However, we liked something called sweet and sour (₹550) with chocolate sponge, lime ice cream,

salted caramel and cream.

The bar employs fermentation, sous vide cooking, in-house carbonated beverages, rapid infusions, dehydration and maceration. The me llama maracuya (₹700) with vodka, passion fruit puree, campari, lemon, and house-made velvet falernum has a tangy, fruity profile. The mocktail, Shining Star (₹375), made with pineapple juice, star fruit cordial, lime, and star anise has a knock-you-out sort of sour punch, which we love.

So what's Mediterranean about this menu, we finally ask. The food here isn't Spanish in the truest sense, he explains. It's what he cooks and it carries his signature. It's about making the most of easily procured fresh produce and playing with techniques that he has learnt and mastered over the years.

On one of the walls, there's a

What's Spanish food without the arroceria or Spanish-style rice dishes? La loca Maria's black paella has Spanish bomba rice cooked in seafood and squid ink broth, saffron, cuttlefish, scampi, and green peas

copy of Dalí: Les Diners de Gala. It's a limited edition book by Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dalí that features recipes and trippy photo collages from the OTT dinner parties the artist threw with his wife Gala.

"It's one of my favourites," smiles Oliveira, who, we felt like Dalí is exploring subconscious imagery, albeit, through his food.

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SEABASS
CEVICHE

Continued from page 34

cleanser. In The Crossing's version, the chicken shui jiao dumpling is served with chilli garlic chutney, with stock on the side.

In laal maas, a Rajasthani staple, New Zealand grass-fed lamb chops are served with laal maas jus. Keeping true to the essence of the dish, fresh chillies from Holland, known for their red give the dish its colour and body.

But not everything on the menu is fancy. A morning snack that's a favourite with farmers in Tamil Nadu, the ragi koozh sees slow-cooked finger millet and rice with curd, pickle and crisps served chilled. While it wasn't on the non-vegetarian menu we were trying, the dal Moradabad came recommended by Rai. A delicious moong dal chaat, the recipe is said to have originated in Moradabad of Uttar Pradesh where you still find street carts selling it. The dish first rose to prominence during the reign of Murad Baksh, the third son of Emperor Shah Jehan, who, back in 1625, set up the city. He loved simple meals. His cook added toppings to plain cooked dal, and

The gunpowder (dish) on the menu is fresh prawns, sautéed in butter-pepper-garlic with gunpowder masala gravy on the side, it is served with freshly (made pav (made using Japanese baking techniques)

the rest is culinary history. On our table, this yellow split mung lentil dish comes dressed in a pakwaan nest, which is to broken into the chaat and mixed with chutney.

For the last course, our conversation meanders to Benaras, where the malaiyu is a winter morning

must-have. Light and fluffy, it's a milk-based dessert that feels like a creamy foam, whipped with sugar and light cardamom. It was served to us with a ghevar lattice, clotted cream and topped with pistachio. In many ways, it's similar to doodhna puff (milk froth), the Parsi winter delicacy.

We come away wondering, what the definition of authentic is in culinary terms. In a country that relies on family recipes and secret ingredients, food can only ever be termed evolving.

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KALIMPONG
DUMPLING

Take your pick(le)

Mughlai food Mecca Moti Mahal founder writes a new book that features one hundred achaars from every corner of the world to tickle your sour bone

PHORUM PANDYA

MONISH Gujral is a pucca Punjabi. The owner of Mughlai chain Moti Mahal, the Mecca that's believed to have invented butter chicken in its kitchens, likes gobi ka achar with most of his meals. Writing a book on global pickles was only a natural extension of his love.

The 55-year-old began writing books in 2004, the first two being cookbooks on the Moti Mahal legacy. He went on to then document food trails—from desserts to kebabs, he saw that so many items are intrinsic to various cuisines. His latest book, *On the Pickle Trail* 100 recipes from around the world (Penguin India, ₹399), launched two weeks ago. "Every food book I do is a trail of foods that are common in every country. Food has no borders, and it speaks one language. It varies depending on the local cuisine and ingredients, but we are all connected through our foods," the Gourmand award recipient tells us.

Pickling is an ancient preservation method, and fermented pickles are known to be good for the gut as they act as probiotics that support the growth of healthy bacteria in the digestive tract.

Any fruit, vegetable or meat can be turned into a pickle. "Historically, it was a method that helped to control spoilage. Fermentation is a process where microbes consume sugar to form acid, alcohol and gases. Even olive preserved in vinegar is defined as pickle. All you need is vinegar and water to create a salt brine for pickling," says Gujral.

That he travels the world to food fairs and is often invited as alumnus of Le Cordon Bleu to give guest lectures, keeps him in touch with chefs and food entrepreneurs from different cultural backgrounds. "I am always jotting down recipes or discussing food with them. They teach me their local cuisine and help me with research," Gujral explains.

His investigation method is a mix of looking for recipes online, asking chefs and then creating his own versions.

This title too, is peppered with interesting nuggets, like how the Italian Giardiniera, a pickle made with vegetables, became popular in Chicago. While a Le Cordon Bleu student offers Gujral a Moroccan recipe for preserved lemons, using kosher salt, a Jewish chef in the US shares how to make traditional Israeli turnip pickle.

In his book, recipes from 100 countries are featured, including Scandinavia, Ukraine, Siberia, Haiti, Mexico and Japan.

"In Scandinavia, they do a beetroot pickle called Inlagda Rodbetor. A friend who runs a local restaurant



Inlagda Rodbetor Scandinavian Beet Pickle

INGREDIENTS

- > 4 beets, medium size
- > 2-3 cloves
- > 2 cups apple cider vinegar
- > 1 cup water
- > ¾ cup granulated sugar (brown sugar for a healthier option)
- > 1 whole red chilli pepper

METHOD

Wash the beets. In a bowl, add water and cook the unpeeled beets till tender. Drain and cool to room temperature. Prepare glass jar. Peel the beets once cooled and cut them into thin slices. Put them in the jar with cloves and chilli pepper. In a bowl, mix vinegar, water and sugar and bring to boil. Pour the pickling brine into the jar over the beets. Keep an inch space at the top and tap the jar to remove the bubbles. Seal and store for 3-4 weeks before using. Once opened, refrigerate it until consumed.

in Skansen, Sweden, served it to me. They make it with wine and brown sugar, and slather it on tuna sandwiches or add to salads," he says.

Among his favourites are pickled eggs. "I am a frequent traveller to the UK, and I don't eat meat. Eggs are my only source of protein. I love to top it on a pizza or fold it into a sandwich. When you add beetroot and cinnamon to the brine, the colour rubs off on the eggs. I absolutely love the outcome."

From a time when soldiers pickled their meat with salt to stretch rations, to now when pickles and fermented foods are celebrated as for their contribution to gut health, pickling has history and health attached to it. "I remember my grandmother making pickles; our generation skipped that. We tend to buy them from shops. The new generation rarely gets to appreciate the process of pickling. This book makes pickling easy and fun, without restrictions. My recipes are easy on the salt, and use homegrown spices and good sugars." The last section is dedicated to sweet preserves or murabba. "These are a great topping for desserts," he signs off.

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MONISH
GUJRAL

A day in the bunker gear

Striving to keep reinventing himself, Scam 1992-star Pratik Gandhi on playing a firefighter in his upcoming film, Agni



LETTY MARIAM ABRAHAM
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IT'S not stardom, but the "ability to surprise the audience" every time he is on-screen that keeps Pratik Gandhi going. The OTT breakout star of Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story has recently wrapped up the Rahul Dholakia-directed film, Agni. Teaming up with Saiyami Kher and Divyenndu, Gandhi will be seen playing a firefighter in the offering. "We've hardly seen any films based on firefight-

ers," says the actor, adding, that during the film he "learned a lot about them and their struggles". "It was fascinating to play a firefighter. I have high expectations from the film. I am an eternal optimistic. Hope the audience also loves my character." Gandhi, who brushed up his Marathi conversing skills during the shoot of his previous offering, Atithi Bhooto Bhava, says, "I always

knew Marathi, but I needed to get the diction right. It will not only help with Agni, but also my next film, Phule."

The actor insists that he has explored every genre through his films in Gujarati, Hindi, and his plays and assures that his upcoming films will continue to show him in a different light. "You will see me in different characters. I am happy as an actor because this is what I always wanted to do. I never wanted to put myself in a cage. My audience should always keep wondering. That also motivates me to experiment more," he shares.

Besides Agni, Pratik Gandhi has Phule, Dedh Bigha Zameen, and Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan? in his kitty

Ladies' man

Prateik Babbar on being a pivotal cast-member of the women-fronted drama, Four More Shots Please, which is set to present its third edition

UMA RAMASUBRAMANIAN
uma@mid-day.com

AMONG the few cast members to have featured in all three editions of the show, Prateik Babbar says it is a "breath of fresh air" to turn up on the sets of Four More Shots Please, where women artistes take precedent. "Here, 90 per cent of the working individuals, including the producers, actors, and writers, are women. It is an all-women's set, and I feel like I am in great hands," says the actor who plays bartender-owner Jeh Wadia in the 10-episode Amazon Prime Video series.

Even though the story belongs to the four leading women, played by Saiyani Gupta, Bani J, Kirti Kulhari and Manvi Gagroo, he says his character has been integral to their

journey, making him feel like "a part of their gang".

Not one to brush the criticism that the show has received under the carpet, owing to the flawed female characters, he says, "Maybe, people are not open-minded, but we have focused on the positives. The love that has been pouring in over the years is also [testimony]. It is an Emmy-nominated show, and that title speaks for itself. Despite the controversy, things have been handled graciously."

Filming in Italy for this third season enabled the unit to "let our guards down". "The more time we spent together, the more comfortable we became. The bond we shared will last forever."

Apart from Babbar, this edition also features, Lisa Ray, Neil Bhoopalam, Rajeev Siddharth, Simone Singh, Samir Kochhar, Jim Sarbh, Rohan Mehra, Shilpa Shukla, and Sushant Singh in pivotal roles.

Here, 90 per cent of the working individuals are women. I feel like I am in great hands



Maanvi Gagroo, Bani J, Kirti Kulhari and Saiyani Gupta



'Cast came back with renewed curiosity'

Mismatched director Akarsh Khurana on returning to the second season post the pandemic

LETTY MARIAM ABRAHAM
letty.abraham@mid-day.com

IT took director Akarsh Khurana one-and-a-half-year to follow through with the success of Mismatched season one with the second instalment. The gap in between, he believes, has helped the cast and crew, including himself, "grow and mature". The recently-dropped season of the relationship drama takes off the morning after Dimple—Prajakta Kohli's character—kisses Harsh (Vihaan Samat) after breaking up with Rishi played by Rohit Saraf.

Khurana believes that everyone changed during the pandemic. "It was difficult to dissociate the change in people from what would have happened if they had a normal graph," says the director, adding that his cast also had to recover from the "overwhelming response of season one". "It was a strange homecoming for everybody." While everyone had garnered work in the interim, when talks of the second edition began, Khurana hoped to rekindle the spirit of the Netflix series by organising a team lunch. "It was important to set that tone and equation again. The impact of that passage of time is

seen in the show," says Khurana, adding, "Even though they were playing the same characters, they came back with a renewed curiosity. That was important to keep the spirits up more than anything else."

Having been a writer himself, Khurana understood the challenges of following a successful show with another edition. The director claims that one of the important stages of writing was when the cast was asked to give their inputs in their respective character graphs. "I think the writing of the second season was an interesting process. We had to take the story forward and do justice to every character that the audience had identified with. We couldn't be negligent." While Khurana would have preferred that "his actors not have a strong opinion" on the script, he accepts, that their input added value to the story. "They know the characters better than me. All the actors were given a chance to comment about what they thought their [character's] journeys should be like. That was a great stage of writing. They were now not just our babies, we have created monsters, and now we had to listen to those monsters," he jokes.





Jacqueline gets interim bail in PMLA case

A DELHI Court on Saturday extended the interim bail of actor Jacqueline Fernandez in connection with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case of the ₹200 crore money laundering matter involving conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and others.

During the hearing on regular

bail, Additional Sessions Judge Shailender Malik noted that the reply on Fernandez's bail plea has been filed by the ED in the matter. However, the court deferred the matter for November 10 and extended her interim bail. The Court also directed ED to provide the chargesheet and

other relevant documents to all parties. Fernandez also attended the court proceedings physically on Saturday. The Additional Sessions Judge on the last date had issued notice to ED on Fernandez's regular bail petition and granted interim bail to her on ₹50,000 bail bond.

AGENCIES

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| FRI 4 NOV 6 & 9 PM Hindi 6+yrs | ANSH's DHAT TERI YEH GRIHASTHI Writer & Director: Makarand Deshpande |
| SAT 5 NOV 5 & 8 PM English 16+yrs | ADISHAKTI's BHOOMI Adapted by Vinay Kumar from Sara Joseph's Malayalam play Bhoomirakshasam Director: Vinay Kumar |
| SUN 6 NOV 5 & 8 PM Hindi & Marathi 12+yrs | B SPOT PRODUCTIONS' LAVANI KE RANG Writer & Director: Bhushan Korgaonkar |
| MON 7 NOV 8 PM Music 8+yrs | LOUIZ BANKS presents JAZZ@PRITHVI Curated by: Gino Banks |
| TUE 8 NOV 6 & 9 PM English 18+yrs | WATER LILY's THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH (A) Writer & Director: Vikram Kapadia |

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METRO INOX [Marine Lines : 12.05 pm], INOX (Inorbit Mall - Malad : 3.40 pm | R CITY - Ghatkopar : 7.00 pm | Kalyan : 4.55 pm | Raghuleela - Vashi : 7.00 pm), PVR [ICON Phoenix - Lower Parel : 6.45 pm | Juhu : 11.00 am | City Mall : Andheri : 12.00 & 6.30 pm Versova : 10.00 am Oberoi Mall - Goregaon (E) : 9.50 am, 4.00 & 10.15 pm | Anupam - Goregaon : 5.00 pm Infinity Mall - Malad : 9.45 am, 12.30 & 7.00 pm | Market City - Kurla : 12.30 & 6.55 pm | Huma-Kanjurmarg : 4.30 pm | XPeria - Dombivli : 1.30 pm | Panvel : 2.00 pm], MOVIE MAX [Sion : 7.00, 9.45 am, 5.40 & 11.00 pm | Eternity - Thane : 5.45 pm | Wonder Mall - Thane : 6.30 pm | Mira Road : 5.45 pm] MOVIE TIME [The Hub Mall - Goregaon (E) : 5.00 pm | Chembur : 10.30 pm] CARNIVAL [Mulund | KT Vision - Vasa] : CINEPOLIS [Chembur : 9.00 am & 6.40 pm | Bhandup : 6.40 pm | Viviana - Thane : 7.15 pm | Seawood - Navi Mumbai : 7.20 pm], MIRAJ [Ambernath : 10.00 am, 4.00 & 7.00 pm], BALAJI [Koperkhairane 2.00 pm].

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The new beast of indie music - Black Stallions

Beast Music is founded by Dubai based investment banker Rocky Khan and headed By Film Maker Arzad Naaz. Rocky Khan is an eminent figure in the entertainment industry, having brought in several renowned international artists on the doorstep of the Indian music industry. Bridging the gap between East and West, he has created opportunities for international artists to perform in Asia as well as budding young Asian talent to perform in the West.

Last month, Khan launched his music label Beast Music, commemorating the launch with an explosive collaboration between India's most legendary rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh and the American dynamite Lil Pump. The next few releases in the pipeline are no less exciting, featuring American singer Jason Derulo, whose songs "Jalebi Baby", "Swal-

la", and "Savage Love" have swept the India's music lovers by storm, along with Indian divas Urvashi Rautela and Erica Fernandez. Other upcoming releases will feature one of American Hip-Hop's most acclaimed figures, Rick Ross.

The music of all the tracks are produced by none other than DJ Shadow, who has already provided mega-hits in the past with songs like "Slowly Slowly" by Pitbull ft. Guru Randhawa, and "Move Your Body" by Badshah and Sean Paul. Enabling all of this to come together is ace

producer Gaurang Doshi, who has given us multi-starrer hit movies like Ankhein and Dewaar with Amitabh Bachchan.

Beast Music is now launching their new division, Indie Beast, headed by Arzad Naaz. Naaz is the chief revenue officer of Black Stallions & content head of Beast Music, and has worked abundantly with many Indian music labels.

Their vision is to uplift young talented singers from India into the sphere of the international market. This is supervised by international

singer and composer Parichay, who handles the A&R and is supported by Ankur Tiwari of Brotherhood Motion pictures. Parichay too has given us memorable hits with Sean Kingston, Kardinal offishal, and Nargis Fakhri. They are in the process of releasing a song with Meet Bro's and Starboy Loc, and have already completed video shoots with Musikstar Romanian singer Sandra N, Nishant Malkani and Isha Chawla which is produced by Paras Saluja. A Young Entrepreneur with the support of Akshat Mudbidri from Adventure Global talent who is in international artist management from 12 years trying to materialise deal with Romanian singers.

Also Ankur Tiwari is the backbone for us in Indian music scene, having immense experience in shaping the careers of Indian artists...



'I'd like to say that that Music is meant to be lived and experienced in every way, so I hope listeners can enjoy in their heart, soul, body, and mind!' Rocky Khan

'So when we take our music to the international platform, we feel proud to an Indie-Artist or Indie film Maker representing India on a global platform' Arzad Naaz



Arzad Naaz



Lil Pump, Rocky and Honey Singh



Parichay and Sean Kingston



Gaurang, Shadow, Erica and Rocky



Sandra N (Romanian Singer)



Gaurang, Jason, Urvashi and Rocky



Ankur Twari being felicitated



DJ Shadow

Grand finale of 'Urmimala Boruah's Queen of the World India 2022' a grand success!

Curated by Urmimala Boruah and Paras Walia, the grand finale event of one-of-its-kind beauty pageant 'Queen Of The World' (QOTW) held recently in Mumbai celebrated glamour, confidence & beauty!

Curated by directors – Urmimala Boruah and Paras Walia, the grand finale of QOTW India 2022 was certainly a night to remember! The gorgeous actress Karisma Kapoor attended the coveted ceremony (as Guest of Honour) and presented trophies to the winners. The mentors who groomed the beautiful winners for the finale are Sakshi Lalwani, Shagun Mehndiratta, Alesia and Anjali Raut and Abhinav Mathur. The official couture partner for the event was Presto Couture whereas Dimple Kapoor was the designer and styling partner for the pageant. The pageant's USP was the participation of women between the age group of 18

-65. Age is not a barrier in QOTW.

While Nainisha Oza walked away with the prestigious Miss Queen of the World India, Parull Khanna bagged MS Queen of the World India 2022. Priyanka Bajaj Sibal bagged Mrs Queen of the World title and Jyotika Babbar Kapur won Elite Mrs India 2022 title. The winners will now represent India at the international QOTW pageant in the USA.

The QOTW pageant is scheduled in New Jersey from 12-18th March, 2023 where contestants from across the world will participate and compete for the prestigious Crown.



Winners Queen of the world India 2022



Shagun Mehndiratta



Dimple Kapoor



Sakshi Lalwani



Deepak Sharma And Team



Ms Queen of the world India 2022 Parull Khanna



Directors of UMB elegant monarch Urmimala Boruah and Paras Walia



Snigdha Baruah, Divya Chabra Kakkar, Eesha Borthakur, Paras Walia, Karisma Kapoor, Jaswinder Kour, Mohit Daswani and Urmimala Boruah



UMB Elegant Monarch directors Urmi Boruah and Paras Walia



Miss Queen of the world India 2022 Nainisha Oza



Mrs Queen of the world India 2022 Priyanka Bajaj Sibal

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NOTICES

Tenders

TENDER NOTICE

Reputed Civil contractors invited for Repair, Water proofing, painting & allied works of

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Sector-24, Juinagar, NaviMumbai 400 705. Application & tender fees Rs. 5000/- Cash/DD (Non-Refundable) shall be submitted at consultant's office between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on dated 23/10/2022 to 31/10/2022.

M/S SUYOG STRUCTURAL DESIGN CONSULTANT'S

Office Address: 103, 1st Floor, Technocity Building, Plot No. X-5/3, Near Hotel Sarovar Portico, TTC Industrial Area, MIDC Mahape, Navi Mumbai. Mob. No. - 9136753966

Blank tender documents will be issued to the applicants only at Consultants office between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on dated 01-11-2022 to 03-11-2022

Sealed tenders shall be submitted at Society office between 10:00 am to 05:00 pm on or before dated 06/11/2022.

30734213

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are concerned with our client Mr. Tejas Devendra Mody, presently residing in U.S.A. that he has filed an Execution Proceeding No.17 of 2014 before 5th City Civil Court at Dindoshi for recovery of ₹.1,16,80,000/- (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakhs Eighty Thousand only) in compliance of the Decree passed in S.C. Suit No.1766 of 2010. Shri. Devendra Dharamdas Mody who is the Judgement Debtor in the litigation has only asset to pay his liabilities i.e. Flat No. A-13, Neel Ashish Society, 92, J. P. Road, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400 058. Our client has already sought injunction from creating third party rights and/or selling or transferring the title and ownership of the above flat. Shri. Hiren Devendra Mody, elder son of Shri. Devendra Mody is trying to sell the flat and is approaching the local estate agents through his Constituted Attorney Shri. Pankaj Jaswantrao Mehta. Our client has also recorded his objection with the Managing Committee of the Society. The Present Notice is to the General Public to make an Appeal to not to enter into any kind of agreement or deal with the above flat and if done, same shall be at their own risk to pay liabilities of our client.

R. V. SANKPAL & ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES HIGH COURT
Email id : rvsa1994@gmail.com
Cell No.: +91 98206 09773

30734125

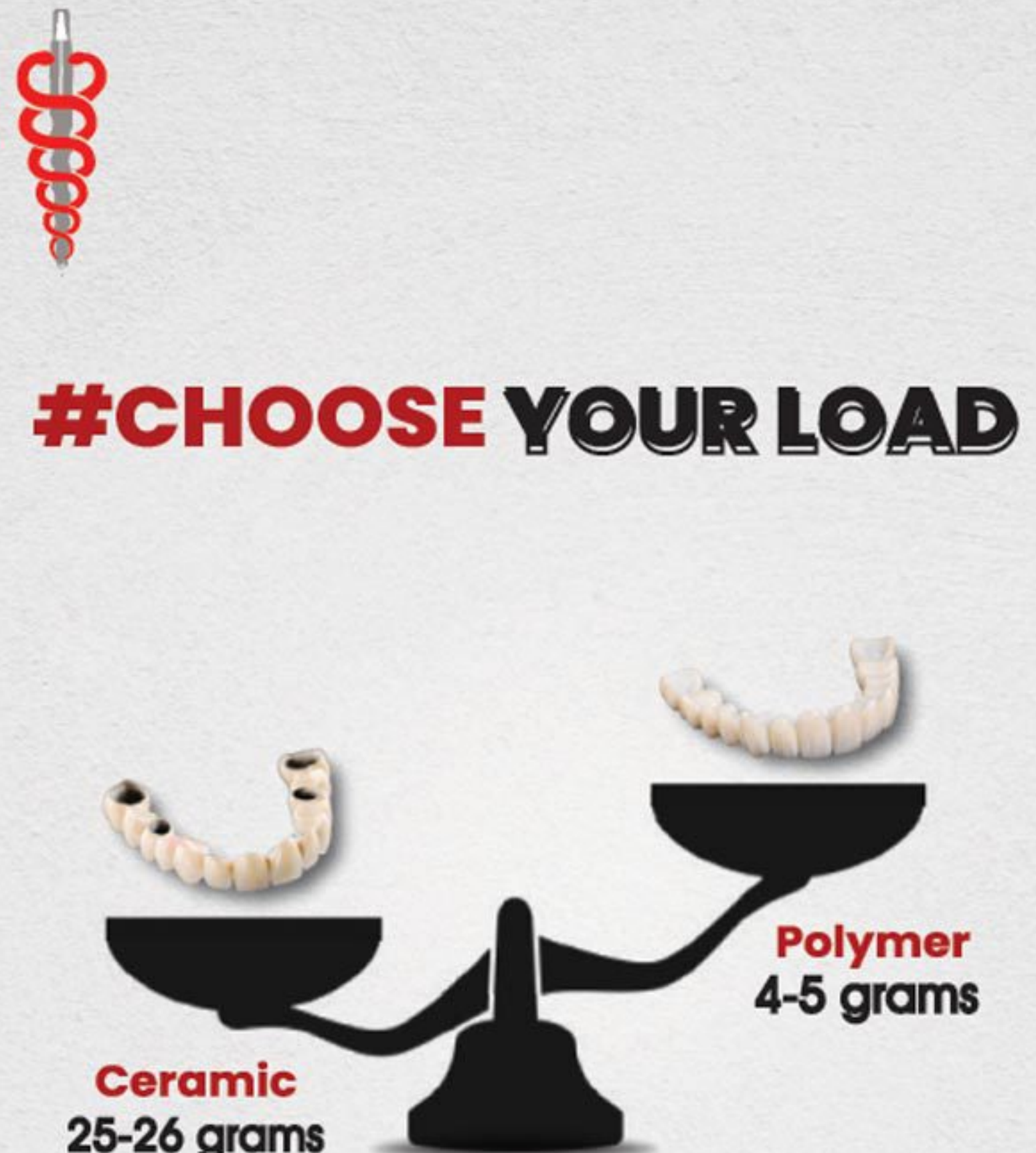
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CENTRAL RAILWAY

No.S.120,,T.Auction Prog. 2022-2023, Date:- 18.10.2022

E-Auction Programme for the month of NOVEMBER - 2022.

The Principal Chief Material Manager for and on behalf of the President of India, will hold E-Auction during the month of NOVEMBER-2022 for sale of scrap as follows.
NOTE: In future publishing of e-Auction Programme in Newspaper will be discontinued and purchasers to link Central Railway IREPS web site address www.ireps.gov.in only.

| Auction Conducting officers. | Auction Date & Days | | | Contact No |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Sr.DMM/NGP | 02.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 14.11.2022 MONDAY | 23.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 7219612750 |
| Sr.DMM/BSL With MMR depot. | 03.11.2022 THURSDAY | 15.11.2022 TUESDAY | 24.11.2022 THURSDAY | 7219611751 |
| Sr.DMM/PA | 07.11.2022 MONDAY | 16.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 28.11.2022 MONDAY | 7219613750 |
| Sr.DMM/BB | 09.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 17.11.2022 THURSDAY | 29.11.2022 TUESDAY | 8828119750 |
| Sr.DMM/SUR | 10.11.2022 THURSDAY | 21.11.2022 MONDAY | 30.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 7219614750 |
| DY.CMM(S)HQ For SMM (G) CRD | 02.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 14.11.2022 MONDAY | 23.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 8828110761 |
| DY.CMM(M) PR | 07.11.2022 MONDAY | 16.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 28.11.2022 MONDAY | 8828119755 |
| DY.CMM(CWE)MTN | 03.11.2022 THURSDAY | 15.11.2022 TUESDAY | 24.11.2022 THURSDAY | 8828119770 |
| DY.CMM(S)HQ For AMM/ HBHR | 02.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 14.11.2022 MONDAY | 23.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 8828110761 |
| DY.CMM [ACL]BSL | 09.11.2022 WEDNESDAY | 17.11.2022 THURSDAY | 29.11.2022 TUESDAY | 7219611750 |

Note: Supplementary Auction will be conducted on next working day from the original date & timing of Auction for eligible lots if required. Railway administration reserves the right to cancel any of the supplementary Auction on its own discretion.

Note: a) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-auction. Railway also reserves the right to auction any lot of any depot/divisions in any subsequent auction in any suitable manner. Also unsold lots of any Depot/Division can be sold in subsequent auction of other Depot/Division of Central Railway.

b) As per Govt. policy, where recycling of scrap material involves environment and pollution issues, such lots will be sold only to the authorized bidders having valid licences issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) / State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).

c) e-Auction catalogues will be available on the website - www.ireps.gov.in

d) In case any assistance is required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation etc., please contact respective Auction Conducting officers as above or Dy.CMM/Sales/HQ, mobile no. 8828110761, email address - dycmm.s.cstm@gmail.com or dycmms@cr.railnet.gov.in

Principal Chief Material Manager/CSMT

560

RailMadad Helpline 139**CENTRAL RAILWAY****PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway Lines and Premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Central Railway that the Overhead Traction wire will be charged with 25kV AC on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line. **Section:** Energisation of sections Kharkopar-Uran Project (KM From 40/9 to 59/1 New line) with 25 kV AC traction at Seawood-Uran section of Mumbai Division in Central Railway. **Date of Charging:** 01.11.2022.

563

RailMadad Helpline 139**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS****E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No. PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/22-23/90 Dated: 19/10/2022. PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **SI No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [397]; 34222983A; Auxiliary compressor (MCPA) to CLW Specn No. CLW/ES/C-4/F or Latest; As per tender Document; 21/11/2022; 0.00. [398]; 34222543A; AC Circuit Breakers 41A, 3 Pole (Type-16) with Aux. Contacts 2 No to CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0096/L or latest; As per tender Document; 17/11/2022; 0.00. PR6-258 PCMM/CLW/DANKUNI**

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पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा****शुद्धि पत्र**

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन ई० निविदा सूचना संख्या - DWSD/Chaibasa 09/ MVS/Hatgambaria WSS / 2022-23, दिनांक 07.10.2022 तथा जिसका PR संख्या PR 279342 West Singhbhum (22-23) D है, में अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है, शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी।

| क्रमांक | Clause | पूर्व में प्रकाशित | संशोधित |
|---------|--|--|--|
| 6 | वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय | दिनांक 14.10.2022, समय 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक | दिनांक 28.10.2022, समय 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक |
| 7 | प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय | दिनांक 20.10.2022, समय 12.30 बजे अपराह्न। अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हाउस, डोरण्डा, राँची। | दिनांक 03.11.2022, समय 12.30 बजे अपराह्न। अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हाउस, डोरण्डा, राँची। |
| 8 | बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय | दिनांक 28.10.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। | दिनांक 12.11.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। |
| 9 | बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान | दिनांक 02.11.2022, समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा/अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, चाईबासा/क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची प्रखेत्र राँची | कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा/अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल, चाईबासा/क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची प्रखेत्र राँची |
| 10 | निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय | दिनांक 03.11.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न। | दिनांक 16.11.2022, समय 4.00 बजे अपराह्न। |

PR 280764 West Singhbhum(22-23)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, चाईबासा

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**CIVIL ENGINEERING (CONSTRUCTION)
(SINGLE PACKET)****E-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/C/STA/NIT/08/2022, Dated: 19.10.2022**

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction-II), West Central Railway, Satna for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites following open E-Tender. (1) **Tender No.:** DYCEC-II-STA-08-2022 **Description of Work:** Engineering Survey for Technical Investigation w.r.t. New Line Project and Designing of Structure (Tunnels, Viaduct, Bridges, Buildings etc.) in connection with Panna-Khajuraho New BG Rail Line Project which mainly includes (i) Hydrological Survey, Waterway Calculation, Geo Tech Investigation for bridges, (ii) Geological Mapping, Geo Physical Survey, Seismic refraction Survey etc. for Tunnel & Viaduct, (iii) Geo-Technical Investigations for formation, (iv) Planning and Design of Tunnels, Bridges, Viaducts & other structures and (v) Preparation of Various Plans, Drawings, Detail Cost estimate, EIA Study and other ancillary works etc. **Date of tender closing:** 21.11.2022 **Approximate Cost:** ₹ 8,44,94,365/- Complete details are available in the E-tender notice uploaded on the website www.ireps.gov.in and also placed on the notice board of the Dy. Chief Engineer (Const.-II), West Central Railway, Satna's office. Offers are acceptable through IREPS only. Offline/Manual offer will not be accepted in any condition.

**Dy. Chief Engineer (Const-II)
West Central Railway, Satna**TO ENJOY LIFE, ENSURE LIFE'S SAFETY!
GET VACCINATED TODAY.**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public at large is hereby informed that, I, Vasantrao Dhanaji Moperkar, Aged: 79 years, presently residing at 1706, Wing-I, Casa Clara, Down Town, Khoni Palava, Palava Phase-II, Dombivli (East)-421204, has severed all my relations with son Tushar Vasantarao Moperkar, and daughter in law Samidha Tushar Moperkar, due to their conduct, behaviour and bad habits. I have also disowned and debarred my son Tushar Vasantarao Moperkar, and daughter in law Samidha Tushar Moperkar, from all my self-acquired movable and immovable properties, (mentioned in **Schedule-I**) furthermore, the Public at large are also hereby informed that being General Secretary of "Youth Welfare Centre", (the Trust) my son Tushar Vasantarao Moperkar, and daughter in law Samidha Tushar Moperkar, have no authority of whatsoever nature to deal with affairs of "Youth Welfare Centre" and the movable and immovable properties of "Youth Welfare Centre" (mentioned in **Schedule-II**), any one dealing with Tushar Vasantarao Moperkar, and Samidha Tushar Moperkar, will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities, I and "Youth Welfare Centre", (the Trust) will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealings entered by with Tushar Vasantarao Moperkar, and Samidha Tushar Moperkar, concerning properties in **Schedule-I and II**.

Vasantrao Dhanaji Moperkar - Declarant

SCHEDULE-I: A Bungalow at Umbarde, Vaibhav Wadi, Sindhudurg, alongwith Mango, Coconut and Cashew Trees, a residential Flat No.15/615, D.N. Nagar Durwankur CHS, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400 053, moneys lying in my Bank Account.

SCHEDULE-II: A Trust namely, "Youth Welfare Centre", having leasehold rights at Annadatta Kendra at JVPD Market, at RTO Compound, Shop No.44 at Manthan Plaza, at Vakola, and a Stall at 4 Bungalow and PCO Stall, inside Andheri Post Office, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400058 and all other known and unknown movable and immovable properties of "Youth Welfare Centre".

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची।

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना (पंचम कॉल)

जिसका PR No. 255948 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 2021-22 है।

Tender Reference No. - DWSD/RW/SVS-05/2021-22

Date - 22-10-2022

| S.No | Name of the Work | Cluster Name | Sub Cluster/Group No. | Block | Estimate Cost (in Lac) | Ernest money (in Lac) | BOQ cost (in Rs.) |
|------|--|--|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | Construction of Solar Based Mini Water Supply Schemes (SVS) in Different Block, comprising of suitable R.C.C. / Framed structure ESR, Distribution Lines, Source (as required) and FHCT all complete job in the Different Block of District Ranchi under Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi West, Ranchi for the year of 2021-22 (on Turn Key Basis) | 2A | 2A (i) | Chanho | 828.03 | 8.29 | 10000.00 |
| 2 | | | 2A (iii) | | 817.72 | 8.18 | 10000.00 |
| 8 | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि | 09 Months + 1 months (trial and run) | | | | | |
| 9 | वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय | 27-10-2022 at 04:00 P.M | | | | | |
| 10 | बीड प्राप्ति के लिए अंतिम तिथि/समय | 03-11-2022 up to 04:00 P.M 04-11-2022 up to 04:00 P.M | | | | | |
| 11 | निविदा की हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की तिथि/समय/स्थान | कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची / अधीक्षण अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता, राँची अंचल, राँची। | | | | | |
| 12 | बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय | 04-11-2022 up to 05:00 P.M | | | | | |
| 13 | निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता। | कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची। | | | | | |
| 14 | ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या | 0651-2491247 | | | | | |

•किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।•अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

•निविदा में प्राकृतिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तत्परचात अग्रघन की राशि मान्य होगा।

PR 280860 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 22-23 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल,
राँची पश्चिम, राँची।**Office of the Assistant Commissioner, F-North Ward,
2nd Floor, F/North Ward Office, 96, Bhaudaji Road, Mumbai-400019
E-Tender Notice**

| | |
|--|---|
| Tender Document No. | E. T. No. 7200038509 |
| Name of Organization | Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation |
| Subject | Beautification & Improvement of footpath in stamp concrete at various location in F/North ward under Mumbai Beautification Project. |
| Cost of Tender | Rs. 10,400/- + 18% GST |
| Cost of E-Tender (Estimated Cost) | Rs. 27125831.02 |
| Bid Security Deposit / EMD | Rs. 2,71,300/- |
| Pre-Bid Meeting | NA |
| Date of issue and sale of tender | 23.10.2022 from 11:00 Hrs. |
| Last date & time for sale of tender & Receipt of Bid Security Deposit/EMD | 02/11/2022 upto 12:00 Hrs. |
| Submission of e- Packet A, B & e-Packet C (Online) | 02/11/2022 upto 16:00 Hrs. |
| Opening of e-Packet A | 02/11/2022 after 16:01 Hrs in office of Asst. Commissioner F/North |
| Opening of e-Packet B | 02/11/2022 after 16:15 Hrs in office of Asst. Commissioner F/North |
| Opening of e-Packet C | 07/11/2022 after 16:00 Hrs in office of Asst. Commissioner F/North |
| Address for Communication | Office of the :- Assistant Commissioner, F/North Ward Office, 96, Bhaudaji Road, Matunga (East), Mumbai - 400 019. |
| Venue for opening of bid | Online of Assistant Commissioner F/North ward. |

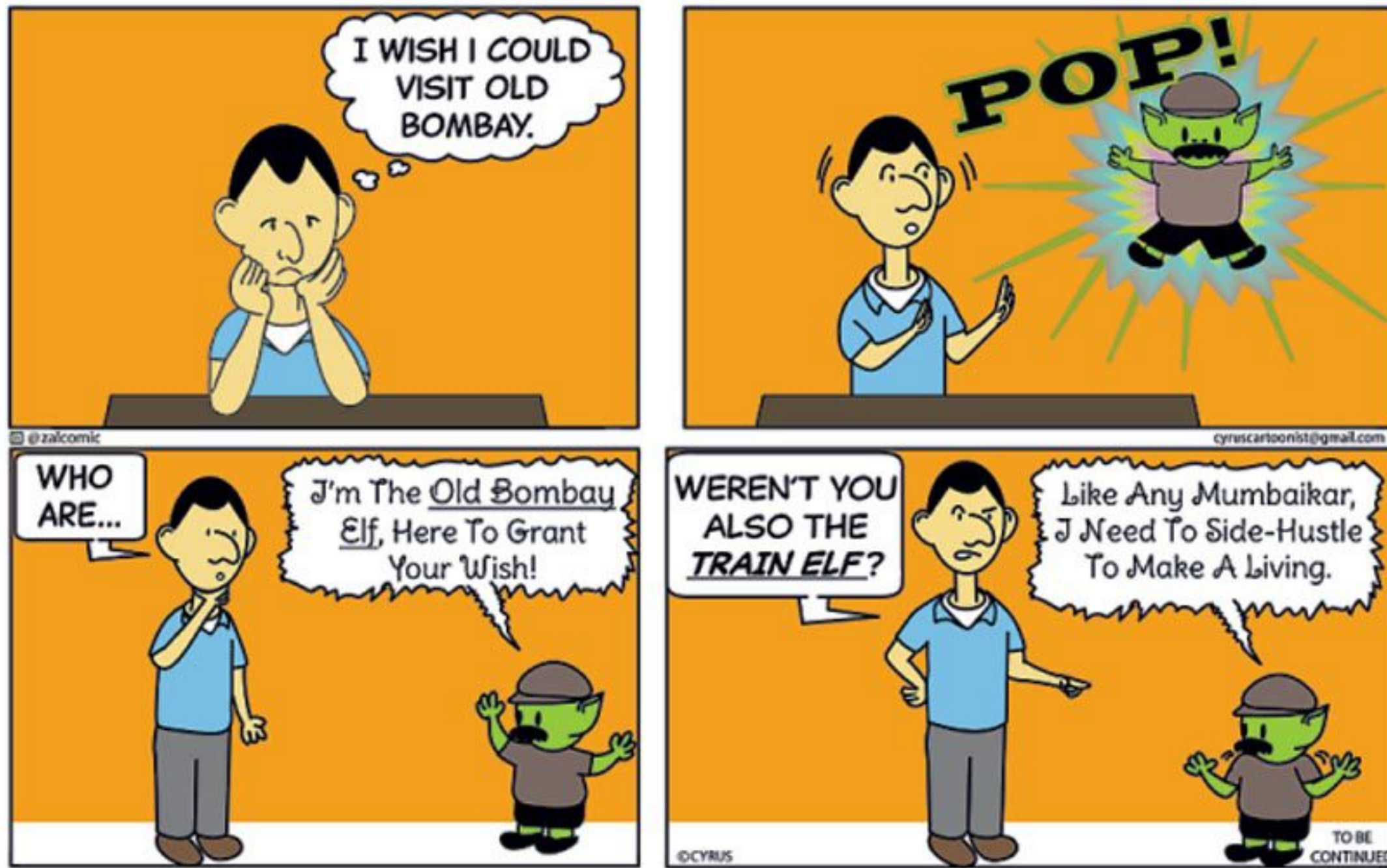
This tender document is not transferable.

The BMC reserves the rights to accept any of the application or reject any or all the application received for above subject without assigning any reason thereof.

PRO / 1742 / ADV / 2022-23

**Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner
F/North ward****Keep the terraces clean, remove odd articles/junk/scrap.**

ZAL Cyrus Daruwala



KILLER SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 7 | | 7 | 12 | 17 | | 13 | 9 | |
| 13 | | | | | | | 12 | |
| 7 | 13 | | 15 | 10 | | 11 | 10 | 12 |
| | 11 | | | 9 | | | | |
| 17 | 8 | | 10 | 13 | 12 | | | 7 |
| | 11 | 14 | | | | 10 | | 6 |
| | | | 9 | 10 | | 12 | | |
| 12 | 5 | 20 | | | 6 | | 13 | |
| | | | | | | 22 | | |

MID DOKU

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

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.

WORDSEARCH

Find the listed items in the grid. They may read horizontally, vertically or diagonally, either backwards or forwards.

- ARCHERY
- BADMINTON
- BASEBALL
- BOWLING
- BOXING
- BRIDGE
- CANOEING
- CYCLING
- DIVING
- EQUESTRIAN
- FENCING
- FOOTBALL
- GOLF
- GYMNASTICS
- HANDBALL
- HOCKEY
- JUDO
- KABADDI
- KARATE
- ROWING
- SAILING
- SHOOTING
- TENNIS
- VOLLEYBALL
- WRESTLING

Asian game events

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

MID-DAY QUIZ

The answers to the following questions begin with the initial letter of each question:

- H** If something or someone is described as smouldering, what is either literally or metaphorically present?
- V** What is the capital of Malta?
- E** Who recently became the youngest ever player to play in the Premier League when he came on for Arsenal as a substitute against Brentford?
- N** Which country uses the julche calendar?
- G** From which sport do we get the expression "par for the course"?
- G** What was Geri Halliwell's nickname when she was in the Spice Girls?
- D** Who is India's 15th and current President?

TEA-TIME TEASER

Find the names of countries hidden in the following sentences.
 1 "Can a day go by without rain?" Jennifer wondered.
 2 Claire's pain caused her mother much sadness.
 3 "Russ, I am leaving now," his sister shouted.

WE HAVEN'T A CLUE

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | | | | 2 | | | |
| | H | | 3 | | A | | 4 |
| | E | | 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | U | | G | | | Y |
| | | | | | | | M |
| 7 | S | | I | | | | |
| | | | | | | | N |

We really don't have any clues for this crossword! All of the answers are seven-letter words in common usage. There are no two-word phrases or hyphenated words. We've given you a few letters to get you started.

weekly astro

APARNA BOSE

aparna.bose@mid-day.com



IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Focus on strengths, don't ignore your weaknesses; work on them. You may walk away from a situation, but it would be for the best. Be firm with anyone who undermines you, without being rude or harsh. Check your spending habits and avoid non-essentials, no matter how cheap—it adds up over time.



ARIES

MARCH 21 – APRIL 19

Make the best of situations; let go of the uncontrollable. Take extra care during workout as you could be prone to injury.

Career Tip: Keep all the information and data needed, if putting together a business plan. Choose words wisely while interacting with the boss.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Handle situations from your past wisely and refrain from getting too emotional. Those with a sensitive digestive system might want to avoid eating out.

Career Tip: Stick to budgets and make the best of available resources. Those self-employed may want to review their business plan.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 20

Don't let the past determine the efforts you put in your current relationships. Those with complicated finances need to remain updated with their paperwork.

Career Tip: Those who work in an unpleasant environment need to interact carefully with their colleagues. A small issue can blow out of proportion.

SCORPIO

OCT 23 – NOV 21

Those with a sensitive digestive system must eat mindfully. Step back and use your advantages to deal with complicated situations.

Career Tip: Tackle people who undermine your intelligence, even if you would rather lose temper. Don't ignore any potential projects.



ALL ABOUT SCORPIO

Strong enigmatic and charismatic Scorpios have an aura of their own. They can be relentless in pursuing their goals, when they decide to achieve something. Scorpios remember those who have helped them, but don't forget people who have been in their way. They have a sensitive nature, and are often misunderstood.



CANCER

JUNE 21 – JULY 22

Minimise losses and use situations to your benefit, if you have been emotionally hurt. Avoid extreme workouts if you are resuming after a break.

Career Tip: It is a positive time for you, if you have a home venture. Respond wisely, if you have opinion differences with your boss.



VIRGO

AUG 23 – SEPT 22

Be clear about your goals before investing or changing your portfolio. This is a positive time for legal matters in general.

Career Tip: Learn a new skill or upgrade your skill set. Be mindful about international laws and rules if you work with overseas clients.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUG 22

Do not waste time on situations that do not benefit you. Change your perspective if you are confused about anything.

Career Tip: Be mindful about what you say while networking, as you might be misunderstood. Maintain a cordial equation with bosses and seniors.



LIBRA

SEPT 23 – OCT 22

Misunderstandings with friends can be avoided if you really try to understand them. Avoid juggling finances and complicating your cash flow.

Career Tip: Those with heavy work load need to be organized. Self-employed people may need to make an important decision.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 22 – DEC 21

Be willing to change what you need to, and handle situations as required instead of your default manner. Take extra care of your health.

Career Tip: Maintain a disciplined approach, and work on projects in an organised manner. Follow legal and organisational guidelines meticulously.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22 – JAN 19

Make sure you rest enough, and take a mini break if you feel burnt out. Avoid heated arguments which will not lead you anywhere.

Career Tip: Do not discuss any premature idea, as a colleague could get 'inspired' by it. Self-employed people should look at creating a steady growth.



AQUARIUS

JAN 20 – FEB 18

Stop and think what a project needs, if you are not sure how to handle it. Those in manufacturing need to ensure their product quality is not compromised.

Career Tip: Address your doubts before they get the better of you. Express yourself honestly, while working for a common goal.



PISCES

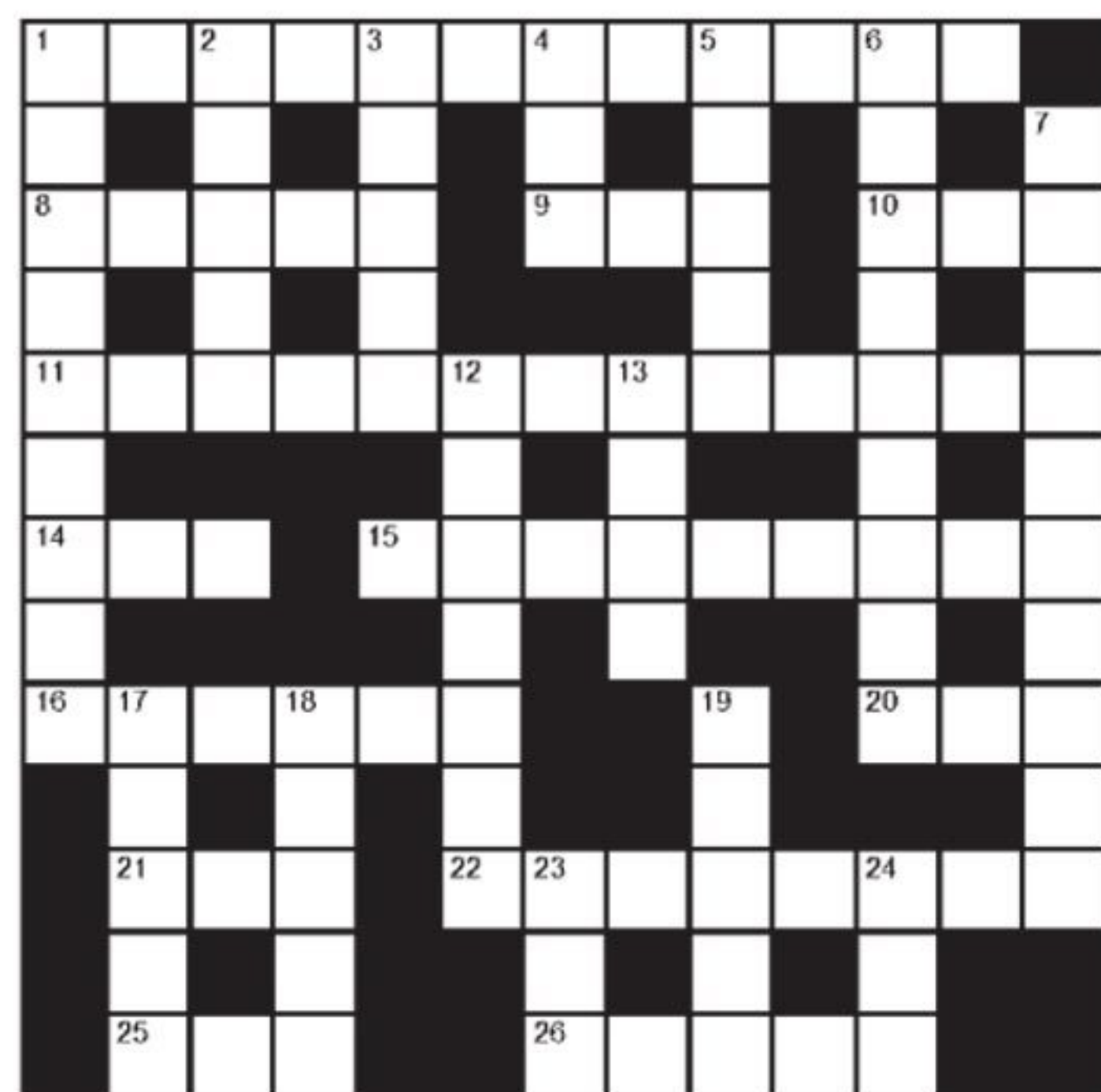
FEB 19 – MARCH 21

Make the best of challenging situations, and remember that other people are involved too. Avoid taking health advice from anyone unqualified.

Career Tip: Handle bosses and seniors in an intelligent manner instead of reacting. Stick to budgets, even if they are less than optimal.

BOLLYWOOD CROSSWORD

Yazad Dotivala



- Across**
- Madholal Keep Walking was her debut film (5,7)
 - Main niklamein ___ dil chod aaya.....from Gadar (5)
 - ___ barsa paani.... from Mohra (same word) (3)
 - "Sun sun barsaat ki dhun....." movie (3)
 - Mr ___: Aamir Khan, of course? (13)
 - Songs from ___ movies are still hummed by many (3)
 - Hamar dil kidhar hai according to Aishwarya and Anil? (5,4)
 - Umad ___ kar aayi re ghata.....from Do Ankhen Bara Haath (6)
 - Prakash Mehra's 1972 movie ___ Baan (3)
 - ___ dam dand bhed.... sang Kailash Kher in Sarkar (3)
 - Dev Anand's banner (8)
 - Looie shama ___ ooie, le ja pyar jarasa de ja pyar jara sa looie shama sang NitinMukesh and LataMangeshkar in Kranti (1981) (same word) (3)
 - Ms. Sen who acted as Maya / Manjula in Mirch (2010) (5)
- Down**
- Movie in which Sohail Khan portrays a boxer (5)
 - Jack ___ Jill went up the hill from Kanoon (3)
 - Yeh ___ agar khulke bikhar jaye....Rafi in Kajaal (4)
 - Nazron ke teer ___ kas kas kas.....from Do Ustad (1959) (5)
 - Pancham's initials (3)
 - ___ pe karam apno pe sitam ai jaan-e-wafa yeh zulm na ka from Aankhen (6)
 - 'H' in HMV (3)
 - Indian Penal Code, abbr. (3)
 - ___ dil-e-nandan tu gamse na ghabrana.....from Tower House (2,4)
 - Rahul or Bimal (3)
 - Yeh ___ kya hai..... Saudagar's popular song? (3,3)
 - One of many Johnny Lever might crack (4)
 - Aa ___ lag ja....from April Fool (4)
 - ___ liya hain pyar tera from Kyo Kii Main Jhuth Nahin Bolta (3)
 - Sandese aate from Border (4)
 - Mother India for one, Mughal-e-Azam for another (4)

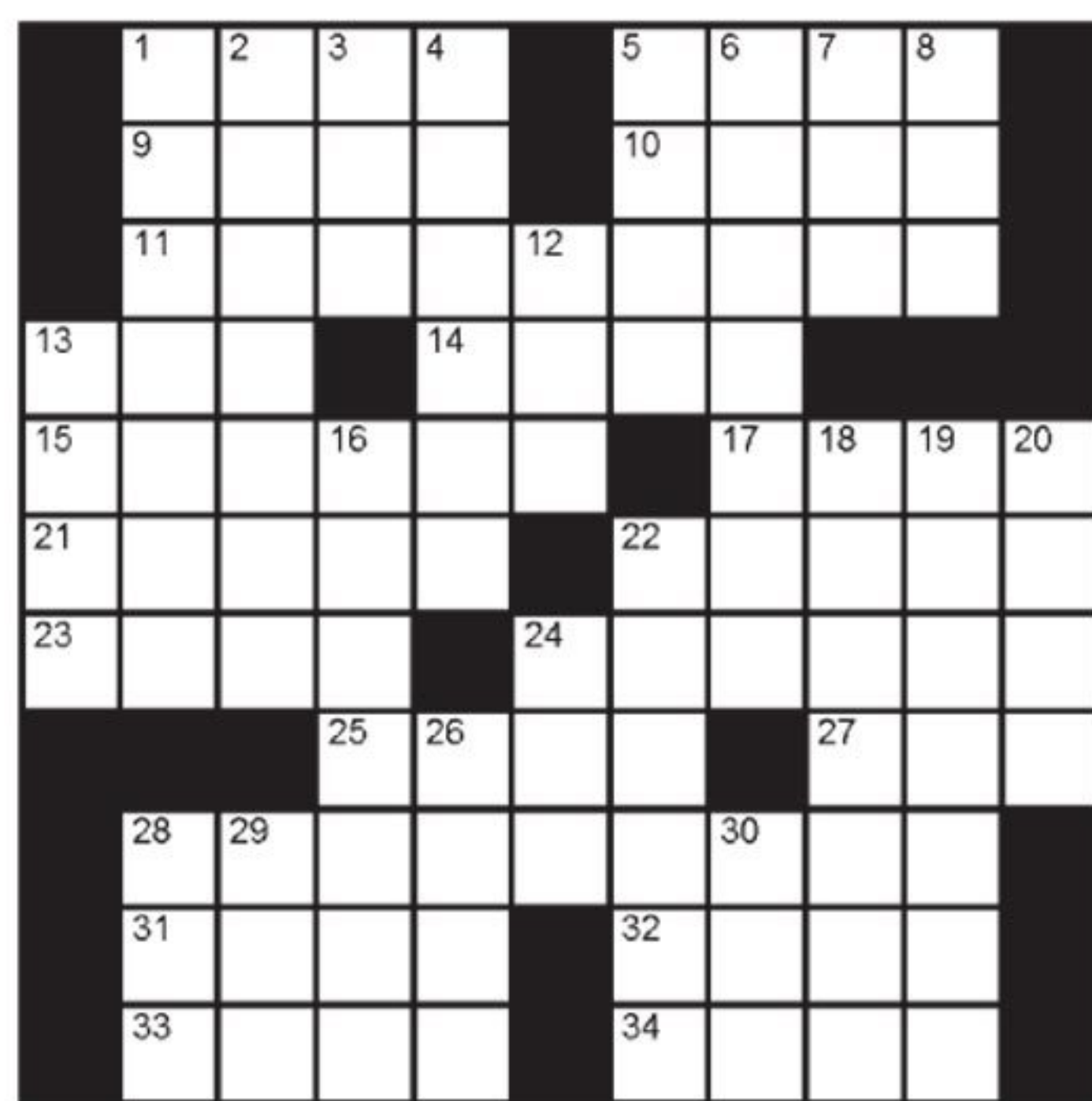
ART YOG Kanika Jain Gupta



Kurmasana / Tortoise Pose

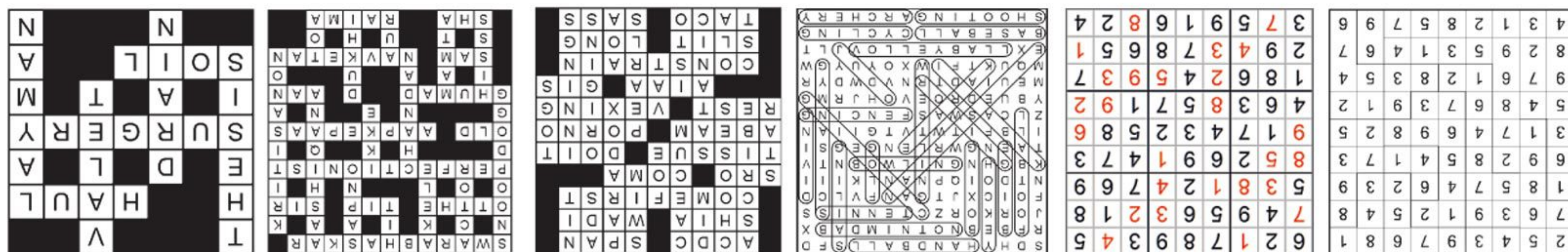
The tortoise is in no hurry and goes at its own pace.

CLASSIC CROSSWORD Yazad Dotivala



- Across**
- Current types (2-2)
 - Stretch from side to side
 - Branch of Islam
 - Dry river-bed
 - Be victorious in a race? (4,5)
 - Sell-out sign: abbr.
 - Insensible state
 - Paper handkerchief
 - DI in DIY (2,2)
 - At right angles to the keel of a ship
 - In short, something that arouses libido?
 - The ___ of India : Irani Trophy contenders?
 - Annoying
 - Amer Inst. of Aero. & Astro.
 - US soldiers
 - Curb, check or confine
 - Narrow cut
 - Not short?
 - Mexican food
 - Impudence
- Down**
- Attribute
 - Selects or opts for
 - Not very bright!
 - Tubular pouch forming first part of large intestine
 - Propel yourself in water
 - Contrary scenario
 - "Sad" change for newspaper revenue ?
 - Louse egg
 - An enemy
 - Bright shiner
 - Devilish - like Rushdie's Verses?
 - Births, creations or beginnings
 - Team's turn to bat
 - Football clothes, perhaps
 - Don't cast them before swine
 - A wooden barrel
 - Analogy words (2,2)
 - Mumbai's terminus
 - Uber competitor
 - Angle-of-attack, abbr.
 - Sing wordlessly

SOLUTIONS



WE HAVEN'T A CLUE | **BOLLYWOOD CROSSWORD** | **CLASSIC CROSSWORD** | **WORDSEARCH** | **MID DOKU** | **KILLER SUDOKU**

bridge

HEMA DEORA

hema.deora@mid-day.com



A slightly off-centre
Dealer: **East**

Vulnerable: **East-West**

- North**
- ♠K732
 - ♥AQ32
 - ♦AKJ
 - ♣54
- South**
- ♠A8
 - ♥KJ76
 - ♦108
 - ♣AK1076
- West**
- ♠9
 - ♥10985
 - ♦Q76542
 - ♣83
- East**
- ♠QJ10652
 - ♥4
 - ♦93
 - ♣QJ92

The bidding

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | P | 1 NT |
| P | 2 ♦* | P | 2 ♥ |
| P | 3 ♥ | P | 4 ♥ |
| P | 4 NT | P | 5 ♥ |
| P | 6 ♥ | All Pass | |

♦* = Forcing stayman

Contract: 6♥
Opening lead: ♠9

IT'S Diwali time again. It's very sad to know the ill-effects of bursting noisy crackers more so on animals and birds. It's heartening to know thousands of animal and birds are dying during Diwali. The cruel mischief of tying crackers to the tails of stray dogs and cats claims several lives every year as the animals die of injuries. The sky crackers such as rockets killing and displacing the birds.

So folks, lets join together right now and stop this cruel practice on Diwali day.

This deal occurred in the match between Canada and Egypt during the 1980 World Team Olympiad in Valkenburg, the Netherlands. The Egyptian won with dummy's ♠K (correct, the ace is needed as a late hand entry), then he cashed the ♥A (fine) and played a heart to his King (wrong). Both hearts and clubs were breaking badly.

For Canada, Sami Kehela did much better. After the ♠K and ♥A, he turned immediately to clubs. When he led the third club, how could West defend? Whether he discarded or ruffed, Kehela could ruff or overruff in the dummy, draw West's remaining trumps, and concede a club to East. His twelve tricks were two spades, four hearts, two diamonds, three clubs and one club (over) ruff.

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.

INDIA KNOW IT TO DO IT!

Pakistan present a formidable challenge to India. Not just because they won the last World Cup game between the two sides exactly 12 months back or because they bested Rohit & Co in the Asia Cup but due to the plethora of exceptional talent coming through



Skipper Rohit Sharma during India's practice session at Melbourne on Saturday. PIC/AFP

Viru: Jadeja will be missed, but India will win

DEBASISH DATTA
sports@mid-day.com

FORMER India blaster Virender Sehwag expects India and Pakistan to be at each other's throats in terms of on-field aggression, but warned the Indian batters that the Melbourne Cricket Ground is a huge stadium so the effort in clearing the ropes should be precise. "My simple theory is to be aggressive and not allow your opponents dominate. Don't be afraid and it will be a good contest. It's a big ground so be very sure before sending the ball over the boundary rope," said Sehwag, who wants to see singles and twos being taken well.

The 2007 World T20 winner reckons both teams will know each other better since they have battled each other only recently in the T20 Asia Cup.



Sehwag was not coy to predict a winner. "India will win. We have a very good team although Ravindra Jadeja will be missed," he said.

He sees a threat in the form of Shaheen Afridi. "Pakistan will be a stronger team with the return of Afridi," he said before talking about how he would tackle Afridi: "How would I have played Afridi? Well, his outswingers are okay. He can create problems in his inswinging deliveries. I would be successful if I played them with the middle of the bat. I am sure our batters have practised accordingly."

PREVIEW

R KAUSHIK
sports@mid-day.com

MELBOURNE: Rohit Sharma seemed momentarily taken aback when it was pointed out to him on Saturday afternoon that in the 35 Twenty20 Internationals India have played since the last T20I World Cup in November last year, they have tried out 29 players.

"29?" he asked, his eyes widening slightly, his thick brows coming together in surprise. Soon, though, he made peace with that massive number, for it meant the process of sifting through the chaff and arriving at the personnel best

suited to fuel India's campaign at this World Cup had been comprehensively thorough.

Rohit himself has played 26 of those 35 games, the skipper for the last 11 months therefore in a first-hand position to ascertain which resources fit the new mantra of freedom and security that the think-tank of Rohit and head coach Rahul Dravid constantly espouse within the confines of the dressing room.

Back-to-back victories

From the standpoint of results, India are on the right course to mount a strong challenge at the World Cup, where they will face old foes Pakistan in their opening encounter at the

EIGHT

No. of T20I matches India have won against Pakistan. They lost three

Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. Since the last World Cup, they are unbeaten in 10 bilateral series, which is a remarkable statistic given how volatile and unpredictable the 20-over format is, but in the lone multi-team event in that period, they failed to make the final of the Asia Cup in the UAE last month.

It's precisely this lack of meaningful silverware that Rohit will seek to correct over the next three weeks. "It is a chal-

lenge," he acknowledged. "We haven't won an ICC title for the last nine years, our last victory was in the Champions Trophy in 2013. As a player, that's always in the back of your mind."

Rohit's 'challenge' smile

But the immediate focus will be to take one opponent at a time, one step up the ladder. Pakistan present a formidable challenge, and not just because they won the last World Cup game between the two sides exactly 12 months back or because they bested India in their last showdown in the Asia Cup, also in Dubai, last month. As always, there is a plethora of exceptional talent through the Pakistani ranks and Rohit pointed out

that it would be a "challenge" to play them. "I like to use the word challenge," he smiled, but if there were any nerves at all, they were superbly couched.

India have come a long way since Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan consigned them to a 10-wicket pounding 12 months back, but Sunday will test their resolve in a multi-team, global setting. It will be interesting to see how brave, fearless new India respond.

LIVE ON TV TODAY

- India v Pakistan: Star Sports 1, SS 1 Hindi & HD, 13:30
- Ireland v Sri Lanka: Star Sports 1, SS 1 Hindi & HD, 09:30

It's India batters v Pak bowlers, reckons Zaheer Abbas

DEBASISH DATTA
sports@mid-day.com

ZAHEER Abbas knows a thing or two about India v Pakistan cricket battles and he's wise enough not to predict the outcome of Sunday's T20 World Cup encounter here at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The former Pakistan captain, back in his London flat from hospital after suffering a heart attack and conquering COVID, reckoned India are big

on overall talent, but his team have excellent bowlers who can upset the 2007 champions' start to the tournament.

"Pakistan are an improved team. As a cricket lover, I want to enjoy this high-profile game. The Westerners believe an Ashes series creates unmatched excitement, but nothing to match an India v Pakistan clash in my book," said Zaheer.

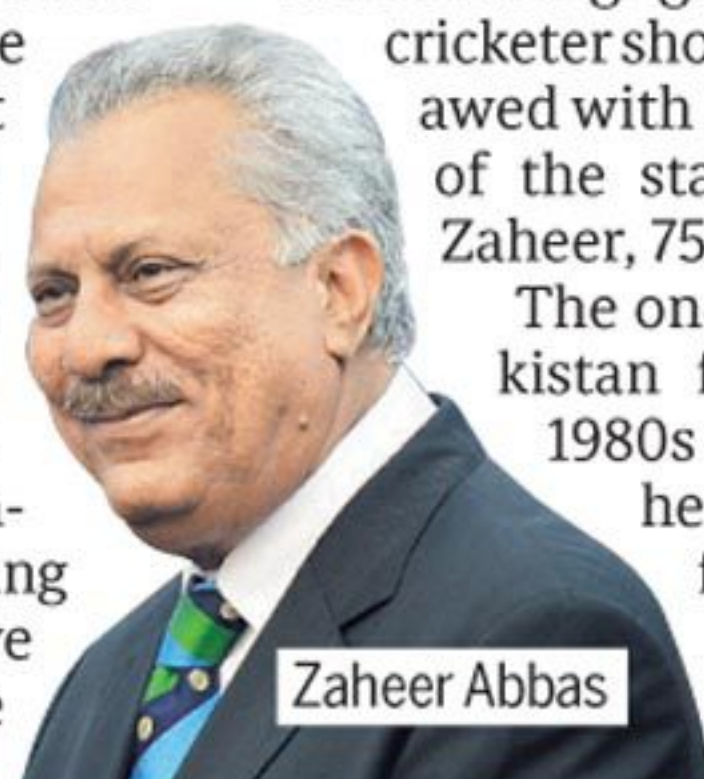
"India are strong in the batting department while Pakistan are formidable on the bowling

front, so it's a fight between Pakistan bowlers versus India batters."

The Asian Bradman wants to see new stars emerge through this clash just like pacer Naseem Shah did in the recent T20 Asia Cup, where Pakistan beat India once. "Who knows, another star will come up. Pakistan have concentrated on their fielding which is a very positive sign. India have more

talent, but we have to wait and watch to see which team can handle pressure better. The MCG is a huge ground and no cricketer should get overawed with the vastness of the stadium," said Zaheer, 75.

The one India v Pakistan final in the 1980s which Zaheer did not feature was the World Championship of Cricket clash at the MCG, where India triumphed. Zaheer was ill, but remembered the atmosphere before the game: "Some in Australia labelled the final as a match between bus drivers and conductors. A day before the final, their media asked me about the possible result. I told them not to bother as it was between us—India and Pakistan. 'You better mind your own game and analyse why you could not qualify for the final' I told them."



Zaheer Abbas



Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah



India's Suryakumar Yadav bats during a practice session in Melbourne on Saturday. PIC/BCCI

'I play a different role when I'm out there with Surya'

MELBOURNE: Virat Kohli has no qualms playing second fiddle to Suryakumar Yadav. Because his younger India teammate tells him to do so, and more importantly, it "works beautifully" for the team as the man, acronymed SKY, goes ballistic.

During the recent white-ball series against Australia, Kohli played second fiddle with Suryakumar turning the aggressor.

"It's a great space to be while batting out there in the middle with SKY," Kohli said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Live'.

"He has a lot of fun in the

middle because of his skills and ability. He just asks how the ball is coming from the wicket and then, within two-three balls, he gauges the wicket and then gets going.

"During our partnerships, he says that he will take his chances and just wants me to be there with him. So, I play a different role when I'm out there with him, which I am enjoying because it works beautifully well for the team." Kohli and Suryakumar added 104 off just 10.2 overs to chase down Aus-



Virat Kohli

tralia's 187-run target in the final T20I in Hyderabad last month.

It has been nine years since India won an ICC event and all eyes are on the coveted trophy as Rohit Sharma and Co begin their T20 World Cup campaign with a clash against arch-rivals Pakistan at the MCG on Sunday.

For Rohit, who had taken over the captaincy from Kohli following last year's T20 World Cup, it will be his first ICC event as the skipper.

PTI

Sam Curran sizzles as England beat Afghanistan by 5 wickets

PERTH: England were wobbly with the bat, but hostile with the ball and outstanding on the field in a five-wicket victory over Afghanistan in their T20 World Cup opener here on Saturday.

Sam Curran led the way with excellent figures of 5-10 as title contenders England, aided by some incredible catches, bowled out Afghanistan for 112 in a Super 12 Group 1 match. While left-arm fast-medium bowling all-rounder Curran did the bulk of the damage, England were also helped by as many as three stunning catches after Jos Buttler opted to bowl.

Ibrahim Zadran (32) and Usman Ghani (30) were the two main contributors for Afghanistan.

When England batted, Liam Livingstone (29 off 21 balls) was there till the end to see the team through after they lost five wickets. England won with 11 balls to spare.

Buttler did not last long, falling for an 18-ball 18 to Fazal-haq Farooqi but the Afghans did not have enough on the board to pose any sort of threat to an English line-up that bats deep.

Alex Hales, too, got out after making 19 in 20 deliveries but that did not come in the way of a convincing England victory. Ben Stokes (2) was out cheaply too, leaving England at 65 for three in the 11th over. It became 97 for five in the 16th over, when Rashid Khan had Harry Brook (7) caught by Ibrahim Zadran.



England pacer Sam Curran appeals vehemently for a verdict against an Afghanistan batsman during their T20 WC match in Perth on Saturday. PIC/AFP

On a lively track that encouraged a good contest between the bat and the ball, Afghanistan managed 35 runs in the powerplay after losing Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the second over.

PTI

BRIEF SCORES

Afghanistan 112 all out in 19.4 overs (I Zadran 32, U Ghani 30; S Curran 5-10) **lost to England 113-5 in 18.1 overs** (L Livingstone 29*, A Hales 19; M Nabi 1-16) **by 5 wickets**

KIWIS POLISH OFF AUSTRALIA

NZ thrash hosts and defending champions Australia by 89 runs to avenge last year's final defeat; Devon Conway, Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee shine in convincing win

ICC T20 WC

SYDNEY: New Zealand thrashed hosts and defending champions Australia by 89 runs on Saturday to start the Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 in style and avenge defeat in last year's final.

Devon Conway carried his bat with a majestic unbeaten 92 to help New Zealand blast 200-3 before Australia were skittled for 111 in the 18th over to make a nightmare start to their title defence.

Conway's knock came from just 58 balls with seven fours and two sixes, joining a select group to make 90 or more at a World Cup. Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee both took three wickets each.

Williamson: Outstanding day

It was New Zealand's first win against Australia in Australia in any format since 2011. "It was one of those days, an outstanding day," captain Kane Williamson purred.

"The openers set the tone, lots of contributions right through the batting and that was a very good score on this pitch," said Williamson.

"The bowlers then did well and were well supported in the field. Everyone knows their roles in this team, we knew about the quality of their bowling, took the game deep and we were very clinical



NZ opener Devon Conway drives against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday. PIC/GETTY IMAGES

in what we needed to do."

The match at a sold-out Sydney Cricket Ground was a repeat of the 2021 final in Dubai when Australia powered to an eight-wicket win and maiden crown. Aaron Finch's men now have their work cut out to match that feat in a tough Group 1 with Afghanistan, England and qualifiers Ireland and Sri Lanka awaiting them.

Only the top two make the semi-finals. "They [New Zealand openers] set the tone in the first four overs and we didn't recover," said skipper Finch.

"We needed early wickets, which didn't happen, and when we chased, we lost too many wickets. We weren't good enough, with the net run-rate taking a bad hit.

'Need to win everything'

"We play Sri Lanka next, four games left, need to win everything and have some luck on our side."

New Zealand got off to a sensational start after Finch sent them in to bat, with Finn Allen cracking two fours and a six off Mitchell Starc's

opening over. Not to be outdone, Conway then crunched two blistering boundaries off Josh Hazlewood as the Black Caps plundered 29 from the first two overs.

AFP

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand 200-3 in 20 overs (D Conway 92*, F Allen 42; J Hazlewood 2-41) **beat Australia 111 all out in 17.1 overs** (G Maxwell 28, T Southee 3-6, Mitchell Santner 3-31) **by 89 runs**

Jaiswal, Mulani shine in Mumbai's two-run win over Uttarakhand

A CORRESPONDENT

sports@mid-day.com

TOP-order batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal's 45 and a disciplined bowling show by left-arm spinner Shams Mulani helped Mumbai beat Uttarakhand by two runs in a thrilling Group 'A' encounter of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Saurashtra

Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot on Saturday.

Batting first, Mumbai scored 174-5 in the allotted 20 overs. Jaiswal's 27-ball knock was laced with five fours and one six. Opener Ajinkya Rahane (34 off 28 balls) was the other top-scorer for Mumbai. Leg-spinner Himanshu Bisht claimed three wickets for Uttarakhand.

In reply, opener Avneesh Sudha (96 off 66 balls) took Uttarakhand closer to the target, before he caught by Mulani off pacer Tushar Deshpande (1-33) in the penultimate over as the Aditya Tare-led Uttarakhand side fell short by just two runs.

This was Mumbai's sixth win in seven matches.

BRIEF SCORES

Mumbai 174-5 in 20 overs (Y Jaiswal 45, A Rahane 34, S Dube 28*, S Khan 26; H Bisht 3-37, A Madhwal 2-23) **beat Uttarakhand 172-9 in 20 overs** (A Sudha 96, D Negi 26, A Tare 16; S Mulani 2-26, M Avasthi 2-45) **by two runs**

CWI chief promises 'thorough postmortem' of Windies' WC exit

KINGSTON: Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Ricky Skerritt has slammed the batters for their "untimely shot selections" and promised a "thorough postmortem" of the team's humiliating early exit from the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Two-time champions West Indies were eliminated from the T20 World Cup on Friday after suffering a shock nine-wicket loss to Ireland in a first round group match.

"I am deeply disappointed with the performance results of our team in Australia and I appreciate the sense of utter frustration that is being experienced by many," said Skerritt in a statement posted on CWI's website. "The ongoing inability of our batsmen to prevail over opposing slow bowling continued to be an obvious weakness in Australia, and untimely shot

selections seem to be deeply embedded in the T20 batting culture of our senior team."

The Caribbean team, which won the title in 2012 and 2016, crashed out of the group stage with just one win from three matches. Since their title run in 2016, West Indies have lost six of the eight matches they have played in T20 World Cups.

"I want to assure stakeholders that a thorough postmortem will be carried out on all aspects of our World Cup preparation and performance and that solutions will be found in keeping with CWI's strategy to improve the quality and sustainability of cricket on all fronts, and in all formats," Skerritt said.

"West Indies cricket is bigger than any one individual or event and continues to need the input and support of all stakeholders."



Ricky Skerritt

PTI

'ALWAYS GRATEFUL TO REDS'

Taiwo Awoniyi helps Nottingham Forest stun Liverpool for only their second EPL win in 23 years; unforgettable day for striker as he scores against former team

NOTTINGHAM: Liverpool's mini-revival came to a crashing halt with a 1-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest, who secured just their second Premier League win for 23 years thanks to Taiwo Awoniyi's goal.

Awoniyi spent six years as a Liverpool player without ever making an appearance as he was farmed out on a series of loan spells, but came back to haunt his former club and move his current employers off the bottom of the table.

"To score against Liverpool is a day I will never forget," said Awoniyi. "I will always be grateful to Liverpool for scouting me from Nigeria and scoring against them is amazing." Liverpool were without the firepower of the injured Darwin Nunez, Diogo Jota and Luis Diaz and it showed as they lacked the spark needed to unlock a deep-lying Forest defence.

Unexpected result

"The performance I can kind of explain, the result not to be honest," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp. "We arrived with consistency but we had six games with a limited squad playing three high intense games. That's how it is, we cannot change that and we have to fight through. For us today we have to win here and we didn't, so credit to Nottingham." A third league defeat of the season leaves Liverpool still in seventh, 11 points adrift of leaders Arsenal having played a game more.

Victory over Manchester City last weekend, followed by another 1-0 win against West Ham in midweek had seemingly given Klopp's men lift-off after a slow start to the campaign.



Nottingham Forest striker Taiwo Awoniyi celebrates after scoring against Liverpool on Saturday. PICS/AFP

But with Thiago Alcantara also missing due to illness, they did not have enough in reserve even to see off a side without a win since August.

Patient with Cooper

Forest have stayed patient with manager Steve Cooper, even handing the former Swansea boss a new contract, as he tries to bed in a record 23 new signings in one transfer window for a Premier League team.

LIVE ON TV

Southampton v Arsenal: Star Sports Select 1 & HD, 18:30

Tottenham v Newcastle: Star Sports Select 1 & HD, 21:00



Dejected Liverpool players Fabinho (left), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Jordan Henderson (right) at The City Ground in Nottingham

Sakkari enters semis in Mexico; qualifies for WTA Finals

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO): Sixth-ranked Maria Sakkari defeated Veronika Kudermetova 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 to advance to the semi-finals of the Guadalajara Open 1000 and clinch a place in the WTA Finals.

Sakkari, seeded fourth, will take on the winner of the late match between Marie Bouzkova and Anna Kalinskaya.

Sakkari will play in the WTA Finals for the second straight year. The 27-year-old from Greece advanced to the semi-finals in Guadalajara a year ago.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek and Ons Jabeur secured their



AP/PTI

births with their efforts at the US Open, and Jessica Pegula arrived in Mexico after punching her ticket last week in San Diego. Others who qualified included Coco Gauff, Caroline Garcia, Aryna Sabalenka and Daria Kasatkina. Gauff, who secured her place with two wins this week, lost to Viktoria Azarenka 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-3. Azarenka, a former No. 1-ranked player in the world, will face off against third-seeded Jessica Pegula, who cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 win over former US Open Champion Sloane Stephens.

Mbappe nets brace as PSG see off Ajaccio 3-0

LIGUE 1

AJACCIO (FRANCE): Kylian Mbappe scored a brace of goals to help Paris Saint-Germain consolidate their place atop the Ligue 1 table with a 3-0 win over Ajaccio on Friday.

Mbappe opened the scoring against a side sitting 18th in the table in the 24th minute thanks to a clinical counter-attack on the back of an inch-perfect, long pass from Lionel Messi.

The Argentinian scored one of his own in the 79th minute, before Mbappe nabbed his second just minutes later to go top of this season's top scorers with 10 goals.



PSG's Kylian Mbappe ecstatic after scoring against AC Ajaccio on Friday. PICS/GETTY IMAGES

AFF

India shuttler Lakshya Sen bows out of Denmark Open



India's Lakshya Sen returns to Kodai Naraoka of Japan during their quarter-final match in Odense on Friday. PICS/GETTY IMAGES

ODENSE: Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen suffered a straight game loss to Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles quarter-final to bring down curtains on India's campaign at the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament here.

Sen, a 2021 world championships bronze medallist, lost 17-21, 12-21 to Naraoka, a bronze medallist at the 2018 Youth Olympics, in a lop-sided contest on Friday night.

The two have played thrice in international circuit with the Japanese winning twice. Interestingly, it was Sen, who had defeated him in the 2018 Youth Olympics semifinals, their last meeting.

The 21-year-old from Japan, however, proved to be a difficult customer on Friday as he produced a dominating performance to stay ahead for most part of the contest.

After opening a 5-2 lead,

Naraoka jumped to a 13-9 advantage at one stage. Sen had grabbed a slender 15-14 lead but the Japanese quickly moved ahead to earn the bragging rights.

Things went further downhill for Sen in the second game as Naraoka led 5-1 before swelling it to 11-3 at the interval.

Naraoka continued to dominate the proceedings to move to 13-6.

Sen grabbed the next three points but Naraoka soon bounced back to shut the door on his rival.

PTI

Great Guns prevails in nail-biting finish

Pune horse racing report by Prakash Gosavi on www.mid-day.com

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| Tender Type | Open Tender | Bidding System | Single Packet System |
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| Advertised Value (Rs) | Rs. 41,93,900.94 | Tendering Section | Electrical/HQ |
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| Earnest Money (Rs.) | Rs. 83,900.00 | Validity of Offer (Days) | 45 |
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