

shortstories

MURDER ACCUSED
ARRESTED AFTER
TWO DECADES

MUMBAI: The Mumbai crime branch on Wednesday arrested a man who was wanted for multiple murder and robbing cases and had been absconding for over two decades. The accused, Anil Rajaram Gavande, 52, had been in hiding in Gujarat. He was a member of a notorious gang led by Kim Bahadur Thapa, who had unleashed a reign of terror in Bandrup.

HTC

CM gives nod to Yavatmal
river rejuvenation project

MUMBAI: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Wednesday gave an in-principle nod for the project of the Wagah river rejuvenation project at Yavatmal by the Ytha Foundation. The ₹58 crore project will be implemented over the next five years. Fadnis said a special purpose vehicle would be set up to implement this project, which involves creating sustainable irrigation facilities, tree plantation and measures to diversify crops.

HTC

Public toilet collapses
in Bandra slum

MUMBAI: A portion of a dilapidated public toilet collapsed in Bandrapada, Bandra (East) on Wednesday. No one was injured in the incident.

HTC

Gold worth ₹1.8cr
recovered at CSIA

MUMBAI: Unclaimed gold bars weighing 150kg worth ₹1.8 crore were recovered by custom officials at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport on Wednesday from an aircraft which landed in the city from Dubai. The bars have been gold smuggled in by a carrier, said officials.

HTC

New rules fire up Ganpati mandals

FIRE BRIGADE DIKTAT Organisers told to give undertaking with 23-point drill, fear criminal responsibility in case of mishap

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MUMBAI: With the fire brigade asking Ganpati mandals to sign an undertaking that they will follow the 23-point safety drill laid down by the department, organisers are worried that committing a stamp paper would make them criminally responsible in case there is any untoward incident.

"All these years, Ganpati mandals have been getting No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the fire brigade after they inspect the pandal location. All of a sudden, a 23-point guideline has been issued and we are being asked to simply sign an undertaking," said Naresh Dabhiwalekar, president, Brijmumukhi Sarvajanik Ganesha Sena, Sanjay Samiti (BGS), the umbrella body of Ganesha mandals across the city.

"Signing an undertaking comes with a responsibility, which is why the organisers are worried."

Officials from the fire brigade were unavailable for a comment.

The department guidelines state the mandals need to submit a "self-certified declaration on a ₹500 stamp paper about compliance of fire safety measures of the fire authority, and it would be the legal responsibility of organisers to comply with all the fire safety measures as per the provisions of section 333 of the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act 2005.

BMC and the fire department reserve the right to change, alter, add or delete the terms and conditions of these guidelines.

At a month ahead of the festival, mandals have claimed the new norms bring with them new inconveniences.

HTFLE

ORDER OF CONDUCT

The Mumbai fire brigade has issued a set of clauses for Ganpati mandals to abide by.

- Pandal (stages) shall be at least 10 feet away from any building
- Approach roads, internal passages, entrance gates, and open spaces shall be kept free from any obstruction
- Provision of emergency lighting shall be made within the premises by the organiser in case of electric power failure
- Self-certified declaration of compliance of fire safety measures shall be made by the organiser on a ₹500 stamp paper to the authority. It will be the legal responsibility of the organiser to comply with all the fire safety measures as per the provisions of section 333 of the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act 2005
- BMC and the fire department reserve the right to change, alter, add or delete the terms and conditions of these guidelines



A month ahead of the festival, mandals have claimed the new norms bring with them new inconveniences.

from a building; pandals cannot be erected near a railway line, chimney or furnace unless a distance of 15 metres is maintained, and internal roads shall be kept free from any obstruction, among others.

"The instructions such as having sand and water inside the pandal is understood, and we have been following all these guidelines, but all of a sudden if

parking issues are raised, it would be a problem for the residents," Dabhiwalekar said. Organisers said their concerns, such as poles and street lights, are not imposed by the civic body, but these guidelines have been "simply imposed on them."

"For the past five years, we have been following all instructions laid down by the fire brigade. In fact, they take measure-

ments and make maps explaining all the provisions, so why all these changes suddenly," said Pradip Pandey, member, Parashah, Sarvajanik Ganesha Sena, Thakkeray.

Changes in the fire guidelines for Ganpati mandals have been made after the Kamala Mill fire mishap on December 29 last year claimed 14 lives and left 20 others injured.

Sena to back mandals
over stalled BMC nod
for roadside pandals

Swapan Rawal

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MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena has decided to back Ganpati mandals that are facing trouble in securing permissions to erect pandals. Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will meet representatives of the mandals on Thursday to express his party's solidarity for them.

The move is being seen by political analysts as the Sena's attempt to consolidate Marathi votes and drive its Hindutva agenda before the upcoming elections.

According to Sena leaders, mandals are facing issues in getting permission from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) against the backdrop of a 2013 high court order. As per the order, permission can be given only to those roadside pandals where there is enough space for an ambulance and a fire brigade to pass through.

But Parashah, senior Sena leader and party spokesman, confirmed that Thackeray will be regarding all issues of Ganpati mandals. "The BMC is creating obstructions in giving permis-

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Some of these pandals are century-old. With the ongoing issues around permissions, Uddhavji will guide them [mandals] and decide the party's stand after the meeting," Parashah said. Since the 1970s, the Sena has used the 10-day festival to expand its reach. The festival has helped the party mobilise funds and also gain a foothold among the Marathi-speaking population. The move by Sena to come out in support of the mandals comes after the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) took up the issue a few days ago. Earlier in the week, Sena and MNS party workers ransacked the office of Dward Assistant Commissioner after he refused to speak to them regarding all issues of Ganpati mandals. "The BMC is creating obstructions in giving permis-

PARENTS PANIC
AS NO SCHOOL
WANTS TO ADMIT
EXPELLED KIDS

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MUMBAI: A week after the Dadar-based Indian Education Society Modern School expelled five students over "non-payment of fees", parents of the expelled students are now running from pillar to post seeking admission elsewhere, in the middle of the academic year.

"The school had said that it was forced to take the move after parents did not pay the annual fees despite several notices. With the expulsions coming almost three months after the start of the academic year, parents said they are having tough time moving to other schools."

"Children are sitting at home in the middle of the academic year. With this kind of expulsion, other schools are not willing to admit them," said the parent of one student.

Parents are worried that the school's action will lead to their children losing out on an academic year. "My son is in Class 10 and is sad that he cannot go to school," said another parent, whose son has been expelled.

Most parents said they were in the process of registering a complaint with the state education department and the rights commission, but their key focus was to get their children back into schools. At this point is putting the kids into schools," said a parent.

Camel bone marrow
may hold cure for
respiratory ailment

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MUMBAI: Protective proteins, or antibodies unique to the bone marrow of dromedary camels could hold the key to combatting the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), an affliction first detected in humans in April 2012. The first country affected by MERS-CoV was Jordan, followed by Saudi Arabia. Since then, according to the World Health Organisation, 226 people have been infected by the virus globally, of which 78 (38%) succumbed.

A multinational team of 7 scientists, including some from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram (IISER-TVM), published its study in Science Advances, a peer-reviewed multidisciplinary open access scientific journal by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on August 8.

Dromedary camels are considered the primary source of the active viral respiratory disease in humans. The team identified heavy chain only antibodies (VHH) or nanobodies from the bone marrow of MERS-CoV immunised and infected dromedary camels, and fused them with the tail region (C region) of an antibody against MERS-CoV. Essentially, the fragment crystallisable (FC) region in antibody has a property that allows the antibody to activate the immune system.

These VHH nanobodies blocked the entry of the virus in mice that were infected with MERS-CoV making it a potential for therapy, researchers said.

In the last six years, MERS-CoV has spread to 27 countries, and all cases have been associated with travel, residence in, or countries in and near the Arabian Peninsula, which still records a spill-over of the virus from dromedaries to humans. Although Mumbai and Kolhapur in Kerala were identified among the top 12 high-risk cities globally by St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto in 2013, there has been no confirmed report of MERS in India.

Risk, however, could pose a risk of an outbreak in other regions such as the gate cities in South Korea in 2015, when 38 people died. Symptoms of those

A TEAM OF 17 SCIENTISTS
IDENTIFIED PROTEINS IN
THE BONE MARROW OF
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infected with MERS-CoV range from mild to severe acute respiratory illness, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can lead to death. It is also highly contagious.

Against MERS-CoV, and in the case of severe symptoms, the treatment protocol includes protective vital organs. However, there is hope. Several research groups have recently identified and characterised monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that neutralise MERS-CoV. Monoclonal antibodies have been found to be promising candidates for the treatment of cancer, infectious diseases, and autoimmune disorders, and prevention of viral infections. Two candidate vaccines, including one developed by this research group, are undergoing human trials.

According to Bart L. Haagmans, co-author of the study, and virologist, department of retrovirology, Erasmus University Medical Centre, Netherlands, "Through molecular techniques we now can use these camel-derived antiviral compounds as a basis for drugs to treat humans, and they warrant further testing."

Researchers said virus-infected dromedary camels develop only very mild infections, and have exceptionally potent neutralising antibodies against MERS-CoV. In contrast, MERS-CoV infected humans have low levels of neutralising antibodies against the virus. "Unlike humans beings that have immunoglobulin which are conventional antibodies, dromedary camels have a unique type of antibodies called single-chain antibodies or heavy-chain only antibodies that neutralise the pathogenic virus," said V. Stain Raj, co-author of the study, and Associate professor at the school of biology, IISER-TVM.

The study states that heavy-chain only antibodies represent a promising alternative strategy to develop novel interventions not only for MERS-CoV but also for other emerging pathogens.

Four more hospitals to
keep advanced TB drug

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: Four more hospitals in the city - Sir JJ Hospital, Byculla; Sarvajanik Hospital, Ghatkopar; and Shasthi Hospital in Govandi and Kandivli - have been added to the list of hospitals allowed to dispense Bedaquiline, a new anti-tuberculosis (TB) drug. The development comes after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) decided to expand access to the drug last month.

Bedaquiline is used to treat

patients who do not respond to conventional TB drugs. The duration of Bedaquiline treatment lasts for about six months. Previously, the drug was available only at Sir JJ Hospital, where patients were needed to be hospitalised at least for two weeks so doctors could monitor their progress before dispensing the drug. "Most patients will now not need to be hospitalised, but we will need to visit the centre every day to doctor can monitor them closely," said Dr. Dinksha Shah, city's TB officer.

Around 250 patients with

extensively drug resistant TB (XDR) are on Bedaquiline in the city now, said Dr. Shish. XDR is a rare form of multi-drug resistant TB that is resistant to at least four of the core anti-TB drugs. Between 2015 and 2017, there was a 21% increase in XDR.

Dr. Vikas Oswal at Shasthi, Kandivli, said, "Bedaquiline as a new drug does not cure the patient. It has to be given in combination with other medicines that the patient hasn't been exposed to. This is decided based on a drug resistance test."

MADHAVI PAREKH'S OEUVRE
Five decades of art on display

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MUMBAI: Her work has the simplicity and spontaneity that is the mark of high art. In the Indian context, it provides a vital bridge between the urban and the rural. This weekend, Madhvi Parekh's work is on display at the Curious Sucker gallery DAG. The show, titled 'The Curious Sucker', features 60 paintings and several sketchbooks covering over five decades of the self-taught artist's illustrious career.

These include Parekh's early drawings influenced by abstractionism, paintings filled with vivid images of everyday rural life. It also features her monumental, five-panel piece, 'The Last Supper' (2011), inspired by the da Vinci masterpiece.

"Madhvi is a distinctive style that has been likened to folk art, yet has not evolved from any of the indigenous traditions that are familiar with," says Kishore Singh, president and head of



Parekh's work has often been described as drawing from folk art but also retaining her distinctive style.

HT MOP

HERE'S ALL YOU
NEED TO KNOW

- **What:** Madhvi Parekh: The Curious Sucker, a retrospective exhibition
- **When:** August 10 to October 27 (Sundays closed)
- **Where:** DAG Mumbai, V/B Gandhi Marg, Kalu Ghoda
- **Entry:** is free

exhibitions and publications at DAG. Brought up in Sanjay, a village in Gujarat, Parekh's trust with the canvas began under the tutelage of her mother, the Modernist Mann Parekh, who saw in

her rangolis and pot forms a creativity for art. She went on to paint human figures interspersed with vivid designs, patterns and scenes that reflected childhood memories.

Parekh lived in Mumbai from 1982 to '94 but it was Kolkata that influenced her work most, she says. The Purohita lived there from 1961 to '76, before settling in Delhi.

A book on the artist, also titled 'The Curious Sucker', will be available at the venue. It features images of her works and essays by art critics Gayatri Sinha, art historian Anupama Garmilla and Singh on her oeuvre and its place in the larger context of Modernist art in India.

thetimescrosswords

CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**
- 1 His merchandise will not be free (5,6)
 - 9 It doesn't allow English doctor on Greek ship (7)
 - 10 The popularity of fashion (5)
 - 11 Lowland farewell (4)
 - 12 She has yet to meet her match (8)
 - 14 The club for swinging types (6)
 - 16 It's bottled for a milk producer (6)
 - 18 The taking to pass on to somebody else (8)
 - 19 It ends movement of cash on silver article (4)
 - 22 It's less in the total returned (5)
 - 23 Asia debt is far from unusual (7)
 - 24 Quite satisfied with what spring holds? (4,7)

DOWN

- 2 Bold & wrong name tab (5)
- 3 Girl upsets a clergyman (4)
- 4 They may advance or stop if (5)
- 5 Subsequent (5)
- 6 Loans saved can make a move (8)
- 7 Don't let the others inherit - I'll see to it (5,2,7)
- 8 They're used by late (6)
- 11 A disease sadly applied to a source of fun (8)
- 15 Exploding grenade produces disorder (7)
- 17 Word that is coined for an eccentric person (6)
- 19 A giant contention (5)
- 21 Barely merited (4)

PUZZLE 15049

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QUICK CLUES

- Across**
- 1 Be in (4,3,4)
 - 9 Commemorate (7)
 - 10 Subsequent (5)
 - 11 Brief written message (4)
 - 12 Throw doubt upon (8)
 - 14 In a sensible manner (6)
 - 16 Captured (6)
 - 18 Exposed (8)
 - 19 Topped oneself in water (4)
 - 21 Unreasonable (5-5)
 - 22 Widespread dislike (5)
 - 23 Sustained approval (7)
 - 24 Begin to comprehend (8)
- Down**
- 2 Concede (5)
 - 3 Bit of fun (4)
 - 4 Frame of mind (6)
 - 5 Lucky charm (8)
 - 6 Something of an account (7)
 - 7 Regard with approval (5,4,2)
 - 8 Cause to remember (5,2,4)
 - 9 In a sensible manner (6)
 - 10 Captured (6)
 - 11 Brief written message (4)
 - 12 Throw doubt upon (8)
 - 14 In a sensible manner (6)
 - 16 Captured (6)
 - 18 Exposed (8)
 - 19 Topped oneself in water (4)
 - 21 Unreasonable (5-5)
 - 22 Widespread dislike (5)
 - 23 Sustained approval (7)
 - 24 Begin to comprehend (8)

SOLUTIONS FOR 15048

Cryptic



Quick



from our inbox

MAY KARUNANIDHI'S
SOUL REST IN PEACE

South India's legendary personality M Karunanidhi is no more (Dravidian sun sets, August 8). He will be remembered as a fierce fighter of feudalism and state rights and a consistent opponent of communal elements. As a pioneer of screenplay writing in Tamil cinema and as a dedicated politician, he was one of a kind. His death will leave a void in Tamil Nadu's politics, says a reader, HTFLE

Karunanidhi's demise will leave a void in Tamil Nadu's politics, says a reader, HTFLE



the Health Ministry and appointed to the MCI so that doctors with clean records will be able to guide students. VEENA SENHGY

UNFORGETTABLES

Dear Rohit Shrivastav
Kotwal, KC
(08.08.1977-17.06.2008)

Ten years have passed since you left us. But, we feel your presence in the words that, the sunshine that streams in the gentle rain that soothes and the soft breeze that remains young forever. Haze eyes, we miss you so much. Words fail to describe the loss. Kiran Kotwal & Family

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MUMBAI: Four months after its inauguration by the mayor, Bandra's Bal Gangadhar Kher Maternity Hospital's special paediatric intensive care unit (SPICU) remains shut due to the absence of a paediatrician.

Officials said advertisement for applicants for the vacant posts is yet to be issued. The unit is said to be light after Priti Mishra, a Kherwadi resident, approached the centre hoping to

avail treatment for her baby, born in eight months of gestation. The centre allegedly turned them away and said it is yet to be operational.

"It was the first maternity home and child care centre in our area and I hoped I won't have to travel for my daughter's treatment. But, I had to go to JJ Hospital," said Mishra.

The SPICU - a branch of the Rohini Kamhi, Shiv Sena corporate health committee - had been inaugurated in March this

year by Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, but hiring of staff and doctors is yet to be started. Kamhi remain away and said it is yet to be operational.

"We have already started process of hiring the paediatrician and advertisements are being received," said an executive health officer of the BMC.

A senior doctor from Sir JJ Hospital, where Mishra's daughter is admitted, said, "If the BMC is planning such projects, they should ensure the Centres are inaugurated once hiring process of doctors is complete."