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HEALTH TIP: Drink a glass of water before you have your morning tea or coffee to reduce acidity effect



Regular consumption of bitter melon juice helps improve energy and stamina levels



ASK THE SEXPERT



DR ROHAN JAHAGIRDAR
Psychiatrist & Sexpert

IS SEX GETTING BORING FOR YOU?

Marriages can sometimes take away the adventure of physical intimacy after a while, but simple changes to your lifestyle can bring back the excitement & vigor



Going on small dates, taking trips, going dancing, cooking a meal, etc are some things that can work like a blow torch in your relationship. After all, sex is a way to express your love.

Adding new passion: Experts say, doing something new gives our brain a kick of dopamine which is the same thing that breeds the need for romance. Doing these new adventurous things can ignite the chemicals in your brain towards physical attraction.

Cutting distance: Follow daily patterns of cuddling, kissing and hugging, as they help in taking away the distance you might be feeling and make your emotional bond stronger. Giving each other a massage is another way of staying connected with your partner.

Pen the thoughts: Writing down thoughts and how you feel, will help you deal with the issues you might be facing. By putting your thoughts down or even fantasies can help your partner understand your requirements. Try penning what arouses you and share it with your partner.

Exercising: Putting your pelvic into work help you enjoy your intimate time more as it releases the tension of your muscle. Doctors suggest doing kegel exercises; contraction can help couples who are unsatisfied with their sexual relationships.

Practicing foreplay: Foreplay is a crucial aspect of your sex life making the whole experience last a little longer. It can make intercourse more pleasurable and is an invaluable tool which often helps break monotony in the bedroom. It will add a new sense of freshness to your long-term relationship or married life.

IAN S

1 I am a 23-year-old woman. I put a sex note for my husband in his lunch box. People at his workplace managed to read it and I am very embarrassed now. What should I do?
Ma'am, you sent a note to your OWN husband, I don't think you should be too embarrassed about it.

2 I am a 42-year-old woman. I keep having sex dreams with different filmstars. Tell me, am I obsessed?
Ma'am, I believe you are a true movie buff, so you are fantasising about different film celebrities. However, having such a dream every day needs to be further assessed to see if you are projecting any of your unfulfilled wishes or issues in your personal life. On a lighter note, in your dreams, try and stick to the celebrity you enjoyed it the most with!

3 I am a 20-year-old woman. Everyone has a soulmate, but I have not found one yet. Please tell me where can I find him.
Dear lady, the way you ask it sounds like soulmates were available in the supermarket and now they are running out of stock. It is a concept where you feel connected with somebody at a platonic level. It will happen if it has to happen. You cannot go window shopping for it.

4 I am a 30-year-old man. I want to know if men have breasts?
Normally, they don't. If it is abnormally there, the condition is called gynecomastia. Please see a doctor immediately.

Can getting married dull your sexual life? Yes, after a while, long-term partnerships can start to feel monotonous. It should be expected that your marriage will have some difficulties. However, do you feel trapped in your physical relationship? Is your sexual life experiencing a slump? Are you becoming tired of having sex with your partner?

Here are some tips to help you cope with this.

Love language: We usually love our partners how we want ourselves to be loved. Learning your spouse/partner's love language can make your relationship healthy. Knowing your partner's needs will remove the bubble of distance in your relationship.

Don't count: It's not how many nights and times you are involved with them, affection between you and your partner matters. Lasting longer does not spice up things, spending that time, being comfortable, communicating and asking about needs and expectations, will build the quality of your relationship. Sex is essential in marriages and many counsellors have said that, despite the fact of how many times people have sex.

Comfort above all: Not many people are confident about how they look. Getting comfortable in your own skin is more important. Seeing and accepting yourself as an attractive person will enhance your confidence and sexual relations with your partner.

Let's talk: It is very important to have communication in a relationship. Talking about your needs in bed with your partner will create understanding and bring about the required changes. Empty promises can ruin your partner's interest and trust. Instead, be honest with them, so they can bond with you and the love flame shines forever.

Make an effort: Many people stop doing things that they used to impress their partner. This leads them to question their worth and slowly start losing interest.

Styling oversized the right way

Oversized clothing means extra comfort and room to move around, but it also signifies more than that to so many others. It is a neutral style allowing you to wear what you want, irrespective of your body size.

For a very long time, unisex clothing and footwear have been quite well-liked in the market. But because they were branded and expensive, they were frequently out of reach for the majority of people.

Making oversized clothing also helps us be gender neutral and makes beautiful, good-looking clothing for everyone. The inception of oversized clothing and streetwear happened through the skateboarding culture, as one needs apparel that is easy to manoeuvre in, perform tricks and ride for longer periods of time. This further caught up and spread around the world as the streetwear we know. Here are a few tips to style your oversized clothes the right way.

Contrast Clothing: There has to be a contrast in what you wear. So if you wear a very baggy upper, your lower should be towards the fitted end and vice versa. If you wear a very vibrant upper, your lower should be of a more muted colour and vice versa. This will make the look more appealing and easygoing. It is perfect for an outing and gives you a sharp look.

Wabi-Sabi: The Japanese aesthetic of

Wabi-Sabi, should be followed while styling what you wear. This is based on the acceptance of transience and imperfect. Streetwear could never be in perfect symmetry, which we should embrace. This is a comparatively very new trend in India but a highly popular one among the youth. It is all about roughness, simplicity, modesty and appreciating the ingenious integrity of neutrality.

Footwear: A free hand with shoes could be taken as even if your whole outfit is muted, your shoes alone can pick it up. It's also not a bad idea to occasionally tuck your lower in your shoes to make them more prominent. The perfect pair of sneakers will lift up the mood and tone of the outfit.

A monochromatic look with vibrant footwear can spice up the entire game. People often hesitate from experimenting with their footwear but now the trends have changed with oversized clothing. Celebrities are often spotted wearing funky sneakers at gala events, as well as with their airport looks.

Overshirts: Another piece that has caught the attention of many is overshirts. These can easily be worn with vests and individually paired with shoes as a dress too. GenZ is highly catching up with this fashion trend by pairing it with shorts or even overalls.

These breezy dresses are easy to carry and perfect for summers as well as monsoons. Even during winters, one can pair it with sweaters and hoodies.

IAN S

BOTTOM LINE

DR HIMESH GANDHI

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Minimal invasive solutions for urology-related ailments

I am a 28-year-old man who recently got married. I am experiencing tremendous pain during intercourse. There is redness over the tip of my penis. I am worried and it affects my confidence.

Painful intercourse is commonly seen in Phimosis. In this condition foreskin over the penis doesn't retract which in turn causes discomfort and pain during intercourse. Dr Himesh Gandhi also specialises in laser circumcision. It is the least invasive procedure which ensures no recurrence and quick relief. Patients can go back home the same day and can have intercourse after 3-4 weeks.

I am a 24-year-old female and I have been experiencing a sudden onset of pain in the left side of my stomach which radiates to my lower back along with mild nausea for a few months. Please guide me.

These symptoms are classic kidney stones. One must consult a specialist at the earliest. Dr Gandhi, who specialises in minimally invasive urology surgeries will perform a physical examination along with advised diagnostic tests like ultrasound and blood tests. Based on the findings Laser Retrograde Intrarenal surgery (RIRS) can be performed, in which patients can be back home in 24 hours and they can resume day-to-day activities soon because there are no stitches involved.

I am a 64-year-old man. I don't have diabetes or hypertension. I am having trouble passing urine. I have to strain but yet it feels incomplete at the end. This disturbs my sleep.

Age-related prostate enlargement is called Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH). This enlargement causes pressure on the urethra which results in incomplete emptying of the bladder. Based on the clinical evaluation and diagnostic tests, one can undergo Laser Transurethral resection of the Prostate (TURP). It is the least invasive surgery. Patients can be discharged within a day or two.

Note: One must not ignore these symptoms in order to rule out malignant/ cancerous tumours.

Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/opinions/data in the article are the sole responsibility of the expert/organisation. Send your queries to thebottomline@punemirror.com

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Foreign pupils needn't write test for admissions

To get 25% more seats in institutes, no entrance exam in higher edu **PAGE 7**



READY, BOYS?

Not really, as packed calendar deprives India to prep for T20 WC; tactical smartness key **PAGE 9**

CM Eknath Shinde includes govindas in 5% sports reservation for state government jobs — much to the incredulity of all

DIMAAG KA DAHI

Public service aspirants question validity of annual festive activity as a game, demand rollback of decision; emphasise it will diminish efforts of genuine sportspersons & instead increase the number of bogus docs; threaten to challenge decision in court; politicians slam move, BJP minister says people should not object since its not additional reservation

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You neither become a sportsperson overnight nor are you one if the so-called game is simply an annual festive activity. Though no one is challenging the flexibility, strength and concentration required to build human pyramids, aspirants to government jobs through the sports quota are incredulous that Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde has included dahi handi as a sport and allowed reservations.

Emphasising that they mean no offence to govindas, aspirants said the 5 per cent quota in state government jobs should remain exclusive to athletes who spend years through gruelling training, determination and burning desire to succeed in recognised sports. They earn numerous laurels and the reservation ensures a safety net to their family, while they continue to make everyone proud.

However, the recent decision by chief minister Eknath Shinde to recognise dahi handi as an adventure sport and consider govindas — people who form the human pyramid to break the earthen pot — for the state job sports quota has left many angry.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>



The government does not have a mechanism to maintain a record of govindas and their performance. Also, many govindas are underage. If uneducated ones win the competition, which job is the government going to offer them

— Ajit Pawar, leader of the Opposition & president, Maharashtra Olympic Association



WRANGLER PARANJAPE'S HOUSE TO BE RAZED

Papers in place, but is it correct to demolish iconic Pune bungalow?

Yashpal Sonkamble & Manasi Saraf Joshi
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Pune is known for its rich and varied heritage, but is gradually losing the tag. Several iconic homes and structures that stood the test of time are now being razed to erect brand new ones in their place.

One such structure is the house of Wrangler Raghunath Purushottam Paranjape — the first senior wrangler in India. The house, located on the road named after the man himself, is set to be demolished to make way for a new educational structure.

Citizens have objected to bulldozing the archetypal structure and demanded a refurbishment instead.

"Wrangler Paranjape earned the title of senior wrangler after he had topped the university examination. He also topped the Tripos exam at Cambridge University in 1899. According to rules prevalent in those times, a person who received first-class honours would be given the title of the wrangler. The student who scored the highest mark would be called senior wrangler," said SA Katre, Lokmanya chair professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).

Paranjape served as the vice-chancellor of Pune University from 1956 to 1959. He was also the first librarian at the Indian Mathematical Society. Paranjape's name has been given to the SPPU mathematics department and an exhibition of his handwriting was held in 1995 at SPPU.

Mandar Lavate, historian and researcher of the city's heritage structure said, "The cost of restoring and refinishing private old buildings goes up to crores of rupees. Everyone wants the old buildings to be given heritage status or private structures to be saved. But it is important to maintain them over a long period. Reusing the old structure without demolishing can be an option."

Architect and urban planner Anagha Paranjape-Purohit said the government should set up support systems for iconic structures to be restored or reused.

"Adaptive reuse is a refurbishment of an old structure. It keeps the essence of the old building, but makes it modern for reuse. It is also a way to extend the life cycle of a building and is environmentally friendly. However, it is an impossible task for private owners in the absence of funding mechanisms. Here, the government needs to step in and set up mechanisms," she said.

She further said, "For an institution, this type of restoration project is possible because of the element of time which they have at hand. Also, in this case

commercial interests may not play a large role, unlike in private land development. Architects and developers look at innovative design solutions for restoring or reusing old buildings. However, investment opportunities in such projects can come only when the government actively supports adaptive restoration and reuse of such heritage and iconic buildings."

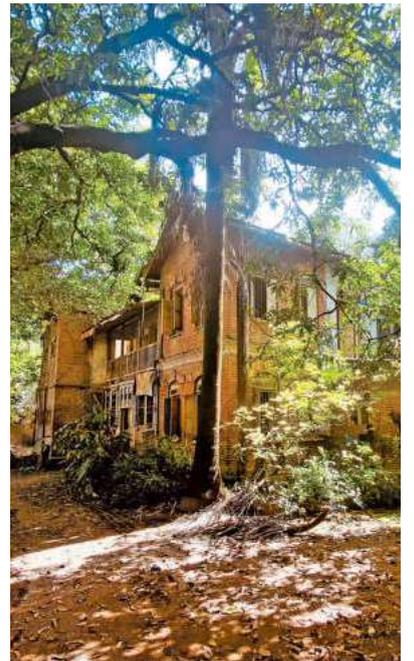
"Expecting private owners to go in for restoration projects based on emotions is futile. It is extremely economically cumbersome and financially impossible to get into restoration projects today," Purohit added.

The house was handed over to the Deccan Education Society and they have been maintaining it over time.

Speaking to *Mirror* about the reason behind the demolition, Sharad Kunte, chairman of the council and governing body of Deccan Education Society, said, "Wrangler Paranjape had legally bequeathed his bungalow to Deccan Education Society. According to his wish, the institute will use this place for educational courses. New construction is underway for the same purpose. Only educational activities will be implemented in the new building."

"This house does not fall under heritage structures. The work is in progress with all the documents and necessary permissions," he added.

— With inputs from Nupur Pradhan



Paranjape's bungalow

BEYOND WORDS



RISKY, BUT WHO CARES?

As much as it might be dangerous, motorists in Pune refuse to budge from their old ways. It seems breaking rules and throwing caution to the winds has become a part of our very being. The Pune-Bengaluru stretch on NH 4 is already known to be prone to accidents. Yet, this does not deter drivers from taking turns from a small gap or opening — known as road punctures — between the dividers to approach service roads. People ignore that this act could lead to a major tragedy because a speeding vehicle (since it is a highway) may not be able to control its pace and collide with the turning one. But, then, who will travel the extra distance even if it is for safety. PHOTOS: NIKHIL GHORPADE

Warje has lots to shed tears on

Locals complain of lack of regular water supply, veggie market; roads, traffic conditions bad, while hospital lying idle

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Warje has witnessed a realty boom over the last few decades and become a congested neighbourhood, but the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has failed to provide even basic civic amenities to residents. Locals are tired with the bad condition of roads and traffic as well continuous encroachments while they await basic facilities such as water supply and a proper vegetable market.

Residents have been complaining about erratic water supply for months now. They are irked over the water-tanker politics in the area and the authorities taking no action. Also, roads have worsened in recent months due to rains. Many denizens have purportedly given written complaints to the PMC, but their concerns have not been addressed by the area ward office.

Nilesh Wanjale, a local activist who has been following up with the ward office for water supply, said, "We get supply for hardly two hours a day, while some parts of Pune are receiving excess of it. One of our main concerns is the PMC hospital, Subhadra Prabhakar Barate hospital, which was inaugurated six months ago and has still not been opened to the public. Where will common people go for basic health problems? Why should people go far when they have a municipal hospital in their own area?"

He further said, "The condition of the road between Warje bridge and Shinde bridge has gone beyond repair and is filled with craters. The



PMC filled it and it was all back to square one in just eight days. This is everywhere in Warje. I have given written complaints to all officers concerned, but no action has been forthcoming." Regarding encroached roads, another resident of Warje, Pranjali Modak, said, "The area doesn't have a vegetable market. All vendors sit along the roads.



When people want to buy vegetables, they park their vehicles nearby while some people don't even get down from their vehicles and add to the traffic congestion. The area becomes very crowded during peak hours. Also, garbage dumping on the roadsides is rampant. The ward office needs to look into the matter."

Assistant municipal commissioner Rajesh Gurram said, "We are covering as many potholes as we can with the material that we receive from the PMC. These potholes are covered with emulsion and cold mix tar, which is durable. If resi-



Water tanker owners are minting money as supply is erratic. PHOTO: NIKHIL GHORPADE

dents are facing a problem, they can write to us and we will cover the potholes immediately. About the garbage issue, the sanitation department will clean the roads soon."

Gurram said, "We have told vegetable vendors to use the inner lanes and have allotted space but they have not moved. Since there is no place for a vegetable market, we had made this proposal to the vendors. We are following up on the matter and the issue will be resolved soon."

The Barate hospital is yet to open to the public and Mirror tried to reach the health officer, but he was not available.

Speeding biker found guilty, camera saves day for driver

Bigger vehicles often blamed for mishaps with smaller ones; man overtaking container from wrong side, colliding with four-wheeler shows clearly in footage

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Our mentality is such that two-wheeler riders or drivers of small vehicles often get the benefit of doubt in road mishaps, while drivers of big vehicles are held responsible even if they are not at fault.

In an accident near the Talegaon Dabhade area on August 20, a two-wheeler rider collided head-on with a car after overtaking a container truck from the wrong side and was injured. The whole action was caught on the car's front camera revealing the biker's fault, following which he was booked.

Pimpri-Chinchwad DCP (traffic) said, "If the car driver didn't have the proof, the police would have filed a case against him and the container driver. The biker's mistake shows in the footage."

Driver of the car Pravin Darvade lodged a complaint against biker Balu Shilvane and a case was registered.

The FIR said that the biker was at a high speed and tried to overtake a heavy vehicle from the wrong side and collided with Darvade's car. The biker received minor injuries, but he blamed the car driver, who provided the footage captured in the camera installed in the front and the biker's mistake was revealed."

Deputy commissioner of police Anant Bhoite (Pimpri-Chinchwad traffic department) said two-wheeler riders often flout traffic rules and refuse to follow speed restrictions or even wear a helmet — thus, ignoring all appeals.

A local said, "A heavy vehicle driver or a car driver is always blamed if they meet with an accident with small vehicles. I commute daily on Talegaon Dabhade road.



The offender overtakes the container truck from the wrong before colliding with the car

Most bikers try to overtake heavy vehicles from the wrong side. The traffic police have to take strict action against them."

Darvade said, "I was travelling to Mumbai on the day of the accident. We were happy that we would meet our relatives in Mumbai. However, this accident spoiled our plan. My car was also damaged. The biker started arguing with me after the incident. He was not accepting his mistake. Fortunately, I have installed a camera in the front of my car and it helped me expose his claim before the police."

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DIMAAG KA DAHI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sportspersons seeking the coveted jobs are up in arms against the CM's decision and are demanding a reversal of the same.

It may be noted that in 2016, the state government, under the leadership of Devendra Fadnis, had removed several sports from the reserved list. Following the decision, only sports that were part of the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and world championships were considered for reservation under the sports quota for government jobs in Maharashtra. Now, after this arbitrary announcement, the administration will have to work round the clock to amend its own rules to add dahi handi to the list of reserved sports.

Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) aspirants said they would protest against the state decision and challenge it in court if the government does not reverse it.

Rahul Kawthekar, president of the MPSC coordination committee, said, "This decision will impact many aspirants, especially genuine players who are trying for government jobs under the sports quota. If the state does not roll back the decision, we will challenge it in the court."

MPSC aspirant Prasad Tambe said, "Dahi handi is a festival that comes once a year. It is not a sport. The decision is unfounded. We sweat it out for years in the hopes of a government job. The state is neglecting our efforts by



giving reservation to govindas. The CM should reverse the decision immediately."

A few aspirants also said the decision will only benefit districts where dahi handi is popular. Ganesh Jorwar Patil, who has been preparing for the police recruitment exam for the last few years, said this decision will only benefit six out of the 36 districts in the state.

"Dahi handi is not very popular in many districts. The state should maintain a standard while including sports in the quota for government jobs. If this continues, people may

demand to include their local games too," Patil said.

Aspirants also highlighted the issue of bogus sports certificates which is already a problem in state recruitment. This decision will increase the number of such documents. Mahesh Gharbude, an MPSC aspirant, said, "The issue of bogus sports certificates is high in the state. If the government makes such a decision then the aspirants will have no option but to protest."

Ajit Tupasmind, an aspirant who has been preparing for various government recruit-

ment exams under the sports quota, told *Mirror*, "This decision will increase bogus certificates submitted for recruitment. Some cases of fake documents have already been exposed. The government should think about genuine players who prepare for competitive exams while playing sports for years."

Speaking to *Mirror*, sports administrator Sunder Iyer said, "Dahi handi should be celebrated like a festival just the way people of Spain revel in the La Tomatina festival. It has tourism value, but it is incorrect to equate it with competitive sports. A sportsperson spends his entire life chasing success. The decision to offer quota to govindas will reduce the opportunity of real athletes."

"Paying prize money is fine, but it should end there," he added.

The political circles, too, were abuzz after the decision, with many legislators slamming the move. Ajit Pawar, leader of the Opposition and president of the Maharashtra Olympic Association, said that Shinde should refrain from making emotional decisions.

"Youngsters prepare for the competitive

exams for years, but the CM did not care about them. He should not make decisions with emotion. He should think about its negative and positive aspects. It is unfortunate that even the state sports department was not in the loop before the announcement," Pawar said.

"The government does

Crackdown on bogus certificates

The state government has started a crackdown and last month released a list of 109 government servants who had submitted bogus sports certificates to get government jobs.

Taking cognisance of the seriousness of the issue, the state's sports department recommended the cancellation of service of 17 such employees who were employed with various departments.

Commenting on the same, Om Prakash Bakoria, state sports commissioner, told *Mirror*, "Recently, we cancelled a total of 842 sports certificates. Of those, 109 were in government service. As many as 17 of them have been terminated by the appointing authority following the cancellation of their certificates."

"Presently, sports that are part of Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championship are considered for the 5 per cent government job reservation. Besides those, games such as kabaddi, kho-kho and malkhamb are included since they are national games," Bakoria said.



Dahi handi is not very popular in many districts. The state should maintain a standard while including sports in the quota for government jobs. If this continues, people may demand to include their local games too

— Ganesh Jorwar Patil, aspirant

This decision will impact many aspirants, especially genuine players who are trying for state jobs. If the state does not roll back the decision, we will challenge it in the court

— Rahul Kawthekar, president, MPSC coordination committee

Dahi handi is a festival that comes once a year. It is not a sport. The decision is unfounded. We sweat it out for years in the hopes of a government job. The state is neglecting our efforts by giving reservation to govindas

— Prasad Tambe, MPSC aspirant

not have a mechanism to maintain a record of govindas and their performance. In other sports, their respective associations maintain records. Also, many govindas are underage. If uneducated govindas win the competition, which job is the government going to offer them?" he added.

Defending the decision, Chandrakant Patil, state higher and technical education minister told the media, "The 5 per cent sports quota is already there and only one new sport has been added to the list. There is no additional reservation, hence people should not object to it. If tomorrow there is a demand to add one more local sport, then the government will do it after the required process to organise competitions and hand out medals."

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Pune Metro has often been billed as a world-class system envisaged to be the ultimate solution to the traffic woes plaguing the city. The idea was conceived and subsequently announced after the Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML) allegedly failed to cater to the needs of city residents. Although the Metro work has been progressing at snail's pace, Pune-kars have welcomed it with open arms.

At present, the rail system caters only to a small section of daily commuters. A lot of people who travel in the Metro are those who are seeking a pleasure ride.

Nonetheless, the sewage water that has spilled out from the drainage right outside the Metro station at Vanaz corner has marred the experience as most commuters are required to walk through the filthy water to reach the station.

It may be mentioned that Prime



Sludge, foul smell makes it difficult to even enter the Metro station at Vanaz. PHOTOS: NIKHIL GHORPADE

Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated a short and incomplete route of Pune metro from Vanaz corner to Garware college on Karve Road and the Pimpri-Phugewadi route on old Pune Mumbai highway in March.

Amol Kale, social activist said, "The sludge and foul smell is making it difficult to even enter the station. We are being compelled to walk through it. It spoils our foot-wear and we carry the same sludge onto the sta-

tion. Ironically, the station is spic and span, and even a little bit of dirt gets noticed on clean floors."

Another commuter said, "The stench makes it impossible for us to walk through the road. We have to cover our noses while passing through this route which would be roughly 100 metre."

Meanwhile, Santosh Tandale, Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) assistant commissioner and head of



drainage department, said, "Vanaz corner falls under the jurisdiction of the Warje ward office. I have directed the officials concerned and the staff to take immediate action."

Prashant Amrale and Avdhoot Alate use the route daily for commuting. Amrale said, "The water gets spilled while walking from here." Avdhoot said, "I was taking my daughter to school when suddenly the dirty water spilled over her and

her uniform got spoiled."

Hemant Sonawane, public relations officer (PRO), MahaMetro, said, "The drainage line got damaged because of the ongoing metro work more than a fortnight ago. Initially, some repairs were carried out but apparently all the leakages have not been plugged. Incessant rains prevented us from carrying out further repairs. However, the repair work will resume on Monday."

Flyover or a service road first in Sus? Citizens demand the latter

Livid with PMC's apathy; allege it failed to acquire land from own garbage plant; narrow path prone to accidents

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People living near the under-construction Sus bridge are seething with anger over the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) apathy whereby it has not handed over land required for completion of the service road near the flyover. Consequently, locals are being forced to use the existing stretch which is narrow and not properly surfaced with asphalt

On Sunday, several residents reached the site of the under-construction bridge and halted work demanding that the service road be constructed first. While the civic body has assured to take up the matter on priority, citizens have dug in their heels stating that the inauguration of the bridge would be allowed only after completion of the service road.

"The deadline to connect the service road to the Sus bridge is August 31. In its present form, such a link could prove dangerous as vehicles coming from the bridge would collide with those driving in from the service



Locals say PMC, politicians keen to take credit for bridge, but shirking responsibility for service road

road. The latter needs to be broadened and layered well. Ironically, the PMC has not been able to acquire the vacant land where its own garbage plant is located," said Vinay Deshpande, president, Sus Road Baner Vikas Manch.

Haresh Patil, secretary of the manch, said the municipal body and

local politicians are keen to take credit for constructing the bridge, but are shirking responsibility for constructing the service road. He pointed out that the service road was already considered to be accident prone and could increase the possibility of mishaps in the future.

"While the residents welcome the



bridge and the administration is busy making arrangements for opening it, the fact of the matter is that the poor condition of the service road adjacent to it has rendered the movement of traffic difficult and increased the chances of accidents," he added.

Patil said he participated in a meeting of local citizens, PMC engineers

and the contractor. "Locals have demanded that work on the service road be completed on priority and only then the bridge construction should be completed and inaugurated."

Decrying the condition of the service road, residents Sandip Rasalpurkar and Nilima Buwa said, "It's difficult for people, especially seniors, to even walk on it. On what basis does the PMC feel that it has been developed? Without completing the service road construction, the civic body is getting ready to inaugurate the bridge."

NCP corporator Bapurao Chandere said he visited the place on Sunday and has assured he would take up the matter with the civic body.

BJP corporator Ganesh Kalamkar said, "The work on the completion of the service road has been facing hurdles due to land acquisition. The land in question is part of the garbage plant owned by the PMC. The civic body needs to sort out the issue. It is as important to provide service roads to the citizens as it is to construct the bridge." Kalamkar assured that he would discuss the issue with the PMC officials concerned.

STITCH IN TIME

'A BOY WITH HAND EMBROIDERY,' SAURABH DEVADHE URGES CRAFT IS BEYOND ANY GENDER, SHOULD NOT BE LABELLED TOO FEMININE OR NOT MASCULINE; WANTS TO MAKE A STATEMENT WITH HIS DESIGNS THAT ARE HEAVILY INSPIRED BY NATURE AROUND

Salonee Mistry | salonee@punemirror.com

Embroidery artist Saurabh Devadhe's page @bespokebysaurabh is a reflection of what goes on his mind. The delicate art form that needs precision and finesse is often associated with women and therefore, despite his Instagram bio saying 'A Boy with Hand Embroidery,' oftentimes, the DMs he gets address him as 'ma'am.' Hand embroidery requires training and fine attention to detail, a refined sense of colour, and a thorough understanding of motifs and composition, qualities women are known to master and it is these attributes that result in gender-based stereotypes around embroidery and stitching — one doesn't visualise a man crafting these delicate designs using thread and needle. However, Devadhe has been shattering stereotypes with his art, one stitch at a time. "I honestly believe that it's about time we move out of his box and stop labelling patterns and colours as masculine or feminine," he urges.

He continues, "Many a time, people message say 'ma'am', assuming the person behind the embroidery designs is a woman. A lot of our online and offline workshops only have women participants. At a recent exhibition where I had a few rakhis on display, I was told that they were too feminine."

Devadhe, 23, a boy from the small village of Mohoj Devadhe, whose parents are farmers, started his embroidery jewellery business and orders have only been pouring in since. Making his venture big was important for him — both for personal success and to make his parents proud. After borrowing a small amount of Rs 1,500 from his mother, he set out to create something of his own and life has been kind, Devadhe tells Mirror.

"When I told my father, I wanted to do fashion designing instead of pursuing a conventional career as a doctor or engineer, he told me he would support me for three years and then I was on my own. Aware of the struggles my parents have

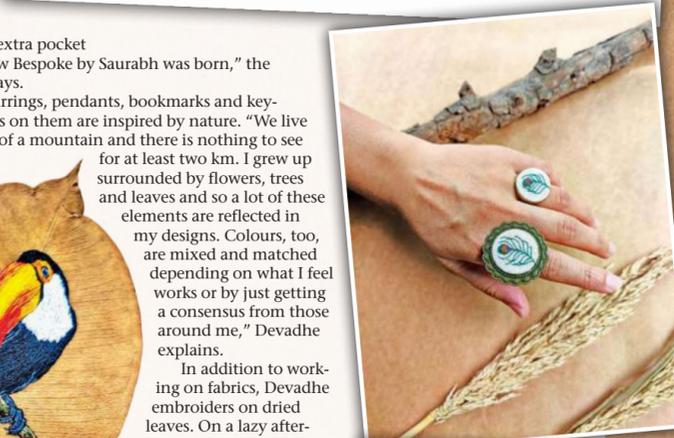
undergone to send me to school and college, I knew I had to do something big. While studying at Gandhi Institute of Fashion and Textile, Ahmedabad, I wanted to earn some extra pocket money and that is how Bespoke by Saurabh was born," the young entrepreneur says.

Devadhe creates earrings, pendants, bookmarks and key-chains and the designs on them are inspired by nature. "We live in a house at the foot of a mountain and there is nothing to see for at least two km. I grew up surrounded by flowers, trees and leaves and so a lot of these elements are reflected in my designs. Colours, too, are mixed and matched depending on what I feel works or by just getting a consensus from those around me," Devadhe explains.

In addition to working on fabrics, Devadhe embroiders on dried leaves. On a lazy afternoon, during the pandemic, he walked to a tree outside his house, picked up one of the leaves and decided to do some embroidery on it. Obviously, it took some trials to get it right, but once he mastered the pressure, he was able to create some of the most picturesque showpieces and wall hangings.

"I scale out the pattern with dots on the leaves and then follow that. Unlike fabric, you can't undo it and rectify a mistake on dried leaves. You have to start over again. Working four to five hours daily, intricate pieces can take days, while smaller fabric work gets done in a couple of hours. I have also started experimenting on jackets and tops and want to eventually move to home decor products, too," he shares.

When Devadhe has several orders to complete, he gets help from family and friends. His cousins Aniket and Prajka, in particular, have been with him from the beginning and it wouldn't have been possible without them, says a grateful Devadhe.



Nation

Students, principal booked for pro-Pak slogans in Aligarh
 — The students, who had raised slogans in support of Pakistan during a Tiranga Yatra, have been booked under the relevant section of the Indian Penal Code. A Tiranga rally was organised by a college in Aligarh during which some students allegedly raised pro-Pakistan slogans.

Foreign pupils needn't write test for admissions

To get 25% more seats in institutes, no entrance exam in higher edu



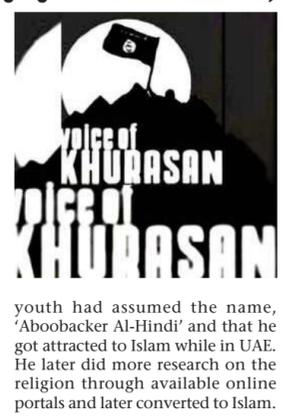
#NEWDELHI
 Twenty-five per cent additional seats are being created for foreign students in educational institutions across India. These foreign students will not have to undergo the process of appearing for entrance tests. All students who have foreign passports will be considered as foreigners.
 Indian students who are living abroad with foreign passports will also be able to take admission in reputed higher educational institutions across India without appearing for entrance tests.
 Foreign students will not have to give entrance tests, but a fixed admission process is being formulated which will be completely transparent. Along with this, keeping in mind the interests of foreign students, higher educa-

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
 able to create 25 per cent additional seats in their universities. UGC has given approval to higher educational institutions across the country for this arrangement.
 The UGC in its 560th meeting on August 18 has given this approval along with guidelines for admission of international students and supernumerary seats (means seats which are over and above the sanctioned intake approved by the appropriate authority and the government) in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Indian higher educational institutions.
 UGC chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar told IANS that the higher educational institutions would be allowed to admit international students through a transparent admission process which will be similar to that being followed by foreign universities. **IANs**

1st suicide bomber from India was Keralite convert, says IS

'Voice of Koharasan' says youth took to Islam; blasted himself in Libya

#THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
 The Central intelligence agencies have commenced a probe after an article in the IS mouthpiece 'Voice of Koharasan' mentioned that 'the first Indian suicide bomber for them was a Keralite who had converted from Christianity to Islam.
 In the latest issue of the magazine, the article about the suicide bomber is in the chapter 'Memories of Shuhada', a portion dedicated to the memories of those who died fighting for IS.
 The article did not, however, mention the exact identity of the youth. It dwells that he was an engineering graduate from Kerala who had worked in Bengaluru as an engineer and later migrated to Dubai.
 The article further states that the



After conversion, he, according to the magazine, got attracted to the ideology of Jihad and contacted the IS sleeper cells in Dubai. He was planning to go to Yemen for further training, but was not able to and hence returned to his home state, Kerala. After spending some time in Kerala, he got a message from his IS contacts that there was an opportunity in Libya and accordingly he reached there under the guise of searching for a new job. According to the article, he fought against the Libyan Army at Sirsit, the IS the stronghold, and later became a suicide bomber and blasted himself to death.
 Central Intelligence agencies had earlier itself got some wind of such a person and had commenced a probe into the same. **IANs**

'Kingpin' Kejri's arrest is imminent, says BJP

'Made money as people suffered in pandemic'

#NEWDELHI
 Calling chief minister Arvind Kejriwal (in pic) as 'kingpin' of the excise policy scam, BJP on Sunday said that handcuffs are getting close to him as nodes of corruption are being unravelled. The BJP also alleged that the roots of the excise policy scam lead to doorsteps of 'corrupt' Kejriwal.
 BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged when people were suffering during pandemic, Kejriwal was indulging in corruption by signing the new excise policy. "Roots of the excise policy scam lead to the doorstep of corrupt Kejriwal and no one is above law. No corrupt person will be spared," Bhatia said. **IANs**

Liquor scam files shared
#New Delhi
 The Central Bureau of Investigation has handed over important documents regarding the liquor scam to the Enforcement Directorate to look whether a case under PMLA can be made out against DyGM Manish Sisodia. **IANs**

No clarity on notice
#New Delhi
 There was no clarity from the CBI on the liquor scam. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has not clarified so far whether the Look Out Notice (LON) had been served against Sisodia and 13 others. **IANs**

Kannur University VC is a criminal: Kerala Guv

Raveendran had allegedly plotted to physically assault Khan during Kerala History Congress

#NEWDELHI
 In a scathing attack against the Kannur University vice-chancellor, Kerala governor Arif Mohammed Khan (in pic) has alleged that VC Gopinath Raveendran is a criminal. While speaking to media persons at Kerala House in New Delhi, Arif Mohammed Khan charged that during the Kerala History Congress held at Kannur two years ago, the VC had conspired to physically assault him.
 The outburst of the Kerala Governor is the latest in a series of confrontations between the Governor and Kannur University

Vice Chancellor after the university cleared the appointment of the private secretary of Kerala chief minister, KK Ragesh's wife Priya Verghese to the post of associate professor in Malayalam language.
 Governor had earlier said that the appointment lacks merit and that Priya Verghese was way behind other aspirants for the job but due to political support, she had got through as the number one in the list. Arif Mohammed Khan has also frozen the appointment of Priya against which the Kannur University vice-chancellor said that he would move legally.
 However, Khan had taken legal opinion and according to this, Raveendran will not be able to move court against him. **IANs**



Hrithik in trouble again over Zomato's Mahakal 'thali' ad

#MUMBAI
 The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has accused Hrithik Roshan's (in pic) and Zomato's advertisement for "misleading and cheating people" through the advertisement.
 CAIT has written to Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan for action against Hrithik and Zomato for hurting religious sentiments in the advertisement where he says he feels like having a 'thali' in Ujjain and orders from Mahakal. The Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas. **IANs**



Non-Gandhi, but loyalist being considered for Cong-prez post

#NEWDELHI
 As the Congress prepares to elect its new chief, many names are under consideration after Rahul Gandhi (in pic) refused to give a second thought to his decision of holding no post in the party, sources have said.
 The names doing the rounds are loyalists from the party, which include Ambika Soni, Mukul Wasnik and Kumari Selja. However, the party still hopes that Rahul Gandhi will lead the party. Some people are also floating the name of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.
 Also, the Congress, in the interim, is chalking out plan B to continue Sonia Gandhi as party president and appoint a working president for each zone. Another name doing rounds is that of Sonia Gandhi loyalist CMs Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel. **IANs**





Five Chinese aircraft crossed median line, says Taiwan

12 Chinese aircraft, ships detected operating around Taiwan on Sunday; claim threat to country's security

#TAIPEI

Taiwan's defence ministry said 12 Chinese aircraft and five Chinese ships were detected operating around Taiwan on Sunday, including five aircraft that crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, as Beijing continued military activities near the island.

China has been carrying out drills near Taiwan, which it claims as Chinese territory despite strong objections from the government in Taipei, since earlier this month following a visit to the island by US House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Meanwhile, Taiwan said the new routes, which run near two groups of Taiwan-controlled islands which sit close to China, are a threat to aviation safety and were opened by China without Taiwan's approval, contravening previous agreements.

The dispute with China over its opening of new air routes near Taiwan will determine future rela-

Taiwan said new routes, which run near two groups of Taiwan-controlled islands, are threat to safety and were opened by China sans Taiwan's nod

tions between Taipei and Beijing, Taiwan's government said amid a deepening disagreement that could strand thousands over an important holiday.

The spat has become increasingly bitter, with both sides trading accusations after two Chinese airlines cancelled extra flights to Taiwan over the Lunar New Year, the most important holiday in the Chinese calendar, potentially leaving thousands of Taiwanese without tickets to go home.

"The people's eyes are sharp. Whether this disputed issue can be resolved is an important indicator of how Taiwan people will

view the future direction of relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait," Taiwan's China-policy making Mainland Affairs Council said in a statement late on Wednesday.

"We again call on the Chinese side to treasure the hard won peace and stability of relations between the two sides. China needs to carry out measures to make up for this deficiency, in order to avoid this issue continuing to grow and ferment."

Taiwan says the new routes, which run near two groups of Taiwan-controlled islands which sit close to China, are a threat to aviation safety and were opened by China without Taiwan's approval, contravening previous agreements. China considers Taiwan a wayward province, and relations have cooled dramatically since Tsai Ing-wen of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party took office as Taiwan's president in 2016. **Agencies**

Putin ally's daughter dies in car bombing

29-year-old was on UK's sanctions list; her father is Russian ideologist often referred to as 'Putin's brain'

#MOSCOW

The daughter of a Russian nationalist ideologist who is often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed when her car exploded on the outskirts of Moscow, officials said Sunday.

The Investigative Committee branch for the Moscow region said the Saturday night blast was caused by a bomb planted in the SUV driven by Daria Dugina.

The 29-year-old was the daughter of political theorist Alexander Dugin, a prominent proponent of the "Russian world" concept and a vehement supporter of Russia's sending of troops into Ukraine.

Dugin's exact ties to President Vladimir Putin are unclear, but the Kremlin frequently echoes rhetoric from his writings and appearances on Russian state TV. He helped popularize the concept of "Novorossiya" (New Russia) that Russia used to justify the annexation of Crimea and its support of separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. He promotes Russia as a country of piety, traditional values and authoritarian leadership, and disdains Western liberal values.

Dugina expressed similar views and had appeared as a commentator on the nationalist TV channel Tsargrad.

She was sanctioned by the US in March for her work as chief editor of United World International, a website that the U.S. described as a disinfor-



Daria Dugina and her influential father Alexander Dugin

mation site. The sanctions announcement cited a UWI article this year that contended Ukraine would "perish" if it were admitted to NATO.

"Dasha, like her father, has always been at the forefront of confrontation with the West," Tsargrad said on Sunday, using the familiar form of her name. The explosion took place as Dugina was returning from a cultural festival she had attended with her father. Some Russian media reports cited witnesses as saying the vehicle belonged to her father and that he had decided at the last minute to travel in another car.

The vivid and violent incident, unusual for Moscow, is likely to aggravate Russia-Ukraine animosity.

No suspects were identified. But Denis Pushilin, president of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic that is a focus of Russia's fighting in Ukraine, blamed it on "terrorists of the Ukrainian regime, trying to kill Alexander Dugin." **Agencies**

Somali authorities end hotel attack, 21 killed

Battle for 30 hrs to contain fighters who stormed Mogadishu's Hayat Hotel on Friday; many injured

#MOGADISHU

Somali authorities on Sunday ended a deadly attack in which 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded when gunmen stormed a hotel in the capital.

It took Somali forces more than 30 hours to contain the fighters who had stormed Mogadishu's Hayat Hotel on Friday evening in an assault that started with loud explosions.

The siege ended around midnight, police chief Abdi Hassan Hijar told reporters. "During the attack, the security forces rescued many civilians trapped in the hotel, including women and children," he said.

Health Minister Ali Haji Adam reported 21 deaths and 117 people wounded, with 15 in critical condition. He noted that some victims may not have been brought to hospitals.

Police are yet to give a detailed explanation of how the attack unfolded and it remains unclear how many gunmen entered the hotel.

Ismail Abdi, the hotel's manager, told The Associated Press early Sunday that security forces were still working



The siege ended around midnight, police said

to clear the area. No more gunfire could be heard after 9 am local time.

Onlookers gathered outside the gates of the badly damaged hotel on Sunday morning, surveying the scene.

The Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, which has ties with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest of its frequent attempts to strike places visited by government officials. **Agencies**



ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Imran's live speeches banned on TV

#ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's electronic media watchdog has banned satellite television channels from broadcasting live speeches of ousted prime minister Imran Khan, hours after he threatened state institutions and made provocative statements while addressing a rally. Khan, while addressing a public gathering here on Saturday, threatened to file cases against top police officials over the treatment meted out to his aide Shahbaz Gill, who was



arrested last week on charges of sedition. Authorities, however, said Khan's recorded speech would only be permitted to be aired after a delay. **Agencies**

China plans cloud seeding for rain

#CHONGQING (CHINA)

China says it will try to protect its grain harvest from record-setting drought by using chemicals to generate rain, while factories in the southwest waited Sunday to see whether they would be shut down for another week due to shortages of water to generate hydropower. The hottest, driest summer since the government began recording rainfall and temperature 61 years ago has wilted crops



and left reservoirs at half their normal water level. Factories in Sichuan were shut down last week to save power for homes as air conditioning demand surged, with temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius. **Agencies**

Sheryl Sandberg weds US bizman



#CALIFORNIA

Former Meta Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sheryl Sandberg married businessman Tom Bernthal in an intimate ceremony on Saturday in Wyoming. Mr Bernthal is a former NBC news producer and is the founder of the consulting firm Kelton Global.

The power couple announced their nuptials on Instagram with a beautiful image of them holding hands and sharing a laugh on a gravel path in the woods. Ms Sandberg kept the caption simple with just the word "Married" and a bunch of heart emojis. Bernthal, on the other hand, opted for a more detailed note. The businessman, who is also brother to actor Jon Bernthal, said, "After both experiencing loss, Sheryl Sandberg and I weren't sure we would ever find love again." **Agencies**



— Geoffrey Boycott, legendary England cricketer

Ready, boys?

Not really, as packed calendar deprives India to prep for T20 WC; tactical smartness key



#NEWDELHI

Like every other team, India would have also liked to have condition-specific preparations for the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia but the packed international calendar does not allow them to have that advantage. Instead, they will have to be tactically smarter and use their experience to the fullest to achieve the desired result.

In the last one decade or so, cricket has peaked in terms of globalisation with mushrooming of leagues across the globe. However, Australia still is very different from other countries in terms of playing conditions.

When teams travel to Australia in October-November for the T20 World Cup, they are expected to get few noticeable things there. Bigger grounds, lesser grip for spinners, truer bounce for pacers, more horizontal shots for batters and change in par scores are the

specific things which teams will have to take care of.

A lot of non-Indian players, especially T20 stars get to play in the Big Bash League, so they are already aware about the different playing conditions in Australia. But, since Indian players are not allowed to take part in foreign leagues and they play only in the IPL (apart from domestic tournaments, like the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy), the conditions can surprise a few of them during the World Cup.

India, who are currently playing in Zimbabwe, will next play the Asia Cup beginning on August 27, followed by home series against Australia and South Africa in September and October that include a total of six T20Is and three ODIs, ending on October 11.

Given their busy schedule, the Rohit Sharma-led team can't have a preparatory camp in

Australia before the T20 World Cup. In such a situation, India will have to make the best use of two practice games that the International Cricket Council (ICC) offers before they begin their campaign against Pakistan on October 23 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the Super 12 fixture of the mega event.

But, all is not lost for India, who have many serious match-winners and experienced campaigners in the side. A lot of the players have played in Australia before so they will certainly know what worked for them in the past.

Apart from experience, captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Rahul Dravid will also have to be at their strategic best. They could study the conditions in Australia this summer during the Big Bash League and international fixtures and understand the specific skills required to succeed. **IAN S**

Tsitsipas overcomes Medvedev to march into Cincinnati final

Garcia topples Sabalenka, Kvitova beats Madison

#CINCINNATI
Stefanos Tsitsipas will face a rejuvenated Borna Coric in the Western & Southern Open final after the Greek defeated top seed Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals.
Medvedev boasted a 7-2 head-to-head record against world number seven Tsitsipas heading into the clash but the Greek got the edge with a 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3 win in two hours and 23 minutes, DPA reports. Tsitsipas' net play was a feature in the victory, winning 27 of 36 points at the net, while he won 82 per cent of his first serve points. He hit 33-28 winners while Medvedev gave up 35-27 unforced errors with the Russian also having 11 double faults, including a key break in the third set.

The triumph on Saturday evening means Tsitsipas progresses to the final in Cincinnati for the first time, having lost in the semifinals in both 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile, Caroline Garcia of France has become the first qualifier to reach a WTA 1000 tournament final after continuing her dream run at the Western & Southern Open with a hard-fought win over sixth seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus. In a match halted twice for extended periods by rain on Saturday evening, Garcia triumphed 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 in the semifinal that lasted two hours and five minutes, reports DPA. Garcia's victory over Sabalenka secured her spot in the decider against Petra Kvitova, who beat Madison Keys in the other semifinal earlier on Saturday. Besides, Petra Kvitova reached the Western & Southern Open final after overcoming 2019 champion Madison Keys 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-3 in their semifinal showdown, here on Saturday. The win also marked the 40th WTA Tour singles final of Kvitova's career. Kvitova, who is 29-10 in finals, will aim for her 30th career singles title on Sunday. **IAN S**

Tsitsipas enters finals in Cincinnati for the first time after having lost in the semis in 2020, 2021



Broad all fired up for Old Trafford

Eager to show 'ultra-competitive' side

#LONDON

England pace-bowling stalwart **Stuart Broad (in pic)** has conceded he was a "bit tentative" in the opening Test against South Africa at Lord's, which the hosts lost by an innings and 12 runs inside three days, and has indicated he is going to show his "ultra-competitive" side in the second match at Old Trafford in order to help his side return to winning ways.

Even though Broad became only the second player to take 100 Test wickets at Lord's, joining long-time pace-bowling partner James Anderson, his bowling left a lot to be desired as the 36-year-old could manage just one wicket as his side was thrashed by the Proteas, who took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

"Personally, maybe I was a bit tentative, questioning my rhythm and how my action was, instead of focusing on being really competitive. Perhaps I didn't have that attitude of 'I'm coming for you, batter,' that people associate with me," Broad wrote in his column for Daily Mail. **IAN S**



SPORTS SINGLES

Chhagan, Kavitha triumph in Mumbai Half Marathon 2022

#MUMBAI

Chhagan Bombale of Maharashtra and Kavitha Reddy from Andhra Pradesh clinched the coveted titles in the Ageas Federal Life Insurance Mumbai Half Marathon 2022 here on Sunday. Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar flagged off the races. **IAN S**

Bunker Hill FD Golden League 2022-23 launched in Delhi

#NEWDELHI

Football Delhi launched the Bunker Hill Football Delhi Golden league 2022-23 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here, with exhibition matches being played on Sunday. The league is set to break records with participation from entire Delhi-NCR. **IAN S**

Real Madrid too strong for Celta Vigo

Goals from Modric, Vinicius Jr and Valverde help title holders sail to 4-1 victory

#MADRID

Defending champion Real Madrid sailed to a 4-1 road victory over Celta Vigo, and are joined by Real Betis and Osasuna as teams with a perfect record going into the new La Liga season.

After Celta Vigo striker Iago Aspas cancelled out Karim Benzema's early penalty on Saturday evening, goals from Luka Modric, Vinicius Jr and Federico Valverde kept Real Madrid rolling early in its title defence.

Both of Betis' goals in their 2-1 win away to Mallorca, and Osasuna's two goals in their 2-0 home win over Cadiz came from the penalty spot, Xinhua reports. Borja Iglesias put Betis ahead in the ninth minute, and Vedat Muriqi levelled for Mallorca early in the second half. A harsh penalty given for a supposed foul on Nabil Fekir allowed Iglesias to score from the spot to decide a match where the referee showed 15 yellow cards.

Osasuna made two wins from two games and left Cadiz with two defeats. A penalty from Chimy Avila in the



Real Betis, Osasuna have perfect record going into new La Liga season

37th minute and another from Kike Garcia 11 minutes from time gifted the team from Pamplona a 2-0 triumph.

The second round began on Friday night with Rayo Vallecano winning 2-0 away to Espanyol. Isi Palison and Pathe Ciss scored for Vallecano in the match which saw Rayo's Florian Lejeune and Espanyol's Sergi Gomez sent off in the first half. A touchline flare-up in the closing minutes saw Sevilla's Marcos Acuna and Valladolid's Jawad El Yamiq sent off. **IAN S**

Sebastian Kehl dismisses rumoured Ronaldo link

#BERLIN

Sports director Sebastian Kehl was the latest Borussia Dortmund official to dismiss rumours around a possible transfer of Cristiano Ronaldo from Manchester United to the Bundesliga club. Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke had already refuted the speculation. **IAN S**

Indian govt a target of Sino-backed hackers?

Group weaponises over 350 domains over the last year; attacks all those that fall within strategic interests of the CCP

#NEWDELHI

A hacking group allegedly backed by the Chinese government has been attacking governments, NGOs, news publications and think tanks globally — including India's National Informatics Centre (NIC) — sending them emails which, once opened, were used to steal their login credentials.

The group known as 'RedAlpha' has consistently spoofed login pages for NIC, which manages wider IT infrastructure and services for the Indian government. The hacking group weaponised some least 350 domains last year alone.

The China-sponsored hacking group spoofed organisations such as the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Amnesty International, the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), Radio Free Asia (RFA), the American Institute in

Taiwan (AIT), and other global government, think tank, and humanitarian organisations that "fall within the strategic interests of the Chinese government".

According to a report by cybersecurity firm Recorded Future, the group has also engaged in direct targeting of ethnic and religious minorities, including individuals and organisations within Tibetan and Uyghur communities.

"In recent years RedAlpha has also displayed a particular interest in spoofing political, government, and think tank organisations in Taiwan, likely in an effort to gather political intelligence," said the report.

The China-based hacking group targeted individuals via emails containing abasic PDF files with links to the phishing sites, typically stating that a user needs to click the link to preview or download files.

Over the past three years, RedAlpha continued to conduct credential-phishing activity using large clusters of operational infrastructure to support campaigns.

"In late 2019 and early 2020, the group likely shifted away from older infrastructure TTPs exhibited in public reporting, such as the registration of domains through GoDaddy and hosting on Choopa (Vultr) and Forewin Telecom

infrastructure," the report revealed.

The researchers observed RedAlpha consistently register domains spoofing Taiwanese or Taiwan-based government, think tank, and political organisations.

"Notably, this included the registration of multiple domains imitating the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the de facto embassy of the United States of America in Taiwan, during a time of increasing US-China tension regarding Taiwan over the past year," they said.

RedAlpha's activity has expanded over the past several years to include credential-phishing campaigns spoofing ministries of foreign affairs in multiple countries.

A Chinese government spokesperson told the MIT Technology Review that the country opposes all cyberattacks and would "never encourage, support, or connive" to carry out such activity. IANS



Blood tests to tell if one can survive acute brain injury

On-time screening can foretell if patients are likely to die or live; helps in diagnoses

#NEWYORK

Blood tests taken on the day of a traumatic brain injury (TBI) can predict which patients are likely to die or survive with severe disability, allowing clinicians to make decisions earlier on the possible treatment of TBI, says a new study.

The findings, published in The Lancet Neurology, revealed that higher values of two protein biomarkers, GFAP and UCH-L1, are associated with death and severe injury.

"Early and accurate prediction of TBI outcomes will help clinicians gauge how severe a brain injury is and inform how best to counsel family members about care for their loved ones with brain injury and what to expect with regards to their recovery," said researcher Frederick Korley from the University of Michigan.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cleared the use

of GFAP and UCH-L1 in 2018 to help clinicians decide whether to order CT scans for mild traumatic brain injury.

For the study, the team measured the proteins using two devices and analyzed day-of-injury blood tests of nearly 1,700 patients with TBI.

Results were compared to evaluations made six months after injury using the Glasgow Outcome Scale-Extended, a system that grades the functional status of TBI patients.

Investigators found that compared to those with GFAP values in the bottom 20th percentile, those with GFAP values in the top 20th percentile had a 23 times higher risk of death during the subsequent six months.

Similarly, compared to those with UCH-L1 values in the bottom 20th percentile, those with UCH-L1 values in the top 20th percentile had a 63 times higher risk of death during the subsequent six months. IANS



That saliva keeps you healthy!

DNA profiling is helping transform personal care, providing insight to stay fit

#NEWDELHI

Radha (name changed), a 25-year-old techie from Bangalore, has been trying multiple fad diets to lose weight. But nothing seemed to work. A chance search on Google informed her about a new saliva-based DNA wellness test that gives a snapshot of the genetic response pertaining to weight management, nutrition as well as fitness training.

Intrigued, she undertook the test that gave her suggestions on diet, detox, fitness and weight - all rolled into one. Radha is not alone, DNA profiling is helping scores of people transform their personal care in India.

Once known for only decoding hard-to-treat diseases like tuberculosis and cancer, DNA profiling is now helping people provide an insightful approach to a healthier lifestyle.

"Genetic testing has come to India, with an increasing number of tests being done here and a lot of them costing half as much as they did five years ago. Genetic testing is being used for a variety of purposes -- right from confirming a diagnosis, checking someone's pre-

disposition to a disease to deciding the course of treatment for certain diseases/disorders," Anand K, CEO, SRL Diagnostics, told IANS.

SRL's wellness test covers four critical aspects of wellness - diet, weight, skin, fitness and detoxification. It analyses genetic data for several hundred DNA sequence variations and helps unlock lifestyle tailored specifically to the customer.

So far, people have been approaching healthy living from a one-size-fits-all approach, which may not be applicable to everyone. It is because the root of the problem differs with everyone - for one it may be the result of a sedentary lifestyle, for another it may be a metabolic issue or a hormonal imbalance.

A genetic test, on the other hand, essentially provides information about a person's genes and chromosomes and helps identify the exact problem and suggest changes. Besides providing better and accurate results, it also eliminates the need for unnecessary check-ups and screenings. These tests also analyse a person's response to drugs in terms of efficacy and risk for adverse reactions. IANS



Indians glued to screen for 4.7 hrs

Time spent on smartphone up; nation in the top-20 app-download mkts

#NEWDELHI

Smartphone users globally, including in India, are slowly heading towards spending six hours or more a day on apps, and people in Indonesia and Singapore have now reached a stunning 5.7 hours a day on mobile.

In India, smartphone owners used their devices for an average of 4.7 hours per day in 2021, up from 4.5 hours in 2020 and 3.7 hours in 2019.

In the June quarter (Q2) this year, the Indian smartphone users, on average, still spent more than 4 hours a day on apps, according to new research by mobile app analytics platform App Annie.

"The huge gains in consumer attention earned during lockdown have not been diluted now that the physical world has opened up again. In fact, users have doubled down on time spent on smartphones," said the report.

The data reveals that consumers in three markets (Indonesia, Singapore,



Brazil) now spend more than 5 hours a day in apps.

"Meanwhile users in 13 regions (Indonesia, Singapore, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Russia, Turkey, the US, the UK) now commit to more than 4 hours per day," said the report.

"The high-growth regions are especially eye-catching. In the last two years, Singapore went from 4.1 to 5.7

hours. In Australia, from 3.6 hours to 4.9. Both represent a 40 per cent rise in time spent," said the report.

India was second in the top 20 mobile markets in terms of app downloads in 2021, accounting for nearly 27 billion downloads.

Smartphone users in most countries saw an increase in total hours spent watching video streaming apps in 2021. IANS

Voice that echoes

Shilpa Rao, who crooned 'Tere Hawaale' in 'Laal Singh Chaddha', says great songs are result of teamwork; shares her experience of working with Hariharan and AR Rahman

Aavir Nalawade aavir@punemirror.com

TWEET @AavirNalawade

Be it peppy numbers like 'Meherbaan', 'Khuda Jaane', 'Ghungroo', 'Bulleya', 'Woh Ajnabee' or soulful tracks such as 'Haan Tum Ho,' 'Aahatein' and 'Tose Naina Lage,' Shilpa Rao's repertoire of work transcends style and genre, only proving that 38-year-old singer's versatility. Rao, who has belted out numbers like 'Subhanallah', 'Ishq Shava', 'Malang,' among others, has struck a chord with her mellifluous voice in a career spanning over a decade.

From singing Hindi movie songs to ghazals and singing in Pakistan Coke Studio, Rao is the only Indian female singer to sing for Pakistan Coke Studio. The artiste's song 'Tere Hawaale' from Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha,' has received raved reviews. Speaking about his experience of recording the song, she said, "Working with Aamir has always been an honour. It is not regular work but a fun discussion about the song. He is very clear about what he wants. I have sung many songs with Arijit Singh and he is a very dear friend. I enjoyed the whole process a lot."

The song is written by Amitabh Bhattacharya and composed by Pritam. 'Tere Hawaale' depicts the honest love Laal (Aamir) feels for his beloved Rupa (Khan). It highlights the intensity of his love and the longing that comes along with it. Further talking about the challenges of creating the song, Rao added, "The song composition and lyrics both



(from L) Pritam, Shilpa Rao, Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bhattacharya and Advait Chandan are amazing and to some extent, it was a little challenging, too. However, I was connected to the song spiritually and it helped me understand the song even better and sing it accordingly."

Talking about her journey, Rao said, "It has been my privilege to even be around people like Hariharan saab, Rehman saab, and many more who have given so much to Indian music. I have learned a lot from every experience that I have received during my journey which has helped me to up my performance."

Rao has been in the industry for a long time now and has worked with multiple music directors. When asked about who she looks up to as her idol, she said, "All the people whom I have

worked with have taught me something or the other. More than music, these amazing music directors have taught me to be a nice human being and I am more than glad to be in this circle."

We are living in interesting times where one side, filmmakers are hopping on the bandwagon of remixes, on the other, indie music is getting popular by the day. It is the time when we are witnessing many remakes of iconic songs. "I believe every era is known for its memorable moments and this era should be known for the work that current musicians are working on. I think we have great musicians that are creating magic right now. Let us be in the moment," Rao says before she signs off.



Shilpa Rao

CREATING LEGACY

The love 'Mihir Virani' got was never expected, but it gave Amar Upadhyay the platform to soar high and work on scripts that honour the actor in him

Salonee Mistry
 salonee@punemirror.com

TWEET @Salonee_mirror

He must have done multiple roles in a career spanning over three decades, but 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi's Mihir Virani was one of the first roles that gave Amar Upadhyay the identity he is recognised by even today. A chemical engineer by degree he is also an FTII alumnus and over the years has worked in the film and television industry. He will soon be making his OTT debut too.

In an extremely candid conversation Mirror caught up with the heart-throb of the '90s, Upadhyay who was recently seen in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2'. He discusses the quality of content on TV today, his dream role and his process of choosing a script.

For a while now, the kind of content we are able to see on television has been abysmal, to say the least, he adds. From heroines turning into snakes and bees to romancing gorillas, the Indian television industry took a turn for the worse just before the

pandemic hit.

"Films and OTT platforms have a lot of time to research but TV doesn't. There are stricter and shorter deadlines in TV and so the pressure is also higher. Graphics is a major concern as well. We might be taking inspiration from Hollywood but don't have the time, money, or resources to match what is created in films like 'Spiderman'. These are attempts to recreate that do something different which have not worked out," Upadhyay tells Mirror, adding, "Now, there is a need for TV to up its content game given OTT platforms and the competition they are giving."

All set to make his OTT debut soon, Upadhyay is hopeful of capturing this platform as well. Whether he is able to create the Mihir Virani magic is yet to be seen, but he is excited about the scripts he has in hand.

Basking in the success of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', Upadhyay says working with Tabu, Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani and Anees Bazmee was an experience of a lifetime. "They are all very

down-to-earth and great people to be on set with. Tabu is well-prepared for her scenes and delivers flawlessly while joking around in between scenes. Kartik, too, bounces off this energy and Kiara is an extrovert who is happy and great at her work," the actor shares.

The other person he really enjoyed watching work with was Sanjay Mishra.

According to Upadhyay, the man is a powerhouse to work with and only gives off positive vibes.

While choosing scripts, Upadhyay keeps a few things in mind. "Who is directing the film, who my co-actors are, and is it different from what I have done before are the only three things on my checklist while picking a script," he says.

Ask him what his dream role is or what he hopes to play in the future and pat comes the reply. "I want to do an action film and

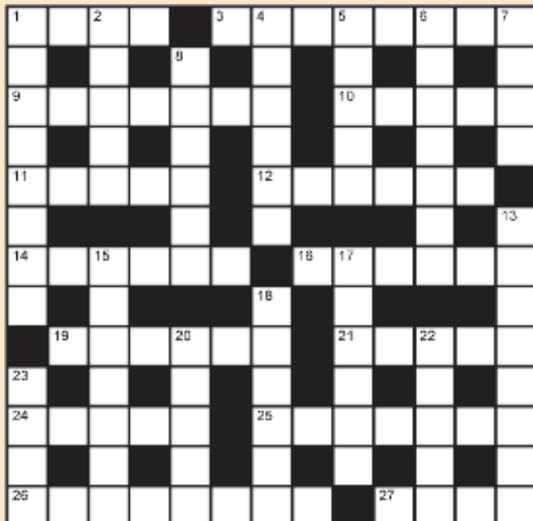
play a negative role too. These are two things I have not yet ventured into and I cannot wait to explore them. I am however open to all kinds of scripts, as long as I fit well into the script and it meets my above criteria it is great," Upadhyay who is currently seen in season 2 of 'Molkkii.'

Films and OTT platforms have a lot of time to research, but TV doesn't. There are stricter and shorter deadlines in TV and so the pressure is also higher

— Amar Upadhyay



Quick



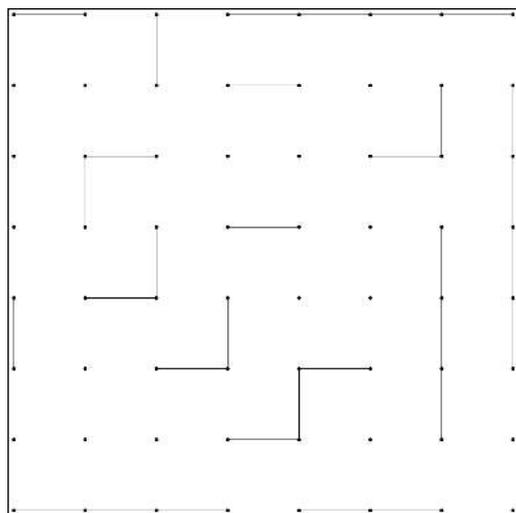
ACROSS

- 1 Nonchalant (4)
- 3 Thrashes or beats soundly (8)
- 9 ___ Nagar hosts Pune District Courts and Pune Engineering College (7)
- 10 Target ring (5)
- 11 Towards the rear (5)
- 12 Capital of France's Loire-Atlantique department (6)
- 14 Ants, old style (6)
- 16 Shelled amphibian (6)
- 19 Citizen of our country (6)
- 21 Bulgarian capital (5)
- 24 ___ Polo : Venetian traveller to the courts of Kublai Khan (5)
- 25 Papal palace (7)
- 26 Retarding or hindering (8)
- 27 Russian ruler (4)

DOWN

- 1 Falls like a waterfall? (8)
- 2 Bhubaneshwar lingo (5)
- 4 Rules like a monarch (6)
- 5 Joint or bond (5)
- 6 Hunch, idea or image (7)
- 7 Certain (4)
- 8 Coffin (6)
- 13 One who has been hired or to whom money has been paid (8)
- 15 Gypsum for one, borax for another (7)
- 17 Disturbs or annoys (6)
- 18 Rough or bumpy (6)
- 20 Sarcasm or ridicule (5)
- 22 Concentrate (5)
- 23 'A dim' anagram for a preposition? (4)

Around The Block



Bull's Eye

SEE HOW YOU FARE IN THIS RAPID FIRE ROUND OF QUIZ ON

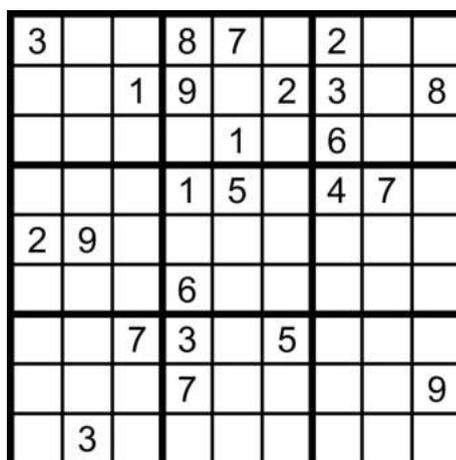
Poets

1. Who wrote the poem, 'Where the Sidewalk Ends'? poetry has been characterised as part of the ___ movement.
2. Where was Maya Angelou born?
3. Who wrote the poem, 'The Road Not Taken'?
4. During her lifetime less than a dozen of her poems were published. But posthumously nearly 1,800 were discovered. Which poet are we talking about?
5. What was Oscar Wilde's nationality?
6. William Blake's
7. Which Edgar Allan Poe poem is based on stories from the Qur'an?
8. What question opens Shakespeare's Sonnet 14?
9. Who is considered the national poet of Scotland?
10. Which poem by John Gower runs to some 33,000 lines?

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Sudoku To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit must appear once in:
* Each of the vertical columns
* Each of the horizontal rows
* Each of the boxes

Quiz

1. In the 19th century, Chief Shaka was the leader of which group?
 - Apache
 - Tongans
 - Zulus
 - Old Bailey
 - Old Vic
 - Old Maid
2. Which Pope was elected in 2005?
 - John Paul II
 - Benedict XVI
 - Pius VI
3. Which festival in honour of a Roman god was forbidden in Rome in 186 BCE?
 - Bacchanalia
 - Saturnalia
 - Woodstock
4. What is the common name for London's criminal court?
 - Huns
 - Visigoths
5. 'Five card brag' is a simplified version of what game?
 - Gin Rummy
 - Bridge
 - Poker
6. A pair of angles is complementary if the sum of their measures is how many degrees?
 - 90
 - 180
 - 360
7. Alaric I was the King of which group who sacked Rome in 410 CE?
 - Huns
 - Visigoths
8. Which sign of the zodiac is represented by a sea-goat?
 - Aries
 - Capricorn
 - Aquarius
9. Which of these countries on the North American isthmus has only one coastline?
 - Costa Rica
 - Honduras
 - El Salvador
10. Which player recently moved from Liverpool to Bayern Munich?
 - Sadio Mane
 - Mohamed Salah
 - Roberto Firmino

Why What

What was Charles Darwin's ground breaking work?

'Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection', a groundbreaking scientific work was written by British naturalist Charles Darwin. Darwin's theory argued that organisms gradually evolve through a process he called natural selection. In natural selection, organisms with genetic variations that suit their environment tend to propagate more descendants than organisms of the same species that lack the variation, thus influencing the overall genetic makeup of the species.

Darwin, who was influenced by the work of French naturalist Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck and the English economist Thomas Malthus, acquired most of the evidence for his theory during a five-year surveying expedition aboard the HMS Beagle in the 1830s. Visiting such diverse places as the Galapagos Islands and New Zealand, Darwin acquired an intimate knowledge of the flora, fauna, and geology of many lands. This information, along with his studies in variation and interbreeding after returning to England, proved invaluable in the development of his theory of organic evolution.

The idea of organic evolution was not new. It had been suggested earlier by, among others, Darwin's grandfather Erasmus Darwin, a distinguished English scientist, and Lamarck, who in the early 19th century drew the first evolutionary diagram—a ladder leading from one-celled organisms to man. However, it was not until Darwin that science presented a practical explanation for the phenomenon of evolution.

Darwin had formulated his theory of natural selection by 1844, but he was wary to reveal his thesis to the public because it so obviously contradicted the biblical account of creation. In 1858, with Darwin still remaining silent about his findings, the British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace independently published a paper that essentially summarized his theory. Darwin and Wallace gave a joint lecture on evolution before the Linnean Society of London in July 1858, and Darwin prepared 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection' for publication.

Vocabulary Builder

TEST YOUR WORD POWER WITH VOCABULARY BUILDER

Grades: 5 correct = Excellent; 3 to 4 correct = Good; Less than 3 = Improvement needed

- 1) **Serval**
 - Wildcat
 - small serving platter
 - menial
 - submissive
- 2) **A sesquipedalian uses...**
 - his/her feet
 - many steps
 - long words
 - an encyclopedia
- 3) **Specie**
 - coinage
 - paper money
 - groups of plants/animals
 - distinct sort
- 4) **Imbroglia**
 - illicit love affairs
 - dead-end positions
 - a knitted sweater
 - complicated or difficult situation
- 5) **Billous**
 - tending to overcharge
 - peevish; irritable
 - state of exact similarity
 - friendly and outgoing

Fascinating Facts

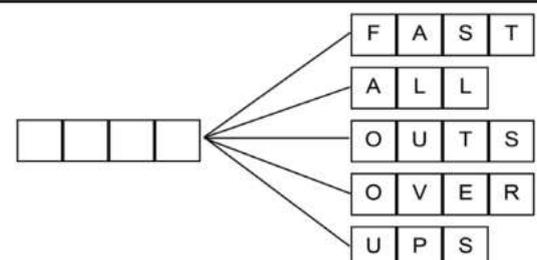
HOW DO ASTRONAUTS MOVE ABOUT IN SPACE?



Astronauts often have to repair components of satellites or space stations. Movements in space can be very difficult and can hamper these tasks. Microgravity means that an astronaut is in danger of floating away or losing a vital tool into outer space. Handles and special footholds into which feet can be locked help astronauts move around in space. When they have to fly further away from their Shuttles, astronauts can use special backpacks that have rockets built into them. These backpacks are a little like floating armchairs and are directed by a hand-held device like a joystick. These backpacks are powered by 24 nitrogen gas thrusters.

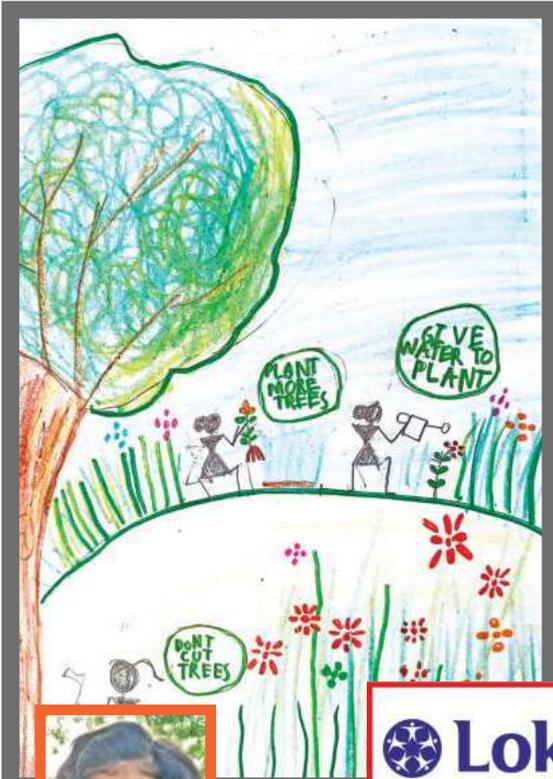
DOUBLE - BARRELLED

What word can be placed in front of the five words shown to form, in each case another word?

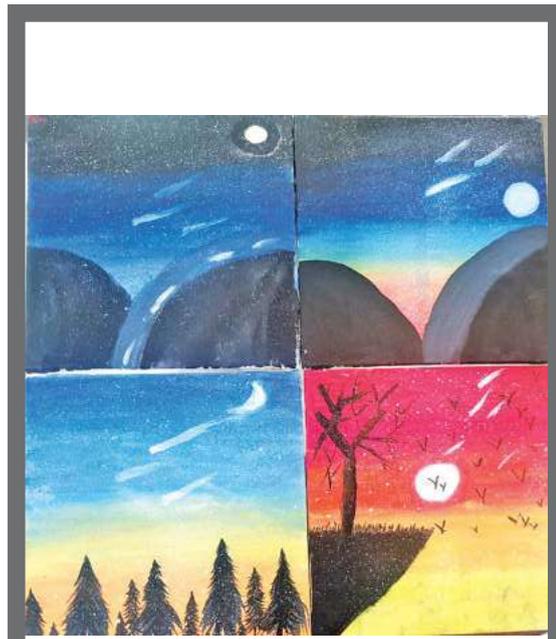


Kidzone, Pune Mirror, email us at mirrorfeatures@gmail.com

Please send copies of your children's artworks along with a photo of the artist in A4 size. Do mention their age and the name of the school they attend. You can also mail us unpublished poems by children.



Akshara Yadav, 6 years, Dhruv Global School



Niharika Shewale, 7 years, St Helena's School

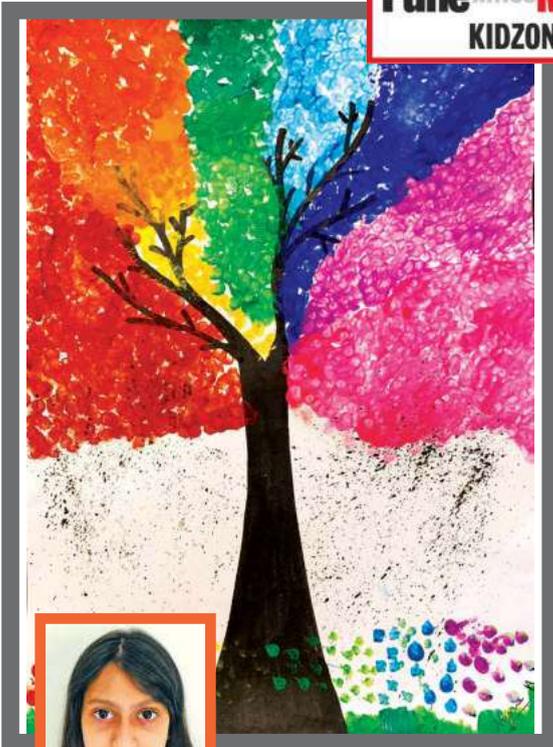
Since 1995

Lokmanya
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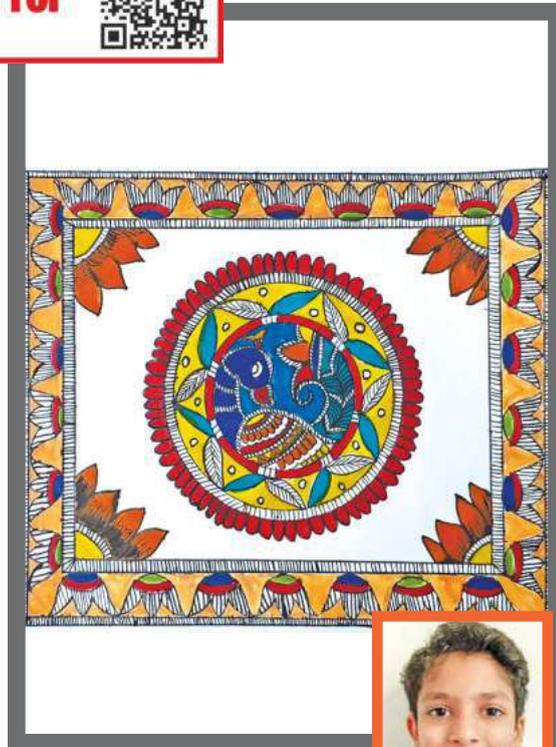
Do the right thing today for their tomorrow!

PRESENTS

PuneTimesMirror
KIDZONE



Nysha Agrawal, 11 years, Gk Gurukul, Pimple Saudagar



Aadit Goyal, 12 years, Amanora School, Hadapsar

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries



March 21 - April 20
Don't worry too much about things you can't do anything about - you're ready to really live; to make the most of life. Breathe more deeply, it'll help you to find the calm you need for the changes that you're putting in place.

Gemini



May 21 - June 21
You will have the opportunity for a change and to keep your distance. Escape without feeling guilty. You need to be by yourself in complete calm to recharge your mental batteries. Your mental processes are demanding rest.

Leo



July 24 - August 23
Your optimism will earn you the admiration of those around you and nothing will stand in your way. Be tolerant, not everyone will be able to keep up with your pace. Watch your liver and overdoing the pleasures of the table.

Libra



September 24 - October 22
The climate is constructive and gratifying on the relationship front and luck is with you for forging new links. You're wasting too much time on trivial matters and that's exhausting you. You don't have to look far to see why you're tired.

Sagittarius



November 23 - December 22
You'll be more up for enjoying the pleasures of life, today. You've been too hard on yourself and you need to listen to your body more. Certain signals are obvious signs of fatigue, which you shouldn't ignore.

Aquarius



January 21 - February 19
You're going to make some exciting new contacts and doors will open before you. Good new friendships are on the horizon. You're wasting time over trifle matters and it's wearing you out - look no further as to why you're tired.

Taurus



April 21 - May 20
You'll have more freedom to act out your plans for the future. Some good news will come your way where money is concerned. You're getting back in shape and you'll feel confident in taking it even further. Just remember that action is more important than intention.

Cancer



June 22 - July 23
You will be on better terms with those around you. You get some good news in the mail. The prevailing spirit of optimism is giving you a desire to escape, leading you to dangerous excesses of behaviour, especially on the physical front.

Virgo



August 24 - September 23
You have a tendency to flee from practical matters and administrative restrictions and this isn't the time to start tackling them. Your increasing energy could turn into irritability, especially if you don't ditch certain bad habits.

Scorpio



October 23 - November 22
You are in danger of appearing too caught up in your own concerns and will need to relax. You are overworked, but slowing down will seem more difficult than continuing as you are. Try to find a balance.

Capricorn



December 23 - January 20
You'll have the chance to see certain promises through and you'll be proud of yourself and what you've done. Don't spend too long talking about certain people's health problems; it'll make you hypochondriac.

Pisces



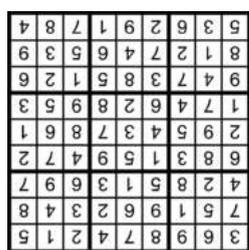
February 20 - March 20
A tendency to dwell on the past could very well make you bitter; don't lose yourself in old regrets. Your thirst for life will give you wings. Don't spoil it all by being greedy, try and eat sensibly.

SOLUTIONS

Our Solutions:
Easy - 8 + 9 - 3 - 8 = 6
Medium - 4 - 6 + 2 + 4 = 4
Hard - 3 x 5 - 1 x 6 = 84



QUICK



SUDOKU

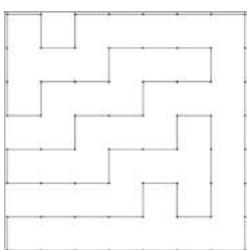
90 FIGURE

VOCABULARY BUILDER
1) Wildcat (2) long words (3) situation (4) peevish; irritable

DOUBLE BARRELED

Hold
Mane
Salvador 10. Sadio

QUIZ



AROUND THE BLOCK

HOOFSPONGE
Differences: 1. Sign is larger. 2. Thumb is moved. 3. Boy is moved. 4. Tree is moved. 5. Pocket is added. 6. Mouth is different.

BULL'S EYE

1. Shel Silverstein 2. St. Louis, Missouri 3. Robert Frost 4. Emily Dickinson 5. Irish 6. Romantic 7. Al Aaratz 8. Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? 9. Robert Burns 10. Confessio amantis

PLAN
AHEAD



Time for some desi humour

Ravi Gupta's standup show, Kal Ki Chinta Nahi Karta, is going to raise the roof and set new standards for desi humour. A Delhi based stand-up comic who rose to fame quickly with his viral videos, won people with his unique style. His observational humour based desi humor, distinct dialect and ability to make you burst into gut wrenching laughter out of nowhere has made him one of the most sought after comics in the country right now.

WHERE: Local Gastro Bar, KP
WHEN: August 25, 8 pm
COST: Rs 499 onwards



Watch a classic play

'Wada Chirebandi' is the first of the trilogy by Mahesh Elkunchwar and is a theatrical presentation of the story of a family from rural Vidarbha. A complete family drama, 'Wada Chirebandi' speaks about various aspects of human relationships and human qualities. A thought provoking play, it is directed by Charakant Kulkarni and is undoubtedly a masterpiece exhibiting the power of flawless writing. The play features Vaibhav Mangle, Nivedita Saraf, Prasad Oak / Chinmay Mandlekar, Bharati Patil / Suhita Thatte, Neha Joshi, Pornima Manohar and Pratima Joshi.

WHERE: Bal Gandharva Rang Mandir, JM Road
WHEN: August 27, 1 pm **COST:** Rs 400 onwards

Tents up!

Take some time off from your daily routine and camp at the Panshet dam's backwater, just 40 kms from Pune. It gives you a beautiful view of the backwater and valley, whilst letting you spend some time amidst nature. Ideal for a one-day or a two-day trip from Pune with friends or family, you will definitely enjoy the beauty of nature in this lakeside facing Panshet camp. You can also play games at the campsite.



WHERE: Panshet Camping and Resort
WHEN: Till August 28, 10 am
COST: Rs 849 onwards
CALL: 8828004949

Learn film making

Alumni of New York Film Academy and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute are hosting a two day filmmaking workshop in the city. Designed for working professionals who want to seriously learn and pursue filmmaking this is a great starting point. This workshop can be your first step at understanding what really goes into the process of filmmaking. The basic elements of filmmaking — from story development/screenwriting and directing the scene, will be covered. The workshop will provide a strong introduction to the craft and by the end of the course each group of four students will have shot a complete scene.

WHERE: The Open Film School, Koregaon Park
WHEN: August 27, 10.30 am to August 28, 4.30 pm
COST: Rs 4,500



NOW STREAMING

Talented 'Duranga' cast let down by sloppy screenplay

A series to watch only if you have time to kill; however, there's nothing you will miss out on if you decide to skip it

Whenever Gulshan Devaiah takes on a part, one can be rest assured that he will do a brilliant job with it. His work in the recently released series Duranga is another addition to the list.

The series has been co-directed by Pradeep Sarkar, who has earlier helmed films like Parineeta and Mardaani; along with Aijaz Khan, who has earlier directed the 2018 drama film Hamid.

The series is the official adaptation of the Korean show Flower of Evil. It follows a series of murders and unearths the past of the show's lead played by Devaiah.

Resurgence of a serial killer - a copycat killer on the loose with similar modus operandi to the original dreaded killer, or the offspring of the original killer?

Duranga explores these possibilities as the Mumbai crime branch officer Ira Jaykar Patel played by Drashti Dhami investigates the case.

While there are few instances where the series does engage the viewer, it comes across as a drag for most part. Charudutt Acharya's writing is inconsistent as it fails to hold the



audience's attention for a long time. The series follows a non-linear narrative with the story travelling back and forth from past to current events.

The dialogues sound flat, a lot of times, during the course of the series. When you have two brains working on putting together a series like this, the least expected for the series is to be engaging throughout its

course. Performances from the cast, however, are the saving grace. As mentioned earlier, Devaiah does an impressive job as the lead. He is supported well by the other cast members. Dhami as the tough cop and compassionate wife puts up an

amazing act. Sequences where she leads the team have been executed really well and one can see the seamless sync between the actress and the director(s).

Another good performer in the series is Abhijit Khandkekar, who plays the crime journalist Vikas Sarode. The viewers should lookout for scenes where he swings between the extremes of power dynamics of his character. His voice modulation, facial expressions show how deep he has delved into his character.

On the technical front, the series manages to do a decent job. The urban and rural settings have been well taken care of by the production design team. It's imperative for the art direction team to be a notch higher than other departments as the lead character is an artist and has a workshop - and the art team doesn't disappoint.

What does disappoint is the sound design and dubbing. The dubbing seems to be off at a few instances. The background score too is very mediocre - again a red flag for a thriller. The cinematography offers nothing new and follows textbook shots only to be bogged down by the lacklustre editing.

IANS

DURANGA
2.0 RATING ★★☆☆☆
• Streaming on ZEE5
• Language Hindi (with subtitles)
• DIRECTORS Pradeep Sarkar and Aijaz Khan
• CAST Gulshan Devaiah, Drashti Dhami, Abhijit Khandkekar, Zakir Hussain and Amit Sadr