

**Personal Messages**

COMMUNITY EVENTS CHANGE OF NAME

**DADA J P VASWANI's 'Ruh-Rihan' in SINDHI FRI., 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL Tomorrow, 6.30 pm Lokhandwala Garden 2, Opp. Celebration Club, Andheri (W).**

**BHAJANS by Kaajal Chandiramani, Jaishree (Payal) Bathija**

**Dada's Talks: SanskarTV** Mon-Fri 6:15am in Hindi, Saturday 6:15am in Sindhi, Sundays 7:50am in English

In Association with Lokhandwala Sindhi Panchayat

**TO PLACE A PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL 67001111**

**TIMESCLASSIFIEDS**

# Paedophile finally caught, admits to have abused 25 girls in 6 months

S Ahmed Ali | TNN

Mumbai: Two weeks of chase by around 60 policemen finally led to the arrest of a serial molester from Gilbert Hill in Andheri (W) on Wednesday. The accused, Aiyaz Ali Ansari, has confessed to have sexually assaulted 25 minor girls from across the city in the past six months. He also had chain-snatching and mobile theft cases registered against him earlier.

Though Ansari had reportedly been sexually abusing several girls—all of them in the age group of eight to 15 years—for long, it was only on April 7 that the police could finally identify him when his image was found on a CCTV camera at Vallabh Nagar in Sion where he was caught sexually abusing a Class VI student. The distinguished feature that gave Ansari away was his damaged left eye, a description provided by several victims from other places such as Wadala, Sion, Antop Hill, Sahar and D N Nagar in Andheri, as well as a CCTV image in a Sahar building. "Besides the 13 offences that have already

## DAMAGED EYE HELPED COPS NAB HIM

**ACCUSED** | A resident of a slum pocket at Gilbert Hill in Andheri (W), Aiyaz Ali Ansari's crime graph dates back to 2010 when he was first caught for chain-snatching. He was addicted to drugs and alcohol for which he took to thefts

► Ansari (32) was last arrested in Jan 2013 for chain-snatching and released in May that year. After that, he has reportedly been involved in 25 sexual abuse cases at Andheri, Juhu, Malad, Amboli, Kandivli, Wadala and Sion

► On learning that the police have released his ID sketch, Ansari fled to Pune but returned to Mumbai on Wednesday. He called his brother from Khar for money. The cops went along with his brother and nabbed Ansari

## ASSAULT ON YOUNGSTERS

► On April 7, Ansari was caught on a CCTV camera in Sion when he abused a Class VI girl. He took her to a secluded place on the pretext that her father was searching for her and assaulted her

► On March 29, Ansari had similarly gained the confidence of a girl at Sahar in Andheri by posing as her father's friend and sexually abused her. He was caught on CCTV cameras there as well

**CASES** | Ansari was caught by an SIT and the D N Nagar police. He has been confessed to have assaulted 25 girls. He has been booked under the POCSO Act

been registered against him, Ansari has confessed to have sexually abused another 12 girls in Andheri, Juhu, Kandivli and Malad. We will also make him go through some tests to understand his mind. We will ensure his conviction," he said.

Maria told reporters that Ansari had fled to Pune on learning that the police have intensified their search and re-

leased his identity sketch. "But he was forced to return to the city on Wednesday after he ran out of money," Maria said, adding that immediately after returning to the city, he stole an expensive mobile in Malad.

After zeroing in on Ansari's image from CCTV grabs, the police sifted through criminals' records and identified him. They visited his home in aslumat Gilbert Hill. "Ansari's mother and two brothers were

detailed but they told us Ansari had not visited them for six months. We remained in touch with his brothers," said DCP Cherring Dorje. On Wednesday after he returned to the city, Ansari's brother got a call from a landline in Khar. "It was Ansari, asking for money. His brother told him to stay put at Khar and promised to meet him. We went with him and arrested him," said a cop from the D N Nagar police station.

## 7-year-old raped

The Kurla GRP on Wednesday lodged a case against an unidentified man for allegedly raping 7-year-old girl outside Bhandup station. The incident took place on Monday when the girl, who had come to the station with her parents, strayed away. On spotting the lone girl, the accused lured her with a chocolate and took her to a desolate spot, where he allegedly raped her. On Wednesday, a social worker saw the girl roaming in Bhandup and brought her to the GRP, which is trying to trace her kin. TNN

## Syedna row: 8 petitions in Gujarat HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Having already challenged his nephew Syedna Muffadal Saifuddin's succession as the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq (spiritual head of the Dawoodi Bohras) in the Bombay high court, Khuzaima Qutbuddin has now filed eight writ petitions before the Gujarat high court against assistant charity commissioners and the Gujarat Wakf Board for permitting Saifuddin to be the sole trustee of several trusts and properties of the community in Gujarat.

Qutbuddin's son Abdeali Qutbuddin said in a statement that after Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin's death on January 17, the wakf board passed an order entering Muffadal Saifuddin's name on January 23.

"One day after the wakf board passed the order, Abdul Qadir Nooruddin, the son-in-law of Shehzada Muffadal Saifuddin, signed more than 150 change reports, which came to be filed in the offices of assistant charity commissioners in about 20 districts on or about January 27, 2014," Abdeali Qutbuddin said.

## Residents of Juhu save beach from encroachment



The columns on the beach that residents said were the handiwork of a developer; (right) the spot after the BMC carried out demolition

Linah Baliga | TNN

Mumbai: For the second time in three months, vigilant residents of Juhu saved a significant part of their beach from what they said was an encroachment attempt. The BMC demolished the offending structures on Wednesday.

Residents had observed that a developer was erecting steel columns and cross members to barricade a substantial portion of the beach in front of his property. "The developer didn't have BMC permission to construct. We had issued a stop-work notice on Tuesday and they continued with their work. The encroachment was steel I-sections that covered the beach space and we demolished it," said Vijay Balamwar, deputy municipal commissioner.

Architect P K Das said the developer had deployed a large contingent of security guards to protect the structure from demolition.

"The BMC, in the presence of the police, deployed a large number of personnel

and gas-cutters to remove the structure. A JCB had to be deployed to excavate and remove the concrete foundations spread over an area of 12 ft by 200 ft," said Das.

"The developer said he had not received any stop-work notice from the BMC.

"There is no question of encroachment," he said. "The poles erected were just a temporary measure as I wanted to rebuild my boundary wall and they were erected for protection. These would have been removed in 10 days."

Ashoke Pandit, convenor of Save Open Spaces and a Juhu resident, said the columns had come up overnight.

"There were bouncers to scare citizens, but when we spoke to Rakesh Maria, the police commissioner, a police squad was sent and the BMC, too, arrived on time. The developer even tried to call me to give an explanation. The BMC should file an FIR against the builder. The developer wants to demolish a bungalow and construct a new building by encroaching on the beach," Pandit said.

## Man held for using cloned ATM card

Nitasha Natu | TNN

Mumbai: A 28-year-old man was arrested on Monday on charges of duplicating an ATM card and paying a restaurant bill.

Shahnawaz Shaikh, the accused, was caught on Goregaon Link Road, but two aides managed to escape in an autorickshaw. All the three men are residents of Malwani.

On Monday, the trio had a meal and a few drinks at a popular bar and restaurant on Goregaon Link Road, running up a Rs 10,700 bill, to pay which they produced an ATM card. One of them signed the slip and the three left.

"The card was a duplicate," a police official said. "The data on it had been copied from the ATM card of a Santa Cruz resident, Manish

Purohit. He received a text alert from his bank after a sum of Rs 10,700 was debited from his account towards payment of the hotel bill."

Purohit dialled a telephonic yellow pages service and obtained the contact number of the restaurant mentioned in the text message. He next called the restaurant and spoke to a waiter, Sandeep, telling him about the misuse and asking him to catch the culprits.

The waiter alerted the restaurant management. The restaurant staff rushed out and pinned down Shaikh, who was the only one still around, his two friends having left in an autorickshaw. The Bangur Nagar police station was informed and Shaikh was arrested under provisions of the IPC.

## Air ticket fraud accused arrested from Bangalore

Mumbai: The property cell of the crime branch recently arrested a person from Bangalore for duping foreign travellers who booked air tickets through him.

Himanshu Chitroda (35), a resident of Gujarat, was arrested after a family filed a complaint of cheating with the Mahim police station, saying it had lost Rs 9 lakh.

The accused would promise travellers big discounts on online advance booking through his website. "Once the tickets were booked and money deposited in his account, he would simply cancel the tickets," inspector Dilip Phoolpagare said.

He said Chitroda had similarly cheated three families of 12 members each. TNN

## 'Cops must tie up with locals to keep neighbourhoods safe'

Vijay V Singh | TNN

Mumbai: The attack on a housewife by a carpenter in her flat in an upscale Bandra neighbourhood has triggered panic among residents. To prevent such incidents, social activists have suggested that the police should tie up with residents' associations to keep an eye on their localities.

"The police should conduct meetings with residents' associations to discuss security issues and give out a list of dos and don'ts. The officers, along with residents, can teach people about the measures that should be taken to prevent incidents of attacks and robberies," said civil activist Anandani Thakur.

On Monday night, a carpenter, who had been working in 54-year-old Meeta Balwani's Turner Road flat for last 25 days, attempted to strangle and electrocute her to rob her. The accused, Rehman Khan, was aware that Balwani would be alone at home in the evening and accordingly planned to strike. Leaving her for dead, Khan made away with cash and valuables worth Rs 16 lakh. But the victim survived the attack and alerted the police who arrested Khan within 12 hours. The police have recovered the stolen booty from Khan, who was on Tuesday remanded in police custody till April 19.



The Mangal Mahal building on Turner Road, Bandra where a housewife was attacked by a carpenter

**ADVISORY FOR THOSE LIVING ALONE**

- Never allow strangers inside the house
- If your domestic help visits at odd hours, ask the purpose of the visit before opening the door
- Never open cupboards in the presence of help or other strangers

**ADVISORY FOR VACATION TIME**

- Don't keep valuables at home while you go on vacation
- Request your neighbours to alert you if they notice anything suspicious at your home

**TIMES VIEW:** Frequent incidents of crime not only end up creating panic among residents, but they can also reduce confidence in the policing machinery and embolden criminals. Both the Bandra incidents - one at home and the other outside - may have ended in arrests but cops need to go beyond reacting to crime and, instead, do proactive policing. Visibly increasing police presence in residential neighbourhoods and spots frequented by visitors can be a good starting point in restoring confidence among citizens and scaring criminals.

Citing her as an example, the police warned that residents should avoid opening cupboards and drawer—places where they keep their valuables—in front of domestic help or other outsiders, including carpenters, plumbers or electricians. "A couple of times, Balwani had opened her cupboard in Khan's presence to take out money to give him. Khan knew the family kept cash in the house," said police inspector Rajendra Kane.

To preempt such incidents, activists suggested that the police should revive the scheme under which cops would regularly visit housing societies in their jurisdiction, interact with guards and residents and collect details of visitors, including workers and delivery boys. "The cops' visit would send out a warning signal, activists said. "When beat marshalls visited buildings, it would, to some extent, act as a deterrent. The police and residents' associations can together prevent such attacks," said activist Aftab Siddhique. "Senior officers are looking to rope in citizens for better policing again."

## 'Increase security at Carter Road'

Vijay V Singh | TNN

Mumbai: The promenades along Bandstand and Carter Road in Bandra are favourite hangouts for an open space-starved city and see many youngsters and couples looking for privacy, but the latest case of robbery again reminded one of the risk involved.

Around 8 pm on Monday, a young couple was attacked by a gang of four and robbed of valuables at the Carter Road promenade. The victims, a 24-year-old youth who works at a private company and his girlfriend who studies in college, went for a stroll on Carter Road. Noticing that the tide was low, the couple stepped down from the promenade and sat on the rocks, as the water had receded. The four accused accosted the couple and robbed them. Alarmed by their cries for help, the police and nearby residents chased the accused but nabbed only one of them.

There have been many cases of young couples venturing there during low tide, and finding themselves trapped when the tide rises. They are often rescued by the fire brigade, but in some cases, they have been robbed.

Residents said there is a signboard at Bandstand warning couples about going deep inside at low tide. They

## THE INCIDENT

A couple was attacked by a gang of four and robbed of valuables at the Carter Road promenade on Monday. The police and residents chased the accused and nabbed one of them

## ADVISORY FOR PEOPLE VENTURING INTO SEA

- Never venture into sea near promenade during low tide
- Always stay in a group and keep a tab on increasing water levels
- Never venture towards the rocks at Carter Road after sunset

mooted similar boards at Carter Road. "The police should increase patrolling and put up warning boards to prevent such incidents," said civil activist Anandani Thakur.

The police have arrested some gangs which operated near the promenade and targeted couples at night at isolated spots in the past few years. Criminal elements from surrounding slums randomly visit the area in search of such targets, the police said. Sometimes, victims prefer not to report such cases to the police.

An activist said cops should be stationed there permanently to prevent such offences.

## Drive to make traffic cops 'street-smart'

Mumbai: To acclimatize newly recruited traffic police personnel to the road restrictions in their jurisdiction, the traffic department will organize a Know Your Area campaign between April 17 and 26.

The new recruits will be made aware of official and unofficial street names and vehicular flow on these streets.

"There are several stretches which have recently been declared a one-way, or where parking or halting is prohibited, or where entry of heavy vehicles is prohibited," an officer said. "Then there are stretches where auto or taxi stands have been newly created or where share stands have been announced. Recruits may not be aware of these." TNN

## For women, 6 new clinics at KEM Hospital

Mumbai: Six new out-patient clinics focusing on women's health needs will be opened in the BMC-run KEM Hospital in Parel. "We analyzed the reasons for overcrowding in our clinics and realized that dedicated clinics would serve our patients better," said hospital dean Dr Shubhangi Parkar.

Clinics focusing on cancer, sexually-transmitted diseases, infertility treatment, adolescent problems, menopause and endocrinology will start soon.

"Women's lives have changed a great deal. They are living longer, menopause extends through one-third of their lives and they are increasingly prone to endocrine problems such as thyroid and diabetes," said Parkar. TNN

## Man dies while cleaning nullah

Mumbai: A man, Laloo, died while carrying out desilting work at a nullah near Asian Heart Institute in Bandra Kurla Complex on Wednesday. A disaster control official said Laloo died of suffocation. Laloo was taken to the Bhabha Hospital, but was declared dead on arrival. TNN

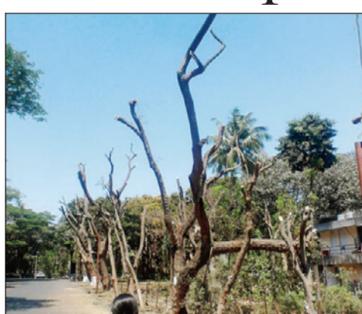
## 'Can't we learn to share space with wildlife?'

### Students Upset After MU Hacks Tree Branches

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Expressing disappointment over the indiscriminate hacking of trees on the Mumbai University campus opposite the Western Regional Instrumentation Centre, the Students' Joint Action Front, University of Mumbai, organized a protest rally on Wednesday. "The act of the administration is contradictory to what students are taught in the classes—to be environment-friendly in every possible way," the students complained to the registrar in a letter.

Professor Neeraj Hatekar of the department of economics, who is also the convenor of the Joint Action Committee for Improving Higher Education, was part of the rally that began at the spot where only the stumps remain and proceeded to the administration department



BATTLING BATS: Some of the branches of trees which were hacked at the Mumbai University campus

ment (Ambedkar Bhavan). "Is the hacking of trees, where they roost, our only response to this complex phenomena of urban wildlife?"

Should bodies like universities not find more intelligent and sensitive solutions to the problem? Can we not learn to share space with wildlife that is forced to be with us even if that means some inconvenience?" Hatekar wrote to the registrar. Pointing out that the bats would perhaps settle on the neighbouring trees, he said, "Are we going to do this ugly thing to all the trees on the campus? Hacking trees like this cannot be a solution."

Taking a dig at the vice-chancellor's garden, Hatekar added, "The Mumbai University administration prides itself on being green. Being green is not only planting mango and guava orchards but also managing the environment and the ecosystem of the campus in a sustainable fashion. The whole situation arising from the noisy bats could have been dealt with in a much more sustainable fashion."

Besides an official explanation, the students have demanded that additional trees be planted on the campus to compensate for the irreparable damage caused.

## RTI Act changed governance, yet no credit given to UPA: Tharoor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Opinion polls may have unanimously proclaimed the BJP as winner of the Lok Sabha elections but Shashi Tharoor, minister of state for human resources development, said such predictions were a colossal failure in virtually every election.

"Not one opinion poll predicted that AAP would win 28 seats in Delhi. Voters decide elections, not pollsters," Tharoor told TOI on a visit to the city to support Milind Deora, sitting MP for Mumbai South constituency. Stating that sampling could leave out an entire caste, the Congressman said, "Opinion polls invariably do not represent Congress voters



CANDID: Shashi Tharoor

such as the rickshawwalla and fisherwomen."

As for the release of a book on the prime minister by his former media advisor Sanjaya Baru, Tharoor said, "He has grafted his insider account of the government during UPA I, where he found the PM to be both decisive and imaginative, with recycled commentary on UPA II, when he was not in the PMO," said Tharoor.

"When Sanjaya Baru was behind the PM, he could do no wrong. When he left, everything went wrong. It's often said that where you stand on a subject depends on where you sit

Tharoor says the government's accomplishments have often been taken for granted. "The RTI Act has changed governance in the country yet UPA is given no credit for it," added Tharoor. He said if the BJP comes to power, it will endanger the very idea of India. "As for the AAP, while I share its idealism, it is a party that knows what it is against but is unsure of what it stands for."

## Doc in record book for knee replacements

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A city orthopaedic surgeon has made it to the Limca Book of Records 2014 for the maximum number of total knee replacements in a three-day span.

"Dr Vijay Shetty of Mumbai performed 28 free TKRs in 3-1/2 days as part of charity work in Seychelles Island," reads the Limca Book of Records entry.

The event was organised by Jee Jyoti Foundation at a district-level Victoria hospital in Seychelles. "I go to Seychelles every year for charity work," said Dr Shetty, who is associated with LH Hiranandani Hospital in Powai.

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