

HOW TO DOWNLOAD AND USE FREE ALIVE APP PAGES 13 & 15

Get the Alive App: Give a missed call to 18001023324 or visit aliveapp.in from your mobile phone

STEP 2 Open the Alive app on your phone and scan this picture by focusing your phone's camera on it. For android, iOS and windows, tap on the screen to capture the image and hold still over the image. On BB and Symbian, go to options and then capture the image.

STEP 3 Watch the photo come Alive. View it and share it with friends.

Available on select Android (version 2.2 and above), IOS (version 4.3 and above), BB (version 5.0 and above), Symbian (version S60 and above), Windows (version 7.5 and above)



# Eased CRZ may see devpt boom on coastline

Nautzer.Bharucha @timesgroup.com

The stringent coastal regulation zone (CRZ) rules supposed to protect the coastline from rampant construction could become virtually irrelevant in Mumbai after the high court upheld the tweaked norms.

With construction allowed within just 100m of a bay - it was restricted to 500m - Mumbai's developers now have a carte blanche to build much taller buildings. Nothing now stops large parts of the city from being redefined as lying by a bay and this will open up almost the entire Mumbai coastline to unplanned construction, say experts.

The Bombay high court recently upheld a builder's plea that its plot falls near the Mahim Bay (as opposed to the sea) and allowed it to apply for permissions for construction 100m from the coastline. In 2011, the Jairam Ramesh-led environment ministry reduced the 500m minimum distance from the high tide line of a seafront required for

construction to just 100m if it was a bay.

Many city builders with coastal plots have since rushed to the National Hydrographic Institute in Dehradun and the Institute of Remote Sensing in Chennai. They have certified areas such as Backbay - from Nariman Point and Cuffe Parade to Girgaum Chowpatty - and Mahim as bays and marked out builders' plots as being outside the 100m zone.

Not only will more land be opened up for construction in and near the island city, builders will be able to use much higher floor space index (FSI) only 100m from a bay. "Supply will increase and rates are bound to be stable or may reduce in certain weaker locations," said a leading developer.

A senior official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which prepares and executes the city's development plan, said the repercussions of freeing 400m from bay areas will have to be studied. "Can the city handle so much development?" he wondered.

Urban planning consultant Vidyadhar Phatak said CRZ

## CHANGE: FOR GOOD OR BAD?

- In 2011, the Union environment ministry reduced the minimum distance for construction near a bay from 500m to 100m. It still remains 500m for other seafronts
- Recently, developer Hubtown approached the Bombay HC when clearance granted to its 5.5acre Prabhadevi plot by the state coastal zone management authority was stayed
- The developer said except a small portion, its entire land fell outside the 100m zone of the Mahim bay
- Mahim has been marked a bay by the National Hydrographic Institute
- The HC agreed and directed the authority to issue a clearance certificate to the developer within four weeks
- It asked BMC to consider the developer's application for development of the plot



In Mumbai, it will not make much of a difference because most areas falling under CRZ II are already developed

**VIDYADHAR PHATAK**  
URBAN PLANNING CONSULTANT

Technically, the entire city is a bay. However, the CRZ's objective is to check the pressure on coastal ecology and environment. This order contradicts the basic idea of CRZ

**P K DAS** | ARCHITECT AND ACTIVIST

CRZ is meant to tackle sea level changes and flash floods. If construction is allowed, these areas become vulnerable. The state should ask the SC for its interpretation

**P SHETTY** | ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY OF MMR

norms have already been diluted for redevelopment of slums and dilapidated cess buildings. "In Mumbai, it will not make much of a difference because most areas falling under CRZ II are already developed. But, yes, developers will benefit from this 400m reduction," Phatak said.

"CRZ is meant to tackle issues like sea level changes and flash floods in coastal areas. The moment you allow construction, these areas become susceptible and vulnerable," pointed out Prasad Shetty, secretary of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's environment improvement society. "The state should ask the Supreme Court for its interpretation,"

he added. Architect and housing activist P K Das said the HC order will be a precedent to relax CRZ in Mumbai. "Technically, the entire city is a bay. However, the objective of CRZ is to restrict further densification of coastal areas and check the pressure on coastal ecology and environment. This

order contradicts and undermines the basic idea of CRZ," said Das. Any relaxation will have a cascading impact on the entire city, he added. "More construction does not address or help Mumbai's housing and development woes. It will worsen Mumbai's case and its quality of life."

# Man who robbed sr citizens wanted to be an actor

VijayV.Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The home nurse who had assaulted a Khar senior citizen couple had come from Jammu & Kashmir to try his luck in the film industry and had undergone facial surgery for it too, the Khar police said on Friday.

They said he had done a diploma course and had taken up the job of a medical assistant to manage expenses here. He had worked at three other homes before taking up the job at Khar (West). The police are trying to trace him with help of his acquaintances.

He had tied one of them in a bathroom and robbed ornaments worth Rs 4 lakh from their house on Thursday morning. Hiranand Jain, 82, and his 79-year-old wife live at Mishra Nivas building, but their family and relatives live in a neighbouring flat and some nearby buildings.

The family had hired Satnam Sachdev through an agency three weeks back to look after Hiranand, who is under medical treatment and on complete bed rest.

Sachdev would report regularly around 8am and leave at night. On Thursday, however, Sachdev arrived early and told the couple that he wanted to sleep for sometime before work. The couple allowed him to sleep in their two BHK flat.

After a while, Sachdev threatened the woman and asked her for her ornaments. She sustained serious head injuries and collapsed when he attacked her with a hard object as she resisted. He locked her in the bathroom after removing her ornaments.

## PLAY SAFE



- Check the background details of servants before hiring them
- Collect details of their relatives and friends in city
- Register your servant with the local police
- Never open a cupboard in the presence of servants

Sachdev then attacked Hiranand and tied him to his bed. He then locked the house from outside and walked away with ornaments from the cupboard. Hiranand later freed himself and screamed for help from the window. A relative in the neighbouring flat took the couple to hospital and informed the police. The police said they have Sachdev's basic details and are trying to trace his friend and relatives. He had come here last year and shared a room with an engineer. He had registered himself with an Andheri agency that provides manpower.

# Leander alleges death threat to him, daughter

V Narayan & Swati Deshpande | TNN

Mumbai: Tennis star Leander Paes (41) lodged a complaint on Tuesday and an FIR was registered on Thursday against a person, claiming to be cricketer Atul Sharma (31), with the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) police, for allegedly threatening him and his eight-year-old daughter with "dire consequences". Paes alleged that the man issued death threats to them at the Bandra family court on October 10.



Leander Paes with Rhea Pillai

"A case has been registered and a probe is on. No arrest has been made," said police officer K V Nigade.

The police have charged the man under sections 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (ii) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Paes said in his complaint, "The cricketer, who is in a relationship with my partner, warned me and my daughter of dire consequences and gave death threats in the family court premises. He was there on the fifth floor of the family court premises. He was furious at me as I had submitted evidence in the court that indicated his illicit relationship with my partner."

Advocate Mrinalini Deshmukh, who represents his estranged live-in partner and model Rhea Pillai, denied any illicit relationship. "As regards threats to Paes by a man, I have no comments to offer as I have no knowledge," she said.

Paes was in court as he and Pillai are locked in a child custody dispute. "Paes said the cricketer even threatened him in court earlier this year," the police stated. After Paes moved court for his daughter's custody, Pillai filed a domestic violence case against him, with a demand that he pay her Rs 4 lakh as monthly maintenance and to protect her dis-possession from her "matrimonial home" in Bandra. Both matters are pending and the couple had met a counselor at the family court recently.

Paes said he had met Pillai while on a flight back from Goa in 2003. In his custody plea in the family court, he alleged that she wanted an "ostentatious lifestyle", for which he had to "work hard and long to earn the money". He also said they had not been intimate since 2006. In an earlier complaint to the Bandra police, he had said that in November 2012, his daughter had said she was "disturbed by the intimate relationship Pillai had with one man..."

Paes added, "He was a frequent visitor to my home in my absence, and would remain ensconced in Pillai's bedroom for long stretches of time. Initially, when I confronted Pillai, she denied the relationship... after repeated confrontations, she admitted to the relationship..."

Paes' lawyer Mridula Kadam declined to comment.

# Bikers want cops to target motorists too

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The traffic police department, which had announced a crackdown on motorcyclists riding in the wrong direction, may have to keep an eye on bike-borne men in khaki too. TOI's report elicited a huge response from citizens, many of whom pointed out that the police, even when not attending to an emergency, often wrongly enter one-way streets on two-wheeled.

A citizen has filed an online plea, addressed to the Union transport minister against the menace.

The police will start logging cognizable cases, under the IPC, against motorcyclists riding in the wrong direction. Earlier, offenders had to pay a Rs100 fine under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Many citizens took to social media to

highlight locations where the menace was rampant and urged that the campaign be extended to motorists too.

"I have often seen bikers riding in the wrong direction from the Colaba post office side towards the market on S B S Marg, endangering the lives of

people. I have confronted drivers of cars being steered in the wrong direction. People do it with impunity as they know they can get away with it," said Ramasubban Balakrishnan. CA Sunil Athale, who filed the plea, said school buses and tempos often drive in the wrong direction. "The Mhada to Lokhandwala Circle stretch in Andheri (W) is a problem area. We fear a major mishap," said Athale.

"The campaign is a great move but it should not be only for the sake of record," said Shalaka Pradhan, a teacher.

# SPARKLE BEFORE THE FESTIVITIES

Anil Shinde



RAZMATAZZ: Special children celebrate Diwali with teachers and parents at a Thane school on Friday

# Special court reserves verdict in 11/7 train blasts case

Swati.Deshpande @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A special court that conducted the trial of seven synchronized train blasts in Mumbai in 2006 reserved the judgment in the case on Friday. The trial of 13, accused of causing the July 11 blasts that ripped first class compartments in suburban trains killing 209 people, is over and the verdict will be pronounced at a date to be fixed by the court.

Eight years since Mumbai's deadliest train terror attacks, the trial had seen many twists and turns with questions raised by the defence about the prosecution case.

The prosecution has to prove "beyond reasonable doubt" its case in court to nail the accused on trial as conspirators and planters of the bombs. The accused had fought for call data records to be released and in December 2012 won a significant order from the Bombay high court to get it. The data, they said, pointed how four alleged planters were in fact not in the vicinity of Churchgate station on the day of the attack.

The case was tried under the stringent Maharashtra

## THAT FATEFUL DAY

July 11, 2006	7 bomb blasts on trains in Mumbai	TIME 6.24pm to 6.35pm
LOCATIONS   Matunga, Mahim Junction, Khar Road, Santa Cruz, Jogeshwari, Borivli, Bhayander	Deaths 209	Injured 700
TRIAL CONDUCTED BY   Special MCOCA judge Y D Shinde		
Witnesses examined by prosecution 200	Witnesses examined by accused 40	
THE ACCUSED   Faisal Shaikh, Ali Bashir Khan, Mohammad Ali, Majid Shafi, Sajid Ansari, Kamal Ansari, Ethesam Siddiqui, Zameer Shaikh, Sohail Shaikh, Muzammil Shaikh, Tanvir Ansari, Naveed Hussain and Abdul Shaikh		

Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) and was presided over by special judge Y D Shinde.

The prosecution had examined 200 witnesses in the case, while the defence advocates examined 40 witnesses. Special public prosecutor Raja Thakare had conducted the trial and examined witnesses to compile "strong and cogent evidence" in court.

The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had arrested 13 accused in the case and all were in prison during the trial. A major point of contention be-

tween the two sides has been the alleged confessions of the accused.

The prosecution has heavily relied on confession statements to prove the complicity of the accused, but the accused maintained the confessions are fake and cannot be considered as evidence. It is one of the first cases where the defence filed queries under the RTI Act to prove the innocence of the accused. The police had rounded up Muslim youth for investigation, attracting criticism from the community.

# Now, book a kaali-peeli taxi through a mobile app

## HOW TO USE IT

- Download Ola Cabs mobile app from the Google playstore/Android platform free of cost
- Using the app, a commuter can mention his pickup point and destination and see all black-and-yellow taxis available on a real time navigation map
- App sends out alerts to all taxis present in a radius of 3 km
- Within 60 seconds, cabbies in the area have a choice of accepting the booking
- Once booking is accepted, driver's details and car registration number is sent via SMS

Mumbai: It is now possible for you to book even a black-and-yellow taxi - at the usual cost - sitting at home with the help of a mobile application. All you need to do is switch on the app and mention your destination. Within 60 seconds, the app will send your request to all registered taxis in a 3-km radius. In the next few minutes, you get an SMS alert with the name and mobile number of the driver.

"It will reduce the stress of waiting for a taxi on the road or facing refusals from drivers. Also, you do not spend a single paise extra for using the app and getting the service at your doorstep," said Anand Subramanian, director (marketing communication) of Ola cabs, which has created the app. "We are just a facilitator and don't charge commission from drivers or commuters. You can book cabs through this app for even short distances, say 2 to 3 km, and pay as per the meter," he said.

Apparently, there is a similar service called BookMyCab.com which also facilitates online and phone booking for black-and-yellow taxis in city. But they charge a minimum of Rs 100 for a 7-km distance and the fare is as per the meter beyond this distance. The firm will initially provide service between Bandra (W) and Colaba-Cuffe Parade. Each of the registered taxis has a smartphone linked with a GPS tracker. -Somit Sen

# 5-yr-old from Bandra survives 18-month kidnap ordeal

## Girl, Forced To Beg, Saw Abductor Kill A Woman; Was Rescued In Kashmir

VijayV.Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Five-year-old Megha Chaudhry from a Bandra (E) slum has been to hell and back. Eighteen months ago, a man kidnapped her from Bandra, forced her to beg on outstation trains, stabbed a woman in front of her, and then dumped her in flood-ravaged Kashmir.

But she survived to tell her tale thanks to a Kashmiri family who took care of her and helped reunite her with her parents, who do odd jobs. "We searched for Megha everywhere - in Maharashtra and also in the neighbouring states. We lost all hope after six

months. We even consulted a baba... we got worried when we learnt of kidnappers who would sell minor girls in Kashmir," said her maternal grandfather, Ramesh Thakur.

Megha's ordeal began last year when she and her mother were enjoying chhat at a roadside stall. The five-year-old told Thakur that the kidnapper, whom she identified as Nasir, lured her with chocolates, took her to a railway station and boarded an outstation train.

She said Nasir threatened to chop off her limbs and even kill her if she did not obey him. He forced her to beg on trains as they travelled from one place



to another and slept on footpaths and railway stations. A woman, who claimed to be Nasir's wife, and two other children joined them for a few months. Megha told Thakur that when the five of them were living together in a house in Delhi, Nasir killed the woman. "He stabbed her in the stomach and she died. We left the house," she told Thakur. Megha said Nasir took her to Srinagar, where they lived till floods struck. He abandoned her and fled.

# Pup-burning: FIR filed after protest

Mumbai: A day after four puppies were burnt alive in Vasai (East), the police on Friday registered a case against unidentified persons.

A litter of six puppies, about three months old, had been tied up and allegedly set afire on a playground in Evershine City. Two of the pups were rescued by a couple of teenage boys, Rahul Shirsekare and Indraprakash Vishwakarma, who heard the canines whimpering. The other four puppies were badly charred. TNN