

SHORT STORIES



Pamela Anderson at the international airport on Monday. She is scheduled to enter Bigg Boss 4 house on Wednesday — BL Soni DNA

NCP chief stable, may be discharged today



NCP chief Sharad Pawar who was admitted to Breach Candy with hypertension may be discharged on Tuesday. Pawar was admitted to the hospital on Sunday. "He is stable now," said Dr Geeta Koppikar, medical director of Breach Candy hospital.

Winds dislodge skywalk panel, 65-year-old injured

A 65-year-old man suffered serious injuries after a decorative panel fell from an under-construction Kandivli (East) skywalk on Monday night. He is undergoing treatment at Bhagwati hospital.

2 held for exporting goods worth Rs3.68 crore

Customs officers arrested two Gujarat-based exporters for allegedly attempting to export goods valued at Rs3.68 crore to Jeddah. "Saifyed Naemuddin, 37, and his cousin Khalil Kapadia, 35, were arrested on November 9 from Surat for trying to export dupattas and sarongs to claim drawback of Rs34 lakh," said an officer. The two have been remanded in judicial custody till November 23.

High court dismisses Adnan Sami's plea



Singer Adnan Sami on Monday failed to get relief from the high court after it dismissed his appeal challenging a decision of the family court to entertain his ex-wife Saba Galadhari's petition under Domestic Violence Act. The judges said the relief granted by family court was interim and the main divorce petition was still to be heard.

Helpline for women commuters

The Central Railway has set up a special helpline for women commuters started by the Railway Protection Force. Women can lodge their complaints on 22755555 and 67455555. These numbers are manned round the clock.

MUMBAI UPPFRONT

# CBI registers complaint, but no case filed in Adarsh scam

Agency cannot arrest anyone under the preliminary enquiry complaint, which has surprised observers

Shahkar Abidi

The anti-corruption unit of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) against unknown persons in the Adarsh building scam, which had led to the sacking of chief minister Ashok Chavan. "The complaint has been registered based on the preliminary investigation. Further probe is on," said Rishiraj Singh, joint director, ACB of CBI. "After PE, if prima facie evidence of criminality is found, a regular case will be registered," the CBI spokesman said. Under PE, the CBI cannot affect any seizure of documents or arrest any person, which has surprised many observers. According to the officials, the PE was registered after receiving a complaint from the ministry of defence (MoD). Last week, defence minister AK Anthony had ordered a CBI probe into the scam in which senior military officers, top politicians, and bureaucrats are reported to be involved. The defence ministry in its complaint had alleged irregularities in issuance of the no-objection certificate (NOC) and subsequent allotment of land to Adarsh CHS by different government departments. The complaint further alleged that certain mandatory clearances were obtained by the accused from the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) on commitments to provide an Army Welfare Girl's Hostel and for the welfare of widows and soldiers affected during the Kargil war. The MoD has blamed two of its own departments — department of defence estate and that of the area commander — for issuance of the clearance certificate to the society. The complaint also raises concern over severe irregularities in coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) and other environmental clearances. Sources in the CBI reveal that the land belongs to the defence as it has found maps dated to 1847 which show the plot was earmarked by the British India government as Colaba defence land. Also, no survey was done by the state on the plot, which is a mandatory exercise. It was done only during the allotment of the land to Adarsh society. The sources add that the promoters had used an emotional pitch of "Kargil war heroes" to secure clearances from various authorities.

### 'Another army plot swindled'

In an expose from the most unlikely quarters, Trinamool Congress MP Ambica Banerjee has alleged that another defence land in the city was given away to a private pharma company through a NOC from the army.

In letters to prime minister Manmohan Singh and defence minister AK Antony, Banerjee has also named former army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor and former army's Mumbai area chief Maj Gen RK Hooda as being the beneficiaries of the land transfer in Malad and Kandivli.

This time, the MP said, the land was under the control of the central ordnance depot (COD) of the defence ministry within the army's Mumbai, Goa and Gujarat (MG & G) area, but the local officers colluded with the municipal officials to issue a no-objection certificate to the pharma company to construct a commercial building a year ago.

—Agencies



Something will be done about this, it's being looked into —Gen VK Singh, army chief

### Irregularities pinpointed, says Antony

Anil Sharma

Union defence minister AK Antony on Monday said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha that prima facie it has been established that irregularities have been committed by Adarsh Cooperative Housing Society (ACHS).

The controversy surrounding this society has already claimed the scalp of Ashok Chavan, who had had to step down as chief minister. The defence ministry had entrusted the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct an enquiry so that the wrongdoings can be ascertained and the responsibilities fixed.

In the reply, Antony said that some of the irregularities were issuance of a no-objection certificate (NOC) to alienate the land in favour of the ACHS, bypassing coastal regulation zone clearance, inclusion of civilians as members of the society, change of floor-space-index, deviation from commitments made for welfare of defence services and disregard for the security concerns of the defence services.

Antony said that the society had sought the allotment of land from the state government for the welfare of serving and retired personnel of the defence services, but constructed a multi-storied building instead.



FO-BONANZA: The bridges will also curb trespassing

### 40 new FOBs to come up on Curchgate to Virar route

Rajendra Aklekar

In a record of sorts, the Western Railway has embarked on an ambitious project to build as many as 40 foot-over bridges in the 60-km Churchgate-Virar stretch as it begins to convert all its trains into 12-car. This will also keep trespassing under control and add capacity to the existing infrastructure.

"This is more about upgrading the existing capacity. We are now close to converting all trains into 12-coach and these trains will accommodate more passengers. We do not want commuters getting stuck on platforms due to poor infrastructure. The new bridges will pump more capacity into the existing network," Sharat Chandrayan, WR's chief spokesperson, said.

The WR ferries more than 34 lakh passengers every day between Churchgate and Virar. "The Churchgate-Virar stretch has 78 foot-over bridges at present and the addition of 40 new bridges will add more than 50% capacity to the existing infrastructure," he added.

Chandrayan said while work on nine is underway, one has already been opened on Saturday at Vasai Road. These include stations like Dahisar, Naigaon, two at Mira Road, Bandra, Nallasopara, Goregaon, Vasai and Dadar.

Two existing bridges at Borivli and Bandra Terminus will be extended by June 2011. Thirteen more have been sanctioned, with one each at Virar, Mahalaxmi, Matunga Road, Kandivli, Goregaon, Elphinstone Road, Parel, Dadar, Vile Parel, Malad, Nallasopara and two at Bhayander.

While nine more are under construction at Dadar, two at Bandra, Andheri, Khar Road, Borivli, Parel, Vile Parel and Santa Cruz, seven are in different stages of planning. Of the seven, three are being built by the BMC and the rest by the MMRDA.

## Maj Gen Hooda's promotion on hold

Suman Sharma

Maj Gen RK Hooda, additional director general of mechanised forces, whose name figured as a beneficiary in the Adarsh housing society scam, received a jolt on Monday when the government decided to put his promotion on hold pending an inquiry by the CBI. The officer's name figures in the list of the more than 100 allottees of the 31-floor high-rise in Colaba. The ministry of defence (MoD) had asked the army, navy and the DGDE (directorate general defence

estates) for reports on the security implications of having a high-rise in the vicinity of navy's western command headquarters.

When asked about Maj Gen Hooda, army chief Gen VK Singh told DNA, "Something will be done about this, it's being looked into." The MoD had ordered a CBI inquiry last week on the recommendation of Gen Singh.

Maj Gen Hooda, according to sources, was approved for the next rank earlier this year, but was waiting to put on his

ranks subject to vacancy, when the controversy erupted.

Former judge advocate general (JAG-legal advisor) of the army, retired Maj Gen Nileendra Kumar, told DNA, "In such cases, a DV (discipline and vigilance) ban is placed on the officer and a 'sealed cover' approach in which the army requests the inquiring agency to expedite the probe, at the conclusion of which the suitability of the officer to be promoted is reassessed, because in certain cases, it may be con-

sidered a drop in performance. However, if the officer is exonerated, then he may get his promotion, subject to age being on his side, but if he is approaching superannuation, then he may retire without his next rank."

Maj Gen Hooda was the general officer commanding (Maharashtra and Goa) during former army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor's tenure, before being posted to Delhi as the ADG-MF five months ago. Retired Gen Kapoor is also one of the allottees in the building, but has since offered to return his flat.

BLOCKED BY TAIN

WEATHER & ALMANAC

Temperature		Tides	
Maximum	33.2°C	High	7.42 am 3.36 pm
Minimum	26.3°C		9.03 pm 3.18 am
Humidity	84%	Low	1.33 pm 2.03 am
Sunrise	6.37 am		2.31 pm 1.43 am
Sunset	6.01 pm	<b>Forecast</b> Skies would be mainly cloudy. One or two spells of rain or thunder-shower may occur in parts of city and suburbs	
Moonrise	1.14 pm		
Moonset	00.26 am		
<b>Tuesday, November 16, 2010</b>			
Shri Vikram Samvat 2067, Sake Era 1932, Sun Dakshinayan, Dakshin Gole, Hemant Ritu, Kartik Shukla Paksha Dashmi till 4.24pm, Nakshatra Purvabhadrapad till 11.11pm, Yoga Harshan till 4.54am, Karan Gar till 4.24pm and after that Vanji till 5.31am and Bhadra starts			
Rahu Kala	3pm to 4.30pm		
Yam Ganda	9am to 10.30am		
Best Period	10.30am to 12pm and 4.30pm to 6.30pm		

## UK envoy's wife to go on Dandi march

Jill Beckingham, wife of British deputy high commissioner in Mumbai, will retrace the historic route of Mahatma Gandhi's salt march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in South Gujarat, in a friendship walk for charity, beginning November 18.

The walk, titled 'India-UK Friendship Walk' will help raise funds for a couple of NGOs in Gujarat and Mumbai, an official release said.

Beckingham's walk would start early morning on November 18 from the ashram and is expected to reach the beach at Dandi on December 4. "When we visited the ashram in Ahmedabad, I learnt more about Gandhian



In 1930, when Gandhiji walked, he termed the march a battle of right over might. Today, Jill and others will walk to seek the rights for the weak and underprivileged

Tushar Gandhi

principles of fairness, and his desire to see all Indians, no matter what religion or status in society, being treated equally," the release said quoting deputy high commissioner Peter Beckingham's wife. "His (Gandhiji's) walk to Dandi inspired me. I decided to walk the same route in a spirit of friendship between our two

countries and at the same time raise money for the poor in Mumbai and Gujarat."

The Mumbai NGOs include Magic Bus, which works with disadvantaged children, Mukangan, a teacher and community training centre, and 'Apnalaya', which works with children living in and around dump sites.

Tushar Gandhi, great grandson of Gandhi, and Sachin Tendulkar have supported the fund-raising walk.

"Every step that Jill takes will empower those who haven't got their rights or those who are fighting for their rights. The battle of right versus might — of a different kind from what Babu undertook — still continues. We must all, as Babu said, 'sympathise with the battle of right versus might'," the release said quoting Tushar Gandhi.

Tendulkar said, "I fully support the efforts of Jill Beckingham and her group in undertaking this daunting walk to raise funds for Indian charities." —Agencies



The Peddar Road house where Ila Gandhi was found murdered — DNA Photo

## Senior citizen found murdered in Gamdevi

Somendra Sharma

A 62-year-old woman was murdered while her mother was seriously injured by an unknown attacker at her Gamdevi residence on Sunday. The deceased was suffering from schizophrenia and was undergoing treatment for it. The motive behind the murder is still unclear. Ila Harjivandas Gandhi and her mother Champaben Gandhi, 78, were both residents of Sunita Apartment at Peddar Road.

The police said between 2.30pm and 11pm, an unknown person entered the first floor flat and allegedly attacked them. Gandhi's two brothers stay in a third floor flat of the same building.

"One of her brothers, Deepak, had come to see his mother when he found the safety door locked but the other door ajar. Sensing something amiss, Deepak opened the door with a duplicate key and found his sister and mother lying on the floor between the passage of the living room and bedroom," said senior inspector Sanjay Diwadkar of Gamdevi police station.

He added that the police were informed and both women were taken to Breach

UNSOOND MIND

Neighbours say the woman used to get into fights with everyone. She rarely stepped out of the house as she was mentally unstable. Her brothers used to take care of her medical needs

Candy hospital. While Ila was declared dead and her body was sent to JJ hospital for post-mortem, her mother is admitted in the ICU at Breach Candy hospital.

"Several scratch marks were found on Ila's face and neck suggesting that she was strangled. Champaben's belongings were not touched in the house. Hence robbery was not the motive. Not even gold ornaments wore by Ila were touched," Diwadkar said.

"It seems to be a complicated case, as nothing was found tampered or stolen from the scene of crime. Four persons, including the building's watchman, have already been questioned," said a senior police official.

The Gandhis' neighbours claimed that Ila was hot-tempered and has been involved in arguments with the residents in the past.

FILM HOARDINGS HAVE GONE DIGITAL, BUT THE ORIGINAL ART FORM IS BEING USED ON CLOTHES, FURNITURE & WEDDING CARDS

## Hand-painted film poster art is in vogue again

Shabana Ansari

After digital prints replaced hand-painted film posters two decades ago, billboard artist Lucas Mondal found himself out of work. "I had been risking my life for years, standing on scaffolding in the sun and going without food or water for hours. But the prospect of unemployment was worse," says 59-year-old Mondal who was forced to take up a job of painting signboards in the Gulf. "The money was good but the desire to paint film posters refused to go away."



Bollywood poster artist Lucas Mondal mixes paint in front of his creation at Khar on Friday — BL Soni DNA

NEW STROKES

Hand-painted posters of classic films like Mother India or Mughal-e-Azam are sold for 100 to 500 euros in Paris or London

Painting a Bollywood-inspired wall or garage shutter will cost about Rs10,000-25,000

Customised T-shirts, wallets, bags, or collapsible chairs are priced about Rs2,000-Rs6,000

its kitschy appeal still thrives in other forms in the country and elsewhere in the world," says Hinesh Jethwani, who brought together unemployed artists to set up a company that provides products and services inspired by Bollywood poster art.

"Foreigners are more appreciative of the colourful beauty of Indian film posters," says M Balakrishnan, another artist who sells replicas of vintage posters to clients in Europe. He says that some of his clients ask to be painted alongside Bollywood superstars.

Insiders estimate that poster art has the potential of becoming a multi-million rupees industry in the next few years, as the markets for the products are getting bigger all over the world. The products

and services are priced anywhere between Rs5,000 and Rs50,000. But foreign collectors and NRIs seem only too happy to shell out the money.

"There is a huge demand for Indian film poster art in European markets though the art seems to be dying out in the country of its origin," says Paris-based entrepreneur Sophie Legoubin-Caupeil who, along with her business partner Sarah Loosdregt-Charlet, hires artists from Mumbai to paint customised versions of old film posters for her clients.

Delhi-based fashion designer Nida Mahmood also works with poster artists for a line of clothes and accessories. She creates her own digital designs which the artists reproduce on products such as garments, bags and home decor.

He then decided to come back to India where poster art seems to be undergoing a revolution of sorts. Artists are now recreating the Bollywood magic on various canvases including clothes, accessories, furniture, wedding cards,

walls and even garage shutters. Vijay Kumar, an artist, informs that a few artists have had their work displayed in museums and film festivals in England and Austria, while some have also been invited to

conduct workshops and lectures in European universities. "This is a great time to be a Bollywood poster artist," says Mondal.

Encouraged by the globalisation of the Hindi film industry and the demand for

Bollywood-inspired products, poster artists are now being pursued relentlessly by fashion designers, entrepreneurs and art collectors in the country and abroad.

"Poster art may no longer be used for film publicity, but