

TIMES Personal Messages

**WEDDING GOLDEN**

**Golden Anniversary**



We pray to Lord Mahaganapathy to bless our dear Appa & Amma **Shri.N.Padmanabhan & Smt. Seetha Padmanabhan** with His Choicest Blessings on their **50th Wedding Anniversary on 06-09-2012**

**Daughters:** Jayashree, Jyothi, Revathi & Vidya

**Sons In Law:** Venkatnarayan, Chandrasekar, Jankiraman & Suresh

**Grandchildren:** Vinay, Shweta, Ravi, Anand, Vignesh, Harini &

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**Dear Amma & Appa**



**Wishing you a Happy 45th Wedding Anniversary!** With Love & Best wishes from Hari & Suja, Kumar & Uma, Kaustubh & Jana, Achintya, Vaibhav Aishwarya and Karthik.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I have changed my name from TEJINDERJIT KAUR CHAHAL to ANANT KAUER CHAHAL WITH EFFECT FROM 11/5/1994 AS PER AFFIDAVIT.

I have changed my name from Omprakash Pannalal Gupta to Omprakash Pannalal Agrahari vide gazette no. X-6343 and also changing my minor son's name from Akash Omprakash Gupta to Akash Omprakash Agrahari vide gazette no. X-6348

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TIMESCLASSIFIEDS

# Mandal shrugs off 'Mumbaicha Raja' loss

## HC Allows Website To Use Term Claimed By Ganesh Galli

Swati Deshpande & Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

**Mumbai:** Organisers of Lalbaug's famous Ganesh Galli Ganeshotsav have taken the legal defeat over the use of the nomenclature 'Mumbaicha Raja' in their stride. On Tuesday, the Bombay high court has rejected their claim to debar a website from conducting a Ganapati competition using this title.

"We took exception to the fact that Kishor Sharma was using our registered name 'Mumbaicha Raja' to make financial profit by hosting this competition on his website," says mandal secretary Swapnil Parab. "However, we are not disappointed with the verdict because devotees still associate the term 'Mumbaicha Raja' with the Ganapati of Ganesh Galli."

On Tuesday, with two weeks to go for the grand entry of Mumbai's popular deity, the Bombay high court in an interim order dealt a blow to the mandal that was the original pride of Lalbaug. Justice Bhushan Gavai rejected the claim made by the mandal that the title cannot belong to Gorai resident Kishor Sharma who runs a website by the name.

The mandal, in existence for eight decades, said through its counsel Virendra Tulzapurkar that it has been

using the title 'Mumbaicha Raja' since 2004 for its idol. The lawyer said Sharma was licensed by the mandal to use the title which he allegedly dishonestly appropriated in 2008. Sharma, through his counsel Vinod Bhagat, said the title was being used to run a contest online to crown a mandal on a website created by him since 2008. Sharma said he did not obtain any licence since it was not required. He also pointed out that the mandal has produced no documents regarding a licence being issued by it. In 2010, the Lalbaug mandal too participated in the online contest, was declared the winner and conferred the title 'Mumbaicha Raja'.

It was only then that the mandal chose to use the title, argued Bhagat.



Ganesh Chaturthi barely a fortnight away, an artist gives finishing touches to an idol

## Festival unearths 'land grab' by politicians, BMC

Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

**Mumbai:** An ingenious land grab under the guise of "preventing encroachment", involving the BMC and local politicians, has come to light courtesy the Ganesh festival.

The BMC used public funds to fill up an old pond at Kandivli and build a garden and musical fountain on the site, though the plot belongs to the collectorate, not the BMC. It came to light in the course of a two-year battle between the BMC and a Ganpati mandal.

Around five years ago, the mandal near Khajuria Talao found the pond, where they held their annual Ganeshotsav, was filled in by Congress corporator Baldev Singh Manku to build a garden. But in 2010, it was fenced off by BJP MLA Yogesh Sagar who constructed a musical water fountain there. Since then, residents say, the ward office makes them run around for festival permissions.

Residents said the MLA, in collusion with the BMC, "encroached" on the plot and claim to have documents holdings proving the land was owned by the collector. "When we were denied permission in 2010, we filed a law-

li's stand, including those who own fancy titles themselves. Organizers of the Upanagarcha Raja in Borivli feel all mandals deserve a chance to win the annual contest. "The contest organizers had approached us as well. I believe they invite people to submit their ratings of Gan-



A park has replaced the Khajuria Talao pond at Kandivli

pati mandals on the basis of organizational ability and décor among other things. If this is an ongoing event that takes place each year, then I believe various mandals should get a chance to test their mettle," says Milind Kolvankar, spokesperson of the Upanagarcha Raja.

ing the pond? I approached the collector thrice to take over the plot lest it be encroached. When I didn't get a response I went ahead with construction using civic funds," he says. Sagar says he is willing to allot a small portion to the mandal if it observes the festival "without damaging public property". He says he saved the plot from being encroached. "Would it be better if a tall SRA building came up there? In any case, if the BMC and state government appropriate one another's plots, the project gets post-facto permission," he claims.

Borivli tehsildar Archana Kadam declined comment. R South ward officer Sanjog Kabre was not available despite repeated attempts.

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## Blindfolded twist to idol-making

Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

**Mumbai:** Given that Ganeshotsav is not just a festival of, for and by big mandals and a grand spectacle of plaster of paris, individual craftsmen choose this season to display Ganapati curios that make a pretty picture throughout the year.

In Sion, Ramaben Shah, wife of a saffron dealer, adds an element of gimmickry to her miniature Ganpatis by sculpting them blindfolded. "The biggest one is nine inches tall. I have been making small idols by hand without using a mould, since the year 2000. Throughout the exercise I chant mantras and shlokas to increase their spiritual potency," she claims.

Shah has several records to her credit, among them one for making 999 idols in a span of 24 hours. She claims to hold the world record for making 9,999 Ganeshas in 99 days, all washable and unbreakable. She claims to have made 62,000 miniatures within the past year; at the rate of 184 a day for 339 days. She has also conducted marathon idol-making sessions at Siddhivinayak temple.

However, Shah does not sell these idols off the shelf. She claims the pieces are for people



Rama Shah with a Ganesh idol she made blindfolded

who approach her with problems. "They leave behind a token of their appreciation and I use this money to buy material for the next lot," she says.

Then there is Nirmitee in Dadar, which employs biodegradable material to sculpt curios. It has displayed an array of 1,001 idols made from mushroom, bottlegourd, coconut and bamboo at its showroom. A carved bottle gourd bearing an image of the lord sits beside another fashioned like a 'kaman-dal'. "All raw material is treated and preserved in fenugreek for over a year-and-a-half," says proprietor Surendra Sohanraj Khajanchi. The idols cost Rs 100 to Rs 1.25 lakh.

## Two civic bodies ban POP idols

Clara Lewis | TNN

**Mumbai:** While Mumbai's civic fathers are reluctant to take a firm stand on plaster of paris Ganesh idols, the Chandrapur and Nagpur municipal corporations have stolen a march over the financial capital. Both civic bodies recently passed resolutions banning the sale of POP idols this Ganesh festival within their municipal limits.

Former mayor Shubha Raul who campaigned extensively for an environment friendly Ganesh festival, even introducing the concept of artificial lakes for immersion, said it was time the government introduced a law to ban POP idols. "There is nothing religious about damaging the environment. We are surrounded by sea on three sides and so are highly affected by the marine environment. It will take two decades to change people's mindset. Instead, the government must introduce a law banning such idols," she said. Raul said Goa banned immersion of idols in the sea as degradation of the sea was af-

fecting tourism, its main source of income. "Even Pune does not allow immersion in water bodies, why should Mumbai?" She added while creating artificial lakes was expensive, only 20-30% of idols were immersed here. Over 2.5 lakh household idols are worshipped in the city during the festival, besides several thousand sarvajanik idols.

Anil Bhatia, member, Marine Drive Residents' Association said, "It is destroying our seas and it's high time they stopped it." Environmentalist Rishi Agarwal said a century ago, all idols were made of clay.

However, idol makers in Vidarbha are unhappy that the two corporations issued the ban without prior notice. "They sent us a notice last August saying they wanted to ban POP idols and will hold a meeting to discuss it. Last week they informed us that they will not allow POP idols. Many idol makers have taken loans. A ban without proper intimation will destroy them," said Ankush Ayane of the Nag-Vidarbha Murtikar va Vikreta Mahasangh.

## ₹6cr gutka seized as pleas against ban pile up in HC

Prafulla Marpakwar | TNN

**Mumbai:** Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sleuths have seized gutka and pan masala worth Rs 6.3 crore from 469 locations across Maharashtra after the state government promulgated a notification on July 20.

### HAUL IN MAHARASHTRA

Region	Raids	Gutka seized
Mumbai	30	₹92L
Thane	17	₹35L
Pune	54	₹51L
Nashik	23	₹50L
A'bad	72	₹30L
Amravati	29	₹20L
Nagpur	28	₹33L

Source: FDA

The action assumes importance since more than a dozen leading gutka and pan masala manufacturers have filed writ petitions before the Bombay high court against the government's decision.

"Several writ petitions have been filed before the HC. Since the court has not stayed the notification, we are seiz-

ing the banned production. However, the court has asked us not to destroy the seized product," a senior FDA official told TOI on Wednesday.

The state government on July 11 decided to invoke the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to impose a ban on the sale, stocking and consumption of the substances. "Our contention is that consumption of gutka or pan masala is the main source of oral cancer. Under such circumstances it was felt that even if we lost revenue of Rs 100 crore by way of taxes, we were saving a huge amount on treatment of cancer," said FDA commissioner Mahesh Zagde.

On the gutka manufacturers' contention, the FDA officials said, they have challenged the state government's power to issue a notification and contested the ill-effects of consumption of such substances. "Initially most of the state's leading politicians were in favour of a complete ban, now they are dithering on the decision," said an FDA official.

## FESTIVE FERVOUR

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It was only then that the mandal chose to use the title, argued Bhagat.

## MNS men held for vandalizing Boisar theatre

Mumbai: Seven Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) workers were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly vandalizing a theatre in Boisar, which was screening a Bhojpur film, a day earlier.

Moviegoers at the single-screen Chitralaya were targeted on Tuesday. MNS workers led by Thane rural district president Kundan Sanke barged into the hall around 7.30pm, witnesses said. The hall manager was threatened and told to shut down the theatre. —Sandhya Nair

## Cement unit next to Malad society irks HC

Rosy Sequeira | TNN

**Mumbai:** The Bombay HC on Wednesday rapped the BMC for permitting a cement unit to operate next to a residential complex in Malad (E).

The court also issued a notice to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board that granted it permission to operate for ten years. A division bench of Chief Justice Mohit Shah and Justice Nitin Jamdar was hearing a

PIL filed by Valentine Apartment-1 at Pimpalpada, which has 117 flats. The petition stated that the plant is operated by Roman Tarmat Ltd through an

### JUDGES RAP BMC, MPCB

agreement with Binani Ready Mix Concrete Ltd entered on July 14, 2011. The society's advocate, Akshay Patil, said despite the BMC acknowledging that the

plant is illegal, it has taken no steps to shut it down. "It is also in a no development zone, which forbids any activity, including allowing a hazardous industry," said Patil. "How can it be allowed to continue?" Justice Shah asked BMC advocate Sharmila Modke.

She said action was taken against the unit under Section 390 of the BMC Act, which prescribes that no factory can be set up without the civic chief's nod.

### WEATHER

Sunrise: Fri: 06:24 hrs	Sunset: Thurs: 18:48 hrs
Moonrise: Thurs: 22:35 hrs	Moonset: Thurs: 11:06 hrs
Forecast: Spells of rain or showers in city and suburbs. Heavy rains could occur in some areas.	Relative humidity: Colaba 92%, Santa Cruz 85%
Santa Cruz 29.8°	Wednesday's Rainfall: Colaba 1.9mm, Santa Cruz 3.9mm
Season's Total Rainfall: Colaba 1,250.4mm, Santa Cruz 1,555.6mm	

### Maid falls off 12th floor

A 16-year-old maid allegedly slipped from the 12th floor balcony of her employer's flat in Kachinwadi on Tuesday night. Her family is still to claim her body. TNN

## Mishap victim returns home after 5 months



AGAINST ALL ODDS: Help has poured in for the kin of Priyanka Rai (inset, before the mishap) after TOI's September 2 report on her plight

Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

**Mumbai:** Priyanka Rai (23), the lone female survivor in a near-fatal 'drunk driving' accident, returned to her Kalyan residence after five months of hospital stay on Wednesday.

The elated family could barely hold their excitement as Priyanka sat in a cab and started her return journey from Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. After a report in TOI on September 2 about how the family was struggling to collect money to pay the hospital's dues, which amounted to Rs 6.21 lakh, help started pouring in from several quarters. "Many people got in touch with the hospital and came forward to help us," Priyanka's father Markandaya said.

"An individual deposited Rs 1.5 lakh in my bank account. Several others helped me collect the money and take my daughter home," he added. Markandaya said the hospital also waived off 50% of the bill amount. Priyan-

ka's sister, Kajal, said neighbours and well-wishers were eager to meet her. "We will take good care of her and see to it that she is back to what she was before the accident," she said. Priyanka had met with the accident on March 31, when she was heading towards Juhu for dinner with five of her friends.

Her friend, Rahul Mishra (23), who was allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, lost control of the car and rammed it into a tree and then hit a divider.

The accident killed her friends, Shivani Rawat and Nimisha Mane. According to doctors, Priyanka's recovery could take anything from months to couple of years. "We will not lose hope. All these months, her mother and sister have learnt how to take care of her from hospital employees," Markandaya said. Doctors said Priyanka now needs home care.

They confirmed that she showed "emotional response" and shed tears when she saw known faces and made sounds.

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**  
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