



@d_jaishankar You know when you awkwardly run into an ex-significant other at a party? That's what Putin's visit feels like here in New Delhi.

THE PAGE THAT SWEARS BY THE KAALI PEELI

mumbai 001



Not God's children

Mumbai Ranji coach Pravin Amre probably had an idea of what was to come. So he had called Sachin Tendulkar to the dressing room for a pep talk. Word soon reached the Jammu and Kashmir team in the adjacent dressing room and the excited lads stayed put, waiting for the Master to drop in. But as the minutes ticked along, nothing happened. When they came out and checked, they were told Tendulkar had left after spending 30 minutes with the Mumbai team.

A dejected J&K lot then took to the field, and no wonder the snub must have fired them up as they defeated the 40-time Ranji champions on their home turf. Oops.

A CLASSICAL MOMENT

Shankar Mahadevan with children during the announcement of a collaboration for music courses between his academy and NCPA



Party's on

Despite being stripped of his corporate privileges and designations – the government recently rejected an application by Kingfisher Airlines to reappoint him as managing director, for instance – Vijay Mallya continues to live it up in Goa, where he has been enjoying the fair weather and planning for his upcoming birthday on December 18. The diarist can tell you that soon after a recent mega full moon party hosted by his liquor

brand there, Mallya was quite a sight, driving his beach buggy around his villa in Candolim. Unmindful of the curious stares of holidaymakers, Mallya, accompanied by three other companions in tow, showed onlookers that he is perfectly capable of being in the driver's seat, when he wants to. As for his birthday, invites have gone out to his band of loyal friends, who are likely to flock to Niladri, his address in the city. Once a king, always a king?

CORNED

MORPARIA



Cat woman

A few months ago, when expat Sylvia Majocchi began missing her cat, Spike, she decided to pay him a tribute. The wife of an Italian diplomat who works at the consulate at Pedder Road, Sylvia found company in her furry feline friend who travelled with her from her home in Milan to San Francisco for a year. Sadly, before she moved to Mumbai, Spike passed away at the ripe age of 20.

Sylvia, an artiste and avid

reader of Mirror calls it serendipity. "I used to work with clay and glass but the logistics of setting up a furnace at home in Mumbai was too troublesome. I found myself surrounded by old editions of Mirror, which I pore over during breakfast. That's when it hit me—I can use paper to create the cat sculptures," she says from her Kemps Corner home that doubles as her workshop. She hopes to organise an exhibition entitled 44 cats based on an Italian lullaby. The money will be routed to an NGO that works for the welfare of cats.



Tailpiece

The last month has been great for Abha Narain Lamba, one of Mumbai's most prominent conservationists. Lamba and her team, who've lent their expertise for the restoration of the BMC building and the Royal Opera House among others, have now won not one but two prestigious projects in the capital, and both involve the modernisation of museums housed in structures of great national importance. While the first project is the Swatantra Sangram Sangrahalaya at the Red Fort, the other is the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library at the Teen Murti Bhavan.

Teen Murti Bhavan was the house of Jawaharlal Nehru from 1947 till his death in 1964 and part of it has now been converted into a museum. Lamba says she envisages setting up an interactive museum where visitors can learn more about Nehru.