

Despite ban, hawkers back outside stns

But BMC Says Situation Better Than Last Year

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Mumbai: Ten months after the BMC drew demarcation lines outside railway stations to ensure that hawkers adhered to the Bombay high court order to not sell wares within 150m radius of station premises, TOI found that not much seems to have changed on the ground at most places, though the number of hawkers has reduced.

The high court ban on hawking within 150m of railway stations and BMC action of demarcation lines had come in the wake of the Elphinstone Road foot over-bridge stampede on September 29, 2017, in which 23 people lost their lives.

Civic officials, however, insist that they are focusing on ensuring that there is no hawking



Unauthorized vendors block roads outside Kurla station (clockwise from above), Dadar (E) station and Santacruz station

king outside railway stations. "The situation on the ground has improved. We have increased the number of inspectors to 107 from 80 and deploy over 100 vehicles for removal of unauthorized hawkers. But the long-term solution is ensuring there's a proper hawking plaza or space which is a viable

option for them too," said deputy municipal commissioner (special) Nidhi Choudhari.

TOI recently surveyed several station areas in the city and found that hawkers continue to block areas outside Santacruz and Vile Parle stations. One of the hawkers outside Santacruz station said that it



was a 'traditional market'. "We have been sitting outside Santacruz railway station for many years now and have a licence too. The BMC cannot move us out just like that," he added.

Activist Godfrey Pimenta said at Vile Parle station, there is no adherence to the 150-m-

demarcation rule. "At Andheri station too, hawkers sit right outside the station. The action taken following the Elphinstone Road tragedy seems to have fizzled out," he added.

Activist Nikhil Desai said outside Matunga station, hawkers sell wares within the 150m radius of the station and at least 150 of them are unlicensed.

Outside Dadar (E) station, TOI found hawkers selling second-hand mobile phone handsets, batteries and earphones, though their number was much less compared to a year ago.

Outside Kurla (W) station, TOI found illegal vendors selling belts, handkerchiefs and clothes ignoring a BMC van parked nearby.

At Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus as railway commuters enter the subway, they are jostling for space with hawkers selling watches, headphones among other things.

Outside Bandra (W) station premises, very few hawkers were seen.

Court summons health dept principal secy in pension case

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Mumbai: Observing no mercy can be shown in matters of pension and gratuity, Bombay high court on Friday summoned the principal secretary, public health department, to court.

A bench of justices Abhay Oka and Mahesh Sonak heard a contempt petition by Thane resident Shamsingh Rajput (75) who was denied pension and gratuity despite a high court order of April 19, 2017.

On August 29, 2018, the court had issued a contempt notice to the principal secretary and asked for his name. On Friday, government lawyer N

C Walimbe said they needed time to find out his name. "He was in court for the malnutrition matter," the lawyer said.

This infuriated the bench. "There can be no mercy in matters of pension and gratuity," said justice Oka, adding, where compliance of such orders is concerned, "We will be harsh with officers."

The bench said, "In many cases, the office of the accountant-general has created a mess."

Rajput was appointed store keeper-cum-accountant in December 1964 and retired in June 2001. In February 2005, his caste certificate was invalidated. In view of this, in April 2009 the district health

officer directed all service benefits to be withdrawn.

Since 2010, Rajput's case has gone back and forth between the MAT and the high court. Finally, in August, the Supreme Court dismissed the state appeal.

Rajput's advocate Narendra Bandiwadekar said he had not availed benefits on the basis of reservation while in service.

In their order, the bench noted the principal secretary's name was not furnished.

"This is a case of aggravated contempt," it added. Summoning the officer on October 5, the judges directed him to also furnish names of officers it could issue contempt notices to in this particular case.

Man kills second wife in Vasai hotel room

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A 29-year-old Andheri man allegedly murdered his second wife in a Vasai hotel on Thursday. On his mother's advice, he later surrendered to D N Nagar police. The case has been transferred to Valiv police.

Suhel Shaikh (29) stayed with his first wife and mother at Punjabi Chawl, Juhu Lane, Andheri. His second wife, Aisha (22), stayed with her mother in Jogeshwari.

Aisha often fought with Suhel and demanded he take her to live with him. Suhel, however, did not want both his wives to stay together.

On Thursday night, Suhel

and Aisha booked into a high-way hotel in Vasai. A fight broke out between the two at the hotel and Suhel allegedly strangled Aisha with her dupatta. He left the body in the room and fled.

As he was driving back home, he called his mother and told her about the murder. She asked him to surrender to the police.



The D N Nagar cops informed Valiv police following which they reached the hotel and found Aisha's body on the bed. Hotel staff were unaware of the murder till the cops arrived. A duplicate key had to be used to gain entry into the room.

Suhel has been remanded to police custody.

Water shortage in Andheri as pipe work goes awry

Richa Pinto & Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

Mumbai: Portions of K West and K East wards comprising Andheri, Jogeshwari and Vile Parle continue to face water shortages two days after the BMC's pipeline work went awry. The problem will persist into the weekend.

Societies in Lokhandwala Complex are receiving water supply for less than 40 minutes, and are having to rely on bottled water and tankers to get through the day.

The BMC had announced a two-day complete water cut in many parts of Mumbai on September 25-26 as the civic body undertook water pipeline connectivity works. Supply is yet to normalise after the task went wrong. "There were some glitches after the work owing to which parts of Andheri East and West have been facing water shortage since then," said an official from BMC's hydraulic department. "There is an air lock which we are trying to remove but it will take another day," he said.

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(L-R) Deepak Narvekar, Goa Tourism; Rajesh Kale, Goa Tourism; Sanjay Hakhu, Director, Sphere Travel Media; Om Prakash Bhagat, Director Tourism Jammu; Nirav Munshi, Gujarat Tourism and Rohit Hangal, Director Sphere Travel Media at the inauguration of ITM Mumbai 2018

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Indian holidaying has changed amazingly over the years. From just vacationing at grandparents' homes for the summer and winter holidays, people are now travelling to discover new places and experience culture and cuisine.

Sphere Travelmedia & Exhibitions kicked off the 108th edition of its 'India International Travel Mart' on September 28 at MMRDA Grounds, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai. The event will go on till September 30.

Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Hangal, director, Sphere Travelmedia said, "Domestic travel as the backbone" of India's tourism portfolio and with an estimated 561 million domestic tourist visits. This segment is probably only second to China in terms of sheer size. With the rapid economic development taking place in the country and availability of greater disposable income combined with affordable holiday packages, tourism in India is increasing steadily and acts as a catalyst for the furthering the economic growth in view of its wide-ranging linkage effects and multiple impacts. The participants from the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and many more destinations will be seen aggressively marketing their products will be there with their travel and tourism stakeholders."

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