

# Afternoon VOICE



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## UN OFFICIAL DEFENDS ACTIVIST TEESTA SETALVAD

### “Defending Rights Not A Crime”



Afternoon Voice Bureau  
afternoon\_voice

Activist Teesta Setalvad was arrested by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch on Sunday, a day after the Supreme Court slammed those who had "kept the pot boiling" on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The activist was taken into custody by the Gujarat Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad from Mumbai on Saturday evening.

**Amit Shah blamed Setalvad for giving baseless information about the 2002**

An official of the United Nations condemned the detention of activist Teesta Setalvad on

Saturday, saying "defending human right is not a crime". Expressing deep concern, **Mary Lawlor**, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, said "Teesta is a strong voice against hatred and discrimination".

The activist was taken into custody by the Gujarat Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad from Mumbai on Saturday evening, a day after the Supreme Court slammed those who had "kept the pot boiling" on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The action came hours after Home Minister Amit Shah, in an interview with a news agency, blamed Ms Setalvad-run NGO for giving baseless information about the 2002 Gujarat riots to the police.

### Teesta Setalvad's misuse of funds brings a bad name to civil society

Editoritis



Less than a day after the Supreme Court dismissed a petition appealing a lower court's refusal to file a case against Narendra Modi for his role in Gujarat's anti-Muslim violence of 2002, the Ahmedabad crime branch arrested activist Teesta Setalvad on June 26 in connection with a fresh case of forgery, criminal conspiracy and insulting criminal proceedings to cause injury registered against her.

The case pertains to a First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch last January, which alleged that Setalvad, Anand, former MP Ehsan Jafri's son Tanvir and two office bearers of the society — Salimbhai Sandhi and Firoz Gulzar — had embezzled funds to the tune of Rs. 1.5 crore meant for the construction

of a memorial for riot victims. The money which should have been used for the poor and the needy, probing the matter suggests that the fund was misused for their personal comfort.

The facts of this case reflect the sorry state of affairs of the NGOs. Freedom to the civil society to function with flexibility is positive, however, too much freedom can lead to misuse of the NGO's fund by the individual or group. This type of scam gives a bad name to civil society. It is, therefore, very important to have strict laws regulating accountability and monitoring of the NGOs to maintain a trust level

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# Editoritis

# Teesta Setalvad's misuse of funds brings a bad name to civil society

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*India has 3.3 million NGOs; which means, one NGO per 400 citizens. It is time to create a Ministry for better monitoring of NGOs. Several people misuse NGOs' names to serve their personal and vested interests.*

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and ensure honest functioning of it. Nowadays, NGOs are referred to only as those organisations that pursue wider social aims with political aspects, but they are not political organisations such as political parties.

India has 3.3 million NGOs; which means, one NGO per 400 citizens. It is time to create a Ministry for better monitoring of NGOs. Several people misuse NGOs' names to serve their personal and vested interests.

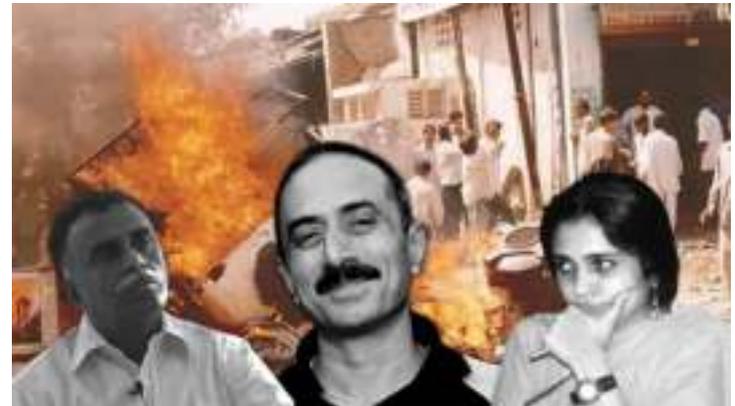
Twelve Gulbarg Society victims served notice to Setalvad and lodged a complaint against her at Ahmedabad Commissionrate, where the commissioner asked the Crime Branch to inquire into the matter. The residents alleged that she had sought and collected huge donations from national and international bodies under the pretext of providing financial assistance for the reconstruction of houses or converting the Gulbarg Society into a museum. The complainants said she collected a donation of Rs. 63 lakhs for the Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), of which she is secretary, and Rs. 88 lakhs for Sabrang Trust; but nothing was passed on to the members.

Sixty-nine Muslims, including Zakia Jafri's husband and former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri, were killed at the Gulbarg Society in Ahmedabad. Ms Setalvad had helped Ms Zakia to file a complaint against the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 61 others for their alleged involvement in the post-Godhra riots. However, recently Ahmedabad court accepted the Special Investigation Team's closure report and gave a clean chit to Modi and others. The Gulbarg Society victims have accused Setalvad and her husband Javed Anand of collecting foreign funds for riot victims but not using them.

Setalvad, who has been espousing the causes of the victims of the 2002 Gujarat riots, has contended that the case was filed against them with political motives and they had not misused any funds. On March 25, 2014, the session's court rejected their pre-arrest bail applications.

Setalvad is a civil rights activist and journalist. Her organisation, CJP, is a co-petitioner seeking the criminal trial of Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat and the current Prime Minister of India and 62 other politicians and government officials for complicity in the Gujarat violence of 2002 and whose names did not figure in any of the FIRs /chargesheets that formed the subject matter of the various Session Trials regarding the riots at that point of time. Four of the accused since then were chargesheeted of whom Maya Kodnani and Babu Bajrangji have already been convicted.

In November 2010, Setalvad was accused of pressuring Zaheera Sheikh, the key witness in the Best Bakery case, to make certain statements,



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leading to the unprecedented transfer of the case outside Gujarat. In August 2005, a Supreme Court of India committee absolved her of the charges of inducement levelled against her by Zaheera and awarded a one-year jail sentence to Zaheera for perjury. In 2013, Tehelka in an undercover investigation discovered that Zaheera had been paid to alter her testimony. Tehelka recorded BJP member Madhu Srivastava, described by Tehelka as a "close associate of Narendra Modi" and Batthoo Srivastava describing how they had paid Rs. 1.8 million to Zaheera.

Gulbarg Society members also sought to ban her organisation "Citizens for Justice and Peace" and prevent her and her husband from entering the society. The Ahmedabad Crime Branch is conducting an inquiry into the matter.

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**Letter's to the Editor**

**False business of borrowing**

The "borrowing" of fintech companies has been cracked down on by the Reserve Bank, which is a positive step in the interest of the consumer. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has strongly denied the allegations and said that prepaid instruments will not be able to lend or credit lines to customers. Fintech companies will now have to cover up by encouraging purchases by implementing attractive schemes such as buy first and pay later.

- Dattaprasad Shirodkar

**Proud Assamese**

Tapan Kumar Deka becomes the first Assamese to be elevated to the post of Director, Intelligence Bureau and we can be nothing but superbly proud of it. Deka, a 1988 batch IPS officer was the go to man to probe into the 2008 Mumbai blasts. Deka has along the road added many feathers to his cap and is a revered name in the police world. I remember once my father telling me that Deka is a people person and knows how to maintain friendly relations with people. Now that he will take over one of the most powerful positions in the country, Assam and specially Tezpur is really proud and I would like this opportunity to congratulate Mr.Deka through your esteemed daily.

- Noopur Baruah

**World Asteroid Day**

World Asteroid Day, which is celebrated on June 30, is a day where people from all walks of life come together to learn about asteroids and what we can do to protect our planet from the impacts of asteroids.

World Asteroid Day is also known as International Asteroid Day. The day is a way for the public to understand asteroids, and to educate people about the risks and opportunities of asteroids. This can be done by hosting events, providing educational resources, and communicating with the global audience on multiple digital platforms.

Although asteroids would seem like mere rocks floating in space, they are actually objects of great importance for astronomers, geologists and planetary scientists, among others. On the evolutionary field, they are pristine objects from the dawn of the solar system. They maintain their original chemical composition that speaks to us about how our solar neighbourhood was like about 4.5 billion years ago.

Asteroids are small, rocky objects that orbit the sun.

The first asteroid was Ceres, discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi in the year, 1801.

- Jubel D'Cruz

**Defaming Hindu Dharma**

A teaser of the Hindi film Shamshera has been screened. In this, actor Sanjay Dutt has been portrayed as a villain. His name is Shuddh Singh. He looks like a Brahmin, sporting a Shikha and Tilak on his forehead. The producer of this film is being opposed on social media for it. The Hindi film industry has been defaming Hindu Dharma for many years by portraying villains as Brahmins, Sadhus, Saints and Priests. It must now be permanently banned. Such incidents could be happening because no action is taken against those who disrespect Hindu Dharma. If Hindus continue to protest on large scale unitedly, then it would be possible to stop such incidents.

- Dr.Jyoti Kale

# Drug, Addict Youth and Celebrity – Part 2



**M**illions of children lose their parents because of them. Their future goes into darkness. The family gets mentally disturbed. Fights, quarrels develop between the members in the house. In today's time the biggest enemy of man is this substance. They do such a magic on a person that it is very difficult to get out of their clutches. They should be banned in their life and other people should also make every effort to get rid of their addiction, then only they can be avoided, otherwise it is difficult to say anything in the way they have occupied today.

From above, well-known celebrities of this country advertise them with great enthusiasm. They are only concerned with money, not that how fatal will be the effect on the people who consume these substances. These celebrities are followed by the youth of this country. Seeing these, the youth starts

intoxicating liquor, gutkha, tobacco, bidi, cigarette etc., and considers it their pride. The future of millions of youth goes into darkness like this. Literature, cinema have a huge impact in our society and youth. Today many songs, films, plays show the use of drugs. Which has a direct impact on the society. The stars of the cinema world today are the role models of a large section of the youth. Youth try to behave according to the behavior of their role model. They do not have the knowledge of the black world behind that splendour. Just last year, due to an issue, the reality of these role models has come in front of the society.

Youth use drugs as a means of relieving stress. The youth of that country has a big contribution in the progress of any country, but when the youth is on the wrong path, then what can be said next. At present, it has become a fashion

for the youth to consume these substances. Millions of youth are falling in this abyss.

Whether there is a chance of happiness or sadness, leaving the hands of loved ones and keeping the drug with you is not right in any way. If you are also including it in your happiness, then you should know that it has very serious disadvantages. Simply put, intoxication means waste. Waste your money, waste your family, waste your reputation, waste your health.



**Khemu Parashar**

Writer and Columnist

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No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own.)



Through this painting, Gurukul student Pray for Assam and request help for Assam

Photocredit : Sagar Kambli

**City**

# Aaditya Thackeray asks for contest poll again

Slamming the dissident Shiv Sena MLAs for having "monstrous ambitions", minister Aaditya Thackeray on Sunday said even if all the party legislators turn rebels, victory will always be of the party. Addressing the Sena workers in Mumbai for the second consecutive day, he also said that doors of the state and party are closed for the rebels MLAs.

"Contest elections again, we will ensure you are defeated," the 30-year-old son of Sena president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said. Without naming the BJP, he said he felt ashamed that a party, which is in power at the Centre and Assam, have taken the MLAs from another ruling party from a different state and kept them in the north eastern state that is reeling under floods. The rebels were taken to Guwahati as "prisoners". About 12 to 14 MLAs are still in touch with us, Thackeray said. "When these MLAs come to the state assembly, they should have the guts to see in our eyes and tell us what we have not done for them. The ambitions of these people are monstrous," the minister for environment and tourism said.

Sufficient development funds had been provided to all the legislators, he said, adding that



the Shiv Sena has become the voice of the common people. Majority of party MLAs have sided with rebel party minister Eknath Shinde and they are currently camping at Guwahati in Assam, a BJP-ruled state. Shinde and his group have claimed that they are the "real Shiv Sena". The rebel group said it enjoys a two-thirds majority in the legislature party and will prove its strength in the House. The dissidents have named their group as "Shiv Sena (Balasaheb)".

Aaditya has started holding meetings with the party workers and office-bearers from Saturday, which is being seen as a move to prevent any erosion of the cadre loyal to the Thackerays. The Mumbai civic polls are expected to be held later this year and the Shiv Sena, which has been ruling Asia's largest civic body for nearly three decades, is striving to retain its hold over it.

- PTI

# Sena attack on rebels, Pawar in huddle with MVA leaders

The power tussle between Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Shiv Sena dissident Eknath Shinde became intense on Sunday with Sena leaders, led by Sanjay Raut, launching an acerbic attack on the rebels while NCP chief Sharad Pawar held closed-door meetings with MVA leaders. On the second day in a row, Shiv Sena cadres staged protests against the dissidents in various parts of the state, including Mumbai and Pune. State minister Aaditya Thackeray, son of Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, and Sena chief spokesman Sanjay Raut addressed party cadres in suburban Dahisar to drum up support for the beleaguered party leadership and slammed the Shinde camp. Sharad Pawar met leaders of NCP, Congress ministers Balasaheb

Thorat and Ashok Chavan, and Shiv Sena's Anil Parab and Anil Desai to discuss the political fallout of the six-day-old rebellion. Striking an aggressive note, Raut said the present crisis was an opportunity to resurrect Shiv Sena.

"We have learnt a lesson on whom to trust...These are bodies whose souls have died. Their mind is dead...40 bodies will come from Assam and will be sent directly to the morgue for postmortem," Raut said in an apparent reference to the number of MLAs camping in Guwahati with Shinde while addressing Sena cadres. Meanwhile, another Shiv Sena leader and cabinet minister for higher and technical education, Uday Samant, has gone incommunicado and is reportedly on his way to Guwahati from Surat.

- PTI

# Legal action against rebels, 16 MLAs serves notice

Amid the political crisis in Maharashtra triggered by a rebellion by a large section of Shiv Sena MLAs, who are currently camping in Assam, Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant on Sunday informed that the party has initiated legal action and served notices to concerned MLAs. Addressing the reporters today, Sawant said, "Political turbulence is going on in Maharashtra, many MLAs defected and have gone to Assam. We have initiated legal action against them and notice has been served to 16 MLAs till now."

Advocate Devdutta Kamat, Shiv Sena's Senior Counsel also said to reporters, "Proceedings have been initiated by Shiv Sena against 16 MLAs, under the provision in the Constitution which says that if a person gives up the membership of a party then he's eligible for



disqualification." "There were several meetings that were called by Shiv Sena at different times, none of which were attended by them. Visiting BJP-ruled states, meeting BJP leaders, and attempting to topple government amounts to a violation by rebels," Advocate Devdutta Kamat said.

Kamat said the concept of 2-

3rd (to surpass anti-defection law) applies only if there is a merger. "Until the MLAs, don't merge with another party, disqualification applies. Till today there's no merger, they have voluntarily given up membership," Adv Devdutta Kamat said. Notably, the national executive meeting of the Shiv Sena on June 25 passed six resolutions giving absolute rights to Maharashtra Chief Minister and party president Uddhav Thackeray to take action against the rebels to bring the revolt within party under control. The meeting was called in the wake of Sena MLA Eknath Shinde's rebellion, which has not only destabilised the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the State but also poses a risk of the Thackerays losing control of the party.

- ANI

# Cops calms, No info on arrival of rebel MLAs in Mumbai, airports alerted, preparations underway

Mumbai police has no information on when the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs will arrive in the metropolis from Guwahati in Assam, but preparations, including alerting airports, are underway, an official said on Sunday. A sizable number of MLAs, led by the party's Thane strongman Eknath Shinde, had rebelled against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 21 and had moved first to Surat in neighbouring Gujarat and then to Assam, both BJP-ruled states.

"We have alerted airports and have deployed personnel (bandobast). We have no idea, however, on when these MLAs will arrive here. The MLAs have asked the hotel management there (Guwahati) to extend their stay till June 28," the official said. Meanwhile, Sena workers loyal to Thackeray held rallies and protests in several parts the state. They organised a motorcycle rally from the office of party mouthpiece 'Saamana' in Prabhadevi to Dadar, while the effigy of Yavatmal MLA Sanjay Rathod

was burnt. Officials said some Sena workers tried to attack the house of Osmanabad MLA Balaji Kalyankar.

Meanwhile, rallies in support of Shinde were held as well, mostly in Thane and adjoining areas in Palghar and Raigad. Officials said Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) protection has been given to the homes of 16 rebel MLAs who were sent notices by Assembly Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal seeking their explanation on the Sena's application for their disqualification.

- PTI

# Six Sena workers held for attack on office of Eknath Shinde's son

Six Shiv Sena workers were arrested for allegedly pelting stones at the office of Shirkant Shinde, Kalyan Lok Sabha MP and son of rebel MLA Eknath Shinde, Thane police said on Sunday.

The Ulhasnagar office of the MP was attacked on Saturday by a mob of eight to 10 persons and a video of the incident had gone viral soon after.



Suresh Patil, Niteen Both, Umesh Pawar, Santosh Kanse and Latesh Patil, all 'shakha pramukhs' of the Sena, and Bala Bagure, a functionary of the Yuva Sena, the party's youth wing, have been held under provisions of the IPC, Maharashtra Police Act, an Ulhasnagar police station official said.

- PTI

# Nation

## Tripura bypolls

### BJP bags 3 out of 4 seats



**T**ripura Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Manik Saha won the assembly poll from the Town Bardowali constituency by a margin of 6,104 votes, the Election Commission said. BJP has bagged victory on three out of four seats in the Tripura bypolls while the Congress won one seat. Congress candidate Sudip Roy Barman won from Agartala seat by 3,163 votes. The BJP won Town Bardowali, Jubarajnagar and Surma seats respectively. The bypolls in Tripura were crucial for Manik Saha who replaced Biplab Kumar Deb last month. The dentist-turned politician himself was a candidate and fought his first-ever direct election to save his CM seat.

The bypolls were necessitated in these seats due to the resignations of the legislators in

two seats, disqualification of an MLA in one, and the death of one of the MLAs midterm. Saha was sworn in as the chief minister of Tripura on May 15. The BJP decided on leadership change in the state a year ahead of the Assembly elections by replacing Biplab Kumar Deb with Saha as the Chief Minister. After Manik Saha was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tripura, the BJP has once again taken recourse to its old mantra to beat anti-incumbency by changing the face in a poll-bound state. Saha joined the BJP in 2016 after quitting Congress. He was made party chief in 2020 and elected to Rajya Sabha in March this year.

Meanwhile, BJP national president JP Nadda congratulated Manik Saha on his victory in the elections. Taking to Twitter, Nadda wrote, "Congratulations to CM Shri @DrManikSaha2 for winning the assembly poll from his constituency and to all @BJP4Tripura leaders for winning 3 out of 4 seats in the bypolls. This is the result of your hardwork and the faith of the people in the vision of Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi," Nadda tweeted.

- ANI

## Security on high alert ahead of Amarnath Yatra

**A**head of the Amarnath Yatra, the security has been tightened at the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir at Lakhanpur. Speaking to ANI, RC Kotwal, SSP of Kathua said, "Lakhanpur is the gateway of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir from the Punjab side and we have arranged all kinds of securities. I can assure you that no tourists will face any kind of

problems."

"We have some from Hoshiarpur and this is our 34th bhandara which is been organised. Everyone comes and joins our Bhandara harmoniously and we have all the arrangements for the tourists like- food, medicines, and accommodation," Gaurav a pilgrim from Punjab.

- ANI

## Rampur bypoll result puts seal on public's faith: Yogi Adityanath

**J**ust after the Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday won the Rampur Parliamentary bypoll, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed gratitude to the people of the state by saying that the by-election result puts a seal of public's faith in the double engine BJP government. "The victory of Rampur Lok Sabha seat in the by-election is a seal of public's faith in the double engine



BJP government on public welfare policies under the successful

## CM Adityanath's helicopter makes emergency landing at Varanasi airport

**U**ttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's helicopter made an emergency landing at Varanasi airport after a bird-hit incident on Sunday, informed the Varanasi District Magistrate. "The CM and his staff are safe and will be travelling to Lucknow by another aircraft," he added. The Chief Minister had come to Varanasi on Saturday and had paid obeisance at Kashi Vishwanath temple, besides holding a review meeting.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday hailed the Supreme Court order upholding the clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi



in the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat as a "victory of truth". Taking to Twitter, Adityanath said, "The clean chit given by the Honourable Supreme Court to the prime minister in the Gujarat riots is a declaration of the success and victory of truth. The conspirators should tender a public apology to the people of the country." Referring to the

'Mahabharata', he said, "The Shakunis decorated the 'Lakshagriha' against the truth but the truth came out safely."

"The apex court on Friday, while rejecting an appeal by Zakia Jafri, wife of Congress MP Ehsan Jafri who was killed in the violence, said that the appeal was "devoid of merits." A three-judge bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, upholding the Special Investigation Team or SIT's 2012 clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Gujarat riots case, said that Setalvad, co-petitioner in the case, exploited the emotions of Zakia Jafri.

- ANI

## Centre is working to strengthen health services across country: M Mandaviya

**U**nion Minister for Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday said that the government is working to strengthen health services across the country. He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving priority to health across the country. Mandaviya was speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of CGHS and lab at Avadi, Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu. He added that the construction of Avadi CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) Wellness Center will be completed by December 22.

"The construction for Avadi CGHS will be getting over by December 22. People of the Avadi and surrounding areas will be benefited a lot from this CGHS. We have also released the website and Application of CGHS," Mandaviya said. "CGHS will benefit everyone in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives more importance to health. We are working to strengthen health services across

the country," he added. Mandaviya participated in a few programs at Chennai. He virtually laid the foundation stone of the CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) Wellness Center. While Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Minister Ma. Subramanian said that he is honoured to welcome Mandaviya.

"The second dose of COVID-19 vaccination was given to 85.08 per cent in Tamil Nadu. While 84.93 per cent of children aged 11 years to 14 years were vaccinated with the first dose. The second dose of COVID-19 vaccination was given to 54.91 per cent," he added. He stated, "We have requested the health minister that Tamil Nadu should have one medical college in every district." Tamil Nadu Health Secretary Senthil Kumar and DPH Director Selva Vinayagam and other Health Department officials were also present.

- ANI

## Four arrested with brown sugar



**A**t least four drug peddlers were apprehended with around 1 kilogram of brown sugar on Sunday by the Special Task Force of the Odisha Police in Khordha. According to an official statement by the STF Odisha, the arrested persons failed to give valid reasons for possessing the narcotics. "During the search, brown sugar weighing 1,030 gm and other incriminating materials were recovered and seized from the possession of the accused persons, they could not produce any valid authority in support of the possession of such contraband materials, they were arrested," it read

The accused persons are being forwarded to a special judge in the District and Sessions court in Khordha. Further investigation is underway. As per the STF, their special drive against the narcotic drugs is continuing and since 2020, they have seized more than 55 kg of Brown Sugar/Heroin, 202 gram cocaine and more than 111 quintals of Ganja/Marijuana, Opium 750 gram and have arrested more than 156 drug dealers/peddlers from the state.

- ANI

# World

## Colombian president-elect names foreign minister

Colombian President-elect Gustavo Petro on Saturday named Alvaro Leyva Duran as the foreign minister in his cabinet, ahead of Petro's inauguration in August. "Alvaro Leyva Duran will be our minister of foreign affairs. It will be a chancellery of peace," Petro tweeted, adding that Colombia will focus its efforts on overcoming the climate crisis and ending endemic violence.

Leyva Duran, 79, has served as a mine and energy minister, a congressman from the Conservative Party, and a mediator in the country's peace process, among other positions. He played a major role in building the justice model of the Special Jurisdiction for



Peace, which was created within the peace agreement signed between the Colombian government and the former guerrilla movement of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in 2016. Besides Leyva Duran, Petro has appointed his vice president Francia Marquez to create a Ministry of Equality.

- ANI

## Pakistan to lock deal with IMF on Monday

Pakistan's Finance Ministry on Sunday said that their deal with International Monetary Funds (IMF) will be sealed by tomorrow as the organization plan to hand over the economic and financial policy for the renewed deal providing economic relief package to Islamabad. Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail in the National Assembly said that although the country is common with the negative comments made by the financial quarters it looks very likely that the restoration of the IMF programme is in the offing, ARY News reported. Moreover, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had asserted that the terms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had been finalised and the deal will close soon, barring any other

conditions set by the global lender. Earlier on Friday, the Shehbaz Sharif government increased the tax rates for the salaried class to fulfil the demand of the IMF. It had withdrawn the tax relief to the salaried class announced on June 10 and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR's) collection target was increased to Rs 7,470 billion, reported Geo News. On Personal Income Tax (PIT), the government raised a tax amount of Rs 80 billion as first, the government abolished tax relief of Rs 47 billion and then raised a tax amount of Rs 35 billion, so the FBR was going to collect Rs 235 billion from salaried class in the next budget against a collection of Rs 200 billion in the outgoing fiscal year.

- ANI

## US wants India to build pressure on Russia

US National Security coordinator John Kirby on Saturday said that the US wanted other countries including India to help them increase the costs and consequences of the war on Russian President Vladimir Putin amid the Ukraine conflict. Addressing a press briefing, Kirby said the US shares a deep partnership with India but Washington wants international pressure on Russia amid the Ukraine conflict. "We're glad that India is coming. There are a lot to discuss on the agenda with India. We have a very deep partnership with them, even in the defence world," he said. "I'll let Indian leaders speak for themselves here, but obviously, what President Biden is focused on, what the administration is focused on is making sure that the costs keep rising for Putin, that it's harder for him to wage war. And obviously, we want to see all nations participate in those kinds of efforts," Kirby



added. India in recent weeks has spiked energy imports from Russian despite global sanctions on Moscow. US officials conveyed the message to India there is no ban on energy imports from Russia but they do not want to see a rapid acceleration.

While defending India's oil imports from Russia, Jaishankar stressed that it is important to understand how the Ukraine conflict is impacting the developing countries. He also questioned why only India was being questioned while Europe continues to import gas from

Russia amid the Ukraine war. Responding to a question on whether India's oil import from Russia is not funding the ongoing Ukraine war, Jaishankar said, "Look I don't want to sound argumentative. If India funding Russia oil is funding the war... Tell me then buying Russian gas is not funding the war? It's only Indian money and Russian oil coming to India funding the war and not Russia's gas coming to Europe not funding? Let's be a little evenhanded." At the GLOBSEC 2022 Bratislava Forum in Slovakia, Jaishankar said, the packages of sanctions imposed by the European Union are imposed keeping in mind the interest of certain European nations. "...if you can be considerate to yourself, you can be considerate to other people. If a Europe says, if we have to manage it in a way impact on the economy is not traumatic, that freedom should exist for other people as well," he said.

- ANI

## Bilawal, Imran Khan make last effort ahead of Sindh local body election



Ahead of the Sindh province local government election, Pakistan Peoples' Party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari accused the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of threatening violence due to frustration arising out of consistent losses and urged the

supporters to remain peaceful and not get provoked.

Taking to Twitter, Pakistan Foreign Minister said, "Our opponents after consistent losses are growing frustrated and threatening violence. I call on our supporters to remain peaceful and not get provoked, vote, democracy is our revenge." The first phase of the local body election is to start today in four divisions of Sindh, Geo News reported. "Good luck to all Peoples Party ticket holders taking part in local body elections phase one in 15 districts of Sindh. Tomorrow is Election Day, get out and vote

for Bhuttoism, a peaceful, prosperous & progressive," she added. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan also urged the citizens to vote for his party and eliminate the 'Zardari mafia'.

Taking to Twitter, Imran Khan wrote, "LBEs (Local Body Elections) are to be held in 4 divs of Sindh. Despite PPP terrorising our candidates & not following SC orders to devolve authority to local reps under Art 140A, we are taking part in the elections. I ask people of Sindh to vote for PTI candidates & eliminate the Zardari Mafia."

- ANI

## Amid economic crisis Sri Lanka to increase fuel prices

Amid the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) gas on Sunday decided to increase the fuel prices with effect from 2 am. The prices of a litre of petrol 92 octane have been increased by Rs 50 while a litre of petrol 95 octane has been increased by Rs 100, Daily Mirror reported. According to the publication, the auto diesel has also been

increased by Rs 60 and a litre of Super Diesel has been increased by Rs. 75. Accordingly, the new price of a litre of Petrol Octane 92 is Rs. 470 and Octane 95 is Rs. 550. At the same time, the Lanka IOC, a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, has also increased the fuel prices and now both the CEYPETCO and the LIOC fuel prices stand equal, reported Daily Mirror.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has decided to limit fuel for private vehicles as the fuel shortage continues to worsen in the Island nation.

Sri Lanka will not receive the shipments of petrol, diesel and crude oil, scheduled for this week and next week due to banking and logistic reasons.

"Sri Lanka will not receive shipments of petrol, diesel and crude oil, scheduled for this

week and next week," Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said on Saturday. The minister said that suppliers have informed state-owned fuel importer and distributor Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) that they will not make the scheduled deliveries due to banking and logistic reasons. In a further statement, Wijesekera said that public transportation, power generation and

industries would be given priority until the next shipments arrive. Therefore, limited stocks of diesel and petrol will be distributed to a few gas stations throughout next week. The minister urged the general public not to queue up for fuel., adding that the refinery operations will also be halted until the next crude shipment arrives.

- ANI

# Business

## Government extends GST compensation cess levy till March 2026

The Union Finance Ministry has notified the goods and services tax (GST) compensation cess extension till March 2026.

The compensation cess will continue to be levied from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2026, as per a new notification 'the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022,' issued by the ministry of finance.

The levy of cess was to end on June 30.

However, the GST Council chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had agreed to extend the levy of cess deadline by four years till 2026.

The revenue from the GST compensation cess is used by



the central government to pay for the borrowings and arrears of compensation paid to states in the last two financial years.

The Central government has borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 to meet the resource gap of states due to a shortfall in the release of GST compensation.

## India rapidly emerging as a preferred destination for FDI

India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments as the steps taken by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the last eight years have borne fruit as is evident from the ever-increasing volumes of FDI inflow setting new records.

The FDI inflow in India was at its highest ever at USD 81.97 billion in 2020-21. The information was given by the government during a parliament session. Among the global investors, the government said, these trends in India's FDI are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination, reported Saudi Gazette.

The government reviews the FDI policy on an ongoing basis and makes significant changes



from time to time, to ensure that India remains an attractive and investor-friendly destination.

India's FDI policy is liberal and transparent. Most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. To further liberalize and simplify FDI policy for providing ease of doing business and attract investments, reforms have been undertaken recently across sectors such as Coal Mining, Contract Manufacturing,

Digital Media, Single Brand Retail Trading, Civil Aviation, Defense, Insurance and Telecom.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Som Prakash, informed in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha (country's Upper House in the Parliament) that the country's FDI under the current government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is at its highest-ever inflow.

This came in a response to a question posed by CPI (M), Member of Parliament, John Brittas and Loktantrik Janata Dal MP M. V. Shreyams Kumar. These MPs from Kerala questioned the government on the steps it has taken to bring global business into the country.

## ONGC finally gets a director on Hindustan Petroleum board

After over five months, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has finally got a director appointed on the board of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd -- a firm it had acquired for Rs 36,915 crore.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on June 22, conveyed its consent for the appointment of Pankaj Kumar, Director (Offshore), ONGC as a director on the board of HPCL, according to regulatory filings by HPCL.

For over five months, ONGC had no representative on the board of HPCL -- a company in which it owns a 51.11 per cent stake since January 2018.

HPCL for over one-and-a-half years -- between January 2018 and August 2019 -- did not recognise ONGC as its promoter despite the government selling its entire 51.11 per cent stake in the company to the oil explorer.

It relented only after a rap from market regulator SEBI. ONGC got the right to appoint one director who HPCL called 'Government Nominee Director (Representative of ONGC)'.

"Pankaj Kumar has been appointed as Government Director on the Board of the company effective June 22, 2022," HPCL said in the filing.

## IOB aims to boost advances in the retail, MSME, agri, and corporate sector in FY23



State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is aiming to boost advances in retail, MSMEs, and corporate and agricultural loans during the current fiscal year, as the lender has substantially brought down the stressed assets on its balance sheet through sustained and targeted efforts.

The outlook of the Indian banking sector is seen to be improving on the back of better credit demand and strong balance sheets, IOB said in its

FY21-22 annual report.

In the fiscal year ended March 2022, IOB witnessed doubling of its net profit at Rs 1,709 crore, as against Rs 831 crore in the previous fiscal year, as the bank improved on its asset quality through a multi-pronged strategy and focussed recovery initiatives.

IOB said the asset quality of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are on an improving trend though some loans are classified as restructured loans under pandemic permitted RBI schemes.

## FinMin asks banks to explore fintech partnership, co-lending opportunities



The Finance Ministry has asked public sector banks to explore fintech partnerships and co-lending opportunities to expand their business.

In the recently concluded performance review of PSBs by the Finance Ministry, sources said, lenders were asked to focus on technology and data analytics to push their lending.

The ministry also urged the heads of the public sector lenders to strengthen IT security systems and cybersecurity to check fraud.

According to the sources, banks were asked to sanction loans for productive sectors to accelerate the revival of the economy facing headwinds, including the Russia-Ukraine war.

## UK, US, Japan and Canada to ban Russia's gold imports

Britain, the United States, Japan, and Canada will ban new imports of Russian gold as part of efforts to tighten the sanctions squeeze on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine, the British government said on Sunday.

The ban will come into force shortly and apply to newly



mined or refined gold, the government statement said ahead of a meeting of Group of Seven leaders in Germany on Sunday. The move will not affect previously exported Russian-origin gold, it added.

Russian gold exports were worth 12.6 billion pounds (USD 15.45 billion) last year and wealthy Russians have

recently been buying bullion to reduce the financial impact of Western sanctions, the government said.

"The measures we have announced today will directly hit Russian oligarchs and strike at the heart of Putin's war machine," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in the statement.

# Sports

## ATK Mohun Bagan's Florentin Pogba 'happy' to be part of India's biggest club

**A**TK Mohun Bagan grabbed the headlines on Friday with the signing of Guinea international defender Florentin Pogba on a two-year deal. Pogba is a statement signing that is certain to strengthen the Mariners squad ahead of the new season. The defender has played in several countries like France, Turkey and the United States of America and thus comes in with bags of experience. "To be honest, I'm really happy and proud to be part of ATK Mohun Bagan, one of the biggest clubs in the country. This is such an honour. I wanted a new challenge. Coming to India, to discover a new country, new championship, new clubs & new fans is such a good challenge for me. Above all, to be part of this big club's history," said Pogba as per the ISL website.

"I thank God every day for giving me this chance to make my passion my job and to have such great opportunities and challenges. Playing in different leagues (France, USA, Turkey) helps each player to grow, and improve his game but also helps him understand his teammates and competitors better," he added. The strong

defender expressed that he is looking forward to being part of the ATK Mohun Bagan set-up and can't wait to play in front of the fans at the Salt Lake stadium.

"Fans are the heart and soul of a club. With them, we go further. I have always loved playing with the fervour of full stadiums.

Can't wait to join the team and play games in Kolkata to live and feel that special atmosphere," said the defender.

"I'm really happy to become a Mariner and can promise you that I'll do my best to win trophies together. Looking forward to meeting you really soon in Kolkata," he added.



- ANI

## Emily Arlott ruled out of one-off Test against SA due to COVID

**E**ngland women's team have been forced to reshuffle their squad ahead of the one-off Test against South Africa with seamer Emily Arlott ruled out of the match due to Covid19. Uncapped quick Issy Wong is upgraded from the reserve list and into the

13-player squad for the four-day clash that starts in Taunton on Monday and is in contention to claim the spots left vacant by recently retired duo Anya Shrubsole and Katherine Brunt.

"Emily Arlott has been ruled

out of England Women's Test match against South Africa and has been replaced in the squad by Issy Wong. Arlott is returning from COVID-19 but is still feeling the after-effects of the infection so has left the group and returned home," tweeted England Cricket.

Wong is among a group of players that could earn a Test debut, with fellow seamers Freya Davies and Lauren Bell, batter Emma Lamb and all-rounder Alice DavidsonRichards all a chance of earning a first cap and taking on the Proteas.

- ANI



## Honda's Bradl posts continual improvements for sixth row start

**L**one wolf Stefan Bradl was able to make steady steps forward as he and the Honda Team worked to improve the RC213V. Meanwhile, Pol Espargaro was forced to withdraw from the race. Saturday in Assen would prove to be a day of progress for Stefan Bradl. Struggling to get into the 1'33s in the morning, a big effort by the Honda Team mechanics changed Bradl's pair of RC213Vs for the afternoon sessions.

The one lap improvements were clear to see as Bradl dropped his best lap time from a 1'34.180 in FP3 to a 1'33.029 in Q1 - one of the biggest improvements of the day. The time will see the #6 line up on the sixth row of the grid, ahead of the factory Yamaha of Franco Morbidelli. Bradl is confident that with a strong start he can be in the mix throughout the 26-lap race. Just ahead of Free Practice 3,



Pol Espargaro and the Honda Team announced his withdrawal from the event due to injuries sustained at the Sachsenring. Espargaro will now return home to immediately begin further treatment ahead of the British Grand Prix, the scene of his first pole position with Honda.

Takaaki Nakagami qualified as the top Honda in 12th position. "It was not such a bad final result in Qualifying as we were still exploring some settings with the bike in FP3 and FP4 to get a direction.

Missing FP1 with rain left us a bit far away with setup but we've done a good job today. In Qualifying we were more or less on target and tomorrow we can be with the group, fighting and getting some positions. I need to make a good start to stay in the group and then see what happens in the race," said Honda rider Stefan Bradl.

- ANI

## Prabir Das thrilled to play with Sunil Chhetri

**B**engaluru FC's new signing Prabir Das is thrilled to hit the ground running with his new club after securing a move with the Blues last week. Having spent a chunk of his footballing career with several Kolkata-based clubs, Das has found a new challenge in Bengaluru FC and aims to strengthen his game in new colours. Terming BFC as his second home, the full-back is looking forward to training with his new squad and is curious to share the dressing room with Bengaluru FC and India legend Sunil Chhetri who he

hails as an inspiration.

"It's a dream come true for me. It was my childhood dream to share the dressing room with Sunil Bhai. Performing in matches and training with a legend like him is every footballer's wish. Fortunately, I am going to get that opportunity. I have a lot to learn from him and Gurpreet Bhai. I never got the opportunity to sit with Sunil Bhai for a long time," said Prabir Das, as per the ISL website. "I hope I will get the chance to have a chat with him, and he will share his experience with me, which is going to be my treasure. I want to know how he keeps himself fit and fine after playing at the highest level for more than 20 years. Can't wait to see him and talk to him during BFC training," he added. Earlier a part of ATK Mohun Bagan, Prabir Das said that becoming ISL champion was the most memorable event in his career.

- ANI



# Book Review

## Nireeswaran by VJ James

Reviewed by Faizal Khan

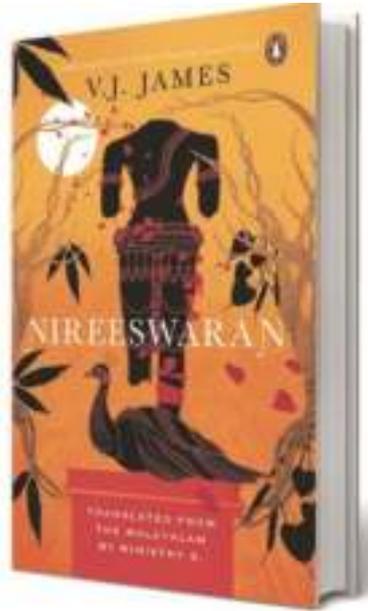
In the beginning of Nireeswaran, the novel by award-winning Malayalam writer V J James, is a street called Deva Theruvu or God's Street. It leads to a temple. Antony, Bhaskaran and Sahir, three friends who live on the street, are atheists who decide to change the name of the street to something less obvious. Having already formed a "fellowship of the debauched" with the first syllables of their names, they rename the street as Abhasa Theruvu or the Debauched Street.

In his third novel to be translated into English, James gathers an ensemble of characters in an unnamed village to take aim at the visceral notions within a deeply divided world. The trio of atheists forms the principal cast who sets off a chain of reactions with their incendiary logic of an anti-god. Named Nireeswaran, the anti-god in stone is given a form (human), body (man) and an abode (under a conjoined peepal-mango tree on the Debauched Street).

Another set of three characters— Eswaran Embrandiri, a disgraced former priest, and his friends Arnos Pathiri and Zaid Maulvi—unwittingly pushes the agenda of the original trio. With the help of his two

friends, Embrandiri successfully consecrates the statue of the anti-god, an act that soon leads to miracles in the village. In the first miracle, Sumitran, a mentally-ill villager, is cured of his stammering after praying to the statue under the

peepal-mango tree. Indrajit, another villager, wakes up from a coma after 24 years. Parameswaran, an unemployed man, receives a government job after an 18-year-long wait. The old and destitute Kartyayani's son, lost during a church feast when he was only three, returns after 18 years. Another got a long-awaited Gulf visa and yet another finally had a reason to smile because her husband's rheumatism was showing



signs of improvement. Soon, there are more people praying to the anti-god than the village's own deity. As the number of believers of the new god swells, some enterprising villagers come forward to help by forming a new association, christened the Nireeswaran Prarthana Sangham or the Association for Praying to Nireeswaran. They also launch a money-back-guarantee prayer group for those living faraway with the assurance of a full refund if their prayers are not answered.

A scientist who had a long career at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, James doesn't rest with the redrawing of the pulpit in the satirical portrait of the three

atheists and their revolutionary idea of an anti-god. Like he did in Chorashastra: The Subtle Science of Thievery—his 2002 novel and his first to be translated into English two years ago—where he created an imaginary world in which thieves are sworn to embrace the higher purposes of the profession, the author doesn't hesitate in recasting fresh ideas of scientific inquiry on the altar of social awakening. The Debauched Street's atheists have company in the form of Krishnan Ezhuthachan, a parapsychologist, and a scientist from a research institute in Bengaluru, a 21st century Albert Einstein, on the verge of a discovery on smells. Roberto, the scientist conducting research in the village, finds the profession of Janaki, a sex worker in the village, convenient in his conquest of unknown scientific frontiers.

First published eight years ago under the same title, Nireeswaran scooped major literary awards in Malayalam, among them the Vayalar Award, Basheer Puraskaram and Kerala Sahitya Academy

award. Translated into English four years after his last work, Anti-Clock, the novel carries on the author's constant search for voices that do not conform to a certain idea of social hierarchy and justice. He lets his characters raise questions that remove the veil on the paradoxes of contemporary society. Antony's question, 'Why not create a new god who is an antithesis to all existing gods?' launches Nireeswaran.

The loud voices in the novel lay bare the rampant commercialisation of religion that feeds on the bizarre beliefs of people, such as their race to join the religious frenzy over the anti-god in this case.

The author's proclivity for a provincial setting, an unnamed village in Nireeswaran, amplifies the voices like those of Janaki and Ghoshayatra Annamma's (Annamma of the Procession), who symbolise the shift of power in favour of the fringe dweller.

The vast array of characters in the author's armoury lends a multiplicity of images and ideas, sometimes prolific and profuse to a fault. Nevertheless, the dauntlessness of the novel is matched only by its lofty literary ambitions. And both combine to make Nireeswaran a compelling study of the times we live in.

## The Buddha in the Attic

Reviewed by C K Subramaniam

"The Buddha in the Attic" is a well researched novel on the fate of Japanese women who came to the USA to enter arranged marriages with unknown men. A female narrates their stories in a polyphony of voices. Surprisingly, this strategy shows the diversity of lives without harming the flow of the narrative. The novel ends with the internment of a Japanese American in 1942.

The story of a whole generation in less than 130 pages, difficult to believe. Yet, this book, all of eight

chapters, covers the life saga of a group of Japanese mail order or picture brides as they were called. A group of young and some not so young women on a ship that is taking them to a land of promises and men they have seen only in pictures. They are confused, anxious, scared and most of all hopeful of escape from a life that would otherwise have been condemned to penury and boredom. The narration is what catches you by the throat. The strong punch that Julie Otsuka has packed into a small wine glass is so potent, you are left with a strong ache for almost



each of the hundreds of characters that she tells us about. You can read the life story of a person in a single sentence. At the end of the First World War a group of Japanese women embark on the adventure of a lifetime: settling in the US as young brides. They do not speak any English and have only seen their husbands in photographs. They are full of hope and expectations.

Written as a collective, we follow each of their steps in a lyrical, breathtaking prose that brings to the surface all the emotions these women encounter, but also their resilience as they will eventually carve their own footprint in American history.

guidance to readers on how they can get their dream job easily. It includes tips on choosing the right career, finding hidden jobs, reaching people who can help in the job search, building long-term networks, using social media, cracking campus and virtual interviews, and more. It is a step-by-step guide and practical manual with exercises and free tools, which anyone can use to find the ideal job faster. Looking around for better opportunities is the order of the day. Youngsters look for an opening and search for better options to make a big break. A good read.

## Job Search Secrets

### Master the Art of Getting a Job Paperback

Reviewed by Jayanthi Subramaniam

Pandemic has taught us many lessons and a number of people lost their jobs in the name of retrenchment as the industry suffered a huge loss in the bargain. Searching for a job is always stressful—the majority of job seekers experience nervousness, anxiety and tension during their job search. While one's qualifications, experience and talent are important, all these are of no consequence if one cannot locate the right job, identify the right time to pitch for it and find the people who can help in getting it. Job Search Secrets provides much-needed

guidance to readers on how they can get their dream job easily. It includes tips on choosing the right career, finding hidden jobs, reaching people who can help in the job search, building long-term networks, using social media, cracking campus and virtual interviews, and more. It is a step-by-step guide and practical manual with exercises and free tools, which anyone can use to find the ideal job faster. Looking around for better opportunities is the order of the day. Youngsters look for an opening and search for better options to make a big break. A good read.

# Opinion

# Maa... This isn't a mere word A Strong Bond of Modi with his mother

It is said that behind every man's success there is a woman. That woman in PM Narendra Modi's life is his mother, Heeraben Modi. Really, Mother is the most selfless person in this world who starts loving her children even before they come into this world. Nothing could be compared to a mother's love in this world as it is the purest form of love.

Recently PM Modi has penned a heartfelt note for his mother Heeraben, as she entered the 100th year of her life on 18th June. He met her at her residence in Gandhinagar in Gujarat on the occasion of her birthday. Modi also took blessings from her mother and washed her feet during the visit. Every year he meets his mother Heeraben on her birthday and spends quality time with her. This clearly shows how strong a bond PM has with his mother. He has also dedicated a blog to his mother, underlining her sacrifices as well as the different facets of her life that



"shaped" his mind, personality, and self-confidence. A mother not only gives birth to her children, but also shapes their mind, their personality, and their self-confidence. And while doing so, mothers selflessly sacrifice their own personal needs and aspirations.

As per reports, PM Modi's mother prefers not to eat any special food, but to cook her own food. She doesn't like food with more oil and spices. She likes to eat lentils, rice, khichdi and chapati in her daily

diet. And in sweets, She likes to eat sugar candy and lapsi.

It is rightly said that a mother is not an individual or a personality, motherhood is a quality. It is often said that the gods are made according to the nature of their devotees. Similarly, we experience our mothers and their motherhood according to our own nature and mindset. It is clear that the son like PM Modi can never imagine his life without his mother, while the mother's affection and care for her son are eternal. Mothers have a

significant impact on their sons to the extent that the way they behave in their later years is attributed to their relationship with their mother. No other person understands a child better than a mother. Despite being the mother of a renowned figure in world politics, she prefers living a simple life which includes travelling in public transports. She struggled all her life, did hard work, never borrowed money and gave such teachings to children, which made them self-dependent and great leaders. She had brought up her children under difficult circumstances, and had never had the luxury of having material comforts. PM Modi has recalled that his mother never had high aspirations for Modi, and even if he had landed an ordinary job, she would have been equally happy.

The several sacrifices made by Modi's mother as he grew up and the various qualities of his mother that shaped his mind, personality, and self-confidence

reveals the fact that Modi and his mother epitomise the strong bond between a mother and son. After God, it is our mother who has the most special place in our hearts and our lives. Since the birth of a child, a mother forms a precious and special bond with him. Without thinking about herself, she thinks about her child and his happiness. She works day and night for her children so that she can make them happy. Motherhood is an integral part of a woman's life, and she selflessly gives her best to it.

We are very fortunate to have a mother in our life, and we must respect our mother. We should give her all the happiness and love because she deserves all of that in return for her selfless love for us. As for Narendra Modi who is globetrotting throughout the year, it is his mother's blessings which bring him true happiness. It was a heartwarming moment for the mother-son pair as Modi touched her feet and sought blessings from Heeraben.



- Vinod C Dixit

Free-lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist

## Street violence threat by Sanjay Raut if materializes, Governor will recommend dismissal of Uddhav govt under Article 356

Shiv Sena (SS) leader (and MP) Sanjay Raut of Uddhav Thackeray faction is threatening the rebel SS MLAs of violence against them (when they come back to Maharashtra from Guwahati, Assam) by the Udhav supporting Shiv Sainiks when Sanjay Raut publicly said that - "[If this battle is fought on roads, we will win that too. Raut also warned Eknath Shinde-led rebel MLAs and said that if needed 'Shiv Sena workers will come on the roads. The Eknath Shinde faction that's challenging us

must realize that Shiv Sena workers are yet to come on the roads. Such battles are fought either through law or on the roads. If need be then our workers would come on the roads, as reported at <https://www.firstpost.com/poli>



tics/did-everything-for-eknath-shinde-uddhav-thackeray-says-rebel-mlas-want-to-break-shiv-sena-10834121.html ]"

Uddhav Thackeray & Sanjay Raut are not realizing that the BJP has to merely ask rebel SS MLAs to immediately come to

Maharashtra so that Uddhav led SS foolishly falls into the trap. Because presently Uddhav is Chief Minister and is heading government in Maharashtra hence is under legal obligation to provide safety and security to SS rebel MLAs and SS office bearers and even Shiv Sainiks who are supporting SS rebel leader Eknath Shinde. If Uddhav fails in this constitutional responsibility then the Governor can recommend to the President of India about dismissing the Uddhav government under Article 356

of the Constitution which will empower the Union govt to EVEN use military & paramilitary force to discipline violent Shiv Sainiks. This is bound to give tremendous political advantage to the BJP & Eknath Shinde in Maharashtra.



- Hemraj Jain

Author of 'Betrayal of Americanism'

# Lifestyle



## To protect Plants from rain in a raised garden

Content Source : gardening-abc.com

### Plants That Do Well In Damp, Wet Weather:

Some plants also do better if they're kept consistently moist while others need less water. Grow plants that survive in damp weather. Rainy weather is great for some plants and flowers. Plants such as hostas, bamboo, hollyhock, and astilbe are often used in rain gardens because they need a lot of water. Perennial herbs such as mint also do well. Think about what you want to grow and then look for plants that fit the bill.

### Set Up A Rain Garden:

Rain gardens can be beautiful additions to your landscape. A rain garden is simply a depression in your landscape where water collects and is allowed to sink into the soil rather than run off into storm drains.

The plants in the garden absorb the water, purify it and help prevent flooding in your neighborhood. Rain gardens are especially important if you live in an area with poor drainage or lots of impervious surfaces like concrete or paving stones that prevent water from sinking into the ground.

A rain garden is also a great way to attract wildlife to your garden, especially, if you have plants that are wildlife-friendly.

### Dressing For The Wet Weather

Gardening "in the rain" is almost as great as gardening on a sunny day, but there are a few things you can do to ensure that you stay comfortable and dry.

### Go out with an umbrella:

Even if you're going to be working in containers on a patio, an umbrella can give you some extra protection from the rain. If you're planning to work in the garden, though, it might not be enough.

### Waterproof Gloves:

Wear waterproof gloves or use plastic bags over your hands when you're gardening so that your skin



Did you know you can be garden in the rain? With a little bit of preparation, in addition to the right gardening tools, you can still enjoy a day digging and planting even if it's pouring.

Rain can be problematic for gardeners in a variety of ways. It often leads to the waterlogged, muddy ground, which makes it incredibly hard to walk through and difficult to carry equipment. If you've got a raised bed garden, cover it with a tarp or plastic sheeting. Make sure it's well anchored at the bottom so that it doesn't blow away in the wind.

A good rule of thumb is that the plastic should be at least 6 to 8 inches from the plants. Use stakes or weights to hold down the edges of the plastic.

Consider using raised beds if you have an area that is prone to flooding; you can also create a type of raised bed by piling up mulch instead of planting directly into the ground.

isn't exposed to wet or muddy conditions. This will keep your hands dry and comfortable even if your gardening area is getting soaked.

### Rain Boots:

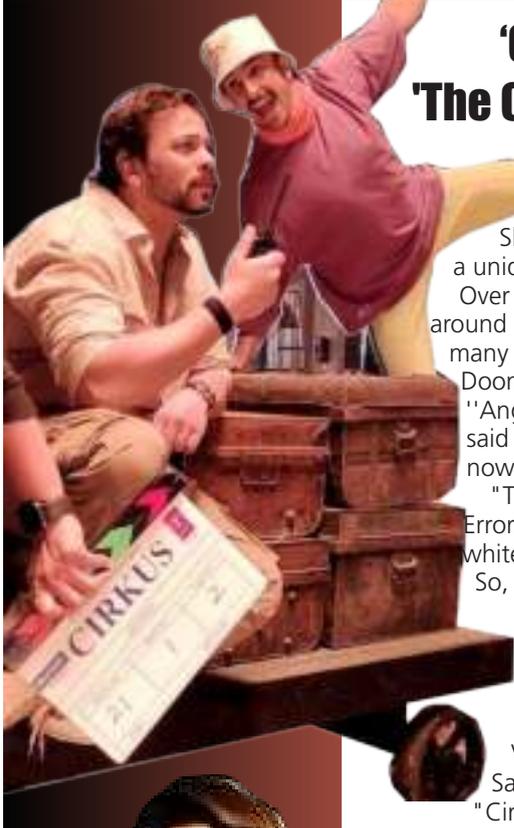
These have been labeled as one of the top items a gardener needs. The boots keep your feet dry while allowing you the freedom to move around. They are made of rubber or another material that will not retain water.

They also have threaded bottoms so you can walk on slippery surfaces without falling.

Rain boots come in ankle-high, knee-high, and thigh-high styles and often have ventilation holes for cooling air circulation inside.

# Entertainment

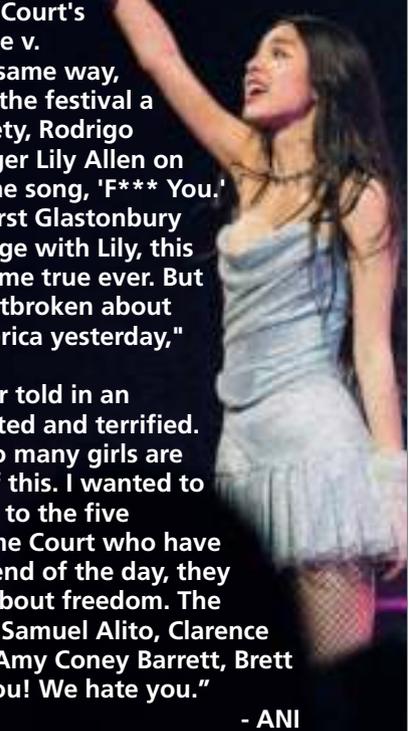
## 'Cirkus' a different take on 'The Comedy of Errors': Rohit Shetty



**F**ilmmaker Rohit Shetty says in his upcoming feature "Cirkus" he has tried to present William Shakespeare's classic play "The Comedy of Errors" in a unique way. Over the years, the Shakespearean comedy revolving around two sets of identical twins has been adapted by many Indian filmmakers with Kishore Kumar-led "Do Dooni Chaar" (1968) and Gulzar's directorial venture "Angoor" (1982) being the most celebrated ones. Shetty said "Cirkus", starring Ranveer Singh in the lead, is nowhere close to the previous film versions of the play. "There have been many versions of 'The Comedy of Errors'. In Bengali cinema it was made as a black and white film, then 'Do Dooni Chaar' with Kishore Kumar... So, it has changed a lot over the years. Our film is a different take," Shetty told PTI in an interview. The 49-year-old filmmaker added that "Cirkus" is a "happy, cool, breezy film" much like his blockbuster comedies "Golmaal" and "All the Best". Also starring Pooja Hegde, Jaqueline Fernandez, Varun Sharma, Siddhartha Jadhav, Johnny Lever, Sanjay Mishra and Vrajesh Hirjee among others, "Cirkus" is set to hit the theatres on December 23.

## Olivia Rodrigo uses derogatory remark against US SC Justices over abortion rights

**O**livia Rodrigo, at the Glastonbury Festival, used her set to slam the United States Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade on Friday, in the same way, Phoebe Bridgers did at the festival a day earlier. As per Variety, Rodrigo brought out British singer Lily Allen on stage and performed the song, 'F\*\*\* You.' "This is actually my first Glastonbury and I'm sharing this stage with Lily, this is the biggest dream come true ever. But I'm also equally as heartbroken about what happened in America yesterday," Rodrigo said. The 19-year-old singer told in an interview, "I'm devastated and terrified. So many women and so many girls are going to die because of this. I wanted to dedicate this next song to the five members of the Supreme Court who have showed us that at the end of the day, they truly don't give a shit about freedom. The song is for the justices: Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh. We hate you! We hate you." - ANI



**Jacqueline sizzles in deep neck shimmery blue dress**

**A**ctor Jacqueline Fernandez who never fails to catch the eyeballs with her hot and stunning looks and this time the 'Attack' actor, on Sunday, turned up the heat with her latest social media post looking drop-dead gorgeous. "It's all about the details" the actor captioned the post followed by a blue heart emoticon. The 'Housefull 2' actor donned a shining deep-neck light short blue dress, paired up with matching heels and open hair. She struck a hot pose inside a cinema hall, sitting on the side of a recliner seat, looking away from the camera and her mouth is open. In the second picture, the Jacqueline can be seen laid on her back, while she put both her legs on a car, which is mounted on a wall, with her hands on her shoulders, looking straight into the camera. -ANI

## The hit combo: GV Prakash back with Kangana for an ambitious film



**A**ctor-composer GV Prakash on Saturday took to his social media handle and posted a picture of him with Kangana Ranaut. He captioned the image saying, "Super happy meeting the most talented #KanganaRanaut ... super excited to be working on her most ambitious magnum opus film." (sic). Sources say that the Thalaivi duo is back together with Kangana's Emergency in which she will be playing late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and GV Prakash has been roped in to compose the music. - ANI

## Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan along with Taimur attend 'The Rolling stone' concert

**A**ctor Kareena Kapoor Khan is currently enjoying her family vacation in London, and the 'Heroine' actor recently attended a rock concert by the British brand 'The Rolling Stone' with her son Taimur and husband Saif Ali Khan. Bebo, on Saturday, uploaded a few pictures on her Instagram, in which she can be seen posing with Taimur, in the first picture, the mother-son duo can be seen twinning in a black rolling stone t-shirt, blue jeans and white sneakers. Tim-Tim can be seen striking a fun pose into the camera with a funky hairstyle, all decked up to attend the rock concert. Sharing the image, she wrote in the caption 'And here we come' followed by star eyes emojis. In the second picture, the 'Jab we met' actor can be seen twinning with both Saif and Taimur in the same t-shirts with the rolling stone logos. The couple donned a black leather jacket, whereas Tim-Tim opted for a grey hoodie. She captioned it as, "The rolling stones baby" followed



by heart eyes emojis. The '3 idiots' actor has been quite active on social media, and she has been treating her fans with her adorable pictures from the vacation. Meanwhile, on the work front, Kareena will be next seen in 'Laal Singh Chadha' with Aamir Khan, the film is slated to release on August 11, 2022. - ANI