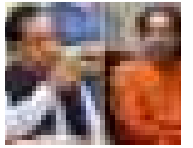




**Uddhav tried to give 'supari' to kill me  
claims Union Minister Narayan Rane**

**PG 04 >>**



# Afternoon

VOIC E

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

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## Aaditya calls Eknath Shinde govt 'Mughal rule' says he will contest from Thane CM's bastion



**S**hiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Wednesday slammed the Maharashtra government saying that "Mughal rule" was prevailing in the state, and declared that he would contest the next Assembly election from Thane, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's bastion.

He was speaking at a rally organised by the Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress which comprise the opposition Maha Vi-

kas Aghadi coalition in protest against an alleged attack on a woman worker of the Sena (UBT) in Thane city two days ago. Sena (UBT) leader and Thane MP Rajan Vichare, NCP leader Jitendra Awhad and Thane city Congress chief Vikrant Chavan participated in the protest march to Thane police commissioner's office besides thousands of workers of the three MVA parties.

Aaditya Thackeray in his speech said that the Shinde-led Shiv Sena was not a

party at all. "It is a stolen party. How can a gang of thieves be a party? There is now Mogalal' in the state," said Thackeray, a former state minister.

The word is Mogalal' is often used to denote tyranny in Marathi.

"There is no chief minister of Maharashtra, whoever there is, he is the Chief Minister of Guwahati and Gujarat," he said in a jibe at Shinde, who had taken his flock of Shiv Sena MLAs first to Surat and later to Guwahati after rebelling against

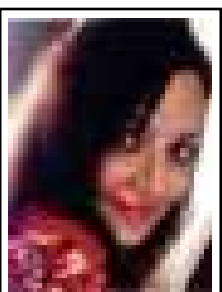
Uddhav Thackeray's leadership last June.

Saying that the Shinde government would not last long, Aaditya said once it falls, everyone including "traitor" leaders and officials who have misused their positions will face consequences. "I would contest from Thane and win," said Aaditya, who had won the 2019 Assembly election from Worli in south Mumbai.

Chief Minister Shinde, notably, represents the Kopri Pachpakhadi constituency in Thane city.

## Mumbai local has limited space and maximum challenges

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**A**midst crowded trains in Mumbai, a video showing a man falling off from a Western Railway train has gone viral. In the video that surfaced on social media, we can see a man losing balance from the footboard of the local train and falling on the railway platform. The video footage shows the passenger managing to save himself from potential mishap; he stands up after falling on the platform. But our conscience must also hurt for people that die daily falling over from local trains. Our conscience must be hurt knowing that a BEST bus that is supposed to carry 51 people is carrying 120 and a local train that is supposed to carry 1,174 passengers is carrying 6,000. It's not "bad luck" when there's a stam-

pede or a bridge collapse and people die, in fact it's a miracle that it doesn't happen more often.

We need to save the people who die because this city's infrastructure is crumbling around them. And it would be disastrous if we left their fate to chance, only because we failed to see the bigger picture. Daily crowds of city travel using local trains in Mumbai and suburban trains are the lifeline of this metropolis. Mumbai is designed for just two modes of working - on or off. The city has the lowest road to total area ratio among the metros. It also has the highest population density.

**| CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

# Editoritis

# Mumbai local has limited space and maximum challenges

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*7 million commuters use the Mumbai local train network every day. The Sealink was built at the cost of 16 billion Rupees (USD 250 million) and carries mostly cats and taxis.*

*There are a number of problems involved but not much can be done because we have already utilized all our resources to the maximum level so a convenient option would be to develop alternate routes and modes of transportation and get innovative techniques rather than trying to burden the already burdened local system.*

*Men can find a wall but for women they have to walk a lot to find a toilet that is too functional with basic requirements like water and cleanliness.*

7 million commuters use the Mumbai local train network every day. The Sealink was built at the cost of 16 billion Rupees (USD 250 million) and carries mostly cats and taxis. If even a part of this money had been spent on improving the railway system, majorities of Mumbai cities commuters' world would have been traveling safer today. As a nation we get our priorities horribly wrong. Yet we don't mind, If someone is killed or seriously injured in a rush-hour.

Mumbai local is the heart of Mumbaikar, it carries thousands of people day in day out. Most of the people spend their precious time here. There are a number of problems involved but not much can be done because we have already utilized all our resources to the maximum level so a convenient option would be to develop alternate routes and modes of transportation and get innovative techniques rather than trying to burden the already burdened local system. A better transportation system is one which caters the needs of all the consumers in time and with minimum level of comfort. The frequency of Mumbai local trains is as high as 3 minutes in western and central line during the peak hours. The frequency cannot be increased anymore because that will increase the risk of incurring an accident. So the trains go jam-packed. Nothing more in terms of frequency can be done. Still the local trains of Mumbai need a lot of makeover, but scope is not much wide. The number of coaches can be increased but most of the stations (platform length) need to be increased. The Harbour line did this very well and now has longer trains than other routes. Every year more than 3500 people die of railway accidents out of which 1/3rd accident takes place in Mumbai alone.. Along with the railways (local) other dimensions need to be strengthened. GPS enabled train network systems can be very helpful in tracking the trains in real time and head-on collisions between two trains (any train viz express, local) can be avoided. Women should be given a priority, for example the number of toilets in the stations of local trains are very less.

Men can find a wall but for women they have to walk a lot to find a toilet that is too functional with basic requirements like water and cleanliness. To decongest the local trains it is very important to develop alternate routes, lots

of steps are taken in this direction but the pace of work is too slow like monorail, metro, development of routes which have more number of options for example with the introduction of Versova-Ghatkopar metro the situation of roads has functional to normal level also people have more options of traveling thereby saving time. Also there should be more inclination by common citizenry to use public transport. The rise in population is a very big problem, if alternate routes, habitation centers, and working centers are not created in the fringe areas of Mumbai .Any prevalent transportation system will be insufficient, dysfunctional and overcrowded. Dirty trains, tobacco stains on platforms cost WR Rs 3.5 crore every year. It's a simple thing but if stopped can bring about enormous difference in terms of cleanliness. Upgrading Mumbai's locals is not an easy task. As you all know that Locals are the lifeline of Mumbaikars. If the locals come to a stop, the whole Mumbai will come to a standstill. Mumbai's suburban system is very outdated and specially the Harbor line. The ones which are good are Western and Central lines. For upgrading Mumbai's suburban system, they will have to halt it and stopping Mumbai's local train would mean removing a heart from a person's body. But this does not seem to be right. The main reason behind government spending hugely on Metro Trains is because of better connectivity as they travel across various towns where local trains cannot reach.

So much can be done and so much is needed of an hour, Mumbai local has limited space and maximum challenges, but still western railway has come up with an announcement to make over south Mumbai local train stations. Let's see with time ahead launch of metro station and trains Mumbaikar might get solace in commuting.

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Prevention is better than cure!

Alarming rise in new cases of covid variant is cause for worry. One thought covid was over & many missed the booster shot that was available than but now everybody is looking for one but sady there is not enough stock available for those who want. Prevention is better than cure & resurgence of covid cases is reason enough for govt machinery to be on high alert.

Vaccines need to be procured urgently & helpline centers activated again. Testing kits for covid must be made available at govt hospitals & some centers opened for booster Vaccines for those who want the doses. Our country's over billion population suffered the least compared to other countries during the pandemic on account of our successful vaccine programme. We simply need to activate all covid protocols to deal with the rising cases of virus this time as well!

S.N.Kabra

### Welcome move by EC

With plutocrat power being flagged off as a major concern in Karnataka, the Election Commission of India is likely to emplace further Central spectators to keep an eye on the bean expenditure of political parties and candidates. It's likely that one IRS officer will be stationed for every two Assembly constituencies to cover election expenditures. This is a welcome move by EC. Furthermore, District Expenditure Monitoring panels involving State police, Excise, Investigation Directorate of the Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate, and Financial Intelligence Unit, among others, have been set up to crack down on electoral malpractices. EC call on the number of Central spectators grounded on the need, perceptivity and assessment of the ground situation seem to be imperative and inevitable.

Vijaykumar H K

### Chinas Expansionism

The Chinese dragon has once again let fly by changing the names of 11 stations in Arunachal. There are some villages and mountain peaks. So far, China has tried three times to change the name. China's expansionist program is known to everyone in the world. Even China and Russia are helping Russia to swallow Ukraine. The border disputes are serious. But this is not visible. Along with this, China has border disputes with 12 to 13 countries. The only thing that is clear from this is that after China swallowed Tibet and Taiwan, the interference in the border area has increased. Buddhism in Tibet and Buddhism in Arunachal. India should bring their similarity or biological relationship to the world. Because the Buddha Vihara in Tawang in Arunachal is the biggest Buddha Vihara after Lhasa in Tibet. According to China, these two provinces should be together. Should be protested. Timely check on China's expansionism.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

# Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

On the 9th of April this year, Christians will be celebrating Easter, the day on which the resurrection of Jesus Christ is said to have taken place. The date of the celebration changes every year.

The reason for this variation is that Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.

Easter is quite similar to other major Christian festivals like Christmas and Halloween, which have evolved over the last 200 years or so. In all of these festivals, Christian and non-Christian (pagan) elements have continued to blend together.

The Holy Bible gives no specific information about what time of the year Jesus Christ was born. Many scholars believe that the main reason for Jesus' birth came to be celebrated on December 25 is because that was the date of the winter solstice according to the Roman calendar.

Since the days following the winter solstice gradually become longer and less dark, it was ideal symbolism for the birth of "the light of the world" as stated in the New Testament's Gospel of St. John.

Similar was the case with Easter, which falls in close proximity to another key point in the solar year: the vernal equinox (around March 20), when there are equal periods of light and darkness.

The naming of the celebration as 'Easter' seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England, 'Eostre', who was celebrated at the beginning of spring. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century. As religious studies scholar Bruce Forbes summarises: "Bede wrote that the month in which English Christians were

celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ had been called 'Eosturmonath' in Old English, referring to a goddess named 'Eostre'. And even though Christians had begun affirming the Christian meaning of the celebration, they continued to use the name of the goddess to designate the season".

Bede was so influential for later Christians that the name stuck, and hence Easter remains the name by which the English, Germans and Americans refer to the festival of Jesus' resurrection.

It is important to point out that while the name 'Easter' is used in the English-speaking world, many more cultures refer to it by terms best translated as 'Passover' (for instance, 'Pascha' in Greek) – a reference, indeed, to the Jewish festival of Passover.

In the Hebrew Bible, Passover is a festival that commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, as narrated in the Book of Exodus. It was and continues to be the most important Jewish seasonal festival, celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

At the time when Jesus was born, the Passover had a very special significance, as the Jewish people were again under the dominance of foreign powers (namely, the Romans). Jewish pilgrims streamed into Jerusalem every year in the hope that God's chosen people (as they believed themselves to be) would soon be liberated once more.

On one such Passover, Jesus travelled to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate the festival. He entered Jerusalem in a triumphal procession and created a disturbance in the temple of Jerusalem. It seemed that both of these actions attracted the attention of the Romans, and that as a result Jesus was executed around the

year A.D. 30.

Some of Jesus' followers, however, believed that they saw Him alive after His death, experiences that gave birth to the Christian religion. As Jesus died during the Passover festival and His followers believed He was resurrected three days later, it was logical to commemorate these events in close proximity.

Some early Christians chose to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the same date as the Jewish Passover, which fell around day 14 of the month of Nisan, in March or April. These Christians were known as 'Quartodecimans' (the name means 'Fourteeners').

By choosing this date, they put the focus on when Jesus died and also emphasised continuity with the Judaism religion out of which Christianity emerged. Some others instead preferred to hold the festival on a Sunday, since that was the day when Jesus' tomb was believed to have been found open by some of His close disciples.

In A.D. 325, the Roman emperor Constantine, who favoured Christianity, convened a meeting of Christian leaders to resolve important disputes at the Council of Nicaea. The most fateful of its decisions was about the status of Christ, whom the council recognised as "fully human and fully divine". This council also resolved that Easter should be fixed on a Sunday and not on day 14 of Nisan. As a result, Easter is now celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox. Easter without easter eggs and a delicious meal is incomplete.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained (The views expressed are authors' own.)

# 2008 Malegaon blast case Ex-Army officer becomes 34th witness to turn hostile

**A** former Army captain, a witness in the 2008 Malegaon blast case who had accused the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) officials of threatening him to give a statement before a magistrate, on Wednesday turned hostile before a special NIA court here.

He became the 34th prosecution witness to be declared hostile in the case in which Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bhopal, Pragya Singh Thakur, is one of the key accused.

This witness had filed a complaint with the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission alleging that the state ATS officials threatened him to give a statement before a magistrate.

The witness had earlier given a statement to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) that when he first met Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit in 2006,



the latter who is one of the accused in the case, had asked the captain to work with him in the Abhinav Bharat organisation.

Later that year, he was invited to a meeting at Purohit's house in Pune. Purohit and an unidentified person had attended the meeting, where there was discussion on the work of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the witness had told the NIA.

The discussion in the meet-

ing was that the RSS should do "aggressive and nationalistic work" as it was not doing so and Abhinav Bharat can do that, he had told the probe agency.

The witness had also told the NIA that in 2008, he had attended a meeting on the participation of Abhinav Bharat in politics. He also took part in a training session arranged by Purohit at Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh in 2008. About 20 youths from Madhya Pradesh, Maharash-

tra and Karnataka attended the camp.

Other accused Sameer Kulkarni and Sudhakar Chaturvedi were also present there, the witness had told the probe agency.

He said the ATS (which probed the case earlier) at Nashik questioned him about his association with Purohit. They later took him to Mumbai and threatened him to give confession before the magistrate.

After that, he had filed a complaint against the ATS officials at the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission in 2009.

However, during his deposition before the special NIA court judge A K Lahoti on Wednesday, the witness denied giving any statement.

The court then declared him hostile. Six people were killed and more than 100 injured on September 29, 2008, when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon town in north Maharashtra, some 200 km from Mumbai.

The ATS probed the case initially before the National Investigation Agency took over. A total of seven accused including Thakur and Colonel Prasad Purohit are facing trial in the case.

## Mumbai Airport to temporary close both runways on May 2 for pre-monsoon maintenance



**C**hhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) authorities on Tuesday announced that both the runways of the airport -- RWY 09/27 and 14/32, will remain shut for 6 hours on May 2, 2023, as part of the facility's monsoon contingency plan.

The temporary closure will be from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm and a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) has been issued in this regard. All operations will resume as usual from May 2, 2023, post 5:00 pm, Mumbai airport authorities said.

"The CSMIA is one of the world's busiest single runway airports and witnesses nearly 900 flight movements each day. The

airport has a network of runways, taxiways and apron encompassing nearly 1,033 acres. Thus, to ensure operational continuity during the monsoon months, timely check and repair work on the runways and associated facilities is of utmost importance to maintain its health and operational continuity," the official statement reads.

The yearly practice of runway maintenance work involves specialists in engineering and airside teams inspecting the runway surface for micro-texture and macro-texture wear and tear that may have occurred due to day-to-day operations and help strengthen the airside strip, the official statement stated.

## Uddhav tried to give 'supari' to kill me claims Union Minister Narayan Rane

**U**nion minister Narayan Rane on Wednesday claimed Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray had tried to give contracts to kill him.

Addressing reporters here, the BJP MP also alleged when Thackeray was chief minister of Maharashtra (from November 2019 to June 2022), he was responsible for corruption in the procurement of medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Uddhav Thackeray had tried to give contracts to kill me. I used to receive calls from those people



(who were given the contracts) warning me about it. Uddhav tried to give 'supari' (contract) to many people to kill me, but none of them could ever touch me. Some of them even warned me

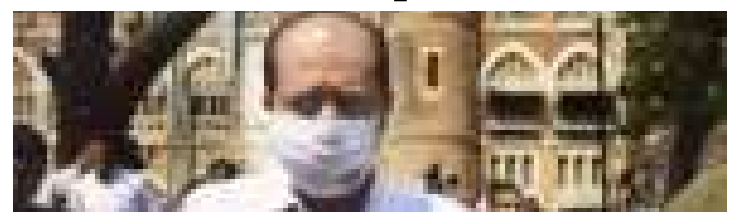
that they were being contacted for such supari," he claimed.

Rane also wondered whether Thackeray's second house, informally known as "Matoshree 2" is legally constructed.

## Special CBI court rejects cop Waze's plea for formal release in corruption case

**A** special court on Wednesday rejected former Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze's plea seeking formal release in a corruption case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Waze had moved an application before the court seeking the dropping of the charges and release



from the case, saying the purpose of pardon will be "vitiating", if a person continues to be in prison

under the guise of being protected.

The plea was rejected by special judge S H Gwalani.

## Nation

### IP Fest Row: former students and teachers wrote a letter to principal demanding apology over alleged harassment case



More than 1,100 people, including former teachers and students of DU's IPCW, have expressed deep concern over the recent incident of alleged harassment at a fest and demanded an apology from Principal Poonam Kumria. They have also raised a host of questions regarding the incident questioning the management's action and reaction in a letter signed by all of them. The letter comes a week after some "unknown" men allegedly trespassed, shouted slogans and harassed women students during the annual 'Shruti' festival at the Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW).

The authors of the letters are former teachers of the college, parents and concerned citizens. "The undersigned consist of students since the early 1960s.

IPCW has never seen times worse than what we are witnessing now. We, members of the academia and civil society, are deeply concerned with what is happening and strongly feel that the College needs to proactively protect its girls rather than further harass them," the letter signed by 1,108 individuals read.

They questioned why the college management chose not to support the student who is hospitalised as a result of the violence and why it did not offer to provide full financial support for her medical procedures. "Why is the College threatening students with dire consequences if they continue their protests, calling parents of the already traumatised students and creating an atmosphere of fear through punitive measures?" they asked. "An apology

would go a long way in restoring confidence and the camaraderie that IPCW has had over the past 99 years. We demand that students will be able to send their chosen nominees to be members of the investigation committee," it read.

The incident of alleged harassment drew widespread criticism. A host of protests were organised against the principal following the incident, wherein the students also alleged attempts to "saffronise" the college, claiming increased surveillance and curtailment of freedom of speech at the hands of the newly-appointed principal.

In a statement, Kumria said the management has requested the police to send a lady officer to the college on Wednesday to register the students' complaints. Delhi University's IPCW has also started counselling sessions for students who have claimed to have experienced trauma due to the alleged harassment during its annual fest, she said. In her second statement in the last two days, the principal said Indraprastha College for Women is concerned over the inconvenience experienced by some of the students during the festival and requested the students to avail the services of the counselor. PTI

### Kerala train fire incident: Suspect shahrukh saifi has been arrested



The man suspected of starting a fire onboard a train in Kerala, which left three dead, was apprehended from Ratnagiri in Maharashtra by the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and would be brought to the southern state soon, Kerala Police Chief Anil Kant said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters in the Kerala state capital, Kant said Shahrukh Saifi was apprehended due to the combined efforts of the SIT formed here, central agencies and Maharashtra police. "The suspect has been taken into custody. Right now he is in Ratnagiri. The process is on to bring him here. He will be brought here as soon as possible," the State Police Chief said. He also said that the motive behind the attack would be known only after the suspect was interrogated.

A team of police officials from Kerala have reached Rat-

nagiri and the suspect will be handed over to them for further probe into the incident. On Sunday night, an unidentified man set fire to passengers after pouring petrol on them when the train reached Korapuzha bridge near Elathur. Nine people suffered burn injuries and are undergoing treatment at various hospitals. The bodies of a woman, an infant, and a man, who went missing from the train after the fire, were recovered from the tracks near the Elathur railway station. Police believe they fell off the train or attempted to get down after seeing the fire. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Kerala police was subsequently formed and it had intensified its probe into the incident. According to police, the incident was probably pre-planned as he was carrying petrol in a bottle in his bag. PTI

### SC dismissed the plea of 14 opposition leaders against misuse of probe agencies by govt

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea by 14 parties, led by the Congress, alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against opposition leaders and seeking guidelines for the future. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala said that "laying down general guidelines without having relation to facts of a case will be dangerous". Sensing the disinclination on the part of the top court in entertaining the plea, senior advocate A M Sighvi, appearing for the political parties, sought permission to withdraw the petition.

"Learned counsel seeks per-

mission to withdraw the plea at this stage. The petition is accordingly dismissed as withdrawn," the bench ordered. "You please come back to us when you have an individual criminal case or group of cases," the bench said. The plea alleged an alarming rise in the use of coercive criminal processes against opposition political leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental right to dissent. Besides the Congress, the parties that are part of the joint move are the DMK, RJD, BRS, Trinamool Congress, AAP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, JD(U), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party and the J-K National Conference. PTI

### Sikkim Avalanche Tragedy: Rescue operation resumed at Jawaharlal Nehru road

Officials of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Wednesday resumed the rescue operation on Jawaharlal Nehru road in East Sikkim, where a massive avalanche came yesterday, claiming the lives of at least seven people and leaving several trapped under the snow. On Tuesday, at about 11.30 am, a massive avalanche hit the 15th Mile on Jawaharlal Nehru road connecting Gangtok with Nathu La.

The Army, State Disaster Management Team, and police were also engaged in search and rescue operations.



However, the search and rescue operation was later called off at 6 pm due to inclement weather, triggering fear of fresh snowslides. As per officials, seven tourists including a minor girl were killed while 13 others

were injured in the avalanche. The Collector said that ex-gratia to the victims will be given as per norms for the Indian victims, but for Nepal victims, the decision will be taken by the Home Department. ANI

## World

### Ex Israel PM Ehud Barak confirms country has nuclear weapons: Why it matters



**F**ormer Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak broke Israel's policy of ambiguity and on Tuesday tweeted his confirmation that Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

While commenting on the fallout from the governing coalition's judicial reform initiative, Barak tweeted, "It sounds weird to us. But in Israelis' conversations with political parties in the West, their deep concern emerges about the possibility that, if the coup d'etat in Israel succeeds, a messianic dictatorship will be established

in the heart of the Middle East, possessing nuclear weapons, and fanatically wishing for a confrontation with Islam centred on the Temple Mount. In their eyes, it's really scary. Not going to happen. Happy holiday."

Israel has maintained a strict policy of never confirming or denying that it possesses nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, it has been widely believed that Israel possesses them, with foreign reports estimating the nuclear arsenal's size from dozens to hundreds of bombs. Barak, a former Defense

Minister and Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff argued in September 2021 op-ed that Israel should review its policy of nuclear ambiguity, suggesting disclosure could be a better deterrent against Iran's nuclear program. Proponents of ambiguity say it protects Israel from being forced to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty or possibly facing international sanctions. Signing the NPT would require Israel to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Meanwhile, the US reportedly floated a proposal with Israel and other allies in February to resume nuclear talks with Iran in which Tehran would not enrich uranium above 60 per cent purity in exchange for sanctions relief. The White House has neither confirmed nor denied those reports. The International Atomic Energy Agency reported in March that Iran has enriched uranium to 83.7 per cent purity, far higher than the 3.67 per cent necessary for a civilian nuclear program. Nuclear weapons require uranium enriched to 90 per cent purity.

### Bhutan appreciates India for extending Standby Credit Facility, currency swap of USD 200 mn

**B**hutan on Wednesday appreciated India for extending Standby Credit Facility at the reduced interest rate and extended settlement period, and for providing an additional currency swap support of USD 200 million, according to India-Bhutan joint statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs.

India also agreed to positively consider Bhutan's request to extend an additional Standby

Credit Facility (SCF) for a period of five years, it said.

Bhutan also noted with satisfaction the timely flow of funds from the Government of India (GoI) to ensure smooth and uninterrupted progress of projects under the 12th Five Year Plan with about 90 per cent of India's committed plan assistance to Bhutan already released.

To take this exemplary development partnership forward, India agreed to step up support

for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan which was welcomed by Bhutan, joint statement said. Both sides reviewed various elements of bilateral hydropower cooperation and expressed satisfaction that projects totalling 2136 MW, which have been jointly set up, are functioning well.

Both sides also welcomed the recent handing over of 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP to Bhutan, added the statement.

### US Court orders Stormy Daniels to pay Trump USD 120,000 more in legal fees

**A**dult film star Stormy Daniels has been ordered to pay, over USD 120,000 in legal fees to the attorneys of former US President trump">Donald Trump, by a federal appeals court in California. The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday (local time) ordered Daniels to pay Trump's attorneys just over USD 120,000 in legal fees. That's on top of the over USD 500,000 in court-

ordered payments to Trump attorneys that she has to pay.

Daniels had filed and lost a defamation suit against the former president, reported CNN. The order was delivered on the same day that a Manhattan court arraigned Trump on 34 charges related to alleged hush money payments to Daniels to cover up a purported affair between the two. Trump was charged with 34 counts of falsifying business re-

ports related to the alleged payments.

It's the first time a former US president has faced criminal charges. The civil litigation is officially unrelated to Trump's arrest and charges filed against him in New York -- but both involved Daniels, who was paid USD 130,000 in hush money during the 2016 presidential campaign to keep quiet about an affair. Trump denies the affair, reported CNN.

### Israeli police storm Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, more than 350 arrested



**T**he Israeli police stormed the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem's Old City in the wee hours of Wednesday and arrested more than 350 Palestinians, as reported by CNN. The incident came to light a few days after a Palestinian man was assassinated outside the holy site.

Israeli forces can be seen using torches and attempting to hit screaming people with batons inside the mosque, according to violent scenes shared on social media.

Eyewitnesses told CNN that police used stun grenades, rubber bullets, and broke windows and doors. In videos shared by Israeli police, cops can be seen entering the mosque with their riot shields up as fireworks are launched against them.

Israeli police, in a statement, said, "Its forces entered the mosque after several law-breaking youth and masked agitators brought into the mosque fireworks, sticks and stones." According to the statement, "When the police entered, stones were thrown at them, and fireworks were fired from inside the mosque by a large group of agitators."

At least 12 people were injured during clashes in and around the mosque, and at least three of

the injured, who sustained injuries from rubber bullets, were shifted to hospital, said The Palestinian Red Crescent.

At one point its ambulances were targeted by police and were prevented from reaching the injured, The Red Crescent added.

The police statement said, "These instigators fortified it hours after the Taraweeh prayer in order to disrupt public order and desecrate the mosque."

The police also stated, "In addition, they started chanting for incitement and violence inside the mosque and locked its doors from the inside with obstacles and fortifications at the entrances."

More than 350 people were arrested and removed from the mosque, said police, adding that an Israeli police officer was also wounded in the leg by stones, reported CNN.

Social media users posted pictures of scores of detained individuals being led into vehicles while having their wrists tied and their legs and arms bound behind their backs on the mosque floor.

All mosques around the world hold overnight prayers, which are particularly prevalent during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The whole Arab and Muslim world condemned the incident.

## Career

# Right choice of Career options in Folk Art - I



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
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India is a nation of many traditions. The long rules of emperors from different corners of the world brought different art forms with them. This gave rise to a unique culture where you can find the combination of ancient as well as modern art forms. You can find the cave paintings in Ajanta-Ellora to the modern art of M.F.Hussain. not only paintings, you can find this diversity in music, storytelling, sculpture and so on. Earlier, this field was not considered to be a viable career option. The reason was obvious. It was not profitable. But with internet connecting the world, these art forms are reaching every nook and corner of the world. People want to know more about it. Tourists are willing to scrape a portion of their money to know more about these art forms. The rich collectors are eyeing good pieces. So, if you have talent and a knack to know what the market demands, you can reach heights in this field. The most important aspect of excelling in this field is having a strong grasp of the theme of the art. Every art form carries a centralized theme. As for example, the famous Mithila or Madhubani paintings predominantly depict the marriage of Lord Rama and Sita. Unless you familiarize yourself with the basic concept, it will be difficult for you to experiment with the art form.

### Career Opportunities and Job Prospects in Folk Art Painter:

There are hundreds of folk or local paintings in India. Other than the famous ones, there are still hundreds waiting to be discovered. If you have the prior training in some form of painting, it will be easier for you to study the new ones in a better way. Many universities like BHU, Rabindra Bharti etc. are well-known for their fine arts department. You can also work solo in learning new painting styles. A painter needs to have business skills as well as good communication skills. This



is important because you will have to entertain different type of people during your professional life. Many may not be familiar with the intricacies of paintings. While many may be pretty informed. Having the above skills will help you in creating a name for yourself. A painter's salary depends upon his/her artwork's value. You can work with different firms specializing in creating customized paintings. You may also pen your own studio. Your salary can be minimal in the beginning and soar high with expertise and more new elements in your paintings.

### Musician:

Just like the paintings, each region has its own unique music. You can work as a folk musician. They are in huge demand these days. Most state governments, as well as district administrations, are holding folk festivals annually. You get to show your talent here. Also, there are many reality shows and talent hunts that allow you to reach more people. You can even start your own youtube channel. As a matter of fact, every

Indian region has a good percentage of people living overseas. The folk music makes connects them to their motherland. even in the film industry, there is a craze for music with local flavours. As a musician, you can work with different bands or take out your own album. You can also be a performing artist in different events.

### Curator:

A curator oversees the gathering, storage, and show of artworks, historical record, digital files, or artefacts. relying upon the dimensions of the organization, curators could also be accountable for operating with artists, collectors, donors, or different organizations to accumulate artwork; documentation and storage; original analysis and publication; an art show of works. historically, curators work for museums, libraries, and different arts organizations. However, in recent years this role has distended to incorporate business curators managing company record and art collections, curation for instructional establishments, charity or personal assortment curators,

government curators operating with public areas, and freelance, freelance curators.

### Museum Director:

These days, a number of museums are coming up focussing on folk art. You can also make your career as a museum director. You basically need to have a management degree with sound knowledge of museum maintenance and running. Most of the government-run museums need directors to have a post-graduate degree in archaeology and museology. But this may not be the case with the private museums. Though the above-mentioned degrees are definitely the ones suitable for this role. If the museum is not government-funded, then you should be well-versed in the ways of fundraising, promotions and also an extension of the collection. You should know how to manage the artworks, organize shows to attract visitors and also promote among them. The salary will be around 40k/month in the government museums. The salary in private ones depends solely upon its reputation and revenue.

## Entertainment

### Actor Amitabh Bachchan says "A few limps and slings apart... but striding on"

Superstar Amitabh Bachchan is back on shooting set. Taking to his blog on Tuesday late night, the 'Piku' actor shared a string of pictures from the set with captions. Having returned to the set, his enthusiasm and ecstasy could be vividly seen in those pictures.

Amitabh started his photo story with his entrance on the set. "off to work .. a few limps and slings apart .. but striding on .., is the first caption Amitabh has written. After sharing a couple of pictures from the shooting locale, the actor shared a picture of makeup being done.

He captioned it, "the face .. the touch ups .. and the shot ..." . In another frame, Amitabh is seen interacting with the director. "corrections and discussions on the writing .. amicable and on .." wrote Senior B. Big B concluded with words like "and the routine in its beginnings ... on the road to the route ... the environ so ignored for the time to reappear and the feel on the faces of reassurance ..."

For the unversed, Amitabh revealed that he suffered the injury during the shooting of 'Project K' in Hyderabad in March. He shared that he broke his rib cartilage. "In Hyderabad at shoot for Project K, during an action shot, got injured, rib cartilage popped broke and muscle tear to the right rib cage. Cancelled shoot, did doctor consult & scan by CT at AIG Hospital in Hyderabad and flown back home," posted Amitabh. He got injured during an action sequence of the film. He, unfortunately, suffered a muscle tear to his right rib cage. ANI



### Actor Shah Rukh Khan enjoys paan in new viral video from NMACC event

Several photos and videos of the celebs from the grand NMACC Gala night are surfacing on social media. In a new video, actor Shah Rukh Khan was seen enjoying paan at the event. Taking to Instagram, German blogger Caroline Daur shared a string of pictures and videos from the Gala night which she captioned, "deeply impressed by the extraordinary exhibition India in Fashion showcasing the fine craftsmanship and elaborately embroidered works celebrating the creatives and the heritage of India."

The first few pictures and videos show Caroline Daur at the event. In the second last video actors SRK, Ranveer Singh, and Varun Dhawan could be seen dancing to the song 'Jhoomo Jo Pathaan' at the gala night.

In the last video, the German blogger could be seen enjoying paan next to King Khan.

The 'Don' actor could be seen wearing a black kurta. Soon after she shared the post, SRK fans swamped the comment section and dropped red hearts and fire emoticons.

"Shah Rukh Khan, the king of Bollywood, just casually behind you eating from the buffet is the vibe I am living for," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "wow she's just casually eating mithai next to shah rukh khan." "Oh my god last slide!!! You don't even know who is next to you!! He's the dream of the millions of girls and you're eating next to him indifferent how it's possible," a fan commented. SRK's wife Gauri Khan and children Aryan Khan and Suhana Khan also attended the gala. ANI

### Twining Date: Actor Hrithik Roshan spotted with Saba Azad in Mumbai

Hrithik Roshan and Saba Azad's romance is getting stronger day by day. After mesmerizing fans with their stunning pictures from the NMACC event, Hrithik and Saba enjoyed some quality time over food at a posh restaurant in Mumbai on Tuesday night.

The couple was captured by the shutterbugs stationed outside the food joint. Both the stars twinned in black. While Hrithik chose a black tee, topping it with a shirt, Saba wore a sleeveless black gown. Hrithik greeted the paps before making his way to the car with his ladylove. Hrithik and Saba have been making public appearances together since last year. Recently, Hrithik attended the special screening of 'Rocket Boys 2', in which Saba played an important role.

Rumours about Hrithik and Saba's relationship started swirling after they were spotted out on a dinner date in February last year. Later, she also joined Hrithik's family for a get-together. All speculations on their relationship were set at rest after the two walked hand-in-hand at actor Karan Johar's 50th birthday bash in last May. Hrithik was previously married to interior designer Sussanne Khan. ANI

