



Cong RS MP Rajani Patil remain suspended: Chairman

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BJP OBSERVES ITS 43RD FOUNDATION DAY



43 years ago BJP, was founded on April 6, 1980, was not a major political force to reckon with in Maharashtra. The Congress was the ruling party and was powerful both in terms of organisation as well as governance. The Shiv Sena, founded on June 19, 1966, had already established itself as a regional party fighting for the sons of soil centred around the state's Thane and Mumbai districts. The NCP did not exist then and came into being following a split in the Congress on June 10, 1999. Through strategic planning, the BJP progressed steadily in the state.

However, 2014 saw both Sena and BJP partners caught in a power tussle and deciding to contest the Assembly polls separately. They reunited after the polls to form the government. But after 2019, Thackeray cut the ties to isolate the BJP and joined hands with the Congress party and NCP to form the MVA. The MVA government under his tenure as the chief minister lasted 2.5 years from November 2019 to June 2023.

BJP's Maharashtra unit is met with several challenges on multiple fronts. The party has set itself the highly-am-

bitious target of winning 48 Lok Sabha seats and 200 plus Assembly seats in Maharashtra in the upcoming elections. It could turn out to be a enormous task, especially at a time when the BJP is going through an image crisis on one hand and with the promise of good governance failing to strike the desired chord among the masses on the other.

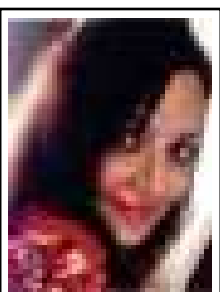
Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "We are not in politics for power. Politics is a medium to bring socio-economic transformation in the society where fruits of

development reach last man last mile." The people-oriented welfare schemes of the Centre and the state in the core areas of agriculture, health and infrastructure, and education is a reality, he argued.

However, the jargons "khoke sarkar" (a term for bribery) and "ED sarkar" (referring to the allegations of the misuse of central agencies) adopted aggressively by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) against the Eknath Shinde-Fadnavis coalition government has percolated to the grassroots, experts pointed out.

Traveling in Mumbai local trains can be a unique experience

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Mumbai local trains are often crowded, hot and uncomfortable, but it's also a great way to get around the city quickly. The locals are friendly and helpful, so you'll never feel lost or alone on your journey. However, there are some downsides to traveling by train in Mumbai - delays due to overcrowding or technical issues can be common during peak hours and the lack of air conditioning makes for a very airless, suffocating and smelly ride! Is it fair to say that if someone has to experience real Mumbai life, they must travel by local train at least once in their lifetime.

Travelling in the local train is a small part of experiencing real Mumbai. What makes Mumbai special or different, is its people. Mumbai is a cosmopolitan city. Mumbai has bread for all those who come here to earn. What one must know is to adjust with local people and local trains. Recently, a group of passengers thrashed two commuters after they blocked the door of a local train at the busy Diva station in Thane district which comes under the Mumbai suburban network.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Traveling in Mumbai local trains can be a unique experience

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The clip, shot by some passengers, showed the ugly brawl when a local train heading towards Karjat stopped at Diva station.

The angry people kicked and thrashed the two commuters and also hit them with shoes, while some passengers were seen trying to save them. Brawl among passengers is not new.

There is a popular saying about suburban travel - "It is either crush hour or rush hour depending upon the time of the day". When the local arrives the people around you will push you inside the train with little or no effort from you.

A video of the incident, which took place earlier this week, went viral on social media platforms. The clip, shot by some passengers, showed the ugly brawl when a local train heading towards Karjat stopped at Diva station. In the video, some people on a platform were seen pulling out two commuters standing at the door of the train. The angry people kicked and thrashed the two commuters and also hit them with shoes, while some passengers were seen trying to save them. Brawl among passengers is not new. Some incidents get noticed, some get ignored.

I have always seen people travelling in Mumbai in rush hour like cockroaches. Humans should not be treated like that, its apathy from authorities. I travelled in Mumbai local like that once and then never again. Hundreds and thousands of people waiting at the platform for the train, pouncing in before it even comes to a halt, packed locals, people struggling to get in, million petty fights. But this experience teaches you everything.

Happiness is when the train, pretty empty at night, cuts things the wind, making a rhythmic sound with the tracks, while the cold breeze tickles your cheek. Annoyance is when people just refuse to adjust and start fights and insult each other in the worst possible manner. Every minute countian when you want to catch the 8:17 local. Mind you, it isn't 8:15 or 8:20 either. Miss it and your entire schedule goes up and down.

There is a popular saying about suburban travel - "It is either crush hour or rush hour depending upon the time of the day". When the local arrives the people around you will push you inside the train with little or no effort from you. That is where facing the track helps if you do not want to land on your bumps and get trampled over. Though it is improbable because there absolutely is no floor space to fall on and the other passengers make for a good vertical wall surrounding you snugly. Just as much space as is required, no more no less, for your person to stand. Even if

you didn't want to board that particular locale, you will be pushed into it nonetheless. Now, isn't that amazing!

There are hundreds of people around you, a lot of them in close proximity, people of all age groups and backgrounds could be your co-passengers. You have to adjust and so does everyone else. Everyone is an equal here and you have to accommodate to get accommodated. I have seen a lot of women faint in the trains. Suffocation, exhaustion whatever the reason. But a lot of women go out of the way to help. Chocolates, water, a place to sit, even some fanning. Complete strangers, going out of their way to help is a common picture. And the best part of all, you make new friends. A very unique group called the train friendships. Local trains are the most convenient mode of transport. But that does not mean we can survive without it. Motormen often go on strike or trains stop during the monsoon. Trust me, we suffer a lot. Other than that, there is no worry about Mumbai locals, the train time tables have changed now, local trains have been increased, but the rush problem is not solved because of the increasing population of Mumbai continuously. Daily travel in the local trains of Mumbai mellows down the temper of anyone. There are a number of things which are super irritating and anger instigating but if you get angry every day on one such thing, you will definitely get frustrated and give up the thought of getting angry on petty things.

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Flat No. 2, J- Wing Ground floor, Sumer Nagar Building 3, S.V. Road,
Near Gandhi Motors, Borivali - West, Mumbai - 400 092.

Editor

Dr. Vaidehi

Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Email- afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com • SMS -9820199881

For any queries regarding the editorial desk, contact - 7506760610

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Toddlers thrashed at playschools made for sad reading!

The news report of a playschool teacher thrashing toddlers & mistreating them made for fearful reading. Really scary that 3 to 4-year-old kids are treated so shabbily as such cruel behavior can have a long last effect on the mental health of the child. Playschools should be regulated by the education board so that the conduct of teachers in such schools can be monitored effectively. Playschools are basically fun times where a child should be taught to mix with children of his/her age & every parent should research about such schools before sending their child to such schools.

Teachers misbehaving with students need to be taken to task & punished appropriately. Modern-day teachers have lost patience & even playschool teachers should pass through an eligible test before they can be recruited to teach at such schools!

S. N. Kabra

Freedom of Press

Supreme Court quashed the unconstitutional telecast ban on the Malayalam news channel Media One which was imposed by the Union government on the ground of so-called national security. SC pulled up the government for raising national security claims in thin air without an iota of evidence. Independent media is detrimental to a robust democracy. A critical view on government policies can't create a threat to the nation. It's a fundamental duty of the press to speak the truth to power and present citizens with hard facts which enable people to make choices that propel democracy in the right direction. SC's verdict is a ray of hope for the people of India.

Muzakkir Khan

Overwhelming victory

India has been overwhelmingly elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission for a four-year term in a competitive election in which China and South Korea are still vying for the remaining Asia Pacific seat. India's expertise in statistics, diversity, and demography has earned it a seat on the United Nations Statistical Commission.

The United Nations Statistical Commission is the highest body of the global statistical system. It is the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities, responsible for setting of statistical standards and the development of concepts and methods including their implementation at the national and international levels.

Vijaykumar H K

A celebration of Christ's death and victory

Good Friday' is a great festival of Christians. It usually falls between March 20 and April 23. This festival is observed to mark the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Good Friday is a religious holiday observed primarily by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His death at Calvary. Initially, it was called 'God's Friday'. In the Eastern Orthodox Churches, it is known as the 'Great Friday'. On this day prayer and meditation take place at all churches. Good Friday is observed as a day of fasting, mourning, sorrow and prayer.

Jubel D'Cruz

"Evil grows when good people do nothing"?

Good people have a responsibility to speak up and act in the face of evil to keep their community going. Edmund Burke said; "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is that good people do nothing." Albert Einstein also said that: "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch without doing anything." We cannot match evil with evil. Anger and hatred have no place in a world of peace and love. The only way to fight this is to expose the truth. Share knowledge with your world when you know corrupt things, manipulated to control people.

If you allow something inherently bad or bad to happen when you had knowledge or experience that the event was morally wrong, you will let "evil" triumph. For example, when you see an old man being robbed or a girl being molested and you chose to be in action about it during the incident. You may have felt that you could not intervene because "it was none of your business". Or you were afraid that you would be the next target. Or maybe, you just assumed someone else would come forward and say something. Or you thought you just couldn't find the time. Or you might even think that maybe you just misunderstood the situation. Or someone will take action or say something for you. Despite every possible reason on earth, we allow evil to prevail because we are afraid, scared, or frankly, just don't care, about being unpopular.

Our world is full of people who are doing nothing. When you give the finger to evil, they devour you all. So, why are people so passive about all the bad things that are happening? First, we are

programmed by the elite to think this way. We are taught to take care of ourselves and compete with others in school, sports, work, politics, religion, and more. It is a creation that has been going on for thousands of years. We have learned to idolize and not see the real value in every human being. People have "idols" they follow and believe in. Why can't you just be your own "idol"? You can still appreciate the people who create great things but all people are capable of creating.

This is a replica of the events that have taken place in Afghanistan with the Taliban taking control of Kabul. What the world is witnessing with the victory of the Taliban and people trying to flee Afghanistan and many killed in the effort is indeed pure evil. No one can justify this in any way, shape, or form. We cannot sit comfortably and watch it on our computer screens and TV screens. It has to be fought otherwise it will spread like cancer all over the world. President Biden said that his hands were tied for a comeback given the terrible peace deal between the Trump administration and the Taliban. But there was still a way to withdraw American troops while giving the Afghans a better chance of maintaining the gains America had made with them over the past two decades. Biden chose otherwise. How he announced the withdrawal and eventual departure of US troops – early in the fighting season, on a rushed timeline, and without adequate coordination with the Afghan government – has got us to the current situation.

At the very least, the United States should have continued to support the Afghans during this period to

help blunt the latest Taliban offensive and buy time to plan for a future devoid of American military aid. US diplomats could use this time to negotiate access to regional bases from where counter-terrorist operations could be continued. At the same time, the US military should have been prepared for an emergency should those talks fail. Reasonable people can disagree about the wisdom of keeping US military forces in Afghanistan indefinitely. A responsible comeback required more time and better preparation. Another famous philosopher, John Stuart Mill, said: 'No one should lull his conscience under the illusion that he can do no harm if he takes no part and forms no opinion. The bad men need nothing else to round their heads, but those good men to watch and do nothing.'

We cannot match evil with evil. Anger and hatred have no place in a world of peace and love. The only way to fight this is to expose the truth. Share knowledge with your world when you know corrupt things, manipulated to control people. I know many people are paid to keep their mouths shut because otherwise they will be publicly ridiculed and humiliated or eventually killed. Some people are brave and expose the truth. Are you going to be one of them? And stop feeding the elite. You support them through banks, stock markets, media, politics, and other things.

- Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Poet, Columnist, Independent Journalist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

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

BJP world's largest organization, everyone equal here: Dy CM Fadnavis

Listing the schemes initiated by the BJP-Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said that the BJP is a "medium to bring the socio-economic transformation in the state and country".

Adding that power is not the BJP's objective, Fadnavis said, "The Garib Kalyan Agenda of Modi government has initiated socio-economic transformation at grassroots across states. The upliftment of the poor and backward through welfare schemes has been relentlessly pursued since 2014. The BJP is the largest organization in the world. And its credit goes to the dedicated karyakartas and leadership of Modi."

Meanwhile, from April 6 till Dr. BR Ambedkar's birth anni-



versary on April 14, BJP will have planned week-long celebrations.

Not in politics for power:

Speaking on BJP's Foundation Day, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said that the party's aim is to serve people, and does

not pursue politics for power.

"If we look at Maharashtra budget 2023-24, we focussed on empowerment of farmers, backward classes, women and poor. We introduced schemes where farmers had to pay just Re 1 for availing the crop in-

urance. We provided an annual fund of Rs 6,000 per farmer. Under medical care, free treatment for the poor up to Rs 5 lakh has been provided. We are building ten lakh houses for poor and backward communities," he said.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee had predicted BJP's rise in 1980s:

Speaking on BJP's 44th Foundation Day, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said the party has come a long way from being a party with two MPs in 1984 to having absolute majority in Lok Sabha.

"Atal Bihari Vajpayee had predicted BJP's emergence as a political party during its Mumbai Conclave in early 1980s. Under Vajpayee's leadership NDA came to power in 1996, 1998 and 1999. The Congress ruled for ten years 2004 to 2014. In 2014, Narendra Modi leadership brought a major parivartan. It laid the foundation for new India. Modi gave India a global identity. His leadership has global a reckoning," he said.

Maha logs 569 fresh Covid cases in last 24 hours

Two more patients succumbed to coronavirus in Maharashtra, taking the toll to 1,48,451 on Wednesday, while 569 people tested positive for the infection, down from 711 the previous day, said the state health department. With the addition of 569 new cases in the last 24 hours, the state's overall Covid-19 tally rose to 81,46,870, the department said in a bulletin. The state had recorded 711 cases and



four coronavirus-linked deaths on Tuesday. Mumbai registered 211 new cases and one fatality in the last 24 hours.

Thane man harassed at job in Myanmar returns home with help from police's 'Bharosa' cell

A 25-year-old man from Maharashtra's Thane district who was allegedly facing harassment at a job in Myanmar has returned home, thanks to the help extended by the 'Bharosa' cell of local police, an official said on Thursday. The victim, Shanaz Khan, got a job in Thailand on November 4, 2022, through an agent. He went there on a tourist visa and was later sent to Myanmar after being "pushed" for a job there, inspector Tejashri Shinde from the Bharosa cell of the Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar (MBVV) police said.

Vaccine centres run low on stock amid push for booster shot

Amid a surge in Covid cases, the state health department has instructed districts to step up the vaccination campaign for booster doses. In Mumbai, however, public vaccination centres have been running low on stock since April 1, awaiting fresh consignment from the central government.

Less than 15 percent of the city's population has taken the booster dose. Around 98 lakh people in Mumbai got two doses, according to official data.

State being run like underworld, CM, Dy CM leading their gangs, says Sanjay Raut

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday attacked the Maharashtra government and claimed the state was like the underworld that once operated in Mumbai. Criminals and the corrupt are being protected and the "chief minister and deputy chief minister are running their gangs", Raut, a key aide of former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, told reporters in Mumbai.

Aaditya Thackeray leads MVA protest in Thane; targets Shinde Sena workers, police commissioner



Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders took out a protest march in Thane on Wednesday against "police apathy" towards Roshni Shinde, a Shiv Sena (UBT) woman worker who was manhandled and assaulted in the city allegedly by workers of the Eknath Shinde-

led Shiv Sena's women's wing for making "objectionable" remarks against the chief minister.

Yuva Sena president and MLA Aaditya Thackeray led the protest march, which was joined by NCP and Congress leaders such as Jitendra Awhad and Vidya Chavan, among others.

1,687 trees on Vikhroli plot to be cut for bullet train plan

The BMC has issued a public notice for the cutting and transplantation of 1,828 trees on a plot at Vikhroli for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. The notice said 1,687 of the trees

are proposed to be cut and only 141 will be transplanted, and the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will undertake compensatory plantation of more than 5,300 trees.

Cong RS MP Rajani Patil remain suspended: Chairman



a family of freedom fighters and my culture and upbringing don't permit me to violate the law," said Patil.

She alleged that her suspension was part of a 'sponsored programme'. "We interrupted PM Modi's reply, again and again, yesterday which upset them. This was part of their sponsored programme," the Congress MP alleged after being suspended from the Rajya Sabha.

Further MP said that she expected justice from Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Stating that it is within the rights of the Chairman to continue her suspension, Patil asked if she has rights as an MP.

Speaking to media, the Congress MP said, "It is the Chairman's constitutional right. But what about my rights as a Member of Parliament? My suspension was not revoked even after the session came to an end. All the MPs wanted my suspension to end, but that did not happen. It is not right to do such a thing to me. I expect justice from him."

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil will continue to remain suspended from the House beyond the current Budget Session and till the House has the benefit of the recommendations by the Privileges Committee, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Thursday.

Patil was suspended on February 10 from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha "for the remaining part of current session" for acting in violation of the directions of the chair.

The move was made in taking serious view of dissemination of a video relating to proceedings of the House on Twitter. Leader

of the House Piyush Goyal had said they are seeing videos recorded in the House showing senior Members of Parliament unauthorisedly being recorded.

Shortly after being suspended from the proceedings at the Rajya Sabha for the remainder of the Budget Session, for allegedly violating the directions of chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil had denied the charge claiming she was given 'faansi ki sazaa' (capital punishment) for not fault of hers.

"I did not do anything. I was given 'faansi ki sazaa' despite not being at fault. I come from

AAP names Sushil Rinku as candidate for Jalandhar LS bypoll

Aam Admi Party (AAP) on Thursday named former MLA Sushil Kumar Rinku as its candidate for the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, scheduled on May 10.

On Wednesday, hours after being expelled from the Congress, Sushil Rinku joined Aam Admi Party (AAP) in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab

counterpart Bhagwant Mann.

"Sushil Rinku is welcome in AAP's family, I have full hope that the people of Jalandhar will help us in winning the Lok Sabha bypolls," Arvind Kejriwal said in a press briefing.

The Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency had been lying vacant since January after Congress MP Santokh Chaudhary passed away due to a cardiac attack.

Boy held for raping minor girl in closed MCD school in New Delhi

The boy who allegedly raped a 16-year-old girl in a closed MCD school has been detained by the Delhi police, said police.

The police could apprehend the accused by identifying him from the yellow shirt he was wearing while he allegedly committed the crime, added the police.

The minor girl told the accused that the accused was wearing a yellow shirt. A blurred picture of

the accused in a yellow shirt was found on CCTV footage.

The police on Wednesday informed that a boy allegedly raped a 16-year-old girl after committing a robbery at a closed MCD school in the national capital, police said.

Police informed further that they filed an FIR of rape and robbery on a complaint lodged by the victim's parents, who work as contractual labourers at the school.

Delhi HC dismisses Satyender Jain's bail plea in PMLA case



The Delhi High Court dismissed Delhi's jailed Minister Satyender Jain and two others' bail petitions in a money laundering case.

The bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma rejected the bail plea of Satyender Jain, Ankush Jain and Vaibhav Jain. The bench while dismissed the Satyendar Jain bail plea stated that applicant is an influential person and has the potential of tampering with evidence. Satyender Jain/applicant, at this stage, can't be held to clear the twin conditions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

The same bench had kept the order reserved on March 21 after the conclusion of the submissions made by the defence and prosecution sides after multiple hearings. During arguments, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju appeared for Enforcement Directorate contented that money laundering is crystal clear against Jain and other co-accused.

In his bail plea, Jain stated, "I appeared before ED on 7 occasions. I have cooperated and participated in the investigation. I was arrested 5 years down the line in 2022."

Cong veteran AK Antony's son Anil Antony joins BJP

In another setback to Congress, former Defence minister AK Antony's son Anil Antony joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Delhi on Thursday.

Anil Antony joined the BJP in the presence of Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and V Muralidharan. Kerala BJP chief K Surendran and senior party leaders Tarun Chugh and Anil Baluni were also present at the occasion.

Anil Antony thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his induction into BJP. The development comes months after Anil Antony, who was a Kerala Congress Social Media Team Coordinator and resigned from all posts of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee in January following the row over BBC's documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

After, Anil Antony joined the BJP, his father and Congress vet-



eran leader said his son has taken a wrong move adding that the decision has pained him.

"I am pained by my son Anil's decision to join the BJP. I strongly feel it is a very wrong decision. India's base is unity and religious harmony. After 2014, the Modi government came to power, they are systematically diluting diversity and secularism," AK Antony, who is considered as a close aide of Gandhi family, told media persons here.

The former union minister

alleged that BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) are destroying India's constitutional ethos.

He said he will be a Congress worker till his last breath. "BJP believes only in uniformity. Till my last breath, I will oppose all the wrong policies of RSS and BJP. They are destroying the country's constitutional values. I will die as a Congress worker. I am 82. I do not know how long I will live," added the Congress veteran.

World

Pak court extends ex-PM Imran Khan's interim bail in eight cases

A Pakistani high court on Thursday extended the interim bail of former prime minister Imran Khan in eight cases, including last month's judicial complex riot case, till April 18.

A two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court, headed by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, heard the bail pleas by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, who was not present at the hearing.

The court accepted an exemption request from Thursday's attendance in all the cases filed by the PTI chief's lawyer.

Intense clashes erupted outside the judicial complex on March 18 when Khan arrived from Lahore to attend a much-awaited hearing in the Toshakha-



na corruption case. During the confrontation between PTI workers and police, over 25 security personnel were injured, prompting Additional District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal to defer the court hearing in this case till March 30.

The bench extended the bail of 70-year-old Khan in multiple cases, cautioning that legal action

would be taken against the ousted premier if he failed to appear in the court for the next hearing.

The interim bail granted by the court to Khan in the eight cases was supposed to expire on Thursday, but after the fresh extension, the cricketer-turned-politician would be safe from any arrest till April 18.

Khan's lawyer informed the

court that more than "140 baseless fake cases" were filed against the PTI chief for using state machinery for political aims.

He also added that there was a threat to Khan's life. Earlier in the day, the Islamabad High Court ruled that Khan should be provided security according to his status as an ex-premier.

The high court heard the for-

mer premier's plea regarding being provided adequate security after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah allegedly threatened him.

In March, Sanaullah, who is very close to former premier and London-based Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif, said when the ruling party feels its existence is under threat, it will go to any extent against its chief political rival.

Khan has been in the cross-hairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit.

The former prime minister had repeatedly failed to attend case hearings, leading to the warrant being issued against him.

Xi Jinping holds meeting with French counterpart Macron

Chinese President Xi Jinping today held a meeting with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in Beijing, Xinhua reported.

On Wednesday, Macron arrived in Beijing for a three-day visit to China at the invitation of Xi. Taking to his official Twitter handle, Macron said that he will discuss about climate, business, bio-diversity and food security with Xi Jinping.

Macron's visit to China comes amid Europe's efforts to find a path to peace in the ongoing con-

flict between Russia and Ukraine.

He tweeted, "I am convinced that China has a major role to play in building peace. This is what I have come to discuss, to move forward on. With President Xi Jinping, we will also talk about our businesses, the climate and biodiversity, and food security."

On April 5, Macron addressed the French community in China, the Elysee Palace said in a statement.

He began by saluting the medical and nursing staff and the management of French

schools and teachers for their sense of duty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his speech, Macron spoke about the objectives of his visit to China.

French President Emmanuel Macron said that he wants to engage China in shared responsibility for peace and stability, strengthen the trade ties between France and China and reinstate a common framework for action on major international issues such as the fight against climate change and the protection of biodiversity.

Uyghurs in Turkey commemorate Baren revolution against Chinese atrocities



Uyghur activists gathered near the Chinese Consulate in Istanbul on April 5 to protest against the atrocities perpetrated by China in East Turkistan on the 33rd anniversary of the Baren revolution. Uyghur activists held protests near the Chinese Consulate despite the rains.

Uyghurs around the world mark April 5 to honour those who were killed while opposing the Chinese regime and military during the Baren uprising in Akto County, Kizilsu Kirghiz prefecture on April 5, 1990. The protest began at around 11 am (local time) with the recital of Quranic verses.

Around 120 Uyghur men and women joined the protest which was addressed by local Uyghur

leader Abdullahad Udun, General Secretary of East Turkistan Human Right Watch (ETHR) and activist Omer Qarim.

The protesters raised slogans against the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party and displayed banners highlighting the Chinese atrocities.

Turkey is home to one of the largest Uyghur diaspora in exile. Uyghurs in Istanbul have consistently held protests against Chinese atrocities and questioned the Chinese state about the whereabouts of their missing family members.

Meanwhile, protests and conferences were held in different parts of Bangladesh to mark the 33rd anniversary of the Baren Revolution in East Turkistan, which is known as Xinjiang in China.

Taiwanese Prez meets US Speaker McCarthy despite China's threats

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen met the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, McCarthy, on Wednesday (local time) in California, The New York Post reported.

Notably, this is the first time when Taiwan's President met with a US House speaker on American soil.

Both leaders briefly shook the hands after her SUV pulled up to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, northwest of Los Angeles.

Taiwan's President met Mc-



Carthy despite the threats of retaliation from China. Washington's current "One China" policy acknowledges Beijing's claims but does not endorse it, according to The New York Post.

After the meeting, Carthy tweeted, "The friendship between America and the people of Taiwan

has never been stronger. It is my honor to welcome President @iingwen to the @Reagan_Library."

"Taiwan is a successful democracy, thriving economy, and global leader in health and science. Our cooperation continues to expand through dialogue and exchange," he added.

Right choice of Career options in Folk Art - II



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Art Restorer:

There are many folk artworks that have degraded or damaged over time. An art restorer is needed to get them back to their original state. This position is a mix of scientist and an artist. You should have the scientific mind to understand the original composition of the artwork. Also, you need to be artistic enough to lend it the form that does not damage its original essence. In most of the cases, this role is a team effort comprising of a scientist, art expert, and a restorer. You must have noticed that some paintings are made from oil pastels and some from watercolours. If you are required to restore them, you need to have the same chemical composition as the restoration material. The salary in this field is good but the initial investments are also high.

Art Authenticator:

This position is mainly relevant to the paintings. Artworks of the well-known painters can fetch millions of dollars. So, there is a whole black market that deals in forgery. It is actually very difficult for an untrained eye to spot the difference. If you have the American TV series "white collar", then you must be in awe of the character of Neil Caffrey. The art forgers are very clever in lending a painting original look and also perfect ageing. So, the role of art authenticators is of utmost responsibility. Art authenticators are appointed by museums as well as private collectors to ensure the originality of the procured art piece. The salary depends completely upon your knowledge and also the clients. If you work for the government museums, you will have something around 40-50k/month. The private collectors and auction houses are known to pay the really big sum to the established authenticators.

Teacher:

Most Indian universities are now focussing on popularizing folk art. If you



have the required degree and are NET qualified, you can be a lecturer in the colleges. Most of the central universities have courses for fine arts, dramatics, and music. You can get your education there. Also, you can work in conjunction with the local theatre groups to get to know more about the culture. As a teacher also, you can research and further explore an area's folk art. This field needs more dedicated teachers who are willing to unearth the hidden gems of Indian art. Nowadays, even the schools are promoting folk art. Many schools employ teachers who can train their students in the local art form. Salary in this field can vary between 10k/month-60k/month.

Entrepreneur:

You can also be an entrepreneur in the folk arts. Currently, the local artists are paid meagre amounts for their artworks that are ultimately sold at high prices. Many music artists never get a chance to showcase their talent. As an entrepreneur, you can omit the role of middlemen and directly benefit the artisans as well as the buyers. You can set up an agency that deals in the resale of sculptures, paintings, and other local craft items. Or you can work

towards popularising the local music and tales. The financial outcomes in this field depend completely upon the revenue you manage to generate. However, before venturing into this field, you must be mentally prepared to handle the initial failures. Not every craft form is commercially viable from the beginning. Slight modifications and too much advertisement are needed. And, this is yet an unexplored field. So, the competition is minimal but the infrastructure is also down to zero.

Photographer:

You can also venture into the field of folk arts as a photographer. when art pieces are clicked at perfect angles and light, they do create a mesmerizing effect. You can work with the entrepreneurs or as a freelance. Basically, your job will be to market the products with your snaps. It will be a part of your job to travel extensively and discover more about the different art forms. If you work in conjunction with some agency, you will be paid per snap. If you work freelance, each photo can fetch you hundreds. But your snaps need to be unique and should show the art in an attractive form. Don't we all love the photographs

of Kathakali dancers with their eyes zoomed in? That is the effect which a perfect photo can generate.

Blogger:

Folk art is yet to establish itself as a viable career option. It is ironic that in a nation with so many art forms, it is yet to catch the eyes of the people as a career. In absence of an organized workforce and work culture, the artisans are mostly exploited. As a blogger, you can highlight the difficulties faced by the artists. You can enlighten more people about the art form. The Internet is the medium that can make millions of people known to an art from a small village. If you have a flair with the words and know how to address issues, you can start working as a folk art blogger. You can include photos, videos and also interviews with the artists. With a good number of followers, you will have a salary of around 50k/month.

We hope that these career options will encourage you to take this off-beat career option. You will have an undiscovered path to walk on. Not only that, you will actually be able to help your fellow countrymen by popularizing their art form.

Entertainment

Gauri Khan stop Anusha Dandekar to take Suhana's interview; VJ hit back after being trolled



The grand launch of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in Mumbai is over but the inside pictures and videos from the star-studded affair are still surfacing online. A video of VJ and actress Anusha Dandekar meeting Gauri Khan and her daughter Suhana has been doing the rounds on the internet for all the wrong reasons.

The video shows Anusha convincing the mother-daughter duo for a bite. However, Gauri seemingly refused Anusha to take Suhana's interview. The particular moment was caught on camera. A section of social media users trolled Anusha as they felt Gauri and Suhana ignored her. Some slammed her for forcing Gauri and Suhana to give interviews. "Kya gazab bezati hai yaar," a social media user wrote. "Anusha wants to use SRK family to get into the limelight," another one wrote.

After facing backlash, Anusha took to Instagram and hit back at the trolls. "This constant controversy you are trying to create just because you want to be haters and because you are so called fans of people who weren't at this event, you want to try and make sure I somehow come out looking bad, well sorry I can't be part of your plan," she wrote.

Anusha added, "Some people don't like to give interviews and never have and that's totally okay. And some have to wait for their release till they do any interviews. THE END. I think I did a great job and I'm really good at what I do...but no one's stopping you to try my job if you have so many opinions. I wish you happiness, so you will finally stop being bullies."

The mother-daughter did not give an interview to Anusha at the event but Shah Rukh spoke to her in detail.

Salman Khan expressed his concerns on Hindi films not working

In a recent press conference in Mumbai, Salman said, "Galat picture banaoge toh kaise chalega?" (If you make wrong films, how can you expect it will work?)

Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Pathaan' infused a new lease of life into the pandemic-stricken Hindi industry which saw back-to-back flops from big names last year.

While films featuring South stars minted a whopping amount of money at the box office, Hindi films fell flat on their faces. Salman was asked about this box-office failure of Hindi movies.

Expressing his ideas behind this failure, Bhaijaan said in his style, "I have been saying this for a long time. Hindi films are not working. Ab galat picture banaoge, toh kaise chalega? I have met some new directors and producers who appear to be very 'cool'. They think Hindustan is from Andheri to Colaba. This is not Hindustan. It starts from the east of the railway stations."



After making fans wait for over four months, actors Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover finally revealed their daughter Devi's face to the world.

On Wednesday night, Bipasha took to Instagram and shared a few cute pictures of her newborn baby.

In the images, Devi is looking super cute in a pastel pink ensemble with a matching headband.

Sharing the pictures, Bipasha wrote, "Hello world ... I am Devi#devibasusinghgrover." She also added a string of evil eye emojis to the caption. The little one's pictures have left netizens in awe. Showering love on Devi, celebrities and fans commented and sent blessings.

Bipasha and Karan welcomed their first child, on November 12, last year, six years after their marriage. Taking to Instagram, Bipasha shared a post announcing the name of her daughter.

Bipasha Basu reveals daughter Devi's face to the world