



**Santana Dharma remark controversy: Udhayanidhi Stalin**

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## GSB Seva Mandal's MahaGanapati has taken insurance cover of whooping INR 360.40 Crores

**W**e all need Insurance on our financial assets today. Doesn't matter if we have colossal wealth or not. In other words, no one can predict what the future holds for us, but the least we can do is to secure ourselves to prevent losses financially. That's where insurance coverage comes in. This is festival season and most seek protection and ask Ganapati to keep us secured. We ask him to protect our wealth, let every good thing happen to us.

This year Bappa also got an insurance policy to secure his assets, jewellery and funds. GSB Seva Mandal's MahaGanapati is known as India's Richest Lord Ganesha Idol at King's Circle, Mumbai. Also, popularly known as NAVSALA PAVNARA VISHWACHA RAJA (wish fulfilling Ganesha) by his devotees due to his countless miracles & infinite divine blessings on his devotees all over the world. But his pandal committee people relied more on insurance companies than Ganesha himself.

Amit D. Pai, Spokesperson & the Trustee of GSB Seva Mandal told Afternoon Voice "As the day is nearing for the Ganeshotsav celebrations, many other



preparations are racing. One of the foremost preparation parts is the Insurance Cover. Previous year - 2022, we had taken an insurance cover of a record INR 316.40 Crores. This year it's INR 360.40 Crores".

India's Richest MahaGanapati is decorated with 66+ kgs of Gold Ornaments, 295+ kgs of Silver and other precious items which are usually donated by the Devotees / Sevedars

This year we at GSB Seva Mandal are celebrating its 69th Year of Lord MahaGanapati's arrival on the VIRAT DARSHAN DAY (The first look unveiling event) on 17th September 2023 while GANESHOTS-SAV beginning from 19th September 2023 till 23rd September 2023. On an average, around 60,000 Pooja's / Seva's are offered to Lord MahaGanapati by the Devotees / Sevedars at their pendol. More than 20,000

people take the benefit of Annadaan Seva, basically the Prasad Bhojan served on Banana Leaf.

They also take utmost care of the environmental balance, that their MahaGanapati's idol is made up of a specific Clay (Shaadu Maati), Grass and Naturally Extracted Water Colors which means MahaGanapati's idol is ECO-FRIENDLY.

Total coverage is for INR 360.40 Crores & is done by The New India Insurance Co. Ltd. INR 38.47 Crores: All Risk Insurance Policy covers for a variety of risks that includes Gold, Silver and Jewellery. INR 2 Crore, Standard Fire and Special Peril Policy with Earthquake Risk covers items like Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings, Installations such as Computers, CCTV Cameras, QR scanners, Utensils, Grocery, Fruits & Vegetables. INR 30 Crores is for the public liability which covers Pandals, Stadiums, Devotees etc. is secured. INR 289.50 Crores is for the Personal Accident Insurance cover for Volunteers, Archaks, Cooks, Gadis, Chappal Stall Workers, Valet Parking Persons, Security Guards, etc. INR 43 Lacs: The Standard Fire & Special Peril Policy for the venue premises.

## Maratha reservation: why Devendra Fadnavis to be blamed?

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

**I**n 2018, then the Devendra Fadnavis-led government in Maharashtra had given reservation to the Maratha community in jobs and higher education, however, the Maharashtra's government decision on quota was quashed by the Supreme Court in May 2021. A 5-judge bench of the Supreme Court in May 2021 said that the Maratha community was not socially and educationally backward. It also refused a review petition in April 2023 declaring that the law which granted quota was unconstitutional. Now, Devendra Fadnavis is Deputy CM and successfully running the coalition government. Opposition is lashing out at Fadnavis for the lathicharge and teargas firing on protesters. Whereas, the officer higher rank officers take such decisions to control the mob violence.

Violence had broken out on Friday after protesters clashed with the

police and allegedly pelted stones on them, leading to lathicharge and use of teargas. Around 20 protesters and 37 cops were injured during the clash. Over the last few days, hundreds of protesters, led by Manoj Jarange, a local Maratha leader, have been sitting on a hunger-strike demanding reservation. At least seven FIRs have so far been registered by the police against the protesters on charges such as assault on policemen, rioting, damage to public and private property. Soon after the clashes opposition leaders reached Jalna and started attacking Devendra by calling him a brahman leader. The venomous WhatsApp forwards were made to create anger against this leader in the name of his cast. Without getting bothered about the attacks, Devendra took control over the present situation.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 02**

## Editoritis

*Till the Maratha community gets reservation, the government schemes that are already in place will continue and deserving people from the Maratha community will benefit from it.*

*After a prolonged struggle, the Maharashtra legislature passed a bill proposing a 16% reservation in education and government jobs for the Maratha community.*

*There was a movement in the 1920s when some agrarian groups who tilled the land sub-let to them by the Maratha Landowners were mobilised into the Maratha identity by the Maratha politicians for Vote bank.*

# Maratha reservation: why Devendra Fadnavis to be blamed?

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In the meantime, Maharashtra CM Shinde told the protesters that they are committed to provide reservation to the Maratha community in education and government jobs. Shinde also said that there was no misunderstanding between him and two deputy chief ministers in the state and that all of them were working as a good team. Till the Maratha community gets reservation, the government schemes that are already in place will continue and deserving people from the Maratha community will benefit from it.

In the year 1997, Maratha Sangh and Maratha Seva Sangh organised the first major Maratha agitation for reservation in government jobs and educational institutions. The protestors said that the Marathas were not upper caste but essentially Kunbis (members of the agrarian community). After a prolonged struggle, the Maharashtra legislature passed a bill proposing a 16% reservation in education and government jobs for the Maratha community. The bill declared Maratha as a socially and educationally backward class by the government.

The real Marathas or Marathas constituted 5 percent in Marathwada, 7 percent in Western Maharashtra, North Maharashtra and Konkan, 0.13 percent in Vidarbha of the state's Marathi speakers as per the 1901 census. There was a movement in the 1920s when some agrarian groups who tilled the land sub-let to them by the Maratha Landowners were mobilised into the Maratha identity by the Maratha politicians for Vote bank. Which makes Marathas of today a cluster of castes (of somewhat unrelated castes of different social and economic standings). Most of this neo-Maratha agrarian population got the land they tilled registered on their names as per the land ceiling act (famously called the Kula Kayada in Marathi), thus achieving their total Maratha-status.

This was unfortunate because the agrarian groups which deserved reservation long back were ignored as they had taken up the new Maratha identity. But now today with the division of land (they had got due to Kula Kayada) these groups seek reservation (for which they are ready to even revert back to their original caste identity). The Maratha Proper caste on the other hand is relatively well off and hasn't shown much interest in the reservation movement. Asking reservations can be a constitutional right but using Shivaji Maharaj's name and Maratha identity for that is utterly unacceptable. Maratha reservation is a hard sell legally and politically. Article 15 (4) reads: Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes

and the Scheduled Tribes.]

article 15 (5) reads: Nothing in this article or in sub-clause (g) of clause (1) of article 19 shall prevent the State from making any special provision, by law, for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in so far as such special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of article 30.] Article 16 (4) reads: Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.

From the above reading, it should be clear that currently, constitutional provision of reservation is only for (i) any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens (art 15 for access to educational institutions and advancement in other areas). (ii) any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State. Problem is that It's difficult to establish that Marathas are socially and educationally backward classes. In 2003-04, the National Commission for Backward Classes rejected the demand for including the Maratha community in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category. The Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission had held in 2008 that "Marathas are both economically and politically a forward caste. They never faced social stigma to invite backward class status."

So, weighing these reports, no reservation can be given to marathas in educational institutions (art 15) and similarly, marathas are adequately represented in the services under the State, hence, no reservation can follow either in matters of public employment (art 16). Only solution is amendment in articles or making new data to check the real deprived ratio.

*Vaidehi*

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## Letters to the Editor

### Needs protection and conservation Maratha Reservation Matter

The demand for reservation is not new in the country. Every community has been seen taking to the streets for reservation to improve the future life of their families. Jalna is Smoldering under the Maratha reservation movement. Police attacked protesters demanding reservation led by Manoj Jarang. The demand for Maratha reservation was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2021. Maratha Reservation Bill was passed in 2018. Provision was made to give 16 percent reservation in educational institutions. Medical students went to Mumbai High Court against this bill. To reduce it in 2019, the court argued that if the limit of 50 percent reservation is crossed then it is a violation of the orders of the Supreme Court in the Indira Sawhney case and the Mandal Commission case. 52 percent reservation is already being practiced in Maharashtra. Scheduled Tribe 7.5 percent, Other Backward Class 27 percent and Other 2.5 percent is applicable, but the Maratha community has come out on the streets demanding reservation and non-compliance of the order of the Supreme Court.

N Ashraf

### Media is the watchdog of society!

Media is the watchdog of society & happy to learn that CM Shinde called civic Chief after he read about the presence of trash near Mazagaon in mid-day & ordered for its removal. However it is a pity that the civic administration have to be reminded of their duties & no wonder that the city is in a sorry state of affairs when it comes to cleanliness & infrastructure.

BMC is the richest civic body in the world but unfortunately not the efficient when it comes to administration. The civic body must appoint an CEO from the corporate world for better efficiency & accountability. The role of media is important as they keep the administration on their toes by their stories & reporting that affects the citizens!

S.N.Kabra

### St. Mother Teresa: An epitome of mercy

Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata (original name, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) has made India proud by showing and proving to the world what one person's mission can achieve. She was born in Skopje, Yugoslavia on August 27, 1910

and landed in India in 1929. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, which is still active today even after her death on September 5, 1997.

The members of her congregation run homes for people, irrespective of caste, creed, colour or religion, dying of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, leprosy and much more. India has honoured this messenger of Christ with the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna in 1980, besides other awards prior to that. A year before her death, the world honoured her with the Nobel Peace Prize.

In the year, 1948, Mother Teresa became an Indian citizen. She got her training as a nurse in Patna (Bihar). She opened a school in a slum area in Calcutta (now Kolkata). It was run with the help of donations. Many of Mother Teresa's former girl students also became nuns and came to help her in her social work.

Saint Mother Teresa had critics even within the Catholic Church and within her congregation too but how she responded to such venomous criticism is very simple. There was no convincing response other than her simple and profound life lived out for the poor and the dying. Her life which is an epitome of gratuitous mercy, is the only convincing response to all criticism aimed at her.

Jubel D'Cruz

# Relevance of Teacher's Day



Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5 to pay respect and tribute to the teachers of the nation who have contributed a lot towards the betterment of the society and by imparting education on us.

Teachers are reckoned as the backbone of the society who put all their efforts to shape the career of the students and help them become successful citizens of the country. For the students, Teachers' Day is the most auspicious occasion where they get the opportunity to pay tribute, gratitude and reverence to their teachers for the extraordinary support and unselfish effort in shaping the career of the students and for enhancing the education system of the country with their unique learning processes.

A teacher is a friend, philosopher, and guide who holds our hand, opens our mind,

and touches our heart. The contribution of a teacher cannot be ignored at all.

Teachers treat all students equally and take proper care of them and love them dearly as their own child. In real life, we usually owe them more than our parents. They play a crucial role in arousing the heart of all students and light it up with education and knowledge and help them in eliminating regret and ignorance.

Since children spend a lot of time in school in their formative and impressionable years, teachers wield a great influence on them.

In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated on September 5 to commemorate the birthday of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was a thinker, philosopher, academician, diplomat and above all, a great teacher.

Teachers' Day celebrations are meant to convey the message that we care for our teachers, just as they care for us. On this day, students often dress up like their teachers and teach their juniors. Sometimes, teachers also sit in classrooms and act like students, reliving the time when they were students themselves. This creates a bond of understanding between teachers and students. It's not just on September 5 that we should remember our teachers but we should remember them all through the year for the role they play in moulding our career and our future.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail  
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**No postal letters will be entertained**  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

# 'Maratha Quota' Violence: Protestor's said, "State government has notified police for the laathi charge on people on purpose"

Many protestors who were a part of 'Maratha Quota' protest mentioned that our aim of this protest was only to make sure that government is listening to us and works in favour of people.

People who were involved in this protest started this peacefully but suddenly police had intervened into the matter and did a sudden 'laathi charge' on the protestors. It seems all these actions of police was only done by the orders given by state government.

Earlier many people were protesting in Jalna district of Maharashtra demanding 'Maratha reservation' after which sudden police laathi charge was seen to the protestors and this incident's video had gone viral on social media.

After this horrific incident lot of people from other districts joined the protest and mentioned that they will be supporting this protest for 'Maratha reservation'.

While some people in the protest mentioned that this matter is in the supreme court while others have mentioned that state government should intervene into the matter.



Ajit Pawar faction NCP, MP Sunil Tatkare told Afternoon Voice, "This incident seen in Jalna district was very sad. I am also in support of these people who are demanding 'Maratha reservation'. State government should setup a committee for proper investigation into the matter and those who have tried to flout law and order situation in the state should be punished".

AIMIM MP Imtiyaz Jaleel said, "It is not possible that police is working on their own and were not given any orders from the state government and then giving one police



of Jalna a mandate leave these were all actions were planned for the incident. Now Muslim people will also support protestors for 'Maratha reservation'.

Maratha Samanvayak woker Manoj Shemde Patil said, "We started this protest on a peaceful note after which on the initial 2 days nothing happened within the protest but later police suddenly came and did laathi charge on us many of the women protestors were also trashed brutally by the police. This misbehaviour of police was not possible by themselves all alone as they as strongly seems that they were getting orders from the home minister of the state".



"At present, the work of registering crimes against many young women of the Maratha community is still going on by the home minister of the state" Patil further added.

Maratha Samanvayak woker Vinod Patil said, "This case for the Maratha reservation has gone to Supreme Court and its been a long time where nobody is looking into the matter. People were peacefully protesting but police suddenly did a laathi charge was not at all correct and this is a complete failure of state government and central government. In Maharashtra when people from different have come into power but still are not willing to listen to us".



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MNS spokesperson Avinash Abhyankar said, "This protest was seen as peaceful protest at the beginning of it but later why there was sudden laathi charge done on protestors should be checked and People who were involved for creating violence in this incident should be punished".



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Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatna state president Pooja More said, "This sudden act of police was not possible without the notification or authorisation from the state government. Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis had done various promises to the people of Maharashtra but he could not do anything in for the people who were demanding 'Maratha reservation' in the state".

Annasaheb Patil Arthik Magas Vikas Mahamandal President Narendra Patil said, "We feel sad for this incident and CM and Dy CM had also mentioned in the press conference that laathi charge orders to the protestors on jalna was not given by them and People should also understand that decision on this case will take a bit time and till that law and order situation should be maintained".



Annasaheb Patil Arthik Magas Vikas Mahamandal President Narendra Patil said, "We feel sad for this incident and CM and Dy CM had also mentioned in the press conference that laathi charge orders to the protestors on jalna was not given by them and People should also understand that decision on this case will take a bit time and till that law and order situation should be maintained".

## Maharashtra CM condemns Udhayanidhi Stalin's 'eradicate Sanatan Dharma' remark



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday condemned DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's 'eradicate Sanatan Dharma' remark.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Shinde, targeting the INDIA alli-

ance parties wrote, 'Leaders from these parties were being hosted and fed sumptuous meals by Uddhav Thackeray ji. I dare him to come out and condemn these words else it will be assumed he also supports this vitriol again Sanatan Dharma. I have no doubt that Hindu Hri-

day Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray would have expressed deep anguish and ordered Shiv Sainiks to condemn such Anti Hindu sentiments. As a proud Hindu nationalist party, we condemn the statement made by Udhayanidhi Stalin and demand an unconditional and immediate apology.'

A day earlier, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came down heavily on Stalin for his remarks calling for the 'eradication' of the Sanatan Dharma, the teachings of Hinduism, and equating it with "mosquitoes, dengue, malaria and corona."

## 'No coercive action against former Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar': Maha govt assures Bombay HC

The Maharashtra government on Monday orally assured the Bombay High Court that no coercive action will be taken till Wednesday against former Mumbai mayor and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Kishori Ped-

nekar in connection with an FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) to probe alleged irregularities involved in purchasing body bags for deceased Covid-19 patients.

The HC will now hear Ped-

nekar's anticipatory bail plea on Wednesday.

The sessions court on August 29 had rejected Pednekar's pre-arrest bail plea, following which she moved the HC challenging the order.

## Fadnavis apologises for use of force on Jalna protestors

Speaking at a press conference, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said the use of force on protestors demanding Maratha reservation in Jalna cannot be supported at any cost and apologised for the same.

He also hit out at the Opposition for blaming the state government for the lathicharge and teargas firing in Jalna on Friday. "Some political leaders used it (the violence) as a political tool. They claimed that leaders from Mantralaya ordered the lathich-

arge. It should be clear to them that such actions are taken at district level only. When tribals were shot at in Nagpur (Sharad Pawar was CM then), was that ordered from Mantralaya? When farmers were fired at in Maval (Prithviraj Chavan was CM and Ajit Pawar Dy CM), was that ordered from Mantralaya?" he asked.

Further, CM Eknath Shinde spoke to Maratha leader Manoj Jarange Patil over the phone and assured him that the government is positive about the issue.

## Airhostess found dead in plush flat in Marol society, Mumbai police begins probe

A 25-year-old air hostess was found dead inside a flat in a plush housing society in the Marol area of Mumbai. Her throat was found slit with a sharp weapon.

The Powai police have registered a case of murder against

an unidentified person and have begun an investigation. Three teams have been deployed to look for the killer.

Cops are currently scanning the CCTV cameras installed in the society premises, and approaching roads.



## Nation

## Article 370 Case: SC seeks affidavit from petitioners on his allegiance to Indian Constitution and J&K integral part of India



The Supreme Court on Monday asked National Conference leader Mohammad Akbar Lone, one of the petitioners challenging the abrogation of Article 370, to file an affidavit on his allegiance to the Indian Constitution and that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Lone to tell him to file

an affidavit.

Lone had allegedly raised 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogan in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. "Furnish an affidavit from Lone that he swears allegiance to the Constitution of India and that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of Union of India like all Indians. We have everyone from Jammu and Kashmir here," the bench told Sibal. In the morning, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for Centre urged the

top court that Lone should file an affidavit asserting that he owed allegiance to the Constitution of India and opposed terrorism and secessionist forces by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the post lunch hearing in the apex court, the bench also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant asked Sibal if Lone unconditionally accepts that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that he bears allegiance to the Constitution of India. CJI Chandrachud said that when Lone has invoked the jurisdiction of the apex court under Article 32 of the Constitution, then he has to believe in sovereignty of the nation and that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Attorney General R Venkataramani also said, "He (Lone) wants his fundamental rights to be enforced and then takes a contrary viewpoint." ANI

## Santana Dharma remark controversy: Udhayanidhi Stalin said, "I'll repeat the same thing again and again"



Unfazed by attacks from various leaders, Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin on Monday said that he would repeat the same thing again and again as he has included all religions and not just Hindus. "The day before yesterday I spoke at a function about it (Sanatana Dharma). Whatever I said, I'll repeat the same thing again and again...I included all the religions and not just Hindus...I spoke condemning the caste differences that's all," Udhayanidhi Stalin said.

The Minister's speech triggered a political outrage by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Earlier on Sunday, Udhayanidhi said, "Sanatana is like malaria and dengue and so it must be eradicated and not opposed." "I thank the organisers of this conference for giving me the opportunity to deliver a special address. You have kept the name of the conference as 'Sanatana Abolition Conference' rather than 'Anti-Sanatana Conference', I appreciate that," Udhayanidhi said. He further said, "Few things cannot be opposed, that should be abolished only. We can't oppose Dengue, Mosquitoes, Malaria, or Corona, we have to eradicate this that's how we have to eradicate Sanatana. Rather opposing Sanatana it should be eradicated." ANI

## MP: Traders go on strike against 'Mandi tax' price in Indore

Grain traders in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district went on an indefinite strike demanding to reduce the mandi tax from Monday, an official said. Assistant Inspector of Indore Mandi Vishnu Rathore said, "The grain traders have been on strike from Monday demanding to reduce the mandi tax. The strike is said to be indefinite. At present, the mandi tax is charged Rs 1.70 from the traders on per purchase of Rs 100 and the trad-

ers have demanded to reduce it."

Currently, 50 carts of wheat, gram and soybean arrive daily in the Indore mandi, he added. President of Grain Oilseed Traders Association Indore, Sanjay Aggarwal said, "Madhya Pradesh Gross Grain Oilseeds Association has called for an indefinite strike regarding various issues of the traders. We have demanded to reduce the mandi tax to 50 paise on per purchase of Rs 100, which is being charged Rs 1.70. The

renewal of lease is also pending for many years, it should be renewed."

They have also demanded removal of anomalies under Mandi Acts. Crops like soybeans, wheat and gram are arriving in Madhya Pradesh and Goods worth Rs 400 to 500 crores are arriving in the state. Farmers and labourers will also be harmed by the strike. Therefore they demand that the government pay attention towards it, he added. ANI

## Jammu and Kashmir: One terrorist killed at an encounter in Reasi area

A terrorist was killed and one police personnel injured in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi on Monday. "One terrorist killed so far, one Police personnel injured. Details awaited," officials said.

Earlier, an encounter between security forces and terrorists broke out in the Jammu and Kashmir's



Reasi is underway. "Encounter started at Reasi. On the basis of police input regarding the presence of two terrorists. Encounter going on

in Gali Sohab in Tuli area of Chasana sir," ADGP Mukesh Singh said. Meanwhile, police and the army are on the job. ANI

## AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal slams PM Modi over the 'one India, one election' idea, says 'He will be present only once in 5 years'



Targeting Narendra Modi, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said if the 'one India, one election' proposal becomes a reality, the prime minister will show his face to the electorate once in five years. He also claimed that if someone is seeking votes on 'one India, one election' after nine years of governance, he has not done any work.

Kejriwal was in the city along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for presenting the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) 'guarantee cards' ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly polls due later

this year. "Why is Modi ji saying one nation, one election? At present, elections are held every six months, so he has to give an account to the public every six months. "If polls are held every five years, a gas cylinder will be available for Rs 5,000 and in the penultimate year, a discount of Rs 200 discount will be given. Similarly, tomatoes will be sold at Rs 1,500 per kg," he said. "That is why there should be four elections every year, he (Modi) will give at least something. Otherwise, he will not even show his face for five years," he added. PTI

## World

# US: 4 astronauts return home after 6 month stay on International Space Station



**F**our astronauts on Monday returned home from a six-month stay on the International Space Station, making a splashdown landing aboard their SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule off the coast of Florida, CNN reported. The astronauts, members of the Crew-6 mission run jointly by NASA and SpaceX, departed the space station on Sunday at 7:05 am ET.

The crew spent the day aboard the 13-foot-wide Crew

Dragon vehicle as it manoeuvred through Earth's orbit and toward its target landing site off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida, where they landed after midnight ET. The Crew Dragon capsule was travelling at more than 17,000 miles per hour (27,000 kilometres per hour), and as it began the final leg of its descent, the spacecraft's exterior heated up to about 3,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,900 degrees Celsius) while it sliced back into the thickest part of

Earth's atmosphere, as per CNN.

Passengers inside the spacecraft cabin were protected by a heat shield and the temperature should've stayed at comfortable temperatures well below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). The capsule then deployed sets of parachutes to further slow its descent. Rescue crews waiting near the splashdown site are prepared to haul the spacecraft out of the ocean and onto a special boat, called the "Dragon's Nest," where final safety checks will take place before the crew can disembark.

Before the astronauts left the space station, NASA said that it had been monitoring the impact of Hurricane Idalia, which made landfall on Wednesday morning on Florida's Gulf Coast. The storm pummeled northern Florida before tearing through southern Georgia and into the Carolinas, as per CNN. **ANI**

## Myanmar officials said, "They are unhappy with the fighter jets received by Pakistan and declared them as unfit"

**M**ulti-role fighter planes, JF-17 Thunder, supplied to Myanmar by Pakistan were declared unfit and the military junta has sent a "stern message" to Islamabad to answer for the mess, Myanmar-based Narinjara News reported citing sources. Pakistan supplied many JF-17 Thunder combat aircraft to Myanmar between 2019 and 2021 and all have been declared "unfit for operations."

The delivered planes were part of a deal that the Burmese military junta signed in 2016 to

purchase JF-17 produced jointly by Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and Chengdu Aircraft Industries Corporation of China. But soon after the delivery of the aircraft, the Burmese Air Force was forced to ground the planes as malfunctions and structural flaws were detected.

The failure of JF-17 appears to be shimmering tensions between Islamabad and Naypyidaw and somehow compelled China to intervene. A recent visit by Myanmar's Chinese envoy to Naypyidaw is said to have car-

ried a message from the CCP's top leadership to Gen Min Aung Hlaing, as per Narinjara News.

According to sources, Pakistan is trying hard to renegotiate the deal with newer versions of the JF-17s. In all likelihood, these new variants will be developed by the same combination of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and Chengdu Aircraft Industries Corporation of China.

However, so far there is little information on whether the renegotiated deal has been accepted by the military junta leadership. **ANI**

## Russia - Ukraine's tussle: Amid increasing tensions Russia attacks Ukraine's biggest grain exporting ports

**J**ust hours before talks between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin were scheduled to take place, Russia unleashed a round of drone attacks on one of Ukraine's largest grain exporting ports, Al Jazeera reported. Residents of Izmail port, one of Ukraine's two main grain exporting terminals on the Danube River in the Odesa region, were urged to seek cover by the air

force early on Monday.

Oleh Kiper, the governor of Odesa, later claimed that although 17 drones were shot down over the southern region, the attack severely damaged the port's infrastructure. "17 drones were shot down by our air defence forces," Kiper wrote on Telegram, adding, "But, unfortunately, there are also hits. In several settlements of Izmail district, warehouses and production buildings, agricultural machinery and equipment of in-

dustrial enterprises were damaged." Kiper added that preliminary reports showed no fatalities or injuries.

The drone attack happened as Putin and Erdogan were about to meet in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, to discuss an agreement to export grain from Ukraine, which would have helped alleviate a food crisis in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, as reported by Al Jazeera. **ANI**

## Typhoon Haikui : Several trains cancelled some were suspended in China due to prediction of Typhoon



**S**everal trains have been cancelled and some schools have been suspended as typhoon Haikui is predicted to make landfall along the southeast coast of China on Tuesday, China-based Global Times reported. On Monday, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) issued a yellow alert for typhoon and heavy rains, the third highest in its four-tier warning system. According to NMC, Haikui is likely to land in the coastal area between Fujian province's Zhangpu and Guangdong province's Huilai. Impacted by Haikui, heavy rains will continue in areas including Guangdong, Fujian and Taiwan from Monday to Wednesday, Global Times reported.

From Monday morning to Tuesday morning, there will be a storm surge of 30-70 centimetres along the eastern coast of Guangdong, along the eastern coast of Guangdong with 3 to 5-meter-high waves in the northeastern part of the South China Sea and

2 to 3.3-meter-high waves in the offshore waters of eastern Guangdong, according to the South China Sea Forecasting and Disaster Reduction Center of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

On Monday, the South China Sea Forecasting and Disaster Reduction Center issued a yellow alert for large waves and a storm surge. The alert requires relevant departments to assist fishing boats in making necessary preparations. China Railway Guangdong Group said that 391 high-speed trains will be cancelled from Monday afternoon onwards. These include services operating along the Hangzhou-Shenzhen line. These trains operate from Zhejiang through Fujian to Guangdong, and through the Meizhou-Shantou Railway which operates across Guangdong province. A total of 47 passenger trains passing through the Hangzhou-Shenzhen line have been suspended from Monday, Global Times reported citing China Railway Shanghai Group. **ANI**

## Pakistan : After power outage residents are about to face water crisis in Karachi

**W**ater delivery in the city was hampered on Monday due to a power outage at Karachi's Dhabeji pumping station, ARY News reported. The Dhabeji pumping station, which is responsible for supplying water to all of Karachi, experienced a power outage, which means that Karachi's residents may face water scarcity.

According to a Water Corporation spokesperson, the 72-inch diameter line, known as line number 5, is impacted by the power outage, according to ARY News. According to the spokesperson, representatives from the water corporation

are on the scene and thoroughly inspecting the affected line in an effort to pinpoint the source of the issue. Bulkwater Corporation's chief engineer confirmed that actions are being taken to repair the damaged pipe in order to mitigate any potential inconvenience for city residents caused by the water supply outage, as reported by ARY News. The city's water supply has been switched to alternative lines, according to the chief engineer, while the damaged pipe is being repaired. Pakistan, which is already reeling from a power crisis, will now face a water crisis in parts of Karachi. **ANI**



## Expression

# The Role of Teachers in Society



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
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The modern age with its dynamic development, new technologies and advancement in different areas of life is one of the reasons why we respect and admire innovators, such as scientists, entrepreneurs, and artists so much. However, sometimes we unjustly forget the quiet heroes of progress. Those who work behind the stage, our teachers. The truth is quite simple – just like the importance of education, the role of teachers in society is also crucial.

### Teacher in front of a green board

Without a good education and effective teachers, there is no progress in any of the key areas important for societal development, from science to art and technology.

The position of teachers is the most delicate in that sense. They have direct responsibility and influence on what their students will become. Whether they will develop their full potential and eventually grow into people everyone will admire, or will become constrained and inhibited without the necessary knowledge, encouragement, or stimulation.

Hence, the fate of our society depends on teachers to a great measure, and that is why we need to talk about the role of teachers in society.

### Why do we need more highly effective teachers?

Learning is a lifelong activity, and the teacher is an integral part of that process, especially in formal education. Simply put, after the initial learning experiences in the family, teachers take over the responsibility for children's education from parents. This is especially true today, when many parents have a very limited time to spend with their children, because they work 9 to 5 the role of teachers in students' life becomes that much more important.

Therefore, teachers are not there just to convey knowledge, but also to educate children by instilling moral principles and values in them. In other words, the teacher teaches, but also educates.

In consequence, it is not surprising that 98% of respondents in a survey believe that a teacher can change a student's life. Educators wield great power, and consequently, have great responsibility. That is why it is important that every teacher is up to the task, and behaves in accordance with their position and influence. The role of society is to

make that possible.

### Being a teacher – profession or calling

Many occupations are just that, professions, and despite the satisfaction they can provide, there comes a time in life when one simply wants to change their career. In that situation, the teaching profession becomes one of the potential career options. However, it is different with born teachers. For them, teaching is not a profession, it is a calling.

Simply put, such teachers feel that their only calling is to teach, and dedicate themselves to their students, even in adverse conditions. Hence the belief that a good teacher actually views their profession as a calling.

Such a teacher is prepared to do everything it takes to provide their students with the necessary knowledge and values, support and encouragement that will help them to grow into free-thinking and successful adults. In other words, whether we will have a good education or not greatly depends on whether our teachers experience their profession as a true calling or not.

Because the reality is that no matter how well-conceived an educational strategy or how wisely built an education system is, without quality teachers to implement it "in the field" it is impossible to have a good education. What our future society will look like largely depends on education presently. This is how it was yesterday, this is how it is now, and this is how it will be tomorrow: conveying knowledge is the very foundation of our civilization, hence the teaching profession is extremely important.

Therefore, the teachers are those that make a difference and make education good and effective. They teach young people fundamental life values, not just the curriculum content. They demonstrate and prove time and time again that one should not only learn things that are practically applicable, but also things that will expand their knowledge, culture and moral values. All these things combined are crucially important for students as valuable experience, and a reliable value system. Thus, teachers are authentic role models for young people, and for all those who want to learn and develop themselves. They are passionate when it comes to their job, conveying knowledge, providing incentives and guidelines for student advancement.

### Just like society, teaching is also changing

Education has gone through and still undergoes a variety of significant changes, and one of the most important ones is changing the focus toward the role and influence of teachers. Research shows that

the teacher is the most important factor in education that influences the success of students in many ways:

In fact, one research shows that 88% of the respondents stated that teachers had a significant positive role in their life.

In keeping with the modern times, new circumstances and needs of new generations, the manner of teaching and interaction with students has changed. However, as we can see, the role of the teacher in society has remained unchanged. A good teacher still has a great impact on society.

However, the teaching profession has become much more sensitized. They can no longer teach ex-cathedra, but have to find ways to get students interested, and encourage them to take an active part in the teaching process. They also have to be familiar with modern technologies, and able to manage teamwork: in other words, modern teachers also have to be keen students.

### Effective teacher – a teacher who is up to the challenges of 21st-century education

An effective teacher is a versatile individual whose work is a unique combination of knowledge, skills, beliefs, lofty values, professional aspirations, and motivation.

Such teachers are not only characterized by a profound knowledge of the curriculum and teaching content, but also by various soft skills and knowledge that allow them to help students master the most advanced knowledge and skills. Effective teachers ensure the highest quality of education by providing their students with support and tools based on the latest research and integration of educational technologies that help them to advance and develop their full potential.

In other words, an effective teacher is an authentic representative of the modern age, capable of maintaining a meaningful connection with his/her students at all times, and influencing their work and learning, but also the relationship with oneself, others and the environment.

In fact, according to research, effective teachers also impact the living standard of a society. Specifically, if we replace a teacher ranked at the very bottom of effectiveness with an average one,

### Teaching – one profession, many roles

The importance of teachers is confirmed by the fact that this is one of the very few occupations that have a varied and far-reaching impact on society. Hence, the roles of the teacher are numerous and important.

- Tutor. Teachers teach children and have a great influence on the formation of their ethical beliefs.

- Conveyor of knowledge. A person who conveys knowledge, skills and tools necessary for success in life.
- Role model. The teacher is someone his/her students look up to, because of their qualities, education and attitudes.
- Initiator. Through their work, teachers train students to become productive members of society, thus helping society to thrive.
- Inspiration. The teacher instills their students with confidence, encouraging them to aim high and achieve their goals.
- Keeper of knowledge and values. By conveying knowledge and values our civilization is based on, the teacher also guards them against oblivion.
- Engine of progress. The teacher also supports and enables progress, new knowledge and noble ideas that help us discover new areas, and develop as a civilization.
- Support. The teacher is always there for his/her students, supporting them in their noble endeavors and goals.

### Teachers play an important role in the life of every person

Even in adulthood, when they complete formal education, people never stop learning. They attend courses, develop professionally and change careers, and the key role in this process also belongs to teachers. Not a small number of people were influenced by teachers they had met as adults. Simply put, a good teacher has the power to broaden your perspective and improve your life, regardless of how old you are.

Therefore, when we think about great people, let us not forget that behind many of them stand armies of dedicated teachers, the discreet heroes of our progress. If we want students to obtain applicable knowledge, but also to develop positive qualities such as environmental awareness, social awareness, tolerance, altruism and respect, we need to make sure that teachers can develop without constraints, and to provide them with all the necessary resources that will allow them to do their job as best they can.

Research has shown that an average teacher influences the lives of as many as 3000 students during his/her career. In other words, a single good teacher can positively impact the lives of 3000 people who will become important factors in our society tomorrow. This means that one of the most vital interests of society is to nurture and create good and effective teachers.

# Entertainment



**Actress Madhuri Dixit recalls memories of film 'Khalnayak' says, "We had a great time filming the movie"**

Sanjay Dutt and Madhuri Dixit-starrer iconic movie 'Khalnayak' is re-releasing in theatres on September 5 to celebrate 30 years of the film. Madhuri felt ecstatic about it and said, "Congratulations to Mukta Arts, Subhash ji and the whole team of 'Khalnayak' on completing thirty years. We had a great time filming the movie. It is still fresh in people's minds. Thank you for all the love you have given to 'Khalnayak' and hope you enjoy watching it again in theatres."

ANI

**Actor Sunny Deol's son said, "Family didn't want me to become an actor"**



Rajveer Deol, the younger son of Sunny Deol, says his family was not in favour of him joining the movie industry because of its unpredictable nature.

Rajveer is making his acting debut with romantic drama "Dono", which also launches veteran actor Poonam Dhillon and producer Ashok Thakeria's daughter Paloma.

The film is directed by first-time filmmaker Avnish, who is Sooraj Barjatya's son. "My parents never wanted me to become an actor. They wanted me to study and do something else. It's because this industry is so unpredictable. You are happy for a second and (feel) miserable the next. PTI



**Actor Kristin Chenoweth says, "I didn't want to wear white" over wedding gown**

Actor Kristin Chenoweth, who married Josh Bryant in an intimate wedding ceremony on Saturday in Dallas, Texas, wore a pink gown in place of a traditional white one as she was not keen on opting for white, reported People. "I didn't want to wear white," Chenoweth told People.

She added, "I went with a sheer nude and Chanel pink overlay with a big bow in the back. Very structured. It has tiny pearl flowers all over the bodice that ombré out to the floor." Chenoweth continued, "Simple and elegant. I never thought I'd get married, so I went very nontraditional with the gown. I love it." The 55-year-old singer and actor shared that she wished her wedding dress to look stylish and authentic. "On that day, I want to look like Kristin, I want to feel like Kristin, and I want Josh to see the girl that he has been with for five years," she told People ahead of the ceremony. ANI