

# Mumbai Mirror

TEMPERATURE MAX 33 | MIN 24 | HUMIDITY 74%

FORECAST ONE OR TWO SPELLS OF RAIN

SUNRISE 0632 HRS

SUNSET 1818 HRS

SENSEX 20203 ↓

NIFTY 6090 ↓

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## THE GAME CHANGERS

Sini, Ashwini, Manjeet, Mandeep capture 4x400 gold; a medal that could change India athletics, says Sebastian Coe

SPORT 20



# 3 QUESTIONS FOR VICE-CHANCELLOR

Meenal Baghel  
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**T**wo weeks ago this newspaper first reported Mumbai university's decision to discontinue Rohinton Mistry's *Such A Long Journey* from its English literature syllabus smack in the middle of term, at the behest of a few neo-literate Shiv Sainiks.

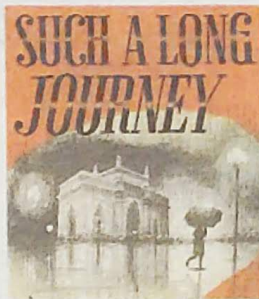
Neo-literate, because Mistry's book was first published 20 years ago.

Since the story broke, a few left-liberals — college lecturers, writers, journalists — the usual suspects, you may say, have signed an online petition against this act of arbitrariness; Principal of St Xavier's College, Father Mascarenhas has spoken out against the ban; his student, Aditya Thackeray (studying in TYBA), at whose behest, the Sainiks protested, has emerged as a celebrity.

Dressed in a T-shirt proclaiming: You Bring Out The Tiger In Me, the 20-year-old told interviewers if Mistry's book could be part of the syllabus then so should Javier Moro's controversial novel about Sonia Gandhi, *The Red Saree*.

Reading the offending passages in *Such A Long Journey*, he told the Indian Express on Tuesday, "was enough to give (one) goose bumps."

When *Mumbai Mirror* reporter Anand Holla had asked him last fortnight whether he'd read the book, Aditya texted him: "We didn't have the book, Anandji, so I haven't read it, but many students told me about it." To get goose bumps with such a second-hand account, young Thackeray must have an-extraordi-



narly sensitive epidermis.

Through all the protest and posturing, Mumbai University vice-chancellor Dr Rajan Welukar has remained stoic. Repeated efforts to speak to him, to try and understand his logic for dropping the acclaimed 'Bombay' book from the syllabus have only elicited silence, and once, a hair-trigger rebuke. When asked for his specific opinion of the book, he said: "You can't ask me such questions, and if you publish what I have just said, I'll sue you."

Since the vice chancellor won't respond to requests for an interview, here's an open question for him:

**1** Sir, Did you read the book before purging it from the syllabus?

University sources told this newspaper that the V-C invoked an emergency clause, never before used in the University's 153 year old history, to ban Mistry's novel.

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Dr Rajan Welukar



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Pakdo life ka har signal



LAUNCH OF 'THE LEADER WHO HAD NO TITLE' AT CROSSWORD, KEMPS CORNER AT 6.30 PM TODAY

## EVENTS



### exhibition



» **Mumbai Lifescape:** Water-colour paintings by Chandrashekhar Marathe at Art Plaza, Kala Ghoda till October 16. Time: 11 am to 5 pm.

» **Tanjore paintings:** by Maheswari Raja at Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery, Nariman Point till October 19, 11 am to 7 pm. Call: 698415000

» **Tulika Art Gallery:** 'Witnessing', an exhibition of paintings by artist Manoj Patrukar at Raghuvanshi Mills, Lower Parel from October 14 to 31. Time: 11 am to 7 pm. Call: 24913051 / 24913224

» **Paramparik Karigar:** Textile exhibition and sale by master craftsmen from Oct 13 to 16 at Coomaraswamy Hall, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya. Time: 10.30 am to 6.30 pm

» **Exhibition:** Indian Motifs personified with a European touch by artist Daniela Florsheim on view till October 17 at Jehangir art gallery from 11 am to 7 pm.

» **Scabrous Allure:** Ceramic sculptures by Shitanshu G. Maurya from October 30 at the Tao art gallery. Call: 9820322515

### music | dance | workshop

» **Eggless Cake making:** Learn to make German Black Forest, Pinacolada, Date Walnuts, Danish Cake, Mava Cake, etc in a two day workshop starting Oct 13. Call: 26209811

» **Card roading workshop:** by Angel Oracle at Taj Lands End, Bandra. Last date for registration Oct 14. Call: 9820864783, 9220327765

» **Calligraphy workshop:** Learn english, devnagari, innovative designs and patterns using calligraphy at Thane (w). Call: 40121287

» **Konkan Trip:** The Blueberry Trails is doing a 6-day trip to Konkan starting Oct 23. It features beaches, backwater cruises, fort, Konkani cuisine and more. Call 98209 25721

» **Export-Import Training:** by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industry & Agriculture from Oct 18 to 22 near Kalaghoda. Call: 975726707, 9892029473

» **Camps for children:** Tini adventure camp, study and nutrition

» **Photography Exhibition:** by young photographers on the trail in Berlin, Warsaw & Mumbai at Piramal Gallery, NCPA till Oct 17.

» **Exhibition:** Donated new and secondhand books at throw-away prices by Welfare Of Stray Dogs (WSD) from October 14-17, from 10 am to 7 pm at the garage of Vaswani Mansions, Opposite K C College, Churchgate.

» **Exhibition:** 'Shakti', an exhibition of paintings by Vijay Shinde till October 30 at Tao Art Gallery. Time: 6.30 pm onwards daily.

» **Recycled Identities II:** Solo exhibition of sculptures using trash bags and plastic sheets by Khalil Chishti till October 30 at the Loft, Lower Parel.



» **camp, wild wild Yeoor, river trail camp by Sweet memories, Thane.** Call: 25886612, 9323042428

» **A New You:** Workshop about transforming life by Santosh Joshi, at Hotel Kohinoor Continental, Andheri East. Register by October 15. Call: 9820401670, 9820500427. Or go to [anewlifefoundation.com](http://anewlifefoundation.com)

» **Hobby workshop:** Joy Arts is conducting a two day workshop in crystal rangoli and diyas from Monday at Vashi. Call: 9819978774

» **Subconscious power awakening workshop:** based on deep hypnosis along with mystic techniques on Oct 13 at Dadar. Call: 9221416031, 65215647

» **Rain of Bliss:** Self healing workshop using drugless therapy by Rupaji Anant. Call: 7738385141

» **Workshop** on Vedic Maths and memory recall and enhancement technique for Std V to X students. Call: 27545639, 9821341496



# Digital mix

Fusion band Mynta releases *Meetings in India* online, so that it may reach a wider audience

Suprateek Chatterjee  
@timesgroup.com

Mynta categorises their music as 'a mixture of Nordic ice and Indian spice' and they've stuck to that format for over two decades. With its eclectic blend of musical genres, both Indian and Western, their latest album *Meetings In India* promises to be no different. "It is a true world music album," says master percussionist Fazal Qureshi, Mynta's lone Indian member. "We've dabbled in several genres including reggae (for the first time) and the result is something we're very satisfied with."

Qureshi, brother of legendary tabla player Ustad Zakir Hussain and percussion genius Taufiq Qureshi, has been playing tabla as well as kanjira for Indo-Swedish jazz fusion group Mynta since 1987. Speaking about the album, Qureshi says, "Like the last, this is also a purely instrumental album," explaining that famed Bollywood

composer and playback singer Shankar Mahadevan was part of Mynta till a few years ago, which is why they don't have a lead singer now.

*Meetings In India*, recorded partly in Mumbai and partly in Sweden, is named after the title-track composed by their Swedish guitarist Max Ahman. "It has a very typically Indian flavour to it — complex rhythmic and melodic patterns and padanths by me (spoken tabla bols)," explains Qureshi. He also feels that having a purely digital release for the album is the right move. "We live in the era of downloadable music, and as it is, artistes earn only from shows. So why not release the album online and promote it by playing live?" he reasons, adding that the band will begin touring by the end of this month.

One wonders, how a fusion band, which has been playing such experimental music for so long, continue to survive? Qureshi replies, "We keep trying to challenge ourselves with newer styles of music. For example, in our album First Summer

(1997), we used a rap singer. Similarly, in our last album, one of the tracks had a drum & bass mix. We're open to experimenting without compromising our identity as a band."

Performing consistently for over three decades now, Qureshi is clearly at ease with the way times have changed. However, he admits that he does miss certain things about the classical music scene and feels that audiences were a lot more clued in back then. "Music has become like fast food and classical concerts are often wrapped up within an hour nowadays," he rues. "I remember an incident from the '70s, when Pt Ravi Shankarji and my father (Ustad Allahrakha Khan) were playing at Rang Bhavan. They stopped playing at 2 am but were egged on by some in the audience to continue till 4.30 am so that people who had missed the last train home could catch the one in the morning!"

*Meetings In India* is available for download on [www.artistcloud.com](http://www.artistcloud.com)

## A brush with the Swiss

Mumbai Mirror Bureau  
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Swiss painter Daniela Florsheim's paintings are a mirror of the sights she witnessed during her trip through India. Her paintings look like like flashes of memories, but are rooted in reality. Daniela uses local children as a metaphor for the future and her paintings also show Indian fauna and flora.

On exhibit till Oct 17 at Jehangir Art Gallery, Kala Ghoda, from 11 am to 7 pm.



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