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'Outside workers to be sent back'

Mumbai, Feb. 10: Shiv Sena executive president Uddhav Thackeray warned the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport authorities that if workers from outside are employed, "they will be parcelled off and sent back." He indicated that around one lakh workers are to be employed under the airport modernisation programme and that the jobs should go to local Marathi people. He said that it was the Sena which had fought and got the airport named after Chhatrapati Shivaji and they will not tolerate any other "aaltu faaltu" signboard besides the one that says "Mumbai welcomes you."

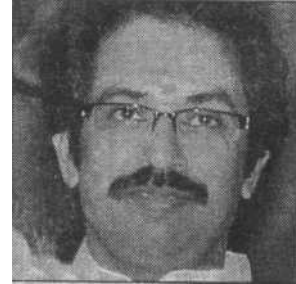
Mr Thackeray was speaking at a get-together of 12 officers' and 22 workers' organisations under the banner of the Bhartiya Kamgar Sena, Shiv Sena's trade union wing.

Mr Thackeray said "we are not against progress but progress must not become an obstacle for the workers- If progress is at the cost of workers we won't accept it."

He said that the *Marathi manus* is able to identify good and bad and knows "that everything which

shines is not gold. They and the Shiv Sena are one and the same, that's why few people started feeling bad about it in the past few days," he said, hitting out obliquely at his cousin Raj Thackeray. He said, "The incidents that have happened recently are a part of this jealousy of the oneness between the Sena and the *Marathi manus*."

Mr Sanjay Raut, the editor of the Sena mouthpiece *Saamna* in a signed article titled "The violence in Mumbai was unnecessary" and the strap line "Marathi respect must be kept" had a direct attack on Raj Thackeray, the chief of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena. He criticised the MNS' violence against the Hindi speaking people in the name of the *Marathi manus*. They damaged taxis, rickshaws, channawallas, upturned panipuri carts, attacked shops where clothes are ironed and beat up milkmen in tabelas. All this was done in/the name of the *Marathi manus*. He said people are asking why Shiv Sena did not do this. And he explains that they get letters from young unemployed Maharashtrian youths asking for jobs clerks and peons. They don't want to do jobs like selling *bhelpuri* and *panipuri*



Uddhav Thackeray

or milk or channa etc. They say it for the bhaiyas. They also don't want to be involved in illicit liquor trade, matka or crime. The article further says that, "105 Marathi people had given their lives for the inclusion of Mumbai in Maharashtra and Marathis will always have the first right on Mumbai. He said that for 47 years since the Sena has been formed it has been protecting and fighting for the rights of the Marathi people. The Shiv Sena supremo is the sole protector of the Marathi people. He said that to protect the pride of Maharashtra Mr Thackeray was prepared to upset its over 20 year old unity with the BJP by supporting Pratibha Patil as the President because she is a Maharashtrian."