

Maharashtra passes bill to strengthen online protection for women, curb digital harassment

Coffee Table
News Network

MUMBAI :The Maharashtra government has passed a Bill amending certain provisions in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to better protect women from online harassment and misuse of digital content. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday introduced the Bill to address the rising problem of cybercrime and the misuse of social media and other digital platforms. The amendments also include changes similar to those in rape and molestation cases, clearly stating that the identity or name of victims cannot be revealed. On the same lines, the identity of acid attack victims cannot be revealed or published in any form. Expansion to Digital Crimes Under the new provisions, the law explicitly covers crimes committed through modern communication methods, including social media, email, mobile phones, and other digital platforms. Sending obscene or offensive messages via these channels will now be

treated as a criminal offence. The amendments make the law stricter for crimes against women online, including the following - - Threatening to upload or share a woman's photos or videos without her consent, including fake or edited (morphed) images or videos. - Spreading sexual content or showing such material. - Using the internet to defame women, damage their reputation, or misuse their name or photos. - These measures are designed to tackle modern challenges such as deepfakes and digitally altered content. Objective of amendments The government stated that these changes will enhance protection for women from online abuse, harassment, and privacy violations, while enabling police to take action more effectively. The central government has enacted the BNS Act with strict provisions against women's atrocities. However, the Indian Judicial Code Amendment Bill 2026 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly today during the budget session of the Legislature to include



two important provisions of 'Shakti' in the BNS. The 'Shakti Bill' was unanimously passed in the Maharashtra Legislature under the leadership of the then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray during the Maha Vikas Aghadi government with the aim of creating a strict legal framework against women's atrocities. The bill, which was passed in 2020-21, included tougher punishment provisions. However, the central government sent back the bill citing some provisions inconsistent with constitutional rights and similar to existing laws of the centre. The Indian Judicial

Code Amendment Bill 2026 was discussed after it was tabled in the Legislative Assembly today. What are these two provisions? - Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after introducing the Indian Judiciary Code Amendment Bill 2026 in the Legislative Assembly drew parallels between the Central Government's BNS Act and the Shakti Act enacted by the state. The Shakti Act was unanimously passed by the Legislature and sent to the Central Government. However, at that time the central government clarified that since the new law of BNS is coming,

there may be an overlap between the two laws. Therefore, the Chief Minister said that most of the provisions of 'Shakti' have been included in BNS. After this, the state government constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Director General of Police and instructed to make a detailed comparison between the 'Shakti' and the BNS Act. In the report of this committee, it was clarified that except for only two clauses in 'Power', all the remaining provisions were already included in the BNS. Necessary Amendment Proposed- There is already a provision to

keep the identity of the victim confidential in rape cases. However, under the 'Shakti' Act, there was a clear provision to keep the identity of the acid attack victim confidential. Since this matter is not in the 'BNS' Act, now a separate new provision is being made for it. Along with this, a provision is also being made to bring defamation of women on social media under the ambit of 'sexual offence'. Necessary amendments have been proposed for this. Also, an attempt has been made to include such acts under the various categories of rape and molestation.

Accordingly, a new amendment has been made. This amendment includes sending obscene messages by phone, email, social media or other digital means, creating real or fake photos/videos of women's bodies. Uploading it or threatening to do so will be considered a crime. Provisions to give justice to men should also be considered! - While making these strict provisions, provisions to give justice to men should be considered in the law, said the MLAs of the opposition party. Power law is supported by all. The MLAs requested to consider it in a 'gender neutral' manner without misunderstanding anyone. Shiv Sena (Ubatha) MLA Bhaskar Jadhav said, "There is a need for laws to give justice to women, and we support this amendment. However, there is a need to have an equally competent mechanism to ensure that men get justice. According to various reports, the number of suicides has increased alarmingly due to the injustice done to men. At the same time, NCP

(Sharad Chandra Pawar) MLA Jitendra Awhad said that the law is being misused." He said, "The incident of rape in 2017 is reported in 2025. Even the police accept it. Because that is the law. However, in such cases, it is expected that there should be some time limit, as well as the condition of concrete evidence like medical examination. Because the possibility of misuse of the law at times cannot be ruled out." It is wrong to use the law as a weapon - at the same time, Congress MLA Aslam Sheikh expressed the opinion that "crimes reported through digital or electronic media should be investigated and further action should be taken." Speaking on all these questions, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis gave a positive response. "It is wrong to use any law as a weapon. It is not expected. Many cases of abuse of the law have come to light. The Supreme Court has also commented on this in strict terms. It will be seen whether the necessary changes can be made after considering the suggestions made by the members," said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Congress to Launch 'Kisan Sangharsh Nyay Yatra' on March 30 for Farmers' Rights

March from Suratgaon to Tuljapur in Dharashiv District Under Leadership of Harshvardhan Sapkal

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Mumbai, March 25, 2026: The Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee has announced a statewide agitation over farmers' issues, launching the 'Kisan Sangharsh Nyay Yatra' to demand justice for farmers. The padyatra (march) will be held on Monday, March 30, from Suratgaon to Tuljapur in Dharashiv district. The yatra will be led by State Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal and will see

participation from senior party leaders, office-bearers, local representatives, party workers, and farmers. The march will commence at 8:00 AM from Suratgaon on the Solapur-Tuljapur highway and conclude at 5:00 PM with a public meeting at Sharada Mangal Karyalaya in Tuljapur. The Congress has strongly criticized the BJP-led government, alleging that its industry-favoring policies have adversely affected farmers. The party stated that

Maharashtra continues to report the highest number of farmer suicides in the country, calling the situation deeply concerning. It further alleged that farmers are not receiving fair prices for their produce and that promises of doubling farmers' income have remained unfulfilled. The Congress also accused the government of failing to enact a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) and not taking action against those offering prices below MSP, despite

prior assurances. Additionally, the party criticized the Central government over its trade agreements with the United States, claiming such policies could severely impact Indian agriculture and farmers. Appealing to farmers to participate in large numbers, the Congress said it will continue its fight for farmers' rights in Parliament, the state legislature, and through public movements.

No delay in registration of FIR over Ajit Pawar's death: Yogesh Kadam

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Maharashtra Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam on Wednesday asserted that there was no delay or negligence in registering a First Information Report (FIR) in connection with the death of senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar in a plane crash earlier this year, reported news agency PTI. He was responding to allegations made by NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar, who had claimed that he was compelled to file a Zero FIR in Karnataka after police in Maharashtra allegedly refused to register a case. Kadam clarified that in incidents such as air crashes, authorities first register an Accidental Death Report (ADR), following which an FIR may be filed if required, reported PTI. He emphasized that the process followed in this case was as per standard procedure



and rejected claims that the police were reluctant to act. "A wrong message is being spread that we do not want to register an FIR. We also want justice in this case," Kadam said, adding that there has been no delay or laxity in the investigation, reported PTI. Assures Thorough Probe Amid Public Concerns The minister acknowledged that the incident has raised concerns among party workers and the public but maintained that the investigation is being conducted diligently, reported PTI. He said the government is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent inquiry

into the January 28 crash near Baramati. Row Over Zero FIR Filed in Karnataka The controversy follows Rohit Pawar's claim that he had to register a Zero FIR in Karnataka due to inaction in Maharashtra. A Zero FIR allows a complaint to be filed in any jurisdiction and later transferred to the appropriate police station. The FIR filed in Karnataka has since been transferred to Maharashtra Police for further investigation. Opposition Raises Questions Over Handling of Case Rohit Pawar had earlier alleged in the state assembly that there was a

delay in registering the FIR and questioned the handling of the case, including the timing of transferring the probe to central agencies. He also raised concerns about possible negligence linked to the crash and called for a more detailed investigation. Govt Reiterates Commitment to Justice Kadam reiterated that the government is fully committed to uncovering the truth and ensuring justice. He stressed that due legal procedures are being followed and that no aspect of the case is being overlooked, reported PTI.

Positive step, peace likely soon: BJP on PM Modi-Prez Trump call on West Asia crisis

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As Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held a telephonic conversation on Tuesday to discuss the ongoing situation in West Asia and the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open, the BJP on Wednesday termed the move a 'positive step' and expressed hope that peace would prevail soon. Speaking to IANS, Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said he believes the discussion between the two leaders focussed on the prevailing conflict and the need to de-escalate tensions. He noted that there are indications the war could be paused and may come

to an end soon. "The role of Prime Minister Modi has always been to ensure peace and prevent war. The ongoing conflict has led to global challenges, including rising diesel and petrol prices. The entire world is suffering losses because of this situation. India's position is clear - the war should stop," Athawale said. He added that the dialogue between the two leaders was a constructive development. "A solution must be found. President Trump speaking with Prime Minister Modi is a good step, and there will be peace soon," he told IANS. Tripathi backs Modi's diplomatic push, says efforts underway to ease West Asia tensions. BJP MP Shashank Mani Tripathi

also expressed optimism, stating that there is hope for a pause in the conflict. He said that Prime Minister Modi has been actively engaging with leaders from West Asian countries and exploring ways to facilitate peace. "Prime Minister Modi has spoken with several heads of state in the Middle East to understand how India can contribute to peace efforts and use its influence constructively," Tripathi said. Meanwhile, Opposition parties questioned the government's approach and called for greater transparency, reported IANS. Ram Gopal Yadav urges India to take proactive role in West Asia mediation. According to IANS, Samajwadi

Party President Trump had understood diplomacy, the situation would not have escalated into war. The United States appears to be facing setbacks, which is why there is now urgency in its response. "The conversation between the two leaders came amid escalating tensions in West Asia following the February 28 strikes by the US and Israel on Iran, reported IANS. The strikes reportedly resulted in the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In retaliation, Iran launched drone and missile attacks targeting US and Israeli facilities, regional capitals, and allied forces, intensifying the conflict across the region.

Congress Launches 'Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan' to Strengthen Party Structure in



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Maharashtra Mumbai, March 24: The Indian National Congress has launched the 'Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan' in Maharashtra to strengthen its organisational structure down to the booth level. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed 37 central observers along with senior state leaders to oversee the campaign in Maharashtra. The list includes prominent leaders such as Balasaheb Thorat, Nana Patole, Satej Patil, Manikrao Thakre, Naseem Khan, Amit Deshmukh, Yashomati Thakur and Dr. Nitin Raut, among others. In total, 183 members—including former ministers, MPs, MLAs, and senior

office bearers—have been entrusted with responsibilities under the campaign. As part of the initiative, committee members will visit districts to interact with local leaders and party workers and oversee appointments at various levels. The campaign aims to strengthen the party from booth to state level, empower dedicated workers, ensure transparent distribution of responsibilities, and increase participation of women and youth in the organisation. According to the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, appointments to key positions, including district presidents, will be carried out in a transparent manner through this abhiyan.

Rs 3 Lakh Compensation Sanctioned for Acid Attack Survivor in Sangamner

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Ahilyanagar, March 24: Financial assistance of Rs 3 lakh has been sanctioned for an 11-year-old girl who was injured in an acid attack at Vadgaonpan in Sangamner on March 17, 2026. Acting on the directives of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Chairman and Principal District & Sessions Judge Shivaji B. Kachare, an urgent meeting of the Victim Compensation Scheme, 2022 committee was convened on March 18. As per the decision taken, an immediate amount of 1 lakh was transferred to the victim's mother's bank account on the same day. Subsequently,

another meeting of the committee was held on March 24, during which the home inquiry report submitted by the probation officer was reviewed. Following this, an additional 2 lakh was disbursed to the victim's mother, taking the total financial assistance to 3 lakh. The process was carried out with the support of the District Collector's office, Superintendent of Police office, District Civil Surgeon's office, Ahilyanagar, and the Taluka Legal Services Committee, Sangamner. The information was provided by DLSA Secretary Yogesh Paithankar and District Women and Child Development Officer Sanjay Kadam.

Ensure Quality Healthcare Services for Citizens: District Collector Dr. Pankaj Ashiya

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News Network

Ahilyanagar: Emphasizing that safeguarding public health is the administration's foremost responsibility, District Collector Dr. Pankaj Ashiya has directed the health department to remain fully prepared with a strong focus on preventive measures and to deliver high-quality healthcare services to citizens. He also stressed the need for serious and sustained efforts to maintain a balanced

child sex ratio across the district. The directions were issued during a comprehensive review meeting of the health department held at the District Collector's office. Among those present at the meeting were District Civil Surgeon Dr. Sanjay Ghogre, District Health Officer Bapusaheb agargoje, District Health Officer Dr. Nandakumar Neherkar, and District Maternal and Child Care Officer Dr. Vinod Kakade, along with other officials. Dr.



Ashiya instructed officials to closely monitor villages with a low child sex ratio and intensify awareness efforts. He suggested that committees formed under the chairmanship of tehsildars should include village-level officers and representatives to effectively spread

awareness. He also directed that display boards indicating the child sex ratio be installed at prominent locations in every Gram Panchayat. Further, strict inspections of suspected sonography centers in high-risk zones should be conducted to prevent illegal practices affecting

the sex ratio. Highlighting the importance of early detection and treatment of tuberculosis, the District Collector directed officials to increase testing and ensure immediate treatment for patients with positive reports. He emphasized that monthly testing targets assigned to each taluka must be achieved without fail, warning that officials in areas with low testing rates would be issued show-cause notices. To curb vector-borne

diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and malaria, he instructed that regular door-to-door surveys be carried out in municipal areas and large villages. Special focus should be placed on mosquito control measures, including insecticide spraying, elimination of stagnant water, and maintaining sanitation. All health and medical officers across the district participated in the meeting via video conferencing.

AMC Budget of ₹1,738 Cr presented to Mahasabha by Standing Committee Citizen-Centric Changes Proposed, Including Reduction in Property and Water Taxes

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Ahilyanagar: The Standing Committee of the Ahilyanagar Municipal Corporation presented a budget of 1,738 crore before the Mahasabha / General Body on Tuesday. The budget was formally submitted by Standing Committee Chairman Subhash Londhe to Mayor Jyotitai Gade. Following the presentation, Mayor Gade adjourned the meeting and announced that a detailed discussion on the budget will be held on March 27. The meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Yashwant Dange,

Deputy Mayor Adv. Dhananjay Jadhav, Additional Commissioner Gajendra Muktekar, Deputy Commissioner Meher Lahare, along with Standing Committee members and corporators. Speaking on the occasion, SC Chairman Subhash Londhe recommended revoking the current resolutions on property tax and water charges and reverting to the previous rates. He also criticized the existing municipal budget as being inflated. Londhe stated that the budget for the financial year 2026-27 has been prepared under the guidance of Guardian



Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, MP Sujay Vikhe Patil, and MLA Sangram Jagtap, with the cooperation of Mayor Jyotitai Gade and Deputy Mayor Dhananjay Jadhav. He noted that while the Municipal Commissioner had initially proposed a budget of 1,710 crore, the Standing Committee introduced several modifications based on citizens' needs to make it more people-oriented.

Emphasis has also been placed on increasing revenue in view of the current financial situation. To boost income, the civic body plans to focus on revenue streams such as property transfer fees, regularisation of unauthorized constructions, property registration charges, land development schemes, school rentals, road excavation and restoration charges, additional floor space

index (FSI), and water metering. Highlighting public dissatisfaction over irregularities in property revision carried out by private agencies, Londhe said the committee has recommended cancelling the revised property tax based on rental value and reverting to the original municipal rates. Additionally, a proposal to reduce water charges by 27 percent has been put forward. Considering the growing population and water scarcity in the Kalyan Road area, provisions have been made for constructing new water storage tanks at Vidyanager and Kalyan Road. To enhance municipal

revenue, large shopping complexes are planned at Nehru Market, Rangbhavan, and Professor Colony. The municipal corporation is also planning to introduce an e-bus service in the city, with a total of 40 buses proposed, of which 10 will be launched in the first phase. A fund of 20 crore has been sanctioned for the deepening and widening of the Sina River, with work set to begin between Babar Mala and Lokhandi Bridge. Additionally, a housing project comprising 504 units will be developed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

MP Nilesh Lanke Meets Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Five Representations Submitted Seeking Immediate Action

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Ahilyanagar: Member of Parliament Nilesh Lanke met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi to discuss several important and pending issues related to his constituency. During the meeting, he submitted five detailed representations, urging prompt action. Lanke raised serious concerns regarding healthcare services provided to ex-servicemen under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). He highlighted the case of an ex-serviceman, Santosh Jagannath Pise

from Ahilyanagar, who was allegedly denied critical dialysis treatment under the scheme by a hospital. Lanke pointed out that such denial posed a serious threat to the patient's life and noted that similar issues are being faced by other ex-servicemen. He demanded immediate corrective directives. He also appealed for compassionate consideration in the case of the widow of late soldier Yogesh Bapurao Shirke, seeking either pensionary benefits or rehabilitation through government employment. He informed the minister



that the widow is living in extremely difficult conditions with her minor child. Further, Lanke raised the issue of confusion arising from contradictory circulars issued in 2011 and 2016 regarding No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for construction in villages

located near defence establishments in Ahilyanagar and Rahuri talukas. He stated that the conflicting directives have created uncertainty among local authorities and defence officials, adversely affecting citizens. He urged the issuance of clear,

unified, and updated guidelines at the earliest. Highlighting the impact of such restrictions on property rights of farmers and residents, Lanke called for measures to safeguard their legitimate rights. He also stressed the need for a transparent system to ensure better coordination between the administration, defence authorities, and citizens. Additionally, Lanke demanded the desilting of Kapurwadi Lake, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Ahmednagar Station Headquarters. He explained that

accumulated silt has significantly reduced the water storage capacity of the lake, and its removal would greatly benefit agriculture and drinking water availability in the region. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh assured that all the issues raised would be taken seriously and that reports would be sought from the concerned officials for necessary action. The meeting has raised expectations that long-pending issues in the Ahilyanagar (South) constituency will gain momentum, with Lanke's persistent follow-up receiving appreciation from various quarters.

Consumers Must Stay Alert and Practice Safe Transactions: Judge Syed Sadiq AllWorld Consumer Day Celebrated at Tehsil Office in Ahilyanagar

Ahilyanagar, March 25: Consumers must remain aware of their rights and adopt safe and responsible transaction practices, said Judge Syed Sadiq Ali, Judge and President of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. He emphasized that an alert consumer is the strongest safeguard against fraud in the marketplace. He was speaking at a taluka-level programme to mark World Consumer Rights Day at the Tehsil Office in Ahilyanagar. The event was attended by District Consumer Forum members Charu Dongre and Sandhya Kasbekar, Tehsildar Sanjay Shinde, Bar Association President Sunil Mundada, Police Inspector Shambhuv Gaikwad, Deputy Controller R.D. Darade, District Consumer Protection Council members Vilas Jagdale, Amita Kohli, Dr. Vilas Sonawane,



Dr. Kalamkar, Prakash Raskar, Babasaheb Bhalerao, Ashok Shewale, Sambhaji Sul, Taluka Supply Officer Shivraj Pawar, Naib Tehsildar Ganesh Bhanavase, Resident Naib Tehsildar Gaurav Dalvi, and other officials. Judge Syed Sadiq Ali stated that consumers are at the center of the marketplace, and protecting their rights is a collective responsibility of society. He noted that the Consumer Protection Act provides an effective platform for citizens to seek justice against unfair trade practices,

substandard goods, and deficient services. He advised consumers to always collect bills while purchasing goods or services, verify product details, check expiry dates, and ensure correct weights and measurements. In cases of fraud, incorrect measurement, overcharging, or poor quality, consumers should promptly lodge complaints with the appropriate authorities. Highlighting the rise in digital transactions, he cautioned that instances of online fraud are also increasing. He urged

citizens to stay alert against unknown links, suspicious messages, unrealistic discount offers, and unfamiliar calls. Consumers should never share personal or banking information with anyone, he added. The programme also provided detailed guidance on consumer rights, safe transaction practices, proper weights and measures, the importance of billing, and the grievance redressal mechanisms available under the law. Citizens were encouraged to remain aware of their rights and use them effectively.

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Changing rooms, assembly halls, toilets...Ashok Kharat's Ishanyeshwar temple has been approved for a fund of Rs 105 crore; GR of 2018 is in front!

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Nashik: Self-proclaimed astrologer Captain Ashok Kharat, who sexually exploited many women by offering an open market of superstitions, was remanded in police custody till March 29. Yesterday (March 24), a hearing was held against Kharat in the Nashik Sessions Court. The police informed the court about the findings of the investigation so far. Police custody was also sought for further investigation. This time, the court remanded Ashok Kharat to 5 days of police custody i.e. till March 29. Meanwhile, some



information has come to light about Ashok Kharat's Ishanyeshwar temple. A fund of Rs 1.5 crore was approved for Ashok Kharat's Ishanyeshwar temple. The Government Resolution (GR) of 2018 has come to light. A fund of Rs 105 crore was approved by the then Tourism Minister Jayakumar Rawal. A

GR was issued for the Ishanyeshwar temple on March 31, 2018. Out of this Rs 105 crore, Rs 25 lakh was immediately approved. It has come to light that funds were sanctioned for the construction of a meeting hall, installation of paver blocks, construction of women's and men's toilets, changing

rooms, devotees' residence, electrification and landscaping. Another serious case has been registered against Ashok Kharat in Shirdi. Yesterday, the victim girl filed an FIR against Ashok Kharat. The victim girl has complained that Ashok Kharat raped her 4 times. The victim has complained to the

police that Ashok Kharat raped her by giving her a drug called Gungi. He also threatened that if she recanted, divine power would kill her parents. The victim has filed a complaint that Ashok Kharat raped her four times between July and December 2024. The victim's family had gone to Ashok Kharat, asking him to tell them a suitable place to build a house in the field. In the third meeting, the family asked which branch the girl should take admission in. This time, information has come to light that Ashok Kharat had raped the victim. A case of torture has

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been registered against Ashok Kharat. The case was registered at Sarkarwada police station in Nashik. Ashok Kharat has been booked on charges of raping a 35-year-old woman by giving her a sleeping pill (Rape

news). On Wednesday, March 18, Kharat was taken into custody by the Crime Branch at around 3 am. Ashok Kharat is the chairman of the Shri Ishanyeshwar Temple Trust in Mirgaon, Sinnar taluka. He is a retired merchant

navy officer. In the past few years, he has become a cosmology expert and numerologist. Many big political leaders, celebrities and businessmen go to him for guidance. However, his arrest on charges of rape has created a stir.

Eknath Shinde mentioned him as Saheb; Uddhav Thackeray said, some people were saying....

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Mumbai: Former Chief Minister and MLA Uddhav Thackeray was given a political farewell yesterday after his term in the Legislative Council ended. On this occasion, political taunts and a storm of verbal attacks were seen in the House. Notably, Deputy Chief Minister and Uddhav Thackeray's one-time colleague Eknath Shinde referred to Uddhav Thackeray as Saheb in his speech. On the other hand, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took political taunts in poetry while saying that Uddhav Thackeray's nature is not political. Nine members of the Legislative Council are retiring and in



his farewell speech, Eknath Shinde praised the work of all of them. On this occasion, in his speech in the Legislative Council, Eknath Shinde took Uddhav Thackeray's first name and said, "Uddhav Thackeray Saheb is saying goodbye. May he live a healthy life. Best wishes for his political life." Meanwhile, Uddhav Thackeray was not present in the House when Eknath Shinde's speech was going on. This time, it was good to speak

at the farewell ceremony. Some will meet again in the hall, some will meet while working in the field, Eknath Shinde also said. Uddhav Thackeray appeared in the hall as Eknath Shinde's speech was ending. It was seen that Uddhav Thackeray took a harsh dig at Eknath Shinde's speech. (Eknath Shinde On Uddhav Thackeray Uddhav Thackeray said in his speech that, Chief Minister, when I came to the hall, I heard some people talking before you, that I

will meet you somewhere...I will come to meet you (Devendra Fadnavis) in a while. But some people feel that they have met you in the battlefield, some somewhere...and some people feel that they have met you here now...(with folded hands), there are some such people. Anyway...I thank everyone in this hall and I also wish them good luck to other members who are retiring along with me, said Uddhav Thackeray.)

Is Rohit Pawar's claim false? A senior leader from the Ajit Pawar group made a revelation

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Mumbai: The Ajit Pawar faction has now given a strong response to the allegations made by NCP MLA Rohit Pawar against Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare. A senior party leader has claimed that Rohit Pawar is only trying to create confusion. Sources have given important information about the letter that Rohit Pawar referred to and accused Praful Patel of giving authority. It was not possible for the National President (Ajit Pawar) to be physically present every time for legal work in the Election Commission and the court. Therefore, in order to ensure smooth functioning, Ajit Pawar himself had given this authority to the National Working President (Praful Patel). (Rohit Pawar) These authorities were given to avoid the constant presence of the National President during the hearings in the Election Commission and court dates. Since Ajit Dada had the post of Deputy Chief Minister and other responsibilities, Praful Patel was



looking after the legal work on his behalf. These powers were not given suddenly after Dada's death, they were already with Praful Patel, so that there would be no disruption in technical work. Ajit Pawar himself did not go to court or the Election Commission, at that time all official work was being done through Praful Patel. Therefore, sources have said that Rohit Pawar is trying to misconstrue this letter and create division or confusion in the party. A few days ago, some documents of Ajitdada's party came to light. This paper is dated 10. 03. 2025, and it contains an important sentence by Sunetra Kaki. The correspondence that will be done with the Election Commission from Ajitdada's accident to becoming

the national president on January 28, 2025 should not be taken into account. On February 26, a letter was given to the Election Commission by Ajitdada's party, signed by Praful Patel Tatkare, in which it was written that our party's constitution has changed. This letter had said that if the party does not have a national president, then the National Working President would have the power, it said that he would take all the decisions. Who was the National Working President? It was Praful Patel. This letter had said that all the powers should be with the Working President. But when Sunetra Kaki came to know about this letter, Sunetra Kaki gave a letter to the Commission, saying that no letter should

be considered until the National President is elected, Rohit Pawar has also told the media at this time. Rohit Pawar further said that Sunil Tatkare and Praful Patel, some BJP leaders suppressed Jay Pawar's press conference. I think this press conference did not take place due to their pressure, I did not talk to Jay. Work is underway to save the VSR company, this company was given Rs 80 to 90 crores even after the accident. When I met Rahul Gandhi, he said that you should file your FIR in the state where you will get justice, so we went to Karnataka and there was zero FIR there, Rohit Pawar has also given information at this time.

Cheese analogue being served as paneer in restaurants MLA Pachpute reveals Goud Bengal in hotel in Assembly

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News Network

Mumbai: I have brought two white pieces, one is cheese and the other is paneer. We do not have any ban on selling cheese analogues, we order paneer in restaurants, we do not know if it is cheese analogue. Cheese analogues are harmful to the body, we do not know whether cheese is sold on the menu card of the restaurant or cheese analogues, BJP MLA Vikram Pachpute has pointed out in the House that cheese analogues are being served to customers as paneer in the market and hotels. The FDA has issued a circular, in which if cheese analogues are sold on the menu card in every



restaurant, it will have to be mentioned. It has been written in that circular that it will have to be mentioned before May 1, Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to issue this circular. The Center will make a law in this regard in the near future. Suggestions and objections have been sought from the public and the dairy industry. The word analogue can be written in a thin line in cheese analogue, so an

objection has been raised. If the restaurant does not mention cheese analogue, the FDA can cancel their licenses. Cheese analogues have many side effects, they contain a lot of oil. Beef is also used, Vikram Pachpute informed the Legislative Assembly. Meanwhile, recently there have been constant complaints about the widespread use of adulterated products in the

market. Cheese analogues are made using plant-based ingredients to imitate the taste, texture and melting ability of traditional dairy cheese. They are often made from plant-based sources such as nuts, soy, tapioca or a mixture of these ingredients. However, in the market, hotels and restaurants, those cheese analogues are served as paneer.

Fire breaks out in Mumbai! 5 buildings catch fire in Mira-Bhayander, major damage reported

Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai Fire: A major fire has broken out in the Pleasant Park area of Mira-Bhayander, which quickly spread to a large extent. Let's find out the details. Big news is coming out of Mumbai. A major fire has broken out in the Pleasant Park area of Mira-Bhayander, which quickly spread to a large extent. Four to five buildings in the area have been engulfed in the fire, creating an atmosphere of fear among the citizens. According to the information received, the fire spread so fast that some houses were also affected. After the incident, a huge plume of smoke has spread in the area and the atmosphere has become extremely dangerous. As soon as the information about the fire in the Pleasant



Park area of Mira-Bhayander was received, several fire engines reached the spot and efforts are being made to bring the fire under control. It has been reported that two to three tempos have also been damaged in this fire. Although no loss of life has been reported in this incident, there has been a huge financial loss. A fire has broken out on the 9th floor of a building in Lokhandwala Complex in Andheri West. It has been reported that the fire broke out in the B wing of Meghdoot Building. A fire has also broken

possibility of a gas cylinder explosion is being predicted. Due to this, other buildings in the vicinity are also at great risk. It has been reported that two to three tempos have also been damaged in this fire. Although no loss of life has been reported in this incident, there has been a huge financial loss. A fire has broken out on the 9th floor of a building in Lokhandwala Complex in Andheri West. It has been reported that the fire broke out in the B wing of Meghdoot Building. A fire has also broken

out on the 9th floor of the Ground Plus 22-storey building. As soon as the information about the incident was received, the Mumbai Fire Brigade immediately rushed to the spot. Police, ambulances and ward staff have also reached the spot. Efforts are currently underway to bring the fire under control. It has been reported that a major fire has broken out in the Model College area in Kalyan East. The incident took place in the Model College area on Chinchpada Road. The sudden fire has spread panic in the area. This has seen students running around and chaos in the college area. The fire brigade reached the spot and brought the fire under control. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

Editorial...

Old men of India!

Most of us love to compete. because we have been taught about it from the day we joined Kindergarten. That's the reason we see competition in all walks or fields of life across the world. In most cases, the competition may not be what is called a cut-throat competition or a tough competition but it may be what is known as healthy competition. Nevertheless, one thing common to all competitions is the underlying desire or motive to win for the self or to defeat others. From a psychological point of view, in a competitive situation a person brings into play his skill, ability or talent to show that he is superior, stronger, better, more powerful, more skilful, more learned or 'competent than the others. Within such a person, there is a visible or subtle desire to hear some words of praise about oneself or one's performance or to get a medallion, a citation, an epithet or a high position. In the effort to secure this objective, one does not mind if the other person feels disappointed, depressed, defeated and even humiliated, ridiculed or booted. In sports also, we see that even if the competitors shake hands or embrace each other at the end of the game or all the members of both the teams eat and drink together after the game, or the opponents hug each other after the contest, the deep feeling of having lost or having won is always there, however minimal it may be. However, this feeling of victory or defeat is proportionately less if the contest is just a friendly game or is a performance for fun and enjoyment and without any expectation of receiving any media attention and the players represent no one but members of interchangeable friendly groups and the whole thing is just for the sake of self development or for a charity show or for a noble cause. As a society, we need to understand that the core objective behind competition is not simply the desire of winning a victory for the self or the group but it is intertwined with the motive of laying the softer and nobler sentiments of cooperation, kindness and gentleness aside even though for a while, and putting in all energies and

talents to bog down or defeat another person and leave him/her behind in the race while making a forward thrust to reach the goal before anyone else. It is this distortion or malignancy in the desire that may, sooner or later, add an iota of selfishness in behaviour and reduce the level of love, kindness, generosity and gentleness and may put a limit on one's spirit of giving, helping, cooperation and sacrificing. For anything that is small and insignificant in the beginning has the potential of growing and becoming big. Hence, we must not forget that even though a spark or flame of fire may be small to start with, it can reduce a big apartment with valuables to ashes if it grows into a big fire. Thus, we should be careful and vigilant, because if the whole society catches this contagion or infection of selfishness or habit of rivalry then it may spoil the charm of life and the atmosphere in the society. Some people link competition to motivation and developing an attitude towards high performance, but they fail to understand that this evil trait to defeat others which may look like a harmless thing initially, may eventually develop into spirit of revenge, feeling of hatred or enmity, bitter jealousy confrontation, hostile attitude, ugly outbursts or attitude of non-cooperation. Hence, it all depends upon the emotional maturity of a person whether or not he/she is affected more and more by the ambition to win by defeating others. Because this seed of evil, as it grows, takes the form of a big tree with many branches; so also selfishness or the spirit to downgrade others in order to gain ascendancy for the self may proliferate into so many evils or obnoxious habits. Hence, one must try to curtail selfishness and, in this effort, give up the ambition of winning by vengeance for the applause and praise for the self. Remember, the only competition that should matter to us is the one that takes place within our selves, hence it is better to defeat one's inner demons first and become victorious from within to be an example for others to follow

Worries on our unsettled eastern border

Coffee Table
News Network

The dramatic arrest by our National Investigation Agency (NIA) on March 17 of some Ukrainian nationals, suspected foreign mercenaries, along with their leader, American national Matthew Aaron VanDyke, reminds me of a lecture I gave in 2003 at Arlington, Virginia. George Mason University had invited me to speak about our raging North-East ethnic insurgency and its connection, if any, with the ethnic insurgency in Myanmar, which was going on since 1948. Later India Abroad (New York) carried a full-page report on this lecture on October 17, 2003, Van Dyke had first gained international recognition during the Libyan Civil War in 2011, when he willingly joined the rebel forces. This is perhaps the first time such foreign mercenaries are apprehended on our soil, they were trying to use our North-East border to enter

Myanmar. Until now, their entry into Myanmar was always through the Thailand border where nine Karen refugee camps exist. A brief account of the Myanmar independence followed by its ethnic insurgency will be relevant: After the Second World War, Britain started negotiating with Burmese leader Aung San, leading to the Aung San-Atlee (British Prime Minister) agreement on January 27, 1947. Till then Britain had administered Burma in two administrative segments: "Ministerial" (Low land) areas comprising Bamar (Burman) and "Frontier" areas, occupied by Karen, Kachin, Shan and Chin. Since 1813, the Christian missionaries have managed to convert many from the Frontier areas into Christianity. Also, the British used Karens to conquer Burma between 1826 and 1886 with their armed support. As a result, others felt that Karens had



received preferential treatment. This created resentment among Barmars who constituted nearly 69% of the population. Aung San, a Bamar, called for the national unity "Pang long conference" in February 1947 which was boycotted by the Karen National Union (KNU). Although Aung San Whatever might be the position on the ground, it is a source of great worry that such groups are attempting to cross our borders through the eastern side, with Manipur still unsettled. promised autonomy for different ethnic areas, this could not be implemented as he was assassinated on July 19, 1947, and his successor U Nu did not keep up this promise also because

of the military coup by Ne Win in 1962. In 1989, the military government renamed Burma as Myanmar. Is the insurgency in Myanmar sustained by foreign support? In 2007, the Myanmar military government (Tatmadaw) had accused American CIA's involvement in the assassination of Colonel Kyi Min, a Karen commander from the KNU who wanted to negotiate a ceasefire with the government. In March 2025, our Mizoram chief Minister Lal duhoma, a former IPS officer, told the state Assembly that "thousands of Western mercenaries" had entered his state in 2024 for crossing over through the

India-Myanmar border to train ethnic rebels based there. He suggested that this was a "covert operation" either by Britain or America to destabilise the military regime ruling Myanmar. This was, however, challenged on April 11, 2025 by Andrew Selth, adjunct professor at the Griffith Asia Institute and author of 'Myanmar: The Making of an Intelligence State' in 'Asia Link' (Australia). However, he admitted that since 1962, an estimated 100 or more "soldiers of fortune" had offered to help Myanmar's armed opposition groups: "Most have hailed from the US, but others have come from places as far afield as the UK,

France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Japan, Canada and Australia. He added that according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), five French citizens, a Japanese national, an American and an Australian died fighting along side Karen insurgents between 1986-95. Earlier, on August 10, 2023, Prof Selth had published an article 'Are Western intelligence agencies fuelling an armed rebellion in Myanmar perhaps taking advantage of the Joe Biden era BURMA Act (HR 5497)' to establish an inclusive and representative democracy in Burma" through which Myanmar rebels could be entitled to "technical and non-lethal support". Whatever might be the position on the ground, it is a source of great worry that such groups are attempting to cross our borders through the eastern side, with Manipur still unsettled.

Let's celebrate water together!

Coffee Table
News Network

The World Water Day, observed on March 22, is a reminder of the central role water plays in our lives and of our shared responsibility to conserve and protect it for the future. Water sustains life, ecosystems and economic activity. Yet, pressures on this vital resource are rising. India is home to nearly 18 per cent of the world's population and livestock, but has access to only about 4 per cent of global fresh water resources. Rapid urbanisation, rising demand and climate change make efficient and responsible water management a national priority. Recognising this challenge, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has adopted an integrated approach to water governance. The creation of the ministry of Jal Shakti brought diverse aspects of water management under a single framework, marking a decisive shift towards holistic planning. This approach addresses water across its full cycle - focussing on conservation and groundwater recharge, strengthening storage with dams and reservoirs, enabling balanced distribution via river interlinking, expanding access under programmes



such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and modernised command area development, improving quality under initiatives like Namami Gange, and building resilience with research, innovation and awareness. Together, these efforts reflect a comprehensive vision for long-term water security. At the centre of this vision is the recognition that water management, in all its aspects, must become people's movement. Government initiatives provide scale and direction, but lasting impact is achieved when citizens participate actively and take ownership. To the Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented as the world's largest programme, providing safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household. Tap water connections have now reached

over 15.8 crore rural households, improving quality of life. For millions of women, this has reduced the burden of fetching water, improved health outcomes and enabled greater participation in education and livelihoods. Beyond infrastructure, it places strong emphasis on community participation, with Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees at the centre, and women trained to monitor water quality, strengthening local ownership. The Namami Gange programme has improved water quality and supported ecological restoration in the Ganga and its tributaries, leading to improvement in habitat and numbers of key aquatic species, including the Gangetic dolphin. Alongside its focus on Nirmal and Aviral Ganga, it advances initiatives

such as Arth Ganga and Jan Ganga, which place communities at the centre of river rejuvenation by linking livelihoods, awareness and local participation with conservation efforts. Water conservation has become a mass movement through the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. The Prime Minister's call of "Catch the rain where it falls, when it falls" has inspired action across the country. Under the "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" initiative, communities are undertaking rainwater harvesting, restoration of traditional water bodies, watershed development, and afforestation. Since September 2024, these efforts have led to the creation of over 45 lakh water conservation structures, demonstrating how community participation can deliver results at

scale when supported by government initiatives. Across India, examples of such participation are visible. In Banaskantha, Gujarat, dairy cooperatives have partnered with farmers to build low-cost recharge structures. In Korea district in Chhattisgarh, farmers have dedicated portions of their land for groundwater recharge. In urban areas, residential societies are adopting rainwater harvesting and reuse practices. Initiatives like Karmabhumi Matribhumi reflect a growing sense of responsibility, with individuals contributing to conservation efforts in their native places. Like the Industry and Agriculture play a critical role in ensuring water security. Many industries are voluntarily adopting best practices such as water audits, recycling and reuse, zero liquid discharge and rainwater harvesting, supported by continued innovation in water technologies. In agriculture, micro-irrigation, improved on-farm water management and better utilisation of available resources are being adopted across regions, supported by programmes like

the Modernisation of Command Area Development, helping enhance sustainability while supporting farmers' livelihoods. Wastewater Urban India should also embrace a culture of conservation through rainwater harvesting, reuse and sustainable planning. Every household, institution and community has a role in ensuring responsible water use. India's journey towards water security is a collective national endeavour, essential for building a Viksit Bharat. Water security ultimately depends not only on infrastructure and policy, but also on behavioural change. On this World Water Day, let us move beyond awareness to action. If each citizen saves, reuses or recharges even one litre of water, we conserve over 140 crore litres as a nation - an extraordinary impact from a simple act. Let conservation become a daily habit. A water-secure India will be built not by policy alone, but by the everyday choices of its people where every drop is valued, every source is sustained and every citizen becomes a custodian of this precious resource.

FCRA amendment bill to introduce 'new authority' to manage assets of NGOs that lose license

Coffee Table
News Network

NEW DELHI: A legislation brought by the government to amend the FCRA will significantly tighten its oversight of foreign-funded organisations, proposing the creation of a powerful new authority to seize and manage the assets of non-profits that lose their licence. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, introduced in Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Wednesday, also sought a comprehensive statutory framework for vesting, supervision, management and disposal of foreign contributions and assets through a 'designated authority', including provisional and permanent vesting. At present,



approximately 16,000 associations are registered under the Act and receive around Rs 22,000 crore annually, the statement said. According to the statement of objects and reasons, the proposed law seeks to provide timelines for receipt and utilisation under prior permission. It provides for the cessation of certificates, regulates the of handling of assets during suspension, rationalising penalties and

requires prior approval of the central government for the initiation of investigation. Countering the opposition's charges that the bill is "dangerous", Rai asserted that it is "indeed dangerous" for those who engage in forced religious conversion using foreign contributions, as well as for individuals who abuse foreign funding for personal gain. "The Modi government will not tolerate any misutilisation of

foreign funding and will take strong action against such elements," he said. "Over the period, certain operational and legal gaps have been identified, particularly in relation to the management of foreign contributions and assets created therefrom in cases where registration is cancelled, surrendered or otherwise ceases," the statement of objects and reasons of the bill said.

India remains engaged with all concerned, no further financial commitment remaining: MEA on Chabahar Port

Coffee Table
News Network

NEW DELHI: The External Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said that India is engaging with concerned stakeholders over the United States' conditional sanctions waiver till April 26 for the Chabahar Port in Iran. In a written reply to CPI(M) MP John Brittas in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State in MEA, Kirti Vardhan Singh, said that India has fulfilled its commitment of contributing USD 120 million for the procurement of port equipment, and there is no further financial commitment from New Delhi towards Chabahar Port. Kirti Vardhan Singh said, "On 13 May 2024, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) signed a ten-year contract with the Ports and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran for equipping and operating the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port. Under the provisions of the contract, India has fulfilled its



commitment of contributing USD 120 million for the procurement of port equipment. Therefore, there is no further financial commitment from the Government of India towards the port." On 16 September 2025, the US State Department revoked the sanctions exception issued in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter Proliferation Act of 2012 for Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development, effective 29 September 2025. Pursuant to discussions with the US side, the latter issued guidance extending the

conditional sanctions waiver until 26 April 2026. The Government of India remains engaged with all concerned in order to address the implications of these developments," Singh said. The Chabahar Port project was conceptualised to provide much-needed connectivity to Afghanistan for its reconstruction and economic development, and to boost trade and economic linkages with Central Asia. On 13 May 2024, IPGL signed a ten-year contract with the Ports and Maritime Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to equip and operate the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at

Chabahar Port. Under the contract, India has fulfilled its commitment to contribute USD 120 million toward the procurement of port equipment. In January 2026, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "On the question of Chabahar, on 28 October, 2025, as you are aware, the US Department of the Treasury had issued a letter outlining guidance, the guidance on the Conditional Sanctions Waiver, which is valid until 26 April 2026. We remain engaged with the US side in working out this arrangement."

Centre introduces CAPF Administration Bill in Rajya Sabha, rejecting Opposition notices

Coffee Table
News Network

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday introduced the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha, brushing aside Opposition notices on its introduction through a voice vote. The bill seeks to create a unified legal framework governing personnel across different CAPF forces, replacing the current patchwork of separate service rule regimes for the five Central Armed Police Forces. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, who introduced the bill, sought to allay concerns about its scope. "The CAPF does not influence or change the system of governance under Section 312," he said, adding that the duties, powers and governance of the forces would remain intact under their existing mandates. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju mounted a robust defence of Parliament's legislative authority, taking direct aim at Opposition members who repeatedly



invoked Supreme Court judgments to challenge the bill's validity. "How can we take away the legislative competence of this House?" he asked. "Nearly a Supreme Court judgment is allowed publicly to the proposed legislation. I really don't understand how honourable members are willingly giving up your own responsibility." Rijiju reminded the Opposition that Parliament, empowered by the Constitution, held "absolute competence" to legislate - and that abdicating that responsibility was not an option. The proceedings were not without friction. Deputy Chairman Harivansh initially declined to allow Opposition

members to speak at length on their notices. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh pressed for a hearing of three to four minutes for member. The Chair ultimately permitted each member one minute, citing longstanding precedents dating to 1947 that limit such interventions to a single opposing speaker. Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress used his minute pointedly - by staying silent. "Silence is my right. You cannot take away my right," he said, calling the bill "anti-federal." Congress's Ajay Maken cited six Supreme Court judgments in opposition and flagged the financial burden of implementation. Vivek Tankha argued that the bill risked

eroding constitutionally protected rights of nearly 13,000 service officers. "Parliament can legislate. It cannot take away the basis of a constitutional right," he said. DMK's Tiruchi Siva raised the sharpest structural concern - that the bill was designed to nullify Supreme Court rulings that had curtailed IPS deputation in paramilitary forces. "Every time the Supreme Court gives a judgment, Parliament overrides it. The separation of powers becomes a big question," he said. CPI-M's John Brittas echoed this, arguing the bill suffered from a "fundamental infirmity of legislative competence."

'He's in a happy place now': Harish Rana, India's first passive euthanasia patient, cremated

Coffee Table
News Network

GHAZIABAD: Bidding farewell to their son one last time, the parents of Harish Rana, the first person in India permitted passive euthanasia, reflected on his life, describing him as a good son as they mourned during his last rites. Harish's mother Nirmala Devi bid an emotional farewell to her son with folded hands


and met those present, while his father Ashok Rana urged mourners not to cry, saying his son was in a "happy place now" and had been a good son, a neighbour told PTI over the phone. Harish's last rites were conducted at the Green Park cremation ground in South Delhi on Wednesday morning, marking a quiet end to his 13-year medical ordeal. Family

members, along with representatives of the Brahma Kumaris, a spiritual movement led by women, attended the cremation to offer their prayers for Harish. Residents from the Raj Empire Society in Ghaziabad, where the Rana family lives, also came to show their support, joining a diverse group of NGOs, AIIMS staff, relatives, and friends. Harish's




body was transported to the cremation ground in an ambulance, and the platform was covered in rose petals. Many mourners paid their last respects with folded hands, and some placed saffron garlands on the body before it was laid upon the pyre. Ashish Rana, Harish's younger brother, lit the pyre, accompanied by his sister, Bhavna.

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Karnataka High Court Quashes FIR Against Sri Sri Ravi Shankar In Alleged Land Encroachment Case

Coffee Table

News Network

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday (March 25) quashed an FIR registered against spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar over alleged land encroachment in Bengaluru. The single judge bench of Justice M. Nagaprasanna however clarified that none of the observations made in the course of the order would be applicable to other accused or pending proceedings before any other forums. The development comes in a plea moved by the spiritual guru challenging the FIR. On January 13, the Court had stayed the investigation against him. The FIR was lodged by the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force Police for



offences punishable under Section 192A (Offences and Penalties) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964. Among the various offences listed therein, one of them states that if a person unlawfully enters or occupies on any Government land with the intention of holding that Government land he shall be imprisoned for one year and fine of rupees five thousand.

The registration of the crime was based on an

order passed by the high court's division bench in a PIL alleging that the respondents therein had encroached upon the public lands to some extent and even constructed property on a Rajakaluve (storm water drain that connects lakes). The spiritual leader was added as respondent No.5 in the PIL along with other persons who have also been arrayed as accused in the crime. Also Read - 'State Largest Litigant, Must Act With

Accountability': Karnataka High Court Calls For Digital Litigation Monitoring System To Prevent Delays The Division Bench had in its order observed that the map indicated that certain constructions have been raised in Survey Nos.164/2, 163/3 and 161/7 and 160 of Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk. Additionally, a large part of Survey No.150, which is indicated to be a tank, has also been encroached. The division bench had in view of the Government's stance "that in fact there has been encroachment of public lands", disposed of the PIL by directing action to be taken against encroachers as is warranted, albeit, in accordance with law.

Mere Participation In Arbitration Does Not Estop Party From Challenging Inherent Lack Of Jurisdiction Of Arbitrator

Coffee Table

News Network

The Supreme Court has ruled that in the absence of an arbitration agreement, a mere participation of a party to a unilaterally invoked arbitration proceedings would not operate as an estoppel to bar it from raising the legality of the arbitral award being non-est in law. A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe affirmed the Bombay High Court's decision which had declared the award passed against the Respondent to be non-est, as the award was passed by the arbitrator who lacked the jurisdiction to pass the award because of the non-existence of an arbitration agreement, making the entire proceedings a nullity. The dispute arose from an octroi collection contract between the petitioner and the Respondent, Ambernath Municipal Council for the period April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995. After the contract was executed and the petitioner commenced work, it sought a reduction in the minimum reserve price, a demand rejected by the Municipal Council. Instead of invoking the dispute resolution

mechanism provided in the contract (which involved reference to the Collector and appeals to the Divisional Commissioner and State Government), the petitioner approached the State Government directly. The State

arbitration. Upon receiving notice of the petitioner's application to make the award a rule of court, the Municipal Council filed objections challenging jurisdiction. The civil court decision to direct drawing up a decree was challenged

moved to the Supreme Court. Affirming the impugned finding, the Supreme Court found that since there existed no arbitration agreement between the parties, thus the resulting award was non-est in law. The Court rejected the Appellant's argument that a participation of the Respondent to the arbitration proceedings signified its consent to be bound by the outcome. Instead, the Court said that mere "participation does not confer Jurisdiction". "There is no estoppel against the Municipal Council for the reason that it had initially participated in the arbitral proceedings. This is for the reason that they were forced into arbitration without consent and contract. At the same time, they challenged the award on jurisdictional grounds before the Civil Court as well as the High Court.", the court said. "Since the Arbitrator lacked inherent jurisdiction due to the absence of an arbitration agreement, the entire proceedings were a nullity (coram non iudice) and the resulting award was non-est.", the court observed.



Government, purporting to act under Section 143-A (3) of the Maharashtra Municipal Councils Act, 1965, unilaterally appointed the Commissioner, Konkarn Division, as arbitrator. The arbitrator had called upon the Respondent-Council to submit a reply and the award was delivered in favour of the Appellant, reducing the minimum reserve price for the proposed contractual work. The Respondent-Municipal Council, which was under a State-appointed Administrator at the time, submitted a reply defending the reserve price but did not consent to

before the High Court, which had set aside the Civil Court's decision, and held that "the dispute resolution clause in the contract did not constitute a valid "arbitration agreement" under the law, but rather provided for a departmental dispute-resolution mechanism." The High Court found that the State Government lacked jurisdiction to "foist" arbitration on a concluded contract and that the petitioner was estopped from challenging the tender price after voluntarily participating in and winning the bid. Aggrieved by the High Court's decision, the private contractor

Supreme Court Refuses NHAI's Plea To Review , But Bars Reopening Settled Claims

Coffee Table

News Network

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a review petition filed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) seeking to declare that the 2019 'Tarsem Singh' judgment, which held that solatium and interest will be applicable to the land acquisitions carried out under the National Highway Act, will apply only prospectively. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan refused to review the 2025 judgment which held that the 'Tarsem Singh' judgment will have retrospective application. At the same time, the Court clarified that claims which had already attained finality prior to March 28, 2008 cannot be reopened merely on the basis of the subsequent declaration of law. NHAI's additional financial implications cannot be a ground to review. The Court held that the financial implications of the ruling, projected by NHAI at around 29,000 crore, cannot be a ground to dilute the constitutional guarantee of just compensation to landowners. The Court observed that the grant of solatium and interest flows from the requirement of fairness in compensation and cannot be made contingent upon the magnitude of financial burden on the acquiring authority. The grant of solatium and interest cannot be made contingent upon the magnitude of the financial burden. The constitutional guarantee of just compensation cannot be diluted on that basis. Mere projection of financial liability does not constitute a valid ground for review," the Court observed. Clarification on settled claims At the same time, the Court

noted that certain aspects of the Tarsem Singh ruling required limited clarification to ensure consistency and certainty in its application. The Bench emphasised that while landowners are entitled to solatium and interest as a matter of law, the principle of finality of litigation must also be respected. It observed that landowners have pursued different remedies in various cases, including arbitration and court proceedings, and once such determinations have attained finality within the prescribed time, they cannot be reopened merely because of a subsequent judicial declaration. Also Read - 'Never Dare To Do It': CJI Surya Kant Slams Man For Contacting His Brother Over Child's Case Clarifying the scope of entitlement, the Court held that landowners whose proceedings relating to determination of compensation were pending as on March 28, 2008 before the competent authority or court would be entitled to claim solatium and interest in accordance with law. It further stated that in cases where enhanced compensation had been granted but the issue of solatium and interest had not been specifically claimed or adjudicated, landowners may seek such benefits, subject to applicable legal principles. However, interest on such components would be payable only from the date on which the claim for solatium or interest was raised. Also Read - 'Haryana Police Tried To Protect Accused In 4-Year-Old's Rape Case': Supreme Court Forms SIT Conversely, the Court made it clear that where compensation proceedings had concluded and attained finality prior to March 28, 2008, and no proceedings were pending, such

claims cannot be reopened for the purpose of claiming solatium or interest. The Bench observed that endless reopening of settled claims would undermine certainty in litigation and disrupt the balance between the rights of landowners and the stability of legal determinations. With these clarifications, the Supreme Court disposed of the review petition filed by NHAI. After the judgment was pronounced, the Solicitor General requested the bench to also clarify in the judgment that the interest will be as per Section 3H of the NH Act. However, CJI Surya Kant said that such a clarification will contradict the earlier judgments in Tarsem Singh-I and Tarsem Singh-II. The review application sought recall of the Court's earlier order dated February 4, 2025, by which an application for clarification of the main judgment in Union of India v. Tarsem Singh (2019) had been dismissed. In that judgment, the Court had examined Section 3J of the National Highways Act, which excluded payment of solatium and interest to landowners, and declared the provision unconstitutional to that extent. The Court had held that landowners whose lands were acquired between 1997, when Section 3J was introduced, and 2015, when the regime under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 was extended to National Highways acquisitions, were entitled to the same benefits available under the Land Acquisition Act. In the present proceedings, NHAI contended that the earlier financial estimates placed before the Court were based on a

clerical error and that the actual liability would be approximately Rs29,000 crore. Rejecting the argument, the Court stated that even if the corrected estimate were accepted, it would not persuade the Court to revisit the merits of the earlier decision. It underscored that the constitutional requirement of just compensation cannot be compromised on fiscal considerations alone. Background To recap, in Tarsem Singh, a bench of Justices Rohinton Nariman and Kant declared Section 3J of the National Highways Act 1956, to the extent it excluded solatium and interest as per Land Acquisition Act 1894 to acquisitions done under the NH Act, to be unconstitutional. It was said that the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act relating to solatium and interest contained in Section 23(1A) and (2) and interest payable in terms of section 28 proviso will apply to acquisitions made under the National Highways Act. Subsequent to this decision, NHAI moved the Court seeking clarification as to whether the 2019 ruling would apply prospectively, thereby precluding reopening of decisions where land acquisition proceedings had already completed and determination of compensation attained finality. Insofar as NHAI proposed that the ruling must operate prospectively, the bench of Justices Kant and Bhuyan, in February 2025, held that any such clarification would effectively nullify the very relief that the Tarsem Singh ruling intended to prov

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Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with Centre for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

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VIJAYAWADA: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 was signed between the Centre and the Government of Andhra Pradesh in New Delhi on Tuesday, in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil. Senior officials from both the Centre and the State exchanged the copies of agreement, aimed at accelerating the implementation of the rural drinking water mission. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Pawan Kalyan participated in the event via video conference from the State Secretariat. Patil lauded the efforts of Naidu in extending the JJM by taking up the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Naidu reaffirmed the AP government's commitment to supply of uninterrupted and safe drinking water to every rural household



under the JJM by 2028. The State is prioritising the operation and maintenance of rural drinking water supply systems, he said, mentioning that a comprehensive policy in this regard was introduced in September 2025. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to Modi for extending the JJM until 2028. He also urged the Centre to extend support to the State for completing the Polavaram Irrigation Project by the time of Godavari Pushkarams. The Jal Shakti Minister revealed that in the first phase of the mission, tap connections were provided to 16 crore households across the



country, while another 3 crore households are yet to be covered. DWCRAs groups could be roped in to undertake testing of water quality, which would empower rural women, he felt. The JJM has already alleviated the burden of fetching water from far off places for nearly 9 crore women nationwide, he highlighted. Pawan Kalyan reaffirmed the State government's commitment to achieving the mission's objective of providing safe drinking water to every household in every village. He, however, stressed the need for enhanced financial assistance from the Centre for the implementation of the mission. The

Deputy Chief Minister alleged that shortcomings in the DPR prepared during the previous regime had impacted the mission's effectiveness. Despite the sanction of funds by the Centre based on revised proposals, nearly 13 lakh households would still remain outside the purview of the mission under the current allocations, he said. "Even if the entire sanctioned funds are utilised, we may not be able to provide tap connections to all households. We request the Centre to provide additional funds to achieve universal coverage," he said.

Zubeen Garg died due to 'accidental drowning': Singapore Coroner rules out foul play

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SINGAPORE: A state coroner on Wednesday upheld the Singapore Police Coast Guard's (PCG) finding that there was no foul play in the death of Indian singer Zubeen Garg and ruled the death an accidental drowning near an island of the city state in September last year. Directly addressing a concern raised by Garg's widow regarding the PCG's finding that there was no foul play, State Coroner Adam Nakhoda stated that the PCG had conducted a comprehensive and thorough investigation in this case. Instead, Nakhoda found that Garg's death was "simply due to an unfortunate and tragic accidental drowning" and that no one had forced, coerced or pushed him into the water. There was also no evidence that the swimmers rescuing him had deliberately held his face underwater, the Channel News Asia reported, citing Nakhoda. Garg, 52, had been intoxicated, and this likely impaired his judgment in his decisions, said Nakhoda. This included the removal of his life jacket during his first swim and his "steadfast" refusal to wear it on his second swim despite being told to don the equipment by the yacht captain and other passengers. Garg drowned in the waters off Lazarus Island on September 19, 2025, a day before he was slated to perform at the North East India Festival. The singer was in Singapore for a festival organised to mark 60 years of diplomatic relations between Singapore



and India. The festival was cancelled on learning of the singer's death. Garg was invited to perform at the festival as one of the most popular singers in the state of Assam and likely in North East India, the court heard. The coroner found that Garg had agreed to the yacht trip and that there was no evidence that he was coerced into it. A group of about 20 dropped anchor on a yacht they were on between Lazarus Island and St John's Island and took part in activities such as drinking alcohol, swimming and kayaking. Witnesses saw Garg drinking alcohol, with one saying he had consumed a few cups of liquor, gin and whisky, along with a few sips of Guinness Stout (beer), according to the Channel report. Garg went for the first swim with a life jacket on, but later removed it and refused another jacket when he went on a second swim towards Lazarus Island. Members of the group on the yacht shouted for him to be brought back as he was not wearing a life jacket, and Garg turned and was swimming back to the vessel when he went limp in the water. He was rescued back to the yacht and later taken to the hospital, where he died. An autopsy determined the cause

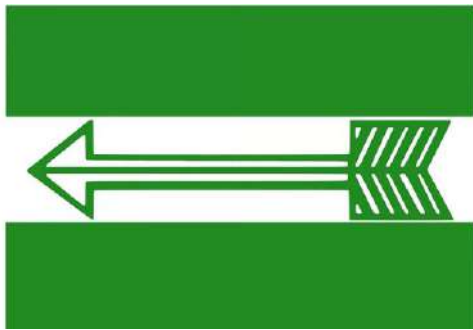
of death to be drowning. Coroner Nakhoda found that Garg had been consuming alcohol in the days prior to and on the day of his death. A toxicology analysis found that Garg had a blood alcohol concentration of 333 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood, which suggests severe intoxication resulting in impaired coordination and reflexes, the court had previously heard. For comparison, the legal limit in Singapore is 80 milligrams per 100ml of blood. A high concentration of ethanol was also found in Garg's urine samples. Garg has a medical history of hypertension and epilepsy, with his last known epileptic episode in 2024, the court heard. While the coroner accepted that it was possible that Garg had suffered an epileptic fit prior to his drowning, the evidence was inconclusive to make a definitive finding on this, said the Channel report. The court also found there was "nothing untoward" or "sinister" about the invitation extended to Garg to perform at the festival. The members of the Assam Association Singapore had gone out of their way to make his visit to Singapore as interesting as possible, the coroner

found. He stressed the coroner's court does not establish whether potential offences were committed. The question of whether an offence is disclosed is the prerogative of the police prosecutor, following investigations conducted by the police. "In circumstances where the police have established that there is no foul play involved, and the public prosecutor has concurred with this conclusion, it would be improper for the coroner to make a finding that criminal offences were committed," the Channel had Nakhoda as saying. No one has been charged in Singapore with any acts or omissions connected with Garg's death, he added. Garg's uncle had attended an earlier hearing and raised concerns the family had over the death, including why Garg entered the sea and whether he had done so of his own free will. The coroner found that Garg had voluntarily gone on his two swims and was not forced or pushed into the water. He found the swimmers had assisted Garg to the best of their abilities and found no evidence that his face was deliberately held underwater.

JD(U) moves Lok Sabha Speaker seeking disqualification of party MP Girdhari Yadav

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PATNA: The Janata Dal (United) has submitted a notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, seeking the disqualification of its own MP, Girdhari Yadav. The notice, submitted by JD(U) leader in the Lok Sabha, Dileshwar Kamait, seeks Yadav's disqualification from the Lower House of Parliament on the grounds of his alleged anti-party activities. Former JD(U) national president and Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh on Wednesday stated that the move to disqualify Yadav was taken in view of his decision to



campaign for his son, who is contesting the 2025 Bihar Assembly election on an RJD ticket. "The decision was not taken by us, the decision was taken by those who fielded their son on an RJD ticket in the Assembly elections, and he (Girdhari Yadav) himself campaigned for the election. On that basis, our parliamentary leader Dileshwar Kamait has submitted the

application; now the Speaker will consider it," Lalan Singh told the media. Meanwhile, Girdhari said that he would present his stand before the Speaker if formally questioned. "I will answer to it when I am questioned by the Speaker. I don't know what Dileshwar Kamait has said. I have no such record for any anti-party activity," he

remarked. Earlier in July 2025, Girdhari Yadav was issued a show-cause notice by JD(U) for making public statements against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which the party said went against its official stance and caused embarrassment. Girdhari represents the Banka Lok Sabha constituency in the Lok Sabha. In the notice sent to Yadav, the party reminded him that JD(U) had consistently supported the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the use of EVMs in elections, both when it was part of the INDIA bloc and now as a member of the NDA.

Rs 1.03L crore 'Green Budget' to boost infrastructure, education, health

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NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta presented her government's second Budget in the Assembly on Tuesday, laying out a roadmap to transform the capital into a modern, inclusive, safe, and environmentally sustainable city. The Budget outlay for 2026-27 has been pegged at Rs 1,03,700 crore, marking an increase of Rs 3,700 crore over the previous year, which is an annual growth of 3.7%. This is the first time Delhi has presented a dedicated "Green Budget", with 21,445 of the total outlay Rs 22,236 crore earmarked for environmental protection and sustainable



development. The Budget signals a shift in spending priorities. Capital expenditure has risen steeply to about Rs 30,800 crore from Rs 17,224 crore in 2025-26. This nearly 79% increase stands out against the overall slow growth in the total budget, while the fiscal deficit is projected to climb to Rs 16,266 crore from Rs 13,703 crore in the previous year. The revenue surplus also moderates slightly to about Rs 9,091 crore from Rs 9,661 crore earlier,

indicating tighter fiscal space even as spending expands. Delhi's own tax revenue is budgeted to rise to Rs 74,000 crore from Rs 68,700 crore in 2025-26. GST remains the largest source and increases from Rs 41,000 crore to Rs 43,500 crore. Stamp duty collections may jump from Rs 9,000 crore to Rs 11,000 crore. The Budget shows Central grants falling from about Rs 12,096 crore to roughly Rs 7,000 crore, while borrowings increasing to Rs

16,700 crore. The largest share of the Budget at Rs 19,326 crore (18.64%) has been allocated to education, followed by an expenditure of Rs 13,034 crore (12.57%) on public health. Allocations of Rs 12,613 crore (12.16%) have been earmarked for the transport, roads, and bridges sector, and Rs 11,572 crore (11.16%) for the housing and urban development sector. A provision of Rs 10,537 crore (10.16%) has been made for the social security. Bomb threat Hours before CM Rekha Gupta's Budget presentation, the Assembly received a bomb threat on Tuesday morning, police said, adding that nothing suspicious was found after extensive searches.

KIIFB: Can this be the fund that does the trick for incumbent MLAs in Kerala?

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A few days before the announcement of the Kerala Assembly election, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated a Rs 100-crore bridge over a 1.5-kilometre backwater stretch in Alappuzha district with much fanfare. Vijayan's party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), went on a social media overdrive hailing the government for fulfilling the long-pending demand of the residents of Perumbalam island in Aroor assembly constituency. The bridge construction is expected to benefit incumbent CPI(M) legislator Daleema Jojo as she takes on Congress opponent Shanimol Usman in the upcoming assembly election. It's not just her. All the incumbent legislators in the state, cutting across political parties, appear to be



harping on such projects completed with funding from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, better known as KIIFB. Set up by the Left Democratic Front government in 1999, KIIFB is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to mobilise funds for infrastructure projects through borrowings. Legislators from all political parties appear to have benefited from it. Sample these. KIIFB has constructed school buildings in Indian Union Muslim League leader MK Ashraf's Manjeswar constituency and an indoor stadium in Vadakara, which

elected CPI(M)'s political and ideological rival KK Rema of the Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP). The fund has also been utilised to set up a dialysis centre in Opposition Leader VD Satheesan's North Paravoor constituency, construct a resting place for Sabarimala pilgrims at Kazhakkottam and upgrade a hill highway from Kallikkadu to the Kerala border village of Parassala. KIIFB funds are mainly used for constructing roads, bridges, waterways, school and hospital buildings across the state. Until

December 31, 2025, KIIFB undertook 1,219 projects worth Rs 99,676 crore. Of this, Rs 39,375 crore has been spent on 527 projects of the state Public Works Department, while the Water Resources Department spent Rs 7,207 crore on 104 projects. KIIFB undertook 106 projects for Health & Family Welfare Department at a cost of Rs 6,854 crore, 18 projects for Power department worth Rs 5,200 crore, 158 projects for General Education Department worth Rs 3,229 crore and 70 projects for Higher Education Department at a cost of Rs 2,343 crore. Though the Congress has been critical of the KIIFB, its legislators too have been relying on the fund for infra development projects in their constituencies.

Iran fires at US carrier as back channel diplomacy aims to end war

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TEHRAN: Iran said on Wednesday it fired a volley of cruise missiles at a US aircraft carrier, as strikes rained down across the Middle East despite back-channel diplomatic efforts to end the nearly four-week war. A conflict that began on February 28 with a US-Israeli bombing campaign on Iran has rapidly engulfed the entire region, sending oil prices skyrocketing and threatening to derail the global economy. Diplomats said they were working behind the scenes to ferry messages between the warring parties, despite contradictory public statements about whether talks were actually taking place. But there was no let-up in the military activity, with targets in Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia all coming under fire. Iran's



military said its cruise missiles at the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier group had "forced it to change its position", warning of "powerful strikes" when the "hostile fleet" comes into range. On the other side, Israel said it had struck targets in Tehran as well as a submarine development facility in the central city of Isfahan. From the Iranian capital, 40-year-old Shayan told AFP: "There is gasoline, water and electricity. But there is a sense of helplessness in all of us. We don't know what to do and there's really nothing we can do." On another

front, Israeli warplanes pounded the southern suburbs of Beirut, a stronghold of Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah. An AFP correspondent saw a street covered in debris including shattered cement and warped metal after the early morning strike, while an apartment building's upper floors appeared damaged. Lebanon was pulled into the war when Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on March 2 to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. According to Lebanese authorities, more than 1,000 people

have been killed in over three weeks of Israeli strikes and upwards of one million people displaced. In the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, almost cut off from the rest of the country by bombs, Khalil, a man in his 30s, voiced his defiance. They'll have to take us by force," he told AFP. Despite Israeli ground operations and the spectre of a full-blown invasion, "we don't want to leave our land... our heart is here", said Khalil, sheltering with his young family in a theatre.

Israel strikes south Lebanon, Beirut as Hezbollah keeps up attacks

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BEIRUT: Israel launched strikes on south Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs on Wednesday, Lebanese state media said, as Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah said it kept up its attacks on Israeli troops. Lebanon was pulled into the Middle East war when Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on March 2 to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Israel, which occupied southern Lebanon for around two decades until 2000, has intensified strikes across Lebanon and sent ground troops into the country's south since the latest bout of fighting began. On Tuesday, it said its military would take control of the border area up to the Litani River, around 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the frontier. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported Israeli strikes and artillery shelling in several locations in the south on Wednesday. It also said that "enemy warplanes... launched a strike" on Beirut's southern suburbs, after Israel's military late Tuesday renewed an evacuation warning for several districts



in the Hezbollah stronghold. An AFP correspondent saw a street covered in debris including shattered cement and warped metal after the early morning strike, while an apartment building's upper floors appeared damaged. The area has been targeted multiple times during the conflict and is largely empty of residents, who have fled. Israel's military said it struck Hezbollah targets across Lebanon overnight "including a command centre" in Beirut's southern suburbs. It also said it attacked petrol stations belonging to the Al-Amana fuel company, which it says is controlled by Hezbollah and finances the group. Paramedics killed Lebanon's health ministry said on Wednesday that two paramedics were killed when an Israeli strike "targeted their

motorbike as they headed to carry out a rescue mission in the city of Nabatiyeh" in the south on Tuesday. The ministry condemned the strike on the pair, saying they wore full rescue workers' uniforms and the motorbike was also marked for emergency response. According to the ministry, 42 health workers are among more than 1,000 people killed in Lebanon in more than three weeks of Israeli strikes. Lebanese authorities say upwards of one million people have been displaced. Hezbollah said its fighters on Wednesday targeted Israeli troops "massed in the border towns of Naqura and Qawzah" and in sites across the border "with more than 100 rockets". The statement came as the group claimed a

series of attacks targeting Israeli troops in south Lebanon and northern Israel. Israel's military in an earlier statement said ground troops in southern Lebanon had "dismantled a weapons storage facility", and the air force killed "several terrorists". It also said troops had "dismantled Hezbollah command centres in which numerous weapons were located", without specifying where. Lebanese authorities reported deadly Israeli strikes on the south on Tuesday, including a raid that killed two people in the Mich Mich Palestinian refugee camp. On Tuesday in northern Israel, where repeated air raid warnings have sent residents to shelters, a woman was killed following rocket fire from Lebanon, authorities said.

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Published from **Ahilyanagar**
& Circulated at

* Solapur * Latur * Dharashiv
* Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar * Beed * Jalna
* Nanded * Parbhani * Hingoli * Nashik

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