

## Trump's Iran War Pushes India Back To Russia For LNG Trade, First Time Since Ukraine Conflict

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

India and Russia are preparing to restart direct sales of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for the first time since the Ukraine war, reports Reuters quoting people familiar with the matter. The move comes as both sides deepen energy ties amid rising global prices triggered by Strait of Hormuz closure amid Iran-US-Israel war. A verbal understanding to begin negotiations was reached during a March 19 meeting in Delhi between Russian Deputy

Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin and India's Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. If India proceeds, talks could be concluded within weeks, though the deal risks breaching Western sanctions. In January, India reduced purchases of Russian crude while negotiating to ease US tariffs under Donald Trump. However, Delhi and Moscow began strengthening cooperation again. The two sides also agreed to increase crude oil supplies, which could rise to at least 40% of



India's total imports within a month. India had earlier bought nearly \$44 billion worth of Russian crude, supporting Moscow's economy after the Ukraine invasion. The

discussions come as energy prices surge following the US-Israel attack on Iran. India has asked its importers to prepare for possible LNG purchases from Russia and has

approached Washington for a sanctions waiver. Officials said India is also in talks with other countries to secure energy supplies, including LNG. Authorities continue to import

Russian LPG, which is not under sanctions. Impact of closure of Hormuz India's energy strategy changed after Iran's retaliation targeted ships in the Strait of Hormuz, through which about half of India's oil and LNG supplies pass. The disruption led to long queues at fuel stations and shortages of cooking gas in some areas. Demand for Russian energy has since risen, as shipments to Asia avoid the Gulf route. Indian refiners increased orders just before the US announced a temporary waiver

for some purchases. A government note warned that prolonged disruption in Middle East supplies could lead to higher inflation, a weaker currency and rising foreign debt. Export growth could fall by 2% to 4%, while wholesale inflation may rise by 0.3% to 0.7%. Russia is also exploring wider cooperation with India. Discussions include power transmission projects in remote areas and expanding direct air connectivity. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said 96% of trade

between the two countries is now conducted in rupees and roubles. Faster transactions are also being enabled through Russian lender Sberbank. India-Russia long-standing partnership Former ambassador Ajai Malhotra said India's approach reflects its national interests and long-standing ties with Russia. He added that India should seek exemptions or adjustments from the US as part of negotiations between strategic partners.

## President Murmu urges CPES, IES officers to drive inclusive growth, improve lives through policy outcomes

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday emphasised the critical role of the Central Power Engineering Service (CPES) and the Indian Economic Service (IES) in shaping India's development trajectory and ensuring that economic policies translate into tangible benefits for citizens. Addressing the officers of both services as they called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President said they stand at the forefront of India's growth story and will play a decisive role in building a stronger, self-reliant nation. She noted that their work would significantly influence policy formulation, reform implementation, and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development across sectors, reported IANS. President Murmu urged the officers to adopt a forward-looking and solution-oriented



approach in governance. She highlighted that India's rapid economic transformation requires policymakers and technical experts to remain agile, innovative, and deeply committed to public service. She encouraged them to embrace challenges as opportunities to contribute meaningfully to nation-building. According to IANS, President stressed the importance of continuous learning and professional excellence, stating that governance in the modern era demands not only

technical expertise but also empathy and ethical commitment. She reminded the officers that policies must be responsive to the needs of a diverse population and grounded in real-world impact. Speaking specifically to CPES officers, Murmu described electricity as a key driver of industrial growth, technological innovation, and improved quality of life. She acknowledged the service's contribution to developing robust power infrastructure, including generation, transmission, and distribution systems, while maintaining

reliability, efficiency, and safety standards. In her interaction with IES officers, she underlined that in a rapidly evolving global and domestic economic environment, their role has become even more crucial. She said IES officers would be instrumental in steering economic policy, managing inflationary pressures, fostering employment, and reducing socio-economic inequalities, reported IANS. President Murmu emphasised that policymaking must go beyond numbers and statistics. "Behind every data point is

a human story," she said, adding that the true success of economic policies lies in their ability to uplift lives, especially those of the most vulnerable sections of society. She also highlighted the need for coordination between technical services like CPES and analytical services like IES to ensure that development initiatives are both well-designed and effectively implemented. According to her, such synergy is essential for achieving long-term national goals and ensuring balanced regional development. The interaction underscored the government's focus on aligning technical expertise and economic planning with citizen-centric outcomes, reinforcing the pivotal role of civil services in driving inclusive and sustainable growth in the country, reported IANS.

## Strong start towards the development of Sujalam Sufalam Saoner - C M Fadnavis



**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nagpur, Date 26: Beautification of the main road of Saoner and foundation stone laying ceremony of Mouni Baba Ashram took place today. Two big projects like fertilizer and coal gasification will be set up in this area, which will generate over 40 thousand jobs. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asserted that all these projects have started the process of making Saoner a Sujalam-Suffalam. Expressing the sentiment that India is thinking towards world peace in a situation of war in the world and the organization of the World Mahaarti in Saoner for world peace is a matter of pride, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis congratulated the organizers for the Guinness Book of Records of the Mahaarti. Expressing the sentiment that India is thinking towards world peace in a situation of war in

the world and the organization of the World Mahaarti in Saoner for world peace is a matter of pride, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis congratulated the organizers for the Guinness Book of Records of the Mahaarti. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, Lord Ram is our role model. He taught that there is no one big or small in society, but everyone is equal. On the same day of Lord Ram's birthday, on Ram Navami, the foundation stone of the main road beautification project of Saoner and the construction and beautification work of the ashram of the great saint Mouni Baba of the Raghav community was laid. MLA of Saoner constituency Dr. Ashish Deshmukh continuously followed up with the Central and State Governments for the coal gasification project and fertilizer project in this area. In the coming time, these

two big projects will be set up in this area and through this, about 40 thousand people will be provided employment. He expressed his belief that all these works will boost the development of this area and this area will become prosperous. Saoner main road will be beautified with Rs 26 crore from the Central Road Fund, while Mouni Baba Ashram will be built and beautified with an expenditure of Rs 5 crore. Earlier, 4911 devotees including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Revenue Minister and Guardian Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Minister of State for Finance and Planning Adv Ashish Jaiswal performed the Maha Aarti of Ganpati. At the same event, the Guinness Book of Records India official officially announced that this Maha Aarti has become a Guinness Book of Records. MLA Dr. Ashish Deshmukh gave the introduction.

## Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis thanks PM Modi, says excise duty cut will benefit consumers

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the petrol excise duty cut announced by the Central government will shield consumers from the impact of rising global crude prices amid the ongoing war in West Asia. Welcoming the government's announcement to slash excise duty on petrol to Rs 3 a litre and exempt diesel from the duty, Fadnavis thanked the Union government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving this "big benefit" to consumers. The burden (due to the situation in West Asia) won't be passed on to consumers," he

said. Fadnavis appealed people not to queue up at petrol pumps. "We have enough fuel," he said. There is also no need for hoarding of domestic gas, he added. The Centre has declared that there won't be any lockdown, Fadnavis said. Those spreading rumours of a nationwide lockdown will face criminal action, he added. The government has slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each, a move aimed at shielding domestic consumers from a surge in global oil prices triggered by the Middle East conflict, at an estimated revenue cost of Rs 1.75 lakh crore. Alongside, the government brought



back duties on export of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). Special additional excise duty on petrol has been cut from Rs 13 a litre to Rs 3 and the same on diesel from Rs 10 per litre to nil, according to a notification issued late on Thursday. Alongside, the government imposed an export duty of Rs 21.5 per litre on diesel and Rs 29.5 per litre on aviation turbine

fuel (ATF), reinstating a levy first introduced in July 2022 to curb windfall gains by refiners following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and later withdrawn in December 2024. However, unlike last time, there is no windfall tax that has been levied on domestic crude oil producers like ONGC. After the reduction in excise duty, the incidence of excise duty on petrol will be Rs 11.9 per litre (Rs 1.40 basic excise duty, Rs 3 special additional excise duty, Rs 2.50 agriculture infrastructure and development cess and Rs 5 road and infrastructure cess). On diesel the incidence will be Rs 7.80 per litre (Rs

1.80 basis excise duty, Rs 4 agriculture infrastructure and development cess and Rs 2 road and infrastructure cess). Considering 175 billion litre of auto fuel sales annually (115 billion litres of diesel and 60 billion litres of petrol), the impact of the duty cut would be Rs 1.75 lakh crore annually. The excise duty cut follows record losses that oil companies suffered from the surge in international oil prices. Prices of crude oil, the raw material for making petrol and diesel, have surged almost 50 per cent this month as the US and Israel attack on Iran and Tehran's sweeping retaliation disrupts global supply

## Fuel stocks secured for 2 months, commercial LPG supply restored to 70%: Govt

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Govt India currently has sufficient reserves of crude oil and petroleum products, with no immediate risk to fuel availability despite disruptions triggered by the ongoing West Asia conflict, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Friday. The Ministry also confirmed that supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG)

remain stable, with commercial LPG distribution now restored to 70 percent. The Ministry stated that the country's crude oil inventories are adequate and fuel supplies have been secured for at least the next two months. Refineries across India are operating at full capacity or higher to meet domestic demand, while production of LPG within the country has increased by around

20 percent. The Ministry acknowledged that the ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia have impacted global energy markets, leading to a rise in international prices of crude oil, LPG and LNG. However, it maintained that timely and calibrated steps have helped India manage the situation without major disruptions. Domestic LPG needs prioritized.

## Fort Conservation Drive at Lohagad on Sunday Initiative under the guidance of MP Nilesh Lanke

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Ahilyanagar : A fort conservation and cleanliness drive will be conducted at Lohagad Fort on Sunday, March 29, under the guidance of Member of Parliament Nilesh Lanke. The initiative is being organized by the social organization "Aapla Mavala" with the objective of preserving the rich historical legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Sahyadri mountain range. The campaign, which is held once every month at different forts, was announced by MP Lanke on March 10 last year on the occasion of his birthday. Since then, the initiative has been consistently carried out on one Sunday each month across various historic forts. Citizens, especially youth, have been appealed to participate in large



numbers. Located in Maval taluka of Pune district, Lohagad Fort is one of the significant forts in Maratha history and held strategic importance during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The fort's strong fortifications, grand

gates, and the famous "Vinchu Kata" (Scorpion's Tail) structure continue to stand as testimony to its glorious past. However, increasing tourist footfall has led to rising concerns over garbage accumulation and environmental stress,

highlighting the urgent need for conservation. Against this backdrop, the special drive will begin at 7:00 AM on Sunday at Lohagad Fort. The campaign will focus on cleanliness, removal of plastic waste, maintenance of pathways, and preservation of historical structures. Volunteers will be divided into groups and assigned tasks in a systematic manner. Additionally, awareness and guidance on environmental conservation will also be provided. Citizens willing to participate have been urged to register online. With the spirit of "The fort is ours, and so is the responsibility," people are encouraged to come forward in large numbers and contribute to preserving this historical heritage.

## Andhare Demands SIT Probe into Kesarkar After "Photo Reveal"

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nashik: Thackeray group deputy leader Sushma Andhare has taken an aggressive stance on the much-discussed Ashok Kharat case in Nashik. Today, she met the SIT. In a press conference organized after that, she directly presented several photos and made accusations against many big leaders of the ruling party. "The names of who fed this Bhasmasur and who provided him with financial logistics should be revealed now," she demanded at this time. "Those who make baseless allegations should first see these photos" Responding to the allegations made by the authorities, Andhare said, "Yesterday, someone was making baseless allegations by referring to the 'Taj' hotel. Today I am speaking with evidence. The photos I have are not just a coincidence. Atul Save is seen in them, which does not mean that he is a criminal, but this matter should be thoroughly



investigated." Sushma Andhare showed some photos of former MP Hemant Godse to the media. She said, "Hemant Godse is seen doing Bhoomi Pujan in one photo. There is a coconut in front and Kharat, the main suspect in this case, is seen with him. This Bhoomi Pujan is related to Sinnar MIDC. If this was just a social initiative, then what were all the MIDC staff doing there? Those talkative spokespersons should answer this now." Speaking further, she said, "I give a guarantee about my leader, but tell me how you are going to protect these leaders. I will do more research and get to the root of this matter. I have many other things to research, not just Nashik." Andhare also targeted Rupali

Bhoomi Pujan in a photo. There is a coconut in front and Kharat, the main suspect in this case, is seen with him. This Bhoomi Pujan is related to Sinnar MIDC. If this was just a social initiative, then what were all the MIDC staff doing there? Those talkative spokespersons should answer this now." Speaking further, she said, "I give a guarantee about my leader, but tell me how you are going to protect these leaders. I will do more research and get to the root of this matter. I have many other things to research, not just Nashik." Andhare also targeted Rupali

Chakankar, the chairperson of the State Women's Commission. "Chakankar says that they were meeting only for social initiatives. But in one photo, the cabinet ministers are standing calmly and a woman who has been given the status of a self-proclaimed Minister of State is being felicitated, while Kharat is standing on the side. 'What is this relationship called?' "This should be clear now," she said. Sushma Andhare has warned that she has handed over the input of all these photos to the SIT and will not rest until the 'mastermind' of this case is revealed.

## Demand for Agricultural University Sub-Centre in Drought-Prone Belt MP Nilesh Lanke raises issue with Centre under Rule 377

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Ahilyanagar : Member of Parliament Nilesh Lanke has raised a significant issue regarding the drought-prone conditions in Ahilyanagar district during the seventh session of the 18th Lok Sabha under Rule 377. He has urged the Central Government to establish a sub-centre of an agricultural university for the benefit of farmers in Nagar, Karjat, Jamkhed, Shrigonda, Parner, Pathardi, and Shevgaon talukas. These regions largely depend on rain-fed agriculture and have been facing persistent challenges due to inadequate rainfall, changing climatic conditions, and declining groundwater levels. As a result, agricultural productivity has been affected, leading to increased financial



stress on farmers. In his submission, MP Lanke emphasized that setting up a dedicated agricultural research sub-centre in the region would provide farmers with access to modern technologies, improved seed varieties, and advanced farming practices at the local level. He highlighted that such an initiative would promote techniques for higher yield with minimal water usage, encourage research on drought-resistant crops, and facilitate

the adoption of water conservation and micro-irrigation methods. He further expressed that the establishment of such a centre would create opportunities for rural youth in agricultural education, research, and employment, thereby contributing to the overall development of the district. Pointing out the lack of coordination between Central and State Government schemes, which has delayed several development projects, MP Lanke called for

direct intervention by the Centre to expedite the process. He has appealed to the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to take an immediate and positive decision to establish the agricultural university sub-centre in any one of the seven talukas in Ahilyanagar district. The proposed centre is expected to help farmers enhance productivity, reduce costs, and increase their income through the adoption of modern agricultural practices.

## While playing volleyball, the ball fell into the river, the youth landed; Find the place, share the body on the day

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Pen: A tragic incident has taken place in which 20 farmer youths drowned in the Gavati river. The name of the youth is Wasim Sheikh Ansari. Wasim's friends were playing volleyball at Pimpledoh. The ball went down the river. Wasim landed to retrieve it. But he suddenly drowned in the river. He provided information about the incident. On the first day, a local search operation was started under the intensive care unit of the citizens and Pen. But Wasim's body was not found. Police



Inspector Sandeep Bagul took the matter seriously and called the Health Foundation Khopoli and the SVRSS rescue team from Kolad for the rescue operation. On this day, the rescue team started a large-scale search operation. After three to four hours of efforts, Sim's body was found dead in Pimpledoh.

The body is being sent to Pen Upazila and is being sent. The initial information is believed to be the road. However, the police are basing the information on CCTV footage and other technical evidence from the scene. These wrongdoings are coming to light while playing volleyball. Residents

have also appealed to stay for the following reasons. This episode is appreciating the readiness of the rescue team, who have seen a lot of hard work. The police's guidance is beneficial. The safety of the locals and local citizens in the river is for the safety of the people, and the administration has appealed to all parents to come to the banks of their party. Police Inspector Bagul has advised the parents to keep a constant watch on everyone and keep an eye out for such incidents. This danger has spread to the city of Pen.

## Set out for cooking work, caught up in time on the way; Two friends die on the spot in a horrific accident

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Solapur: A horrific accident occurred at Juna Boramani Chowk in Solapur city on Friday morning. The two friends who were set out for cooking work did not anticipate the turn of the truck. The truck driver took a turn, and at that moment the two friends tried to leave directly. However, the truck crushed both of them. The names of the deceased are Huzur Allaiddin Patel (age 35, resident of Boramani, South Solapur) and Saifan Sheikh Farid Patel (age 36, resident of Boramani, South Solapur). The unfortunate end of the two friends who had set out for cooking work has spread mourning in Boramani village. Huzur Patel is married and has a family of brother, sister and mother. Saifan Patel is also married and has a family of wife, three



daughters and a son. Huzur Patel and Saifan Patel were two friends. They were staying opposite each other's houses. The lifelong friends had started a cooking business. They were on their way to Gunjwadi in South Solapur taluka to cook at a function today, Friday. While going from Boramani to Gunjegaon, they were crushed by a truck while taking a turn near the signal at Juna Boramani Chowk. As soon as the information about the accident was received in Boramani village, all the villagers rushed to the government hospital. The horrific accident that took place in the Boramani

Naka area of Solapur city has created a stir in the entire area. Two people died on the spot in a violent collision between a truck and a motorcycle that took place around 8 am today, Friday. The accident was so serious that both of them died before they could get any help. According to eyewitnesses, the accident took place while taking a turn between a truck and a two-wheeler. The entire incident was captured on CCTV camera and as soon as the information about the incident was received, the Solapur police immediately rushed to the spot and

started the investigation. Solapur: A terrible accident occurred at the old Boramani Chowk in Solapur city on Friday morning. The two friends who had gone out for cooking did not anticipate the turn of the truck. The truck driver took a turn, and at that moment the two friends tried to leave directly. However, the truck crushed both of them. The names of the deceased are Huzur Allaiddin Patel (age 35, resident of Boramani, South Solapur) and Saifan Sheikh Farid Patel (age 36, resident of Boramani, South Solapur). The unfortunate end of the two friends who had gone out for cooking has spread grief in Boramani village. Huzur Patel is married and has a family of brother, sister and mother. Saifan Patel is also married and has a family of wife, three daughters and a son.

## Dombivalikar sent objectionable videos to teacher, trustee said as soon as the son was arrested, punishment must be meted out!

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Dombivli: A case has come to light in which the son of a trustee of a renowned school in Dombivli repeatedly sent objectionable videos to a teacher and molested her. The teacher had complained to the school administration about this. However, they finally took the help of MNS as they held the teacher guilty. After this, Manpada police have registered a case against Sarvan Iyer, a computer teacher, sent a message to a teacher of a school in Sagaon area from



the school's mobile number. Thinking that the school clerk must be sending the message, the teacher replied to the message. After that, Sarvan made various demands to the teacher from his personal number. However, she always refused him, explaining

everything. Meanwhile, some students of class 6 filed a complaint against Iyer and, realizing the seriousness of the incident, took the help of MNS workers. On Thursday, MNS workers stormed the school and created a ruckus demanding

action against Sarvan. After this, the police have taken Sarvan into custody and arrested him. In this case, the school trustee Shiva Iyer has reacted that if his son has committed a crime, then he must be punished.

## A sudden hiccup while playing marked the end of time, the unfortunate end of a four-year-old girl from Kolhapur

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Kolhapur: It is impossible to predict when an unfortunate incident will happen to young children. In a similar way, a girl in Kolhapur has lost her life due to a small thing while playing. This incident has happened in Sarnobatwadi in Karveer taluka. Four-year-old Ananya Prakash Bandaroli has met a tragic end in the Bandaroli family living here. She suddenly had hiccups while playing at home and became unconscious. This incident happened around 12 noon on Thursday. This incident has been registered at the CPR police post. According to official information received from the CPR police post, Prakash Bandaroli is originally from Karnataka and provides tractor-trolleys for construction. Ananya and her brother's children were at their



house with his wife. Prakash Bandaroli had gone for work on Thursday morning. In the afternoon, Ananya was playing with her siblings and suddenly had hiccups and became unconscious. Therefore, she was immediately admitted to CPR Hospital, but the doctors declared her dead before treatment. The police have registered an accidental death and sent the body for autopsy. The exact cause of death will be revealed after receiving the report. Pediatrician Dr. Kumbhojkar of CPR Hospital said that "In young children, such sudden hiccups are likely due to a food item, a small piece of toy or any other

foreign body getting stuck in the trachea. Therefore, young children should not be allowed to eat anything or play with anything that goes in their mouth in your absence, otherwise it can be fatal for the baby. The cause will be understood only after the final autopsy report on Ananya comes. Meanwhile, Ananya had no previous illness. The family says that she is very strong and healthy. However, the family and relatives are expressing grief due to this sudden tragedy that befell the family. While grief has spread among the citizens of the area.

## Goregaon to Magathane travel in 10 minutes! 5.5 km long route connecting Coastal Road-Link Road; New project of the municipality

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Mumbai: The deadline for the ongoing Goregaon Mulund Link Road project in the city was recently extended. The reason for this is that approval has been given to connect it with the Versova-Bhayander Coastal Road. For this, the municipal corporation has proposed to build a 5.5 km long high-speed corridor between Goregaon and Magathane. This corridor will create connectivity between these two projects. This project will be built from Film City in Goregaon to Magathane near



Borivali. This route will be parallel to the Western Express Highway. This will easily connect Mumbai with the eastern and western suburbs. This completely new project will provide connectivity from Coastal Road to Link Road. This will reduce the distance between Goregaon and Magathane to 10 minutes. This road will become a direct link between the

Coastal Road and the Link Road. A section of the Versova-Bhayander Coastal Road will be extended from the east and connected to the road at Magathane. This will make it possible to get direct access to the road. From there, motorists can travel directly on the Link Road and reach Mulund. Also, the newly constructed flyover will make it possible to reach

Airoli in Navi Mumbai directly. Speaking to the Indian Express, a municipal official informed that the purpose behind building this road is to connect all the main elevated roads and high-speed corridors in Mumbai. Also, this will be an important solution to the traffic jams on the Western Express Road. Currently, traveling on highways and minor roads used to take as much as 60 minutes during traffic jams. This travel time will now come down to just 10 minutes. Currently, some encroachments and obstacles will have to be removed on this proposed road. After

that, the estimated cost, project report will be submitted and tenders will be floated. The municipal corporation aims to start construction and complete the entire route by 2029. The second phase of Mumbai's Coastal Road is currently under construction from Versova to Bhayander. This road is 25 km long and is being built in the western suburbs of Mumbai. In the first phase, the Coastal Road from Marine Drive to Worli Sea Link has been extended to Bandra. Once both these routes are completed, there will be a direct connection from Bandra to Versova.

## 'All this is common'; In Pune, minor girl was called home and forced to have sex, and when she became pregnant, the incident came to light

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Pune: Nowadays, recognition on social media has become a simple thing. Similarly, love and cheating on social media are not so special anymore. We see one or the other such incidents happening every day. However, an incident has happened in Pune that gives an example of the depths to which cheaters also go. A young man in the Sahakarnagar area of Pune got acquainted with a minor girl. After the acquaintance, the

friendship gradually grew and the young man invited the minor girl to his house, saying 'I will show you the dog' in the house. He established physical relations with the minor girl, saying that he would marry her later. Through all this, the minor girl became pregnant. The accused has been named Prathamesh Dnyaneshwar Raut (age 23, resident of Balaji Heights, Dhankawadi) and the Sahakarnagar police have arrested him. The 16-year-old girl has filed a complaint in this regard at the



Sahakarnagar police station. This shocking incident took place between November 2025 and January 2026. When the accused called the minor girl home on the pretext of 'showing off', he forcibly established physical relations with her. Saying 'all these things are

common', he repeatedly had physical relations with her. After a few days, the young woman started vomiting. After a check-up, the girl was shocked. It was found that the minor girl was 10 weeks pregnant. Based on the complaint of the minor girl, the police

have registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Police Sub-Inspector Kale is conducting further investigation into the matter. However, such incidents are increasing day by day. The cases of cheating minor girls are increasing and the girls themselves and their parents, recognizing the seriousness of this, are learning from this incident. Meanwhile, anger is being expressed everywhere over this incident.

## Full stop on Mumbai's 'Musical Road'! Road to be closed for 3 days a week; Locals oppose Rs 6 crore experiment

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Mumbai: An innovative experiment was done on Mumbai Coastal Road to give motorists a 'Musical Road' experience by creating music tracks and playing the tune of 'Jai Ho'. However, after complaints from locals who were bothered by this noise day and night, a strange decision has been taken to keep this part of the road closed for three days a week for some time. This tune will not be played from 10 pm to 7 am on Friday to Sunday. This initiative was launched by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on February 11 to give motorists a 'Musical Road' experience on the Marine Drive to Worli Coastal Road. This experiment has been carried out on the northern stretch of this road from Nariman Point to Worli. After exiting the underground tunnel leading to Worli, music strips have been installed



500 meters ahead of the first lane adjacent to the divider. From this, if the vehicle is driven at a speed of 70 to 80 kilometers per hour, the tune of the song 'Jai Ho' can be heard by the vehicle occupants. Music strips have been installed on the road surface at a certain distance and in a specific shape. When the vehicle passes over these strips at a certain speed, the tune of the song 'Jai Ho' is played on the sound waves generated by the friction of the wheels. In order to make the drivers aware of the music strip while they are in the underground tunnel, the Municipal Corporation has already put up notice boards in this regard 500 meters, 100

meters and 60 meters in advance. This music, which plays day and night, is causing trouble to the residents along the coastal road. When the noise level was measured by the contractor, it was found to be within the rules. However, there is opposition from the locals. Therefore, it has been decided to close the road with the music strips for a certain period of time three days a week. Accordingly, the road will be closed for three days from Friday to Sunday from 10 pm to 7 am. This section of the road will be closed to ensure that music on the Mumbai Coastal Road remains silent. Barricades have been put up for this purpose.

## A mistake by the revenue department cost the government Rs 10 crore; Shocking information in the 'CAG' report

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Mumbai: Shocking information has come to light in the report of the 'CAG' that the state revenue department has applied a lower stamp duty rate due to incorrect classification of the document in the agreement, due to which a shortfall of stamp duty of Rs 10.50 crore has been levied. Apart from this, a property in Mumbai was valued at Rs 62.28 crore. According to this valuation, a stamp duty of Rs 3.11 crore was levied. However, the



audit determined the valuation of this property to be Rs 100.11 crore. Therefore, while Rs 5 crore stamp duty was required to be levied on this property, the report has revealed that Rs 1.89 crore was levied. According to the report, serious errors

have also been found in the case of lease agreements. Due to incorrect calculation of the period of the five-year agreement, when it was actually ten years, stamp duty and registration fees of Rs 29.71 lakh were short-charged. Apart from this, tax and interest of

Rs 96.84 lakhs were not recovered due to additional deductions allowed under the MVAT rules. However, major loopholes have also been revealed in the e-way bill system under GST. It has been revealed that some taxpayers have actually made transactions despite filing 'zero' returns, and information has come to light that tax of Rs 3.53 crores is yet to be recovered from them. The CAG has suggested immediate measures in this report to improve tax collection, strengthen

the inspection mechanism and make the e-way bill system more effective. A total of six recommendations have been included in it. It has been recommended to take appropriate action to recover ITC from the final recipients. It has also been recommended to train departmental officers during inspections and to demand penalties and to adjust the liability and cash ledgers and provide them to the government account.

## Maharashtra is in a state of disgrace; Harshvardhan Sapkal criticizes after Minister Jhirwal's viral video

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Mumbai: While Maharashtra has been in a state of disgrace due to the obscene and lewd acts of dozens of ministers in the grand alliance government who attended the immoral court of Bhondubaba Ashok Kharat, the objectionable video of state Food and Drug Administration Minister Narhari Jirwal going viral on social media is a blatant example of the moral decline in Maharashtra politics, said Congress state president Harshvardhan Sapkal. Sapkal

interacted with the media on Thursday. At that time, he made the above criticism. Sapkal said, 'Not only are dozens of ministers and senior officials involved in the Ashok Kharat case, but the most shameful thing is that the chairperson of the State Women's Commission should have close relations with Bhondubaba, who sexually exploits women. It is extremely shameful. Although Chakankar had to resign, he still retains the post of president of the Nationalist Congress Party's women's wing. After Chakankar, the glory of Narahari Jirwala has come to

the fore. However, NCP President and Deputy Chief Minister of the state Sunetra Pawar has not commented on this. Sunetra Pawar should relieve both of them from all posts. NCP MP Supriya Sule recently stated that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is carrying on the legacy of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar. Speaking on this statement, Harshvardhan Sapkal expressed his displeasure in strong words. Sule's statement is misleading. Harshvardhan Sapkal clarified that the legacy and path of thought of both Dr. Narendra Dabholkar



and Devendra Fadnavis are different and Sule should withdraw his statement. Since the death of Ajit Pawar in a plane crash, there has been intense internal politics of bickering within the

party, and since the minister is the one who is being criticized, there is a lot of discord in the party about how to avert a series of crises. Meanwhile, it is being said that the transgender person

found with Jirwal is also close to a senior leader in the party and party sources said that a strategy is being prepared to ensure that the party does not suffer any damage if discussions start about it.

Nagpur: Congress legislature leader Vijay Vadettiwar targeted the state government over the Ashok Kharat case and the misuse of the minister's official residence. When the ACB trap was set in the office of Minister Narhari Jirwal, no action was taken against him. Now he has misused the official residence. Vadettiwar demanded that the Chief Minister should investigate and take action in this matter. Speaking to the media in Nagpur on Thursday, Vadettiwar said, 'Some people are trying to retain their seats or remove others by using tantra

and mantras. This act does not befit those who take oath on the Constitution. Therefore, the Chief Minister should take serious note of this. The matter should be investigated and action taken. Be it the Pune land scam or the recovery in the RTO, the government is only taking action against the small fish and saving the big fish. There is an internal gang war going on in the current government and ministers are conspiring against each other. Due to this, the image of Maharashtra is getting tarnished.

## Editorial...

## Rising heat and kidney health

## Coffee Table

News Network

Gambar Dhanawade is a retired postmaster from Sattari. He lives with his children in Lalbaug. He has been coming for treatment for kidney disease related to arthritis for the last three years. His health has been stable for the last two years. He always expresses his regret that he cannot go to his village as often as before due to illness. On the occasion of Holi, there is a big fair of the goddess in his native village in Konkan. Two weeks ago, he went to his village after almost three years, all the relatives met, and a fair of the goddess was held. On the fourth day, his son called him and said that his father's health had suddenly deteriorated, he did not even have the strength to move in bed, we are leaving for Mumbai immediately. Creatinine, which indicates kidney function, which was stable around two milligrams, had gone up to four and a half. Apart from this, many other parameters were also disturbed. He recovered after receiving treatment in the ICU for three days. Although everything was back to normal, the family's vacation plans had to be canceled so quickly. Patients from all over the country come to KEM Hospital for kidney transplants. Even after the transplant, they come for regular check-ups every two to three months. Vikas, who had a kidney transplant two years ago and lives in Jalgaon, received a call that he had suddenly felt extremely tired, his blood pressure had dropped, and his urine output had also decreased. After receiving primary treatment from a physician there, he immediately came to Mumbai and was admitted to the kidney transplant ICU at KEM. It was found that the function of his transplanted kidney had also decreased. It had been more than ten years since the transplant, and we were trying to find out why complications suddenly arose when everything was going smoothly. There were many signs of sudden loss of water in the body, that is, dehydration. There was no bleeding, no infection, no diarrhea or vomiting. Then why

did such severe dehydration cause kidney damage? Vikas had a grocery shop on the side of the road in a village near Jalgaon. This shop was not of solid construction. Its walls and roof were made of aluminum sheets. For the past few days, a heat wave had hit Jalgaon and the surrounding area. Vikas was feeling extremely tired while doing his usual work, and after two or three days he had to be admitted to the hospital. The heat in the environment had suddenly reduced his kidney function. After Vikas' case, in the next one year, nine patients from different parts of our hospital who had undergone kidney transplants were found to have suffered kidney damage due to the heat in the environment. In all the above examples, the kidney was damaged due to the heat in the environment, which is called 'heat related illness' or 'heat related illness'. The severity of heat related illness can range from 'mild fatigue' to severe 'heat stroke'. The risk and severity of this disease are higher in young children, the elderly, and people with diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and kidney disease. That is why all of them should take care during the summer. It is important to avoid going out during the 'heat wave' as much as possible, wear an umbrella, hat, and cotton clothes that cover your hands and feet, carry enough clean water with you when you go out, drink plenty of fluids, monitor your blood pressure, and seek medical advice if you notice any physical symptoms. Heat-induced kidney disease - Mesoamerican nephropathy - has become a major and serious problem in many countries in Central America. There, heat and the resulting frequent dehydration during work are the main causes of kidney disease among laborers working in sugarcane fields. A similar disease is also found among farmers and agricultural laborers in villages in northern Maharashtra. In such places, measures such as limited working hours, abundant supply of drinking water, and mandatory rest during work are urgently needed.

## Celebrating 250 yrs of 'Wealth of Nations'

## Coffee Table

News Network

Adam Smith, the great Scottish economist, currently stands in news for completion of 250 years of his magnum opus An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of Wealth of Nations (1776). The voluminous treatise running into 5 Books (Parts), and translated into almost all world languages, stands as an all-time read in economics. This is for. Wealth of Nations' (WoNs) remains majorly instrumental in shaping economics, as one witnesses today "the queen of social", as Nobel Economist, Paul Samuelson calls. The beauty of WoNs lies in its systematic, comprehensive and justifiable treatment of all major areas of economics. Every economist is a product of his/her era and the then prevailing situation, that impacts his ideologies. So was Adam Smith. The two schools of economic thought, prevailing around Smithian era mercantilism and physiocracy impacted Smith. The former believed in foreign trade, while the later in agriculture as source of wealth of the

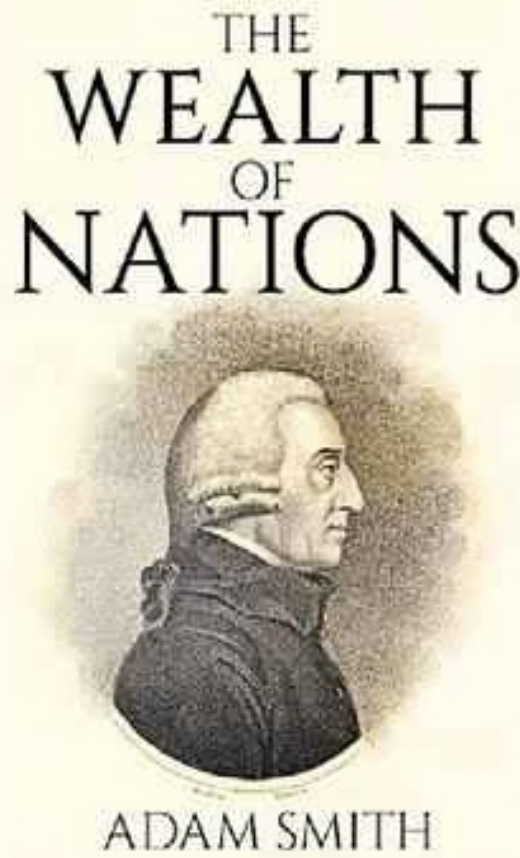
nation NSmith, influenced by industrial revolution of UK and its multifold hike in production, contrarily believed in manufacturing, where from his heroic notion Division of Labour (DoL) emerged. To the great economist, the world is a vast workshop, created by DoL, to cater to the interest of the whole community with distinct benefits: improvement in quality and quantity of products, saving of time, enhancement in invention and innovations. The champion of market economy, believing in 'laissez faire' (let it be free), Smith opposed state intervention. Based on the notion of Physiocrate's Natural Order (Gods wish), he devised the concept, Invisible Hand (an automatic mechanism) operating through demand-supply forces to seek decisions. Smith's free market economy, with necessary modifications, attributed to the passage of time, finds disciples in contemporary world. Instances multiply: Riganomics (1980s), Thachernomics (1980s), Manmohanomics (1990s), Washington

Consensus, the ideology of free economy coined by British economist John Williamson, and promoted by Bretton

their own era. Thus, mercantilists, physiocrats, Smith embraced trade, agriculture and manufacturing sec-

occupies a back bench, manufacturing middle and service sector the front with contribution to GDP to the tune of 2-3 pc, 20-25 pc and 70-72 pc respectively. Same figures for India today remain 17 pc, 28 pc, 55 pc respectively. Instances of booming service sector remain; AI, IT, banking, shipping, insurance, tourism, etc. Of course, had Smith lived today, he would have voted for the new baby of the era. Samay Samay ki Baate! What else? Next, his celebrated institution, DoL, encounters two major bottlenecks: (i) extent of market; (ii) availability of volume of capital. In India, where around 90 pc labour force is absorbed in informal sector that lacks the both, DoL is inoperative. It is also opined, although a first systematic and comprehensive work on economics, WoNs, lacks originality, ideas are taken from the then prevailing schools of thought. Despite such and few more criticisms levelled against WoNs, the later remains a path-breaking work, for generations. Levis N

Haney, the known author of the bulkiest book, "History of Economic Thought" observes, "Wealth of Nations" became a corner-stone of economics science. Those who went before, prepared a way for him; those who came after, carried on his work, either building upon the foundations of his thoughts or endeavoring to correct his errors (Haney, 1949, Pg 236). WoNs, although questioned by critics for its originality, the criticism holds no roots. In fact, no economic ideas can be developed without the background, devised by predecessors and there is a plethora of examples in classicism, neoclassicism and the modern era of the science. The greatness of WoNs is its systematic development of doctrines, scientific approach and wide range of comprehensiveness. Therefore, it is sure, WoNs will govern the universe of economics for ages with its greenery intact and footprints un-erased.



Woods Twins (1989). All these indirectly support Smith's 250-year-old model of market economy, for acceleration of economic growth. Economists remain product of

tors respectively. Now tables have turned. Service sector that conspicuously remained non-existent those days, now rules. For instance, with achieving affluence in the recentector

## Another controversial law

Maharashtra's anti-conversion Bill furthers erosion of civil liberties

## Coffee Table

News Network

As far as anti-conversion laws are concerned, Maharashtra has been a bit late to the party. This is understandable as chief minister Devendra Fadnavis was preoccupied with things of far more importance. But the state has made up for the delay by bringing a law that is far more stringent. It will no doubt help the chief minister gain some distance in the race for being the next Hindutva icon. One suspects another law on uniform civil code must be in the pipeline. Like many laws pushed under the Modi regime, this one too seeks to kill two birds with one stone. One, it keeps the communal pot boiling. And second, it gives another tool to the government to curb freedoms. Make no mistake, it may be named Freedom of Religion Bill, but its real purpose is exactly the opposite. It aims at appeasing the Hindutva base by empowering the state to poke its nose into what should be completely private affairs -- religion and marriage. Jail terms ranging up to 10 years and fines up to 5 lakh have been mandated for "unlawful" and mass conversions. Moreover, police can initiate suo motu action or on the complaint of an unrelated party. This effectively

means the police can intervene in any interfaith marriage. The bride, groom or their relatives can be made accused. Marriages done with the purpose of conversion have been outlawed. How is one to prove whether a marriage has been done for the purpose of converting someone or someone is converting for the

purpose of marriage? Well, the burden of proof is on the accused. The police or any random accuser just has to lodge a complaint. There is no punishment for anyone lodging a false This law represents the biggest fall in Maharashtra's standing as a progressive state that before long celebrated inter-caste and inter-faith marriages. This is the same state where architect of our Constitution Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar led lakhs of Hindus from oppressed castes into Buddhism. If Dr Babasaheb

Ambedkar were to do the same today, he would be required to give a notice to the Nagpur district collector 60 days in advance. Any caste Hindu hurt by his actions could lodge a complaint with local police and he would have been arrested under non-bailable provisions of the law. He will have to prove over the next

paganism or those outside of India like Shintoism? Will becoming an atheist be covered under the ambit of conversion? Some who worship Buddha as an avatar of Vishnu a Hindu or a Buddhist? Will Jains worshipping Hindu gods require an enquiry by the collector? If a lover promises their

the state or anyone know what religion I profess? Does that not violate my right to privacy, also guaranteed by the Constitution. These questions are at the heart of freedom as we know it. Faith being an intensely personal matter, it cannot be defined by anyone else, much less the state. A citizen should be free to follow any Heck, even tax authorities can now demand access to your emails and social media accounts. Increasingly your accusers are no longer required to prove your crime. The onus is on you to prove yourself innocent. And everything from your bank balance to your social media posts and even your identity as a citizen can be questioned by anyone. On paper the law will be neutral, but it will be selectively applied. The police and street muscle power will ensure that. A Muslim or a Christian person marrying a Hindu and converting will not be touched. A Hindu marrying a Muslim or a Christian will be harassed by goons and arrested to have a chilling effect on others contemplating similar moves. Those with power, money and influence, the elite, will of course be spared. But ordinary people falling in love and getting married will be sacrificed at the altar of political agenda. Conversions are not a problem. But the solution just adds another cut to Indian democracy that is dying by a thousand cuts. Slowly but surely our liberties are being eroded. The pill we are being given is sugar coated with nationalism and religion, but it is pure poison



several years that the conversions were not being made under any inducement or coercion. The law is so poorly drafted full of ambiguities that it should not have survived even a cursory legal scrutiny. Yet, given that much of the judiciary is now similarly motivated as proponents of this law, it may survive legal challenge. Yet I wonder how it will work in reality. It is not clear what the ambit of religious conversion is. Will it apply only to established religions or to less known ones? What about

spouse a better life, as all lovers do, is it inducement? Are promises of heaven in every religion inducement, or is warning of hell coercion? Government says the right to profess any religion remains intact. Does not a 60-day notice requirement abridge that right? What if one wishes to convert under 60 days? What if they change their mind after giving notice? Can one find a unique religion and be the sole convert to it or will that also require giving a notice? What if one wishes not to make one's religion public matter? Why should

faith any time, including changing it without telling anyone. Hence it appears the real purpose of the law is to simply cause harassment. That has been the whole thrust of the Modi regime. Today you have more laws that curb your freedoms in more ways than 10 years back. You can be arrested for more reasons, by more agencies, and for longer periods. Government has access to more of your data. Your RTI requests can be denied for more reasons. There are curbs on what you can eat or drink and where in more places than ever.

## Congress slams Modi govt over rising fuel import dependence; says gas promised by Modi remains 'gas'

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Congress on Friday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over India's increasing dependence on crude oil, LPG and natural gas imports, questioning the government's push for self-reliance. "The gas grandly promised by Mr Modi has remained that, gas," Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said on X, pointing to India's dependence on natural gas imports. "Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, India's dependence on crude oil imports went up from 84% to 90%. Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, India's dependence on LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) imports went up from 46% to 62%," Ramesh said, adding that "all this when the mantra was supposed to be Atmanirbharta, or self-reliance." The natural gas story is murkier, he said. "On June 26, 2005, the then CM of Gujarat



(Modi) boasted that the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation had discovered India's biggest gas reserve in the deep waters of the Krishna-Godavari river basin. Mr Modi announced that this would make India energy independent," Ramesh said. He claimed that five CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) reports between 2011 and 2016 were to reveal later that this was a "Rs 20,000 crore scam, which was subsequently covered by the prime minister, forcing Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation's merger into Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in

August 2017". The remarks come amid reports of panic buying and long queues at petrol pumps and LPG distributors. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas released stock details for the first time since the West Asia conflict escalated, assuring citizens of adequate availability. The government said India has about 60 days of crude oil stock cover and has secured one month's LPG supply. It stressed there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG, calling such reports a "deliberate misinformation campaign" aimed at

triggering panic buying. State-run oil marketing companies also reiterated that supplies remain stable and petrol pumps across the country are fully stocked with no rationing. Meanwhile, the Centre on Friday announced a Rs 10 per litre cut in central excise duty on petrol and diesel for domestic consumption, even as it imposed fresh export duties on petroleum products in a bid to shield consumers from a sharp spike in global crude oil prices triggered by the ongoing West Asia crisis.

## Fuel stockpile for 60 days in the country; Central government information, strict warning to those spreading rumors

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

New Delhi: The country has at least 60 days of fuel reserves and there is currently no shortage of petrol, diesel or cooking gas (LPG). The central government on Thursday gave relief to the citizens by saying that the country's total crude oil and fuel storage capacity is 74 days. At the same time, the government also issued a stern warning to those spreading rumors on social media regarding the increase in petrol and diesel prices. False claims about emergency measures made through misleading posts on social media are being spread to create unnecessary anxiety. Action will be taken against those responsible for this, the government warned. Lockdown Rumors: There will be



no lockdown in India! Petroleum Minister clarifies; Modi also mentioned two options regarding fuel shortage. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a statement that all petrol pumps across the country have sufficient reserves and are functioning normally. There is no rationing of petrol or diesel. India, the world's fourth and fifth largest exporter of refined petroleum products, structurally ensures domestic fuel availability and supplies refined fuel to over 150 countries. All

the country's refineries, which convert crude oil into fuels like petrol and diesel, are currently operating at over 100 per cent capacity. Petroleum companies have already secured crude oil supplies for the next 60 days. No shortage of supply anywhere. The ministry said that even on the 27th day of the West Asian crisis, the country still has about 60 days of physical reserves (including crude oil stocks, product stocks and strategic reserves). Whatever happens globally, there is a

stable supply of about two months to meet the needs of every Indian citizen. Moreover, with two months of crude oil purchases already secured, India will not face any problems for the next few months and in such a supply situation, the fuel stocks kept in strategic reserves become secondary. LPG supply adequate "Despite the tension in the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil supply is stable. Any disruption is being compensated by increased supply from alternative sources. The supply of LPG is also adequate due to the current increased domestic production and reduced need for imports. Additional cargo ships have been procured from several countries, which has ensured domestic fuel availability," the Petroleum Ministry said.

## 28-year-old bodybuilder's self-inflicted injury, which showed off his zero-fat body, turned out to be fatal

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Lucknow: A 28-year-old bodybuilder stabbed himself over a phone argument with his elder brother. Salman died of bleeding after stabbing himself in the thigh. It has been reported that the incident took place in Meerut district of western Uttar Pradesh. Salman's zero fat body and shapely body had many fans, unfortunately, this physique led to his death. What is the case? 28-year-old Salman, who lives in Inchauli in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh, had a poultry farm. He was also a famous body builder in this area. On Thursday morning, Salman was in his room. At this time, he had a heated argument with his elder brother Imran over the phone for some reason. The argument got so bad that Salman's anger



started boiling. As soon as he hung up the phone, he took a vegetable chopping knife from the house and stabbed himself in the thigh. According to doctors and experts, the cause of Salman's death was his shapely body and excessive bleeding. A normal person has a layer of fat on their body, which acts as a 'cushion' or a protective shield against any external impact. For a long time, Salman had been losing weight by sweating profusely in the gym and had focused on building his 'abs'. Due to the lack of body fat and

the extreme rigidity of the muscles, the knife went straight into the body three inches deep. As a result, the main blood vessel in Salman's thigh (femoral artery) was cut. The moment the 'femoral vein' (the main artery in the thigh) was cut, a jet of blood gushed out. His family immediately admitted him to the hospital, but due to the lack of a protective layer of fat in the body, the wound went so deep that even the doctors could not stop the bleeding. According to medical science, in obese people, 'subcutaneous fat'—that is, the layer of

fat just below the skin—acts as a protective barrier; Due to which sharp weapons cannot penetrate deep enough into the body to reach the internal organs directly. Salman's family has been completely shaken by his death. He had been married for four years. He has two young children. The police rushed to the spot, but the family members categorically refused to take any legal action or perform an autopsy. ASP Bajrang Prasad said that the case appears to be a suicide and the family has not filed any complaint in this regard. On the other hand, people who go to the gym regularly have very toned and toned muscles; due to this, a knife or any other sharp weapon can penetrate deep into the body without any hindrance and can reach the blood vessels or bones directly.

## J&K assembly adjourned as chaos erupts over Khamenei's death, demand for National Law University

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir assembly was adjourned for half an hour as a pandemonium broke out soon after the budget session resumed on Friday, after a five-week recess. Members from both the treasury and the opposition benches stood up, raising slogans and disrupting the Question Hour despite repeated appeals by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather. While MLAs of the ruling National



Conference, Congress, CPI(M) and Independents, along with the opposition PDP, raised slogans against Israel to condemn the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the BJP

members held placards to press for a National Law University in Jammu. The budget session of the assembly resumed in Jammu on March 27 after a five-week recess, following the conclusion of its first leg held from February

2 to 20. In the first session, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented the budget on February 6, while the House passed grants for various departments after detailed discussions conducted in twin sittings each day. The current session will conclude on April 4. According to the notified House business schedule, March 30 and April 1 have been earmarked for private members' bills, while March 31 and April 2 are reserved for private members' resolutions.

## Sonia Gandhi's health shows improvement, will be discharged from hospital soon: Doctors

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's health is showing steady improvement, and she will be discharged from the hospital within one to two days, her doctors said on Friday. The 79-year-old leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Tuesday night at around 10:22 pm after developing a fever. According to hospital chairman Ajay Swaroop, Gandhi is "much better", showing medical



improvement and is comfortable. "She is walking around and has taken her breakfast. Overall, her progress is smooth, and we hope that she will be fit to be discharged within a day or two," he said. According to

the doctors attending the Congress leader, Gandhi is undergoing treatment for a systemic infection and is responding well to antibiotics. She remains under the supervision of a team of senior

doctors, who are closely monitoring her condition. Sources said she is likely to stay under observation for a short period as a precaution, though her condition is stable and not serious.

### ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS

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### COFFEE TABLE

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## Plea Moved In Supreme Court Against Anticipatory Bail To Swami Avimukteshwaranand In POCSO Case

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

A Special Leave Petition has been moved in the Supreme Court challenging the Allahabad High Court's March 25 order granting anticipatory bail to Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati in the Prayagraj POCSO Case over alleged sexual abuse of minors. Ashutosh Brahmachari, the first informant in the case, has filed the petition through AOR Saurabh Ajay Gupta, arguing that the High Court failed to adequately consider the severity of the allegations against Swami. It may be recalled that the High Court granted relief to the Shankaracharya of the Jyotir Math partly due to what it termed the 'unusual' behavior of the minor victims, who



chose to confide about the alleged offences in a stranger (the informant) rather than their natural guardians. In its 22-page order, the High Court also rejected the State's argument that there is a statutory presumption of guilt against the accused under Section 29 of the POCSO Act. The bench clarified that this presumption cannot be invoked at the pre-arrest stage before charges are actually framed. The bench also highlighted a 6-day delay in informing the police about the

alleged crime. While the victims allegedly informed Brahmachari on January 18, 2026, he did not contact the police until January 24, as he claimed that he was occupied with a "Pooja/Yagya". The HC had also noted that despite claiming to be tied up with "Pooja/Yagya", the informant (Brahmachari) filed a separate application on January 21 concerning a different alleged incident under Section 109 and other sections of the BNS. The Court had also taken strong

exception to the media's involvement in the matter as after the registration of the FIR, various Hindi news channels interviewed the minor victims and recorded their statements. The Court termed this as a direct violation of established procedures under the POCSO Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. Importantly, the High Court also stressed that the facts of the case require "greater care and caution" given a notable coincidence. Essentially, the date the informant allegedly got to know about the abuse (January 18, 2026) was the exact same day a separate dispute arose between the accused and the local administration regarding bathing in the Sangam on the holy occasion of Mauni Amavasya.

## Delhi High Court Sets Aside Order Refusing To Entertain Writ Petition Against Passport Impounding, Cites Serious Civil Consequences

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Delhi High Court has set aside a Single Judge's order refusing to entertain a writ petition challenging the impounding of a passport, holding that the matter warranted consideration in exercise of jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia relied on Whirlpool Corporation v. Registrar of Trade Marks, Mumbai and Others, (1998) where the Supreme Court had held that under certain circumstances, refusal to entertain a writ petition may become fatal. The Court was dealing with an intra-court appeal filed against the February 13 order of the Single judge, which had relegated the petitioner to avail the statutory remedy of appeal under Section 11 of the Passports Act, 1967. The Court observed that while the existence of an



alternative statutory remedy ordinarily discourages the exercise of writ jurisdiction, such a rule is not absolute. Examining the facts, the High Court found that the final order impounding the petitioner's passport had been passed even before the expiry of the time granted to him to respond to the show cause notice. The Bench noted that the petitioner had received the notice on July 28, 2021, with time to reply until August 4, 2021, but the impounding order was issued on August 3, 2021. The Court further observed that the impugned order did not reflect consideration of the petitioner's earlier reply and appeared to have been passed in breach of procedural fairness. "For the aforesaid

facts of the situation, prima facie, the appellant has been able to make out a case where the impugned order appears to have been passed in violation of the principles of natural justice and, accordingly, having regard to the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Whirlpool Corporation (supra), in our opinion, it was a case where discretion of the learned Single Judge to entertain the writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India ought not have been declined solely for the reason of availability of a statutory remedy available under Section 11 of the Passports Act," it said. The Court also emphasised that proceedings relating to impounding of

passports have serious civil consequences, making adherence to principles of natural justice particularly significant, as recognised in Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India. As such, the Court set aside the impugned order and directed that the matter be taken up by the Single Judge afresh. Appearance: Mr. Vikas Pahwa, Sr. Adv. and Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Mir, Sr. Adv. with Mr. Manoj Sharma, Mr. Yudhishter Singh, Mr. Prabhav Ralli, Mr. Saud Khan, Mr. Dev Vrat Arya, Ms. Shreya Chauhan, Mr. Samraat Saxena, Ms. Deeya Mittal, Mr. Pulkit Shree, Advs. for Appellant; Ms. Anubha Bhardwaj, CGSC with Ms. Ananaya Shamsbery and Ms. Anchal Kashyap, Advs. for R-1 to R4. Mr. D.P. Singh, ASG and Special Counsel, ED with Mr. Manu Mishra and Ms. Garima Saxena, Advs for R5.

## No Offence If Married Man Stays In Live-In Relationship With Adult Woman: Allahabad High Court

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Allahabad High Court has observed that there is no offence if a married man stays with an adult in a live-in relationship with the consent of the other person. Stressing that morality and law must remain separate, a bench comprising Justice JJ Munir and Justice Tarun Saxena stated that social opinions and moral views will not dictate the Court's actions when protecting citizens' rights. The observation was made while hearing a petition seeking protection of a live-in couple allegedly facing threats from the woman's family. According to the facts of the case, the woman's family had lodged an FIR claiming that the man (petitioner no. 2), who is married, had lured away the 18-year-old woman (petitioner no. 1) through blandishment. The family further argued that, because he



is married, living with another woman constitutes a crime. The bench, however, rejected this argument as it observed thus: "There is no offence of the kind where a married man, staying with an adult in a live-in relationship, by consent of the other person, can be prosecuted for any offence, whatsoever. Morality and law have to be kept apart. If there is no offence under the law made out, social opinions and morality will not guide the action of the Court for protecting the rights of citizens." The Court further noted that the woman had submitted an application to the Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur,

stating that she is an adult and is staying with the petitioner no. 2 out of her own free will. They also submitted that the girl's parents and family members are averse to the relationship and have threatened her with death, causing both of them to fear an honour killing. However, the district police chief took no action on the complaint. Taking a serious view of this, the bench reminded the state authorities that it is the fundamental duty of the police to protect two adults living together. Finding that a prima facie case was made out, the Court admitted the petition and issued notices to the respondents. It

granted the state counsel two weeks' time to file a counter-affidavit. Granting immediate interim relief, the bench directed that until further orders, the petitioners shall not be arrested in the criminal case registered under Section 87 BNS at Police Station Jaitipur in Shahjahanpur district. To ensure their protection, the Court also restrained the informant and all members of the woman's family from causing any harm to the parties in life or limb. The bench further directed that they shall not enter the parties' matrimonial home or contact them directly or through any electronic means of communication or through the agency of others. The Superintendent of Police, Shahjahanpur, shall be personally responsible for ensuring the safety and security of the petitioners, the bench added.

## Menace Of Citing AI-Generated Fake Judgments Rampant Not Just In India, Across World

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Supreme Court recently stated that the practice of citing AI-generated non-existent judgments is a "menace" which is being rampant not just in India but across the world. It cautioned parties to be careful. These remarks were made by a bench comprising Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Vijay Bishnoi in a special leave petition filed by the Director of a Company, seeking to expunge the remarks made by the Bombay High Court after he cited a non-existent judgment generated using artificial intelligence. The matter pertains to the Maharashtra



Rent Control Act. Vide an order dated January 7, the Bombay High Court in paragraph 22 made certain remarks that the submissions of the appellant were generated using Chat GPT, including a judgment which had no citation in the real world. It said that the High Court and its law clerks were at pains to find out the caselaw but could

not do so. It said: The High Court said that an AI tool can very well be used to aid research; however, there is a great responsibility on the party to cross-verify the references and the materials generated by it. The High Court added: "This practice of dumping documents / submissions on the Court and making the Court go through irrelevant or non-

existing material must be deprecated and nipped at bud. This is not assistance to the Court. This is a hurdle in swift delivery of justice. This Court will not take such practices kindly and it is going to result in costs. If an advocate is found to be indulging in such practice, then even stricter action of referring to Bar Council may follow." Justice MM Sathaye imposed Rs. 50,000 as cost on the appellant and directed him to pay it to the High Court Employees Medical Fund. Although the Supreme Court allowed the remarks to be expunged, it noted with caution

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# Coffee Table

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## Andhra Pradesh bus fire accident victims are stable: Minister Satya Kumar Yadav

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News Network

ONGOLE: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has confirmed that the condition of all victims injured in the recent Markapuram bus accident is stable, with three patients discharged from Ongole Government General Hospital (RIMS) after full recovery. The minister held a special review meeting with medical officers from Prakasam and Markapuram districts on Thursday night to assess the status of the 29 injured



persons. Officials reported that 16 victims were shifted to Ongole GGH in two phases. Of these, four have fully recovered, three have been discharged, while one patient with 25% burn injuries remains under observation. Medical officers noted that timely admission of the injured enabled

effective treatment, significantly improving recovery outcomes. Most victims sustained head injuries, fractures, and spinal injuries. One patient is receiving treatment at a private hospital. Yadav directed doctors to provide the best possible care and consult specialists if required. Prakasam

Collector Raja Babu also instructed health officials to ensure proper treatment for all victims. Following the accident, higher officials immediately mobilised medical staff from nearby PHCs to Markapuram GGH to provide emergency services. The mortal remains of the deceased were preserved at the Markapuram Mortuary, with samples sent to the forensic lab for examination. Blood samples from family members are being collected to match the test reports before handing over the remains.

## Andhra govt cabinet okays draft resolution on capital Amaravati

Coffee Table  
News Network

VIJAYAWADA: The State Cabinet meeting, held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat on Thursday, approved passing a resolution in the AP Legislative Assembly requesting the Centre to amend Section 5 of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, to provide legal sanctity to Amaravati as the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. The resolution will be introduced in the Assembly on March 28 and will be sent to the Union Government after its passage. It is proposed to include the name Amaravati in sub-section (2) of Section 5. The resolution will also clarify that Amaravati refers to the capital city area notified under the AP Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Act, which will remain part of Amaravati. The Cabinet also gave nod to construct academic buildings up to 60 metres in height, adhering to safety measures prescribed under the AP Fire Services Act. Disclosing the details to



mediapersons, Information and Public Relations Minister Kollusu Parthasarathy said the Cabinet approved establishment of 96 new courts as proposed by the AP High Court and creation of 1,730 posts. As per Supreme Court directions, there should be 50 judges for every 10 lakh population to ensure no case remains pending for more than five years. As per the 2011 Census, the State requires about 2,500 courts. Going by the present caseload, at least 1,420 to 1,500 courts are needed. As pending cases have crossed 8.9 lakh, the Cabinet gave nod for 96 new courts in the first phase. It was also decided to allot 15% of quarry leases to Vaddera societies along with providing 50% concession on premium and seigniorage. The Cabinet cleared a proposal to extend

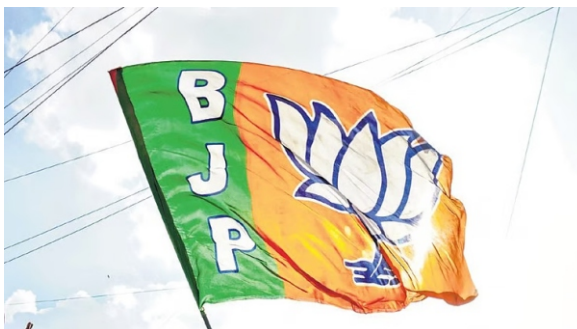
subsidy to customers using Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in their houses. The intention of the government is to encourage people to use PNG. The subsidy was so far being given to beneficiaries using LPG connections under the Deepam-2 scheme. Henceforth, the subsidy will also be extended to those having PNG connections. To address rising concerns over student suicides and academic stress, the Cabinet gave nod to issue "The Andhra Pradesh Coaching Institutions (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2026" draft notification, which mandates registration of all coaching centres. The government intends to ensure that students avail quality education, infrastructure and security standards in coaching centres. District-level monitoring committees will be constituted to

ensure compliance with guidelines. The Cabinet cleared allotment of government land in Nandyal and Kadapa districts for wind and solar power projects. In a significant policy shift, NREDCAP was designated as the nodal agency for Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zones (REMZ), replacing APSPL, to streamline coordination with central agencies. A major relief was also provided for the capital's construction, with administrative overhead charges for power line shifting reduced from 15% to 2.5% for Amaravati works, bringing them on par with NHA projects. Besides waiving 50% interest on property tax dues in municipalities and municipal corporations, the Cabinet also gave nod to sanction required posts for a BC Residential School for Girls at Kuppam.

## BJP MLA demands renaming of Delhi to Indraprastha

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NEW DELHI: A BJP lawmaker on Friday raised a demand to rename Delhi as Indraprastha in the Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly. Poonam Sharma, BJP MLA from Wazirpur, made her pitch through a special mention at the House sitting, saying it will connect the city to its roots. "I urge Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to pass a resolution in the Assembly to change the name of Delhi to Indraprastha, and



send it for the Centre's approval," she said. The BJP legislator asserted that the renaming of the national capital would prove to be a crucial chapter of "Cultural Renaissance" in the country. The same demand was earlier

raised by the BJP MP from Chandni Chowk, Praveen Khandelwal, in a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Meanwhile, Sharma said Delhi's glorious past dates back to the Mahabharat, and that there are "concrete cultural and historic

evidence" that the city earlier existed as Indraprastha and the name Delhi came much later. "The name Indraprastha reminds us of the era when our country was known as a golden bird. The new name will accord a great cultural recognition to the country," she said. Sharma asserted that the Rekha Gupta government maintains that Delhi should not only have modern infrastructure but also be rooted in the "glory of the Sanatan Dharma.

## Woman alleges sexual assault by Congress councillor in Kerala's Palakkad

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PALAKKAD: A woman has lodged a complaint with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the police, alleging sexual assault by a Congress councillor here, officials said on Friday. The complainant, who belongs to a Scheduled Tribe community, has levelled sexual assault charges against Prashob C Valsan, a Congress councillor from the 24th division of Palakkad Municipality. According to the woman's complaint, she was working as a beautician and staying in shared accommodation. She alleged that the councillor's father had



earlier misbehaved with her when she had gone to his shop for tea. Following this, Prashob befriended her and later proposed a relationship. As she did not have a stable income, she sought help in securing a full-time job, which he allegedly promised to arrange, the complaint said. The councillor later allegedly came to her room when her friend was not present

and sexually assaulted her, it said. The woman, in her complaint, alleged that such incidents occurred more than once. She further alleged that she was also sexually assaulted in a car near the district government hospital and at a hotel. According to the complaint, when she informed him that she was pregnant, Prashob allegedly asked her to take pills to terminate

the pregnancy. The woman also alleged that the accused is an influential person with close links to MLAs and MPs, and expressed apprehension about her safety. Police said a preliminary probe has been initiated based on the complaint and that a case will be registered. They added that the accused could not be reached for comment. The development comes at a time when the Congress is already facing criticism from rival parties over multiple sexual assault cases registered against sitting MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, which have been raised during the Assembly poll campaign.

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Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed rumours of a nationwide lockdown, calling them "completely false" and cautioning against attempts to create panic. In a statement posted on X, Puri said there was "no such proposal under consideration by the Government of India," and urged citizens to remain calm and responsible. "Attempts to spread rumours and create panic in such a situation are irresponsible and harmful," he said. The clarification comes amid concerns linked to global energy disruptions. In the post on X, Puri said, "we are closely monitoring developments across energy, supply chains, and essential commodities on a real-time basis." Under the



leadership of PM Modi, all necessary steps are being taken to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel, energy, and other critical supplies for our citizens," Puri said. We are fully prepared to handle emerging challenges, he added. "India has consistently demonstrated resilience in the face of global uncertainties, and we will continue to act in a timely, proactive, and coordinated manner," he said. Highlighting the impact of rising crude oil prices, the Minister said international prices had surged from about Rs 70 per barrel to

nearly Rs 122 per barrel over the past month. This, he noted, had led to fuel price increases of 20% to 50% across regions including Europe, North America, Southeast Asia and Africa. To manage supply and pricing pressures, the Centre has also imposed export duties on petroleum products. "Any refinery exporting to foreign nations will have to pay export tax," he said, adding that the measure would help ensure adequate domestic availability. Separately, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a

reduction in central excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each for domestic consumption. Export duties have been set at Rs 21.5 per litre on diesel and Rs 29.5 per litre on aviation turbine fuel (ATF). According to official notifications, excise duty on petrol has been reduced to Rs 3 per litre, while that on diesel has been brought down to nil. The measures come against the backdrop of a deepening global energy crisis triggered by tensions in West Asia, including disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil shipments. Puri said India remained prepared to handle emerging challenges and would continue to act in a "timely, proactive and coordinated manner" in the face of global uncertainties.

## 'Munna Bhai' gang busted in Rajasthan, 23 arrested

JAIPUR: Rajasthan police have busted a "Munna Bhai" gang involved in producing fake doctors using fraudulent Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) certificates. At least 23 accused have been arrested. The accused charged candidates between ₹20 lakh and ₹25 lakh for issuing a fake FMGE certificate that allowed them to practise as a doctor in India, according to officials. Among those arrested are candidates who obtained MBBS

degrees from abroad and later secured registration in India through forged documents, along with a middleman facilitating the registration. Investigation has revealed that candidates who failed to clear the mandatory FMGE after obtaining medical degrees from abroad submitted forged FMGE certificates to secure internships. The probe has found that at least 93 individuals became certified doctors through these means. The case came to light when police discovered the

role of then registrar of Rajasthan Medical Council (RMC) Dr Ajay Sharma and other staff. ADG Vishal Bansal said that Sharma and RMC nodal officer Akhilesh Mathur played key roles in the illegal operations. He stated that the officials failed to verify the authenticity of FMGE certificates submitted by candidates. Authorities said the fraudulent operation enabled candidates to bypass mandatory checks and secure registrations in exchange for hefty payments. Bansal added, "The case was

lodged after complaints were received about forged FMGE certificates, prompting a detailed investigation. Police found that one Piyush Trivedi was undergoing an internship in Karauli on the basis of a fake FMGE certificate, who was arrested." He said the arrest led police to Devendra, Shubham and Bhanaram, the last one being the kingpin of the gang who did MBBS from Kazakhstan, changed countries frequently. He was recently held from the capital's IGI Airport.

## CM Fadnavis issues direct warning

MUMBAI: In a high-voltage session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis delivered a scathing response regarding the tragic air-craft accident that claimed the life of Deputy CM Ajit Pawar on January 28. Amidst growing conspiracy theories and political friction, the CM vowed that if foul play is proven, the perpetrators will face the ultimate consequences. Responding to the 'Last Week Proposal',

CM Fadnavis addressed the concerns raised by NCP-SP MLA Rohit Pawar and others. His tone was combative as he issued a direct warning to potential conspirators: "If this is found to be a case of sabotage or a planned hit, we will dig out the graves of those responsible." The Maharashtra government will not rest until the truth is out, the CM declared. The Chief Minister also took a sharp dig at the Karnataka government for registering a 'Zero FIR' in Bengaluru regarding the crash.

Fadnavis termed this move as a deliberate attempt to undermine and insult the Maharashtra administration. "The motive behind the Karnataka government taking a Zero FIR was nothing but to insult the Maharashtra government while our agencies were already on the job," Fadnavis stated. During his address, the CM provided a detailed time-line and factual breakdown of the January 28, 2026, crash at Baramati: The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report confirmed that

no traces of explosive materials were found in the plane's ash or debris. While Post-mortem results cited "Multiple injuries associated with burn injuries" as the cause of death. Viscera and blood tests of all five victims, including the pilots, showed no signs of alcohol, poison, or narcotics. Fadnavis clarified the last-minute change in crew. While Captains Sahil Madan and Yash were initially listed, Captain Sumit Kapoor and Shambhavi Pathak eventually flew the aircraft.

## Coal scam: Delhi court acquits ex-MP Vijay Darda, his son and former coal secretary HC Gupta

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News Network

NEW DELHI: A special court on Friday acquitted former MP Vijay Darda, his son Devendra Darda and former coal secretary H C Gupta in a case related to coal block allocation after finding no evidence to support the charges of cheating, criminal conspiracy or misconduct. Bringing an end to a high-profile legal battle that spanned over a decade, special CBI Judge Sunena Sharma also acquitted Manoj Kumar Jayaswal and M/s AMR Iron and Steel Private Limited. The CBI registered more than 50 cases regarding

the alleged coal scam. The present case stemmed from the first chargesheet filed by the federal agency in connection with coal block allocation in Bander in Maharashtra. According to the prosecution, AMR Iron and Steel Private Limited, in conspiracy with Gupta, submitted false information in its application to the Union Ministry of Coal to secure allocation of the coal block. It alleged that Darda, then a sitting Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra, wrote letters to the Prime Minister's Office recommending allocation of the coal block to the company. The court, however, rejected

CBI's allegations. According to the evidence before it, the relevant information was already available to authorities during the allocation process, and no witness corroborated claims of inducement or deception, it said. According to the court, the prosecution failed to prove charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy. After examining the evidence and testimonies, the court found no evidence to support these allegations. It emerged during the trial that there was no evidence to establish any false or dishonest intent in the company's application or

feedback form. Records showed that all relevant information was already available with authorities during the allocation process, and no witness corroborated claims of inducement or deception, the judgement said. The court also noted that the alleged Rs 24.6 crore transactions were not substantiated, and no link was established between the payments, the coal block allocation, or the letters written by Vijay Darda. Additionally, there was no evidence to suggest that the letters influenced the allocation decision, it said.

## 'War crime, not miscalculation': Iran on US Tomahawk missile strike on Minab school that 'killed 175 students, teachers'

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Iran: Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday came down heavily on the United States and Israel on Friday and called the attack on a school in Iran at the beginning of the ongoing war a "calculated assault" and a "crime against humanity". While addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council through a video, Araghchi said that the bomb attack on Shajarah Tayyebeh elementary school in southern Iran's Minab city was a "calculated, phased assault" and that "more than 175 students and teachers were slaughtered in cold blood" in the strike. He added that as the US and Israel claim to possess advanced warfare technologies, no one can believe the strike on the school was not "deliberate and intentional". "At a time when the American-Israeli aggressors, in their own assertions,



possess the most advanced technologies, and the highest-precision military and data systems, no one can believe that the attack on the school was anything other than deliberate and intentional," the Iran foreign minister said. Calling the strike a "war crime" and a "crime against humanity", Araghchi said that such an act "demands unequivocal condemnation by all and unambiguous accountability for the culprits". This atrocity cannot be justified, cannot be concealed,

and must not be met with silence and indifference," he said. Araghchi insisted that the attack "was not a mere 'incident' no a 'miscalculation'." "The United States' contradictory remarks aimed at justifying their crime could not, in any manner, elude their responsibility." Also read: Iran thanks 'people of India' after 83rd wave of missile strikes on Israel, US Attack on school happened due to outdated data, says report The attack on the school in Minab took place on

February 28, the first day of the war and remains one of the most devastating sights of the ongoing aggression since. Araghchi's remarks come as the war has hit the one-month mark on Friday, March 27. Iran and the United States, backed by Israel, began exchanging strikes on February 28 when one of the missiles, a US Tomahawk cruise missile, hit the school due to a mistake, according to preliminary findings of a US military probe as reported by the New York Times.

## Did Pakistan 'Dupe' Iran By Helping US In Strait Of Hormuz? Sources Say Tehran Upset With Islamabad

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Even as Pakistan claims mediation between Iran and United States, top intelligence sources have suggested Tehran is upset with Islamabad. Pakistan's latest move around the strategically sensitive Strait of Hormuz has triggered sharp reactions in Iran, with top sources indicating that Tehran now sees Islamabad's actions as part of a calculated "double game" at a critical juncture in the conflict. Iran is questioning Pakistan's real loyalties after developments linked to the passage of oil vessels through Hormuz. Despite tightening maritime control during the ongoing tensions, Iran had allowed limited access to ships from friendly countries, including Pakistan. Around 10 Pakistani-flagged vessels carrying oil were permitted transit. However,



intelligence sources now suggest that these Pakistani vessels that were allowed to pass were used or coordinated in ways that ended up benefiting the US side. In a parallel development, US President Donald Trump had claimed that 10 US ships were allowed to pass Hormuz as a "gesture" signalling Tehran's willingness to keep diplomatic channels open. In Tehran's view, this crosses a red line, turning what was extended as goodwill into an act perceived as indirectly aiding a

hostile power. The development is being seen as an anti-Iran move by a fellow Muslim country, intensifying the sense of betrayal within sections of the Iranian establishment. At the same time, Pakistan has been actively projecting itself as a mediator. Islamabad conveyed a reported 15-point US ceasefire framework to Iran, positioning itself as a bridge between Washington and Tehran. But Iran has publicly rejected or downplayed these efforts, denying any meaningful

negotiations and viewing Pakistan's shuttle diplomacy as aligned with US interests rather than neutral engagement. Top intelligence sources describe Pakistan's Hormuz conduct as "deliberate duplicity", an attempt to aid US objectives while continuing to retain strategic access to Iran. According to this assessment, Islamabad's mediation pitch is not neutrality but strategic cover, aimed at extracting benefits from both sides without fully committing to either, sources suggest.

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