

## West Asia tensions: Ninth Indian tanker, 'Green Asha' safely crosses Strait of Hormuz

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

An India-flagged vessel, Green Asha, has safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz, marking the ninth Indian tanker to transit the crucial maritime corridor since the onset of the ongoing West Asia conflict. The development comes even as tensions remain elevated and security concerns continue to

disrupt one of the world's most vital oil and energy supply routes. According to reports, Green Asha is an LPG carrier and its successful passage highlights India's continued reliance on the strait despite mounting risks. The situation in the Strait of Hormuz has remained volatile since Iran tightened its control over the passage following



US-Israeli strikes on February 28. The escalation has impacted global fuel

supplies and rattled energy markets, with maritime data indicating that

nearly 60 per cent of commodity-carrying ships using the route are either originating

from or destined for Iran. Despite these challenges, Indian shipping activity through the strait has remained relatively robust. Prior to Green Asha's journey, at least eight Indian vessels had already crossed the corridor. Among them were LPG carriers BW TYR and BW ELM, which transported around 94,000 tonnes of cargo

through the conflict zone. In late March, four Indian-flagged LPG tankers, including Pine Gas and Jag Vasant, delivered more than 92,600 tonnes of LPG over a three-day period. Earlier, MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi had carried close to 92,700 tonnes of LPG to Gujarat's Mundra and Kandla ports in mid-March. Other shipments included crude

and refined fuels. Oil tanker Jag Laadki transported over 80,000 tonnes of crude oil from the UAE to Mundra, while Jag Prakash crossed the strait carrying gasoline from Oman to African markets. Another LPG carrier, Green Sanvi, also completed its transit recently with a cargo of approximately 46,650 metric tonnes.

## Dattabhau always put the common man at the center - CM Fadnavis

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nagpur, Date 4: Late Datta Meghe was the leader of the masses, the Bahujans, the poor and the needy. People called him Datta Bhau with love. But he was truly a 'donor', a people's leader. He created a system for the underprivileged in the society. The common man was always at his center. He was always ready to help them, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. A condolence meeting was organized at VCA Jamtha to pay tribute to senior leader and former minister Late Datta Meghe. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari was the chief guest on this occasion. Labour Minister Akash Fundkar, Minister of State for Home Dr. Pankaj Bhojar, Minister of State for Finance and Planning Ashish Jaiswal, Mayor Neeta Thackeray, MP Maya Evenate, MP Amar Kale, MLA Sanjay Kute, MLA Nana Patole, MLA



Vikas Thackeray, MLA Abhijit Vanjari, former minister Ranjit Deshmukh, former minister Ramesh Bang, former minister Anil Deshmukh, former MP Vilas Muttemwar, former minister Rajendra Mulak, former minister Sulekha Kumbhare, former MP Ajay Sancheti, former MLA Prof. Jogendra Kawade were also present. Late Datta Meghe's son MLA Sameer Meghe, Sagar Meghe along with Meghe family, dignitaries from various fields etc. were present on this occasion. The Chief Minister further said that Dattabhau helped in various fields by setting up work so that others could get

what he did not get. Even while doing this expansion, the common man did not go out of his sight. Even while setting up institutions, he never compromised with quality. He thought that his expansion would be qualitative in every field like health, education, cooperation. Such leaders are very rare, said Chief Minister Shri. Fadnavis on this occasion. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that two memorials depicting the achievements of Late Datta Meghe will soon be built in Nagpur and Wardha. The work of carrying forward Datta Bhau's legacy of serving the common people and the poor will be done

through this medium and the future generations will remember him on the occasion of the memorial, said Chief Minister Shri. Fadnavis on this occasion. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also spoke about these memorials in his speech. Even while in politics, Loknete Datta Meghe did full-time social work. Such people are rare and Datta Bhau was a rare personality in politics, in these words, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri. Nitin Gadkari paid tribute to Late Datta Meghe. Union Minister Shri. Gadkari further said that he never forgot the suffering that Datta Bhau suffered at the beginning of his life. He was sensitive towards the poor and needy in the society till his last breath. If a person in trouble came to him, he would never go back empty-handed. He stood firmly by everyone's side, said Union Minister Shri. Gadkari on this occasion.

## India acknowledges Iran oil buys, rejects payment difficulties

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

NEW DELHI: India said on Saturday that there are no payment issues with Iran for crude imports and that refiners continue to source oil from the country, as well as from a wide range of global suppliers. In a post on X, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas dismissed reports that an oil tanker carrying Iranian crude had rerouted

mid-voyage from its previously indicated destination of India, which would have marked the first such shipment in nearly seven years, to China, saying the claims overlooked standard industry practice where cargoes can change destination during transit based on trade optimisation and operational flexibility. "India imports crude oil from 40+ countries, with companies having full flexibility to

source oil from different sources and geographies based on commercial considerations," the ministry said. "Amid Middle East supply disruptions, Indian refiners have secured their crude oil requirements, including from Iran, and there is no payment hurdle for Iranian crude imports, contrary to the rumours being circulated." The ministry clarified

that changes in vessel destinations during transit are common in global oil trade, as bills of lading often indicate tentative discharge ports and cargoes may be rerouted mid-voyage for operational and commercial reasons. "It is reiterated that India's crude oil requirements remain fully secured for the coming months," the ministry said.

## Land acquisition in Gadchiroli to preserve farmers' interests; no coercion



**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nagpur, Date 4: While acquiring land for the proposed industry in Chamorshi taluka of Gadchiroli district, the interests of farmers will be kept intact. Under no circumstances will there be any coercion and the farmers concerned will be given maximum fair compensation, assured Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. A delegation of farmers from Chamorshi taluka under the

leadership of Gadchiroli MLA Dr. Milind Narote met the Chief Minister today in Ramgiri. On this occasion, Joint Guardian Minister Adv. Ashish Jaiswal and other concerned office bearers were present. The Chief Minister further said that Gadchiroli district is moving rapidly towards industrial development and is emerging as an 'Iron and Steel Hub'. In this context, although land acquisition is necessary for setting up industries, the government does

not intend to impose any kind of coercion on the farmers. He said that the land acquisition process will be implemented by finding a middle path in harmony with all the stakeholders after detailed discussions. Emphasizing that large-scale employment opportunities will be created for local landowners through industries, he said that fair compensation and proper arrangements for rehabilitation will be made for the

farmers who give the land. The government is trying to involve everyone in the development process and he appealed to the farmers to take a positive role and cooperate. The government has no intention of forcibly acquiring anyone's land and will try to provide maximum benefits to the farmers who give the land voluntarily. The Chief Minister also clarified that necessary steps will be taken to provide employment to the local youth.

## Coffee Table

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## Students turned murderers after being lured by a car! Businessman brutally murdered in Nagpur

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nagpur: Three engineering students brutally murdered a businessman in the name of a car. This shocking incident came to light within the limits of Wadi police station. Unit One of the Crime Branch cracked the case in just 12 hours and arrested the three. The names of the arrested students are Aryan Naresh Shende (age 22, resident of Venkatesh Colony, Nandanvan), Rishankh Taresh Kamble (age 20, resident of Shilpa Society, Beltarodi) and Anuj Ramesh Waghmare (age 19, resident of Hivarinagar). The name of the deceased is Suchit Upasrao Bhojapure (age 44, resident of Baba Trimurti Society, Wadi). Suchit is a spare parts supplier. Aryan is a second year B.Tech computer science student while Rishankh and Anuj are both B.Tech second year mechanical branch students. All three study at KDK College. Aryan's grandmother lives in Pardi Chowk. According to information received from the police, the three took the exam on Thursday morning. Around 11 am, Aryan asked Anuj and Rishankh to leave her with her grandmother. All three set off towards Pardi on a triple-seater moped. The three saw Suchit in a drunken state in a car with registration number MH-40-BJ-



1810 on the Vardhamannagar bridge. All three went to her grandmother. On their way back at 11.30 am, Suchit was still in the car. The three stopped there. They asked for help. Suchit requested the three, 'Please leave me for ten km'. Anuj returned home on a moped. He parked the moped behind the house. Rishankh and Aryan took Suchit by car to KDK College premises to pick up Anuj. After taking Anuj with them, they went to Bhiwapur. Rishankh was driving the car. Suchit checked the goods in the car. It was found to be stolen. After that, Suchit requested the three to leave the wadi. The three set out to take them to the wadi. Meanwhile, Aryan took his wife's mobile number from Suchit. Aryan informed Suchit's wife on his own mobile. 'Take him home, his wife told Aryan. In the evening, the three of them took Suchit to the wadi. At that time, Suchit's house was locked. Aryan contacted Suchit's wife on her mobile

again. Suchit's wife said, 'Why did you bring him home?' and turned off her mobile. It was night by this time. All three took Suchit to the Vaddhamna area in a car. Since Suchit was drunk, the three were tempted to take the car and change its color. All three took him to a deserted place near the Lava Crematorium Ghat on Khadgaon Road. They killed Suchit by hitting him seven times on the head with a stone. They took his clothes. The three hid the naked body in the bushes and fled with the car and Suchit's two mobile phones. Around 11 am on Friday, a citizen saw Suchit's naked body. He informed the Wadi police. The Wadi police conducted a panchnama and sent the body to the hospital for post-mortem. The police registered a case of murder. Earlier, after receiving information about the murder, Unit 1 Inspector Dnyaneshwar Bhedodkar, Assistant Inspector Sachin Bhonde, Rajabhau

Jadhav, Assistant Sub-Inspector Vinod Deshmukh, Kunal Gedam, Azamat, Ravindra also inspected the scene under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner of Crime Branch Rahul Maknikar. Meanwhile, Suchit's wife reached the Wadi police station around 3 pm on Friday. She told the Wadi police that her husband was missing. The police showed the photograph of the body found near the Lava Crematorium. Suchit's wife identified him. Bhedodkar took information from Suchit's wife. Aryan was first arrested in the KDK College area and later two others were handed over to the Wadi police. Aryan's father is a teacher in a Zilla Parishad school and his mother is a clerk in the Income Tax Department. Rishankh's father is a farmer and Anuj's father is a driver. Aryan lives alone in a rented room. He works as a Zomato delivery boy, according to the police.

## Businessman tried to hide his sin and got caught; 121 videos found in hard disk

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nashik: An 'office boy' in Nashik tried to extort Rs 12 lakh by blackmailing him through his employer's misdeeds. Based on the complaint of this businessman, the police arrested four extortionists. However, the seized 'DVD' has created a stir as there are 100 objectionable photos and videos of this businessman himself. A case has been registered against businessman Ravindra Erande (62) in this case. Satpur police have arrested the suspect Erande on charges of rape and atrocities, and the court has remanded him in police custody for two days. While many details of the sexual assault case of an artist Ashok Kharat in Nashik are coming to light day by day, this shocking incident has come to light. Notably, the



businessman, as well as journalist Erande had tried to hide his sin by saying that the four had extorted the ransom from the objectionable video. However, his trap has been broken by the trap set by his own 'office boy'. Like Kharat, now the 'Erande files' have been exposed in Nashik, and some more victims have come forward to complain to the police against Erande. Late

on Friday night, when the victim reached Satpur police, a case was registered against Erande and he was arrested. He was produced in the Nashik Sessions Court on Saturday afternoon. Prosecutor and Assistant Director Kiran Bendabhar argued on behalf of the government side. Assistant Commissioner of Police Dr. Sachin Bari presented the issues of the investigation

before the court. Accordingly, the court ordered two days of police custody. Meanwhile, 121 such obscene videos were found in Erande's tab and hard disk. It is suspected that he 'blackmailed' the victim women through the videos. Erande's 'office boy' stole the hard disk and tab and 'blackmailed' Erande for ransom with the help of a friend.

## 'It would have been better if they had taken their own elections seriously'; Vikhe Patil hits out at Thorat over Rahuri by-election

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Ahilyanagar: The Rahuri assembly by-election battle is now heating up and the political atmosphere is becoming more tense day by day. As soon as the Congress gave a hint of entering the contest, the equations started changing. Former minister Balasaheb Thorat has announced a strong entry in the elections, firmly claiming that he will field a Congress candidate in Rahuri and win. However, his statement has raised a question mark about the coordination in the



Maha Vikas Aghadi. The already complicated situation has become even more complicated due to the talks of former NCP (Sharad Pawar group) MLA Prajakt Tanpure entering the fray as an independent. Thorat has avoided direct comment on these

talks, saying that Tanpure is not in touch, but the big question has arisen whether the Congress will fight independently. Therefore, this election will be a big test not only for the candidates, but also for whether the unity

in the alliance will survive or whether differences will flare up. This aggressive stance of the Congress has received an equally sharp response from the BJP. Guardian Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil has further heated up the political atmosphere by directly targeting Thorat. There is no problem with Thorat taking Rahuri's election seriously; but it would have been better if he had taken his own election with the same seriousness, Vikhe said.

## Two brothers run prostitution business under the name of a hotel, raid on 'Nandini Hotel' late at night; 5 women rescued

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: A shocking incident has come to light in Sambhajnagar. The Crime Branch has demolished a large prostitution den operating under the cover of a hotel in the MIDC Waluj area of the city. The police raided this black business operating in 'Nandini Hotel' at Kamgar Chowk late at night. In this operation, a case has been registered against three people including the hotel manager, and 5 victim women have been rescued from this ordeal. This incident has created a stir in the area. Raid with the help of a fake customer The Crime Branch's Immoral Human Trafficking



Prevention Cell had received confidential information that women were being trafficked by attracting customers to Nandini Hotel. To verify this information, the police sent a fake customer to the hotel at night. As soon as the deal was finalized there, the police raided the hotel as soon as they received a signal. In this action, the police have registered a case against the hotel manager Sachin Bhagwan Gosavi, aged 30, Nitin Bhagwan Gosavi, aged 32, and

the hotel owner Umesh Raosaheb Amlé at the MIDC Waluj police station. 3 customers were also detained in the raid, and the police have safely taken out 5 victim women who were brought for prostitution. They have now been sent to a reformatory. According to the information given by Police Sub-Inspector Jagannath Menkudale, the police exposed the incident by sending a fake customer. In the presence of witnesses,

the fake customer was given notes with specific marks and sent to the lodge. This customer paid Rs 1,500 for a woman and was taken to a room. After that, the police immediately raided the lodge and arrested the manager and the hotel owner. Meanwhile, the main water pipeline supplying water to the city has suffered a major leak in the Chitegaon area on Paithan Road. Due to a large flow of water from the air valve, pumping from Jayakwadi has been immediately stopped for repairs. Due to this malfunction, the city's water supply schedule has now been postponed by one day, and the administration has appealed to citizens to use water wisely.

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Kolhapur: While returning to his village after visiting Jyotiba Mountain on the occasion of Chaitra Yatra, Arun Dhondiram Gurav (age 38, resident of Durgamanwad, taluka Radhanagari), a priest of Vitthalai Devi Temple in Durgamanwad, drowned in the Panchganga riverbed at Shingapur dam. After the accident that took place around 7:30 am on Thursday, his body was recovered by the Disaster Management Team after a continuous search operation of 48 hours. Due to this incident, mourning has spread in Durgamanwad and the surrounding areas, and work is underway to comfort the relatives. Arun Gurav, known as the head priest of Vitthalai Devi Temple in Durgamanwad, had gone to Shri Kshetra Jyotiba Mountain on the occasion of Chaitra Yatra on Wednesday. After visiting there, he stayed with his sister for the night. While returning to his village by car with a friend on Thursday



morning, he got down to take a bath in the Panchganga riverbed near Shingapur dam at around 7:30 am. After jumping into the river on the east side of the dam, they did not estimate the depth and speed of the water due to the dynamic current and the expansion of the vessel. They swam for a long distance, but on the way back, they became extremely exhausted and started to choke. Seeing Arun Gurav drowning in the water, the citizens on the bank started shouting and tried to help immediately. They threw tire tubes and other tools to save him, but Gurav failed to catch him. He completely drowned in the deep water. As soon as the information about the incident was received, the

police, Talathi and the District Disaster Management Department team from Karveer Police Station reached the spot. A vigorous search operation was started again on Friday morning. The disaster management team continued the search operation in the riverbed and succeeded in removing Arun Gurav's body from the riverbed at 12 noon. Hundreds of people, including relatives, had gathered at the Shingapur Ghat. The police took the body into custody and sent it to the CPR Hospital in Kolhapur for further post-mortem. After the examination, the body was handed over to the relatives. Due to the accidental death of Arun Gurav,

Durgamanwad village is in mourning, and religious activities at the Vitthalai Devi temple have also been closed for some time. Meanwhile, due to this incident, the intensity of the flow near the Shingapur barrage in the Panchganga river basin and the dangers of bathing in unknown places have come to the fore again. Local citizens are demanding that the administration should put up notice boards on the website, issue alerts and increase the deployment of rescue teams. The flow of devotees increases during times like the Yatra, so it is necessary to take special care in the riverside areas.

## A speeding Bolero hit a Wagoner from behind, then hit a Honda CT from the front.

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Dharashiv: A horrific triple accident took place in the Patoda-Karajkheda area of Bembli police station in Dharashiv taluka on Sunday afternoon. A Bolero vehicle, which was going at a high speed towards Latur, first hit a Wagoner car from behind. Then, the Bolero bearing number MH-45-A. Z.5449, which lost control, broke the embankment and hit a Honda City car coming

towards Tuljapur head-on. One person in the Honda City car died in this horrific accident. Four people were injured. According to the initial information received, the Bolero car was going towards Latur at a high speed. At this time, the drunk driver lost control of the vehicle and the Bolero hit the Wagoner car in front from behind. After the collision, the Bolero vehicle went ahead at a high speed, broke the embankment and hit a Honda City car coming

towards Latur head-on. The Honda City car suffered extensive damage in this head-on collision. In this accident, Jeevan Vasant Patil (age 70) in the Honda City car died. While four people, Nityanand Mohan Bouquet (age 35), Mohan Bouquet (age 55), Arjun Patule (age 55) and another unidentified man (approximately age 40), were seriously injured. They have been shifted to the Government District Hospital in

Dharashiv for further treatment. The severity of the accident was so great that an atmosphere of fear was created at the scene for some time. As soon as the information about the incident was received, officers and staff of Bembli Police Station immediately reached the spot. The police, with the help of local citizens, made arrangements to evacuate the injured and send them to the Sub-District Hospital in Tuljapur for treatment.

## 5 km of bullet train tunnel excavation completed, Ghansoli-Shilphata route ready

Coffee Table  
News Network

Mumbai: The ongoing tunnel work in Mahamumbai under the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project has crossed a crucial milestone. Out of the 21 km long, 5 km of the very important tunnel has been completed. The excavation has been completed using the 'New Austrian Tunneling Method' (NATM) technology and now the work of strengthening the interior has begun. The remaining tunnel will be constructed with the help of 'Tunnel Boring Machine' (TBM). The bullet train project is being built in underground and elevated methods. Due to space constraints in Mumbai, the 21 km long tunnel is being constructed from the creek and the Parsik hills between Bandra-Kurla Complex and Shilphata. In this, Ghansoli to Shilphata is a 5 km section. The work of



the elevated bullet train project in Gujarat is progressing at a rapid pace. The work of five km tunnel has been completed using the 'NATM' method. Now the focus has been on the safety, watertightness and long-term durability of the tunnel. The work of setting up a drainage system inside this tunnel is going on at a war footing. A special 'drainage casting gantry' is being used to safely remove water seeping out of the walls and roof of the tunnel. Due to this system, the seeping water is released separately through a drainage channel. Since there

is a separate channel for the seeping water, it has been possible to prevent future structural hazards. 'Waterproofing' is being done to provide waterproof protection to the interior of the tunnel. This will greatly reduce the possibility of groundwater or monsoon water entering the tunnel. The work of installing a network of steel bars, i.e. 'reinforcement cages' for permanent strength of the tunnel has now started. The steel networks will provide a strong support for the concrete construction. As a

result, the walls and roof of the tunnel will get more strength. After this, the final concrete layer will be poured with the help of a 'lining gantry'. This will be the last stage of the tunnel work. This process will provide the tunnel with a smooth finish and long-term stability, said the project officials. A special equipment room is being constructed in the tunnel for the systems required for maintenance, including bullet train traffic. This room will be used to monitor the tunnel, ventilation system, electrical system and emergency systems.

## Mahant Madhusudanji Bharti Maharaj of Shridatta Shikhar Sansthan is a resident of Vaikuntha

Coffee Table  
News Network

Nanded: Mahant P. Poo. Madhusudanji Bharati Guru Achyut Bharati Maharaj of Shri Datta Shikhar Sansthan in Mahur taluka of the district passed away on Saturday evening. He breathed his last at the age of 95. His demise has left countless devotees in an ocean of grief. Mahant P. Poo. Achyut Bharati Maharaj became a Vaikunthavasi and later P. Poo. Madhusudanji Bharati Maharaj ascended the throne in 1978 as per the religious rituals of the Sansthan. He was known for his extreme simplicity, spiritual contemplation and devotion. During his tenure, he dedicated himself to the service of the devotees along with preserving the religious traditions of Shri Datta Shikhar Sansthan. Under his guidance, many religious activities, pujas, and festivals were conducted with great faith and discipline. Through Maharaj's sermons, he conveyed the message of spirituality, moral



values and rituals to the devotees. Due to his simple lifestyle and loving nature, he was able to create a special place in everyone's hearts. As soon as the news of his death was heard, devotees from Mahur and the surrounding areas rushed to Datta Shikhar and gathered in large numbers for the last darshan. Many saints, Mahants, and dignitaries from various fields paid their respects. Meanwhile, his body will be cremated today according to religious rituals, and the information about the next programs will be announced by the Sansthan soon. The passing of P. P. Madhusudanji Bharti Maharaj has created a big void in the

spiritual field, and his memory and work will remain in the minds of devotees. The demise of P. P. Madhusudanji Bharti Guru Achyut Bharati Maharaj, Mahant of Shri Datta Shikhar Sansthan in Mahur taluka, is causing a stir everywhere. Tributes were paid to Madhusudan Maharaj from the political circles. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, Congress MP Ravindra Chavan, former MLAs and MPs as well as political leaders and ministers also expressed grief. The news of the death of Mahant Shri Madhusudanji Bharti

Maharaj of Shri Datta Shikhar Sansthan in Mahur is heartbreaking. Due to his divine will, a beacon in the spiritual field has been lost. Last week, I had his darshan and inquired about his health. Maharaj not only showed the path of devotion in his life's work, but also taught service and humanity. He preserved the spiritual tradition of the Datta Shikhar Sansthan on Mahur fort in a very effective and disciplined manner. A great thinker and guide has been lost in the form of Maharaj. His work and teachings will always be immortalized through his devotees, said former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan.

## Truck-scooter collision in Pune, 28-yr-old Snehal Ahinve tragically dies

Coffee Table  
News Network

Pune: A heart-wrenching accident took place at Monica Chowk in Otur area on Friday morning. A 28-year-old Snehal Ravindra Ahinve, a young woman, died on the spot in a collision between a speeding truck and a scooty. A heart-wrenching CCTV video of the accident has surfaced, in which it is seen that the truck wheel unfortunately passed over Snehal's head. Due to this accident, she died profusely and suffered serious injuries. This incident has created a lot of excitement in the Otur area and grief is being expressed. Local citizens showed promptness and took her to a nearby private hospital. After an immediate examination, the doctors declared her



dead. This unfortunate incident has spread grief among Snehal's family, and grief is being expressed in the Otur area. The police have registered the accident and started an investigation. Necessary steps are being taken to take legal action against the truck driver. The cause of the accident, responsibility and violation of rules are being investigated.

This accident has increased awareness among citizens about road safety. Residents said that it is very important to maintain the right speed while driving, use helmets and keep a safe distance from other vehicles. Residents of the Otur area expressed their grief over the incident and demanded that the administration increase road safety. As the CCTV footage of the accident went

viral on social media, many have become aware of the need to be more careful while driving. This incident is a reminder of how serious road accidents can be. Currently, action is being taken against the truck driver, but only one woman has lost her life in this horrific accident. Everyone is watching to see what comes out in the further investigation.

## Aviation Fuel Theft Racket Busted in Ahilyanagar

Coffee Table  
News Network

Ahilyanagar :In a major crackdown, the Local Crime Branch of Ahilyanagar police has uncovered an aviation turbine fuel (ATF) theft racket operating in Gawhanwadi village under the Belwandi Police Station limits. Three accused have been arrested and property worth 88.58 lakh has been seized in the operation. Acting on a tip-off received by Police Inspector Kiran Kumar Khabadi, a team from the Local Crime Branch conducted a raid at a tin shed located behind Hotel Maharaj in Gawhanwadi. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Police Officer Pravin Lokhande (Karjat Division). During the raid, police caught three individuals red-handed siphoning ATF fuel from an Indian Oil Corporation tanker (MH-04-LQ-6865) into drums. The arrested



accused have been identified as Mukesh Ramakbal Singh (26), a resident of Uttar Pradesh; Rambhavan Ramrith Rajput (32), also from Uttar Pradesh; and Chandu Shivram Jambhalkar (41), a resident of Gawhanwadi in Ahilyanagar district. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were breaking the tanker seals and illegally extracting aviation fuel for black-market sale. The alleged mastermind of the racket, Harish Bhimsingh from Pimpri, Pune, along

with other accomplices, is currently absconding and a search is underway. Police seized a total of 40,000 litres of ATF fuel valued at over 47.88 lakh, along with a Tata tanker worth 40 lakh. Additionally, equipment used for fuel extraction, including iron containers, plastic drums, and a fuel extraction engine, was confiscated. The total value of the seized property stands at 88,58,770. A case has been registered at Belwandi Police

Station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the Explosives Act, 1884. Further investigation is in progress. The operation was conducted under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Somnath Garge, Additional Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Kalubarme, and SDPO Pravin Lokhande, with the active participation of the Local Crime Branch team.

## Three rickshaw drivers gang rape woman in Kalyan

Coffee Table  
News Network

Kalyan: An incident has come to light in which a rickshaw driver in Kalyan, while getting to know a security guard living in Kalyan East, gang raped her with the help of two other rickshaw driver friends. Based on the complaint of the woman, the Tilaknagar police have registered a case and arrested three accused. The accused are Hemant Chavan, Chetan Chavan and Umesh Verma. The woman, who works as a security guard in a private company near Kalyan, lives at her friend's house in Kalyan East. Hemant Chavan, who travels by rickshaw from Kalyan to Bhiwandi every day, got to know the



woman. On March 26, when the woman was waiting near the Kalyan bypass at night to meet a friend, Hemant called her and asked her to come to Kalyan. Since she knew him, the woman agreed to go with him, but Hemant asked about the party and took his friend Chetan with her. Later, Umesh Verma also came with them in the Khambalpada area of

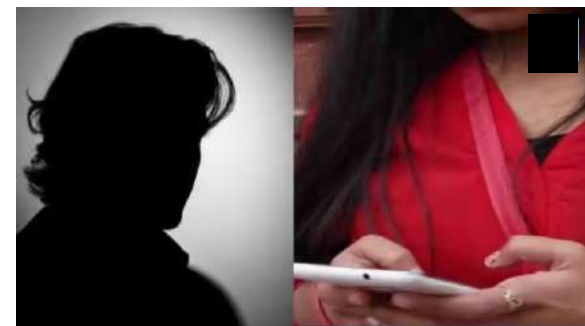
Dombivli. The woman was served alcohol in the name of a party. After this, she was gang raped. On the other hand, the murder of a 22-year-old girl from Malshiras (Tal. Purandar) in Pune district has come to light. In this case, a case has been registered at Saswad police station under the Prevention of Atrocities Act under the provisions of

murder, rape; and the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Act. Mahendra Pralhad Gaikwad (Resident Malshiras) has filed a complaint in this case. A case has been registered against Aniket Vishnu Jadhav (aged 21, resident Malshiras). The name of the deceased girl is Neelam Gaikwad (aged 22), and she was studying in the final year of BA at Waghire College in Saswad. Neelam, who had gone to college on April 1, did not return home in the evening, so her family searched for her. Meanwhile, according to information received from the police, she was brought to Saswad Rural Hospital. She died before treatment. Police Inspector Kumar Kadam is investigating.

## A tragic end to love on Instagram in Pune, a businessman ended his life by making serious allegations against a young woman

Coffee Table  
News Network

Pune: Unable to bear the shock of being cheated on the promise of marriage, a young jeweler committed suicide by hanging himself in his shop. This incident took place in the Fursungi area and the young man was lured into a love trap by a young woman he had contacted through social media. A case has been registered against the young woman for abetting suicide. The father of the 29-year-old young man has filed a complaint in this case at the Fursungi police station. The



incident took place on March 6. According to the police, the young man had a shop selling gold and silver jewellery in Fursungi. In November last year, he met the accused young woman through the social networking site 'Instagram'. Taking advantage of the

young man's love, the accused young woman lured him with a gold ring worth Rs 50,000, expensive dresses and gifts. However, later she repeatedly started avoiding meeting him and kept away from him citing various reasons. This left the young man mentally disturbed. The

accused young woman tried to gain his sympathy by falsely claiming that she had cancer. When the girl started avoiding him, he took a drastic step out of depression. On March 6, he committed suicide by hanging himself in his shop. After this incident, the police initially registered a case of accidental death. However, during the investigation, a detailed suicide note written by him was found. In this letter, it has been revealed that he mentioned his emotional distress and betrayal.

## Editorial...

## Building an ecosystem for women entrepreneurs

The environment for women entrepreneurs in India has never been better than it is today. Thanks to focussed government schemes and increasing awareness that, though they face barriers, they still have a chance to build something for themselves, more women are launching their own businesses across the country. Businesses by women are being set up at an unprecedented pace across sectors. Kinara Capital's MSME Insights Report 2024 analysed 44,821 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across six industrial states of India. It revealed that women-owned MSMEs hired 11% more women employees compared to those owned by men. The study highlighted that women-owned MSMEs were better at cost optimisation, income growth, and repayment of business loans than those owned by men. This supports the fact that the social benefits of economic growth can only be maximised if women business owners are given equal opportunities to compete and succeed. Yet, while entry barriers into entrepreneurship have reduced, scaling remains a systemic challenge. Institutional ecosystems — governments, financial institutions, industry bodies, incubators, and trade chambers — therefore, play a decisive role in determining whether women-led enterprises remain local success stories or evolve into global growth engines. Globally, women-owned businesses account for a significant proportion of MSMEs. However, their presence declines sharply in export-intensive sectors, capital-heavy industries, and high-growth innovation ecosystems. The reasons are many: Limited access to growth capital, inadequate global networks, regulatory complexity, lack of institutional mentorship, and under representation in industrial policy frameworks. These challenges are compounded in the Indian context. India currently ranks 57th out of 65 nations in the Mastercard Index on Women Entrepreneurship (MIWE) 2021. Collaborative

approaches that combine finance, market access, knowledge exchange, and policy alignment are essential. According to Priya Pansare, director, World Trade Centre, Mumbai, global trade readiness for women entrepreneurs depends not only on financial access but also on exposure to international compliance standards, digital trade tools, and trusted global networks that enable long-term partnerships. Adding a practitioner's perspective, CA Tripti Singhal Somani, founder, Womenovator, underlines how institutional platforms can enable access to global procurement ecosystems, cross-border collaborations, and investment networks, ensuring that women are active architects shaping the global economy's future trajectory. A critical barrier for scaling of women-led enterprises is the persistent credit and capital access gap. While financial inclusion initiatives have improved access to micro-finance and early-stage funding, growth-stage capital remains disproportionately difficult to secure. Kavita Adhikary, HOD, global partnerships, MSME Business Forum India, says, "Women-led enterprises continue to face a substantial credit gap. One pathway to bridge this gap is to encourage aspiring women entrepreneurs to increasingly explore manufacturing-based ventures. Compared to fragmented service-oriented micro-cottage enterprises, manufacturing ventures often build stronger asset bases, structured cash flows, and export potential — which enhances creditworthiness and attracts long-term institutional capital." Industrial ecosystems tend to generate scale advantages, including technology adoption, productivity gains, and global market integration. By positioning women entrepreneurs within these ecosystems, institutions can create pathways for sustainable growth. As economies seek resilient and inclusive growth models, empowering women-led enterprises to scale globally must become a key mandate.

## The Organizational Growth Journey of BJP in Maharashtra

## Coffee Table

News Network

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was established on April 6, 1980. Since its inception, the party's journey has been marked by struggle, distinct identity, and eventual success. The Maharashtra BJP convention held in Shirdi on January 12 reflects upon this remarkable journey and growth trajectory. Soon after its formation in 1980, the BJP contested the Maharashtra Assembly elections. In its very first attempt, 14 candidates were elected on the party's official symbol, marking the beginning of its steady progress in the state. In the

1985 Assembly elections, the BJP secured 16 seats, followed by a gradual increase in its electoral performance. By 1990, the party had strengthened its position significantly, winning 42 seats in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. In 1995, the BJP achieved a major breakthrough, securing 65 seats and becoming a key player in the state's political landscape. However, between 1999 and 2009, the party experienced a slowdown in growth. In 1999, it won 56 seats, while in 2004 and 2009, the tally dropped to 54 and 46 seats respectively. A major turning point came in 2014 when Narendra Modi's

## 45th Foundation Day



leadership at the national level inspired a new wave of political change. The BJP, contesting independently after breaking its long-standing alliance with Shiv Sena, emerged as the single largest party in Maharashtra by winning 122 seats and formed the government. On

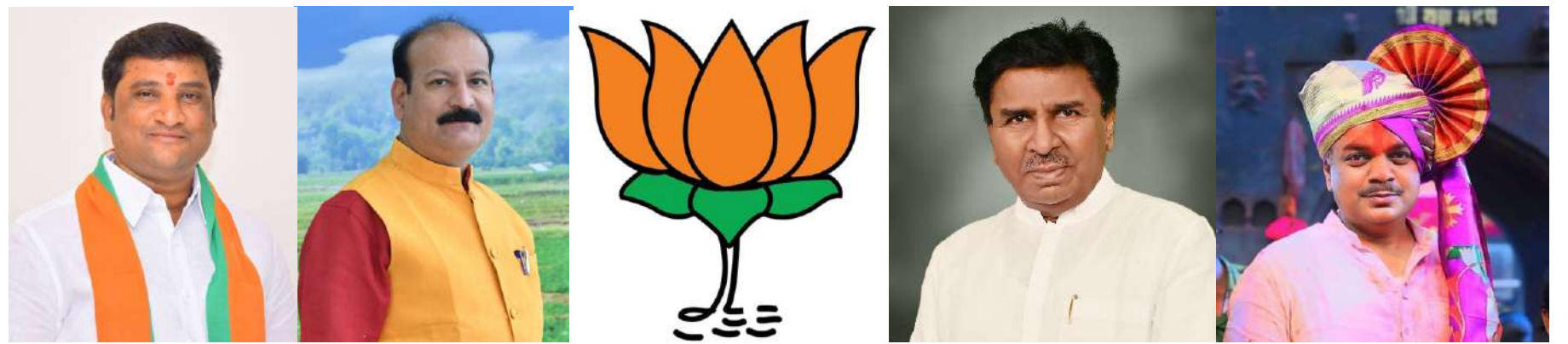
October 31, 2014, Devendra Fadnavis took oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, marking a historic moment for the party. This victory was not just electoral but organizational as well. The BJP began expanding its base from grassroots to metropolitan levels. The party focused on

strengthening its presence in rural areas, traditionally considered strongholds of the Congress and allied parties. Several senior leaders played a crucial role in building the party in Maharashtra. The early expansion was driven by leaders such as Vasant Rao Bhagwat, Uttamrao Patil, Pramod Mahajan, and Gopinath Munde. Later, leaders like Nitin Gadkari, Eknath Khadse, and others contributed to strengthening the organization across regions. In recent years, under the leadership of Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP has witnessed a new phase of growth. The party has successfully expanded its reach across both urban

and rural Maharashtra. Although the party did not achieve the expected success in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it made a strong comeback in the subsequent Assembly elections, winning 132 seats and once again bringing Fadnavis to the forefront of state leadership. Today, the BJP enjoys widespread support across Maharashtra. The party's strong organizational structure, dedicated cadre, and effective leadership continue to drive its success. With a renewed focus on grassroots expansion and governance, BJP workers remain confident of achieving even greater success in upcoming local self-government elections.

## Rising Influence of BJP Drives Dharashiv District Toward Rapid Development

## BJP Foundation Day Special



## Coffee Table

News Network

## Dharashiv : (With inputs from Anil Aglave)

On the occasion of the foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, an atmosphere of enthusiasm and celebration prevails across the district. In Dharashiv, the party's growing dominance, strong organizational structure, and development-oriented policies are clearly reflected in the district's steady progress. The BJP currently holds a significant political presence in Dharashiv, with one MLA, the post of Zilla Parishad President, two Panchayat Samiti chairpersons, four municipal heads, and a substantial number of members across local governing bodies. This collective strength has further consolidated the party's influence in the district. Over the past few years, the BJP has successfully expanded its base from rural to urban areas, achieving notable success at the municipal, district, and Panchayat levels, thereby reshaping the local political landscape. Under the leadership of Rana

Jagjitsinh Patil, the party has witnessed rapid growth in the district. Former MLA Sujitsinh Thakur and former minister Basavaraj Patil have also made significant contributions to strengthening the party. Their experience and guidance have enhanced the party's effectiveness at the grassroots level. Additionally, District President Dattabhai Kulkarni has played a key role in building a robust organizational network down to the booth level. Substantial funding from both the central and the Government of Maharashtra has accelerated development projects in Dharashiv. Key initiatives include railway projects, road infrastructure, healthcare facilities, solar and wind energy projects, water supply schemes, watershed development, education, and irrigation projects. Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission are bringing development to villages, resulting in visible improvements in citizens' quality of life. It is widely

believed that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has taken a special interest in the development of Dharashiv district. Approvals for projects, allocation of funds, and administrative guidance have significantly boosted development activities. Effective coordination between local representatives and the administration has ensured the successful implementation of these schemes. Various programs have been organized across the district to mark the BJP's foundation day, with enthusiastic participation from party workers. With a dual focus on "development and organization," the party has expressed its determination to expand its work further in the coming years. With strong leadership, an effective organizational framework, and substantial support from both central and state governments, Dharashiv district is steadily moving toward a new phase of development, while the BJP continues to strengthen its political foothold.

## Political Acumen of MLA 'Rana Dada' Comes to the Fore

The political developments in Dharashiv highlight the growing influence and strategic acumen of MLA Rana Jagjitsinh Patil, popularly known as "Rana Dada." His deep understanding of local issues, continuous engagement with party workers, and

effective coordination with the administration have had a positive impact on district politics. His close association with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is considered instrumental in facilitating development in the district. This

coordination has helped accelerate various projects and ensured smoother access to necessary funding. As a result, Dharashiv is witnessing faster progress in infrastructure, roads, water supply, irrigation, and other key sectors under the BJP-led government.

## BJP's Organizational Strength Continues to Grow

The organizational strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Dharashiv district is steadily increasing. A strong network of workers has been built from the booth level to the taluka and district levels, expanding the party's reach. The

inclusion of new members, increased public engagement through various initiatives, and effective leadership at the local level have further strengthened the party. Electoral success and growing representation in

local self-governing bodies are clear indicators of this rising strength. Party workers remain confident that the BJP will continue to grow stronger in the district in the coming years.

## Development of Pilgrimage Sites to Boost Employment for Youth

The development of pilgrimage sites in Dharashiv district has gained significant momentum in recent years. Efforts are being made to promote religious tourism through improved infrastructure, including beautification of temple premises, better roads, accommodation facilities, and enhanced water and

sanitation services. These initiatives are expected to increase the number of devotees visiting from across the country and abroad. Beyond enhancing the district's religious significance, this development is also boosting the local economy. Sectors such as hospitality, transportation, guiding services, and the sale of pooja materials are

generating new employment opportunities. For the youth, this growth presents promising prospects in tourism-related businesses, self-employment, and skill-based work. As Dharashiv moves toward becoming a key hub for religious tourism, there is growing optimism about large-scale employment opportunities for local residents.

# PM's push for increasing seats of LS, assemblies nothing but 'Weapon of Mass Distraction': Congress

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Congress on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the proposal to increase Lok Sabha seats, saying he is "bulldozing" the move that will work more to the benefit of larger and populous states and is nothing but a "Weapon of Mass Distraction (WMD)". The opposition party also alleged that the prime minister is "hoodwinking" the people of the country and is making misleading statements that are meant to deceive. In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The PM is upto his usual tricks of making misleading statements that are meant to deceive. He says South Indian states will not be hurt in any way if the strength of the Lok Sabha is increased by 50 pc and the number of seats of each state in the Lok Sabha is also increased by

50pc." "This is hoodwinking the people of the country in which the PM has unique expertise," Ramesh said. For example, the difference between UP's and Kerala's seats in the Lok Sabha is now 60 and Modi's proposal will increase it to 90, he said. Similarly, the difference between UP and Tamil Nadu will increase from 41 to at least 61, Ramesh said and added that such examples can be multiplied. "Mr. Modi is bulldozing a proposal that will work more to the benefit of larger and populous states since their already large numbers will get further magnified," the Congress leader said. It is not just South India but states like Punjab and Haryana and those in the North East that will also see their relative influence decline, he argued. "The nation is facing a serious economic and foreign policy crisis. All that the PM is bothered about is pushing through an increase in the strength of the Lok



Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas without meaningful consultations and widespread public debate. This is nothing but a Weapon of Mass Distraction (WMD)," Ramesh said. His remarks come a day after Prime Minister Modi said that the Budget session of Parliament has been extended for three days so that the law enacted in 2023 for providing 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies can be implemented from 2029. On Thursday, Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Kiren Rijju, while speaking in Rajya Sabha, had said the House will meet again soon to consider a key legislation. "We have certain bills and important issues, and we have shared this with the opposition also. We are going to have a very important bill in the next two-three weeks," he said. It later emerged that the Budget session of Parliament will reconvene on April 16 after a brief recess to pass bills to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816 so that the women's

reservation law can be implemented at the earliest. Addressing an NDA election rally in Kerala, Modi said the government will ensure, during the April 16-18 Parliament sitting, a legal stamp that no state, whether it is Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, or Telangana, will see a reduction in Lok Sabha seats. The prime minister said that the NDA government has given 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies through a law in 2023. Do you know

why it will reconvene? The law we have passed for 33 per cent reservation for women, so that its benefits can begin from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, and 33 per cent of our sisters can sit in Parliament. For this, further legal provisions are needed," Modi said. The Women's Reservation Act was passed by Parliament in 2023. The provision to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution, but it will come into effect after the completion of the delimitation exercise. If the proposal to implement the law even before the delimitation exercise actually materialises, another amendment to the Constitution will be required. The government is expected to amend the law to this effect in the three-day sitting of the Parliament. The prime minister urged all parties that this is an issue related to women's

empowerment, so they should, with an open mind and without any political calculations, fully support it and become partners in winning the trust of the country's mothers and sisters. He said that the government had invited members of Congress for discussions and hoped that they would come and agree with it. The Congress on Friday had alleged that the government has called a "special session" of Parliament for passing bills related to amending the women's quota law and delimitation to "grab political mileage" in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu polls, which, it claimed, is a "gross violation" of the model code of conduct. Asserting that the government's push for a rushed delimitation exercise would have "dangerous consequences", Ramesh had said, "We do not want any disturbance in the present differentials and relative strength." The Congress had

cautioned against any haste in amending the Constitution regarding delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies, saying it is a sensitive matter and the government must tread carefully, otherwise the exercise might put several states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala at a significant disadvantage. Ramesh had said the government kept "sleeping" for 30 months after the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, and now wants to take "double credit" in the election season. While the government is keen on passing the bills, including amending the Women's Reservation Act 2023, officially called Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, or Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam, the opposition has accused the Centre of trying to hurriedly move for passing amendments to take political advantage in the state elections.

# Raghav Chadha hits back at AAP amid internal rift over Punjab issues

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Amid an escalating political spat within the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), MP Raghav Chadha has fired back at his own party over recent claims that he has not raised Punjab-related issues in Parliament. In a post on X, Chadha responded to the allegations, emphasising that Punjab is not just his home but "duty, soil and soul." He highlighted the various issues he raised as an MP, including advocating for the Nankana Sahib corridor, legal guarantees for farmers' Minimum Support Price (MSP), addressing vanishing groundwater in Punjab, recommending



Bharat Ratna recognition for Bhagat Singh, and several other key issues. "To my colleagues in AAP who were forced to issue videos saying that "Raghav Chadha failed to raise Punjab's issues in Parliament", here is a small trailer... Picture Abhi Baaki Hai. Punjab isn't a talking point for me. It is my home, my duty, my soil, my soul." The whole controversy began following Raghav Chadha's removal from Aam

Aadmi Party's deputy leader post in Rajya Sabha, earlier this week, following which, the AAP MP slammed the party leadership, accusing them of silencing his voice. Following Chadha's remarks, several leaders of AAP came out heavily against him, saying he was said to be "compromised" and was scared of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chadha on Saturday hit back at allegations following his removal as Deputy Leader of the

Aam Aadmi Party in the Rajya Sabha, calling them a "coordinated attack" and denying claims that he refused to walk out of Parliament or sign an impeachment motion against the Chief Election Commissioner. In a post on X, Chadha said a scripted campaign was being run against him. "Since yesterday, a scripted campaign has been going on against me. Same language, same words, same allegations. This is no coincidence, but a coordinated attack. At first, I thought I shouldn't respond. Then I thought that if a lie is repeated 100 times, some people might believe it. So, I decided to respond," he said

# JKSA urges Jaishankar to help repatriate body of Kashmiri student who died in Saudi Arabia

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Sunday wrote to External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, seeking his intervention for the urgent repatriation of the mortal remains of a Kashmiri youth, Bilal Manzoor Ganie, who passed away in Saudi Arabia. In a statement, JKSA National Convener Nasir Khuehami expressed profound grief over the untimely demise of Bilal Manzoor Ganie, a resident of Sogam Chountiwari, Lolab, in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The JKSA stated that Bilal had been working in Saudi Arabia for the past one and a half years as a nursing assistant at Aaba International Hospital, where he



was pursuing a career in the healthcare sector. On Saturday (April 4), he tragically suffered a sudden cardiac arrest and was rushed to the same hospital, where doctors declared him "brought dead". Bilal's sudden and untimely demise has sent shockwaves across his native village. "He was widely regarded as a dedicated, hardworking, and compassionate young individual, and his passing has left his family and the entire community devastated and in deep mourning," the

JKSA national convener said. The JKSA said it has formally taken up the matter with the External Affairs Minister and sought his intervention to direct the concerned authorities, including the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia and relevant local authorities, to facilitate the repatriation of the remains of Bilal to India to perform the last rites according to the family's cultural and religious traditions. The Association acknowledged that such cases involve

procedural requirements, legal formalities, documentation, and coordination with authorities in Saudi Arabia, and assured complete cooperation in the process. The JKSA further stated that it stands "ready to extend every possible assistance, including coordination with the family, hospital authorities, local contacts, and the concerned diplomatic missions, to ensure that the process is carried out smoothly, swiftly, and with due dignity". The Association expressed hope for a swift response from the Ministry of External Affairs, while appreciating its continued efforts in assisting Indian citizens abroad during distressing situations.

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## As per the 'Mihir Shah' verdict, the Supreme Court granted bail to the doctor in the NDPS case as the reasons for his arrest were not given in writing.

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Supreme Court recently granted bail to two medical professionals accused in a narcotics case on the ground that they were not supplied the grounds of arrest in writing prior to production before the Magistrate. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta passed the order, noting that the grounds of arrest ought to have been supplied to the accused, as per the mandate of Mihir Rajesh Shah v. State of Maharashtra. In Mihir Rajesh Shah, a bench of ex-Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih held that failure to provide the grounds of

arrest in writing to an arrestee, in the language they understand, would render the arrest and subsequent remand illegal. Referring to this precedent, the bench in the present case observed, "the arrest memo, by itself, reflects that the grounds of arrest had been orally explained to the accused before the process of formal arrest was undertaken. Consequently, it was incumbent upon the arresting officer to have supplied the memo of grounds of arrest in writing to the accused two hours prior to producing them before the Magistrate as per the mandate of Mihir Rajesh Shah (supra) which apparently has not



been followed in this case." Briefly put, the appellants, both medical professionals concerned with operation of a hospital in Amritsar, were arrested in connection with an NDPS case involving seizure of Tramadol tablets. As per claims, an order for supply of 200 Tramadol tablets was placed by them with a pharmaceutical

company (for treatment of patients at the hospital). But due to an error, the pharmaceutical company supplied 2000 tablets. The entire consignment was kept by the hospital in a sealed condition and a letter sent to the company for return of the excess 1800 tablets. However, before the excess consignment could be returned, the Narcotics Control

Bureau conducted a raid at the pharmaceutical company and recovered 31,900 Tramadol tablets. Following the seizure, a narcotics case was registered and search conducted at the hospital's medicos, from where the sealed consignment of 2000 tablets was recovered. After being arrested, the appellants were remanded to judicial custody on

03.05.2025. Initially, they sought bail before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, pleading specifically that they were not supplied with the grounds of arrest before being taken into custody, but their pleas were rejected. Aggrieved, they approached the Supreme Court. Before the top Court, it was contended that non-supply of grounds of arrest to the appellants, in writing, amounted to a violation of the fundamental rights under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution. It was argued that mere mention of case details in the arrest memo was not sufficient, and the arrest was illegal. The respondents, on the other hand,

countered that the consignment of 2000 Tramadol tablets was deliberately obtained by the appellants' hospital, even though its license excluded Tramadol from the list of permitted items. It was further argued that the grounds of arrest were explained to the appellants and provided in the arrest memo. After hearing the parties and considering the material, the top Court concluded that the mandate of Mihir Rajesh Shah case was not followed in the present case. Though the grounds of arrest were stated to have orally explained to the accused, the same were not supplied in writing. "It is no longer res

integra that supplying the grounds of arrest to the accused in writing before the arrest or, in a given case, under exceptional circumstances, immediately thereafter, is the mandate of the constitutional guarantees provided under Article 22(1) read with Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The ratio of the judgment in Mihir Rajesh Shah (supra) conclusively holds that any deviation from the above principle would lead to the arrest of the accused being declared illegal entitling such accused to be released forthwith", the Court said. Accordingly, the appellants were granted bail.

## CPF Option Exercised Can't Be Reversed To Claim Pension Under CCS Rules: Delhi HC

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

A Delhi High Court bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Narula held that an employee who has exercised an option to remain under the CPF scheme cannot later claim pension benefits under the CCS Pension Rules, as deemed conversion applies only where no option was exercised. **Background Facts** The petitioners are a group of former employees of the Export Inspection Council (EIC) and Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs). They claimed pension under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. The petitioners argued that it had been extended to their establishment through the Export Inspection Council Pension and General Provident Fund Rules, 1981. They were denied pension under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. Aggrieved by the same, the petitioners filed writ petition before Delhi High Court. It was argued by the petitioners that after the framing of the Export Inspection Council Pension and General Provident Fund Rules, 1981, read with the Office Memorandum of 1st May, 1987, employees were covered under the pension regime unless they elected to remain under the CPF scheme. It was further contended that due



to the statutory changes, the CPF regime was replaced. It was further argued by the petitioners that they did not exercise any option to continue under Contributory Provident Fund (CPF). Therefore they must be treated as governed by the pension regime. Further the petitioners also relied upon contemporaneous material of 1991, including EIC internal notes and a EIC letter dated 20th August, 1991, to contend that the respondents themselves had approved pensionary benefits even for employees then being rendered surplus. On the other hand, it was argued by the respondents that the employees of the EIC and EIAs were not government servants. Their service conditions were governed by a distinct framework under the CPF scheme. The respondents placed reliance on option forms which indicated that the petitioners had elected to continue

under the CPF scheme. It was also pointed out that the petitioners accepted the terminal benefits at the time of exit from service. It was observed by the Court that the respondents had placed on record petitioners' option forms which contained a record of election to continue under the CPF scheme in terms of the Office Memorandum dated 1st May, 1987. It was found by the court that the petitioners' denial that no such option was ever exercised was disproved. The Court examined the letter dated 20th August, 1991, and found that the record preserved the distinction between the two regimes. The letter provided for full CPF contribution for those governed by the CPF scheme and pension for those governed by the 1981 Rules. Regarding Petitioner No. 11, it was observed by the Court that he had exited under a special voluntary retirement scheme and accepted

benefits as a one-time full and final settlement. The decision in Shiv Prakash Saxena & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors. was relied upon wherein it was held that claims arising from a special voluntary retirement scheme were not permitted to be reopened once employees had accepted its benefits. Therefore, it was held by the court that an employee who took a special voluntary retirement package cannot claim parity with one who retired in the ordinary course. It was held by the Court that the principle of deemed conversion applies only to those who did not exercise a valid option. It was further held that an employee who continued under the CPF scheme cannot claim parity with one who did not continue under the scheme. With the aforesaid observations, the petition filed by the employees was dismissed by the Court.

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## Nitish Kumar to take oath as Rajya Sabha MP on April 10, NDA to decide on cabinet reshuffle

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Nitish Kumar, incumbent Chief Minister of Bihar and chief of the Janata Dal (United), is set to take oath as a Rajya Sabha MP on April 10, Bihar BJP leader Sanjay Saraogi said on Sunday, reported ANI. Following the swearing-in, discussions on cabinet formation will be held jointly by the Chief Minister, the BJP's central leadership and allies in the National Democratic Alliance, Saraogi said, indicating a coordinated approach to the next phase of governance. The development comes amid heightened



political activity in Bihar, with Kumar recently resigning as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Council (MLC), marking a significant transition as he prepares to assume office in the Rajya Sabha after being elected last month. On March 5, the 75-year-old leader had announced his decision in a message, expressing

his long-standing desire to serve in both the state legislature and Parliament. He reiterated his commitment to building a "developed Bihar" and assured continued "cooperation and guidance" to the government. The NDA welcomed his move, with Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sinha saying, "It is

his own decision. It is the constitutional arrangement that he will have to resign from one place if he is taking an oath at another..." Former JD(U) MP Chandeshwar Chandravanshi said, "He has brought Bihar here... He is going to Delhi, but he will have a hold of Bihar's politics... His vision is not for Bihar but for the entire..." JD(U) MLA Dulal Chandra Goswami said Kumar's resignation from the Legislative Council is a "loss for the state," adding that the chief minister had placed Bihar "in the list of developed states."

## Zero tolerance to indiscipline in TDP, warns CM Naidu

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu is learnt to have cautioned the party leaders that violations of party discipline would not be tolerated under any circumstances. According to sources, Naidu expressed displeasure over the conduct of Narasaraopet MLA Chadralavada Aravind Babu from Palnadu district. After taking explanation from the MLA regarding a controversial incident at the Palnadu SP office, TDP State President palla Srinivasa Rao placed the matter before the Chief Minister. Taking serious note of the conduct of the MLA,

Naidu said that the party would not be compromised for individual interests and cautioned that those crossing the line would face suspension without hesitation. Anyone who brings disrepute to the party or the government will be suspended without a second thought. Leaders must maintain discipline and think about a long-term political career. It is up to them to decide whether they want to continue in politics or remain one-term MLAs, the Chief Minister reportedly said. Recently, Aravind Babu staged a prolonged sit-in at the SP's chamber. He confronted

Palnadu district SP B Krishna Rao over the delay in approving his recommendation for the post of legal advisor to the Palnadu district police cell. According to sources, the MLA had earlier recommended the name of Ramineni Prasad for the position and questioned why the proposal had not been cleared even after eight months. Despite the SP assuring that the matter would be examined before approval, the MLA allegedly refused to relent. The situation escalated when the SP briefly left the chamber and later returned to sign the recommendation

letter, forwarding it to the DGP office. However, Aravind Babu reportedly continued his protest, insisting on receiving the final appointment order before leaving. Even after being informed that the appointment required approval from higher authorities, the MLA remained firm. He is also said to have ignored calls from the offices of ministers Nara Lokesh and Vangalapati Anitha during the standoff. The incident has triggered internal concern within the TDP, with the leadership now taking a serious view of actions that could potentially damage the image of the party.

## Chhattisgarh achieves record Rs 16,625 crore mineral revenue, up 14%

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government has achieved a significant milestone in the mining sector through technical innovation and robust management. The state generated Rs 16,625 crore in mineral revenue, achieving 98 percent of its annual target for the financial year 2025-26. This accomplishment reflects the strength of the state's mineral-based economy and the effectiveness of its administrative strategies with transparency, officials said. "Chhattisgarh recorded a 14 percent year-on-year increase in mineral revenue. This figure is more than double the average Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6 percent observed over the previous five years", said P Dayanand, secretary, Mineral Resources



Department. Officials attribute this surge to successful policy implementation and a strong monitoring framework established under the current administration's "Good Governance" initiative. The record-breaking revenue is credited to various strategic interventions. Effective optimisation of dispatch routes for NMDC and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), implementation of "Khanij 2.0" (an IT-based platform that has significantly

improved operational efficiency and oversight), use of technology to curb leakages and streamline mineral transport. In the current financial year, the state government plans to integrate minor minerals into the 'Khanij 2.0' platform to create a fully digital and unified mining ecosystem besides deploying drone-based surveillance on a wider scale to further strengthen the monitoring of mineral transportation with

expanded use of Vehicle Tracking Systems (VTS). "The goal of the Chhattisgarh government is to ensure sustainable revenue growth while maintaining transparency, efficiency, and accountability in mineral resource management. These efforts will not only strengthen the state's economy but also ensure the availability of resources for vital development projects", said Vishnu Deo Sai, chief minister.

## Gadkari says BJP is against infiltrators, not Muslims; confident of wins in Assam, West Bengal

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Asserting that the BJP is opposed to infiltrators but not against Muslims, senior party leader and Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday expressed confidence that the party will perform well in the upcoming Assembly elections in Assam and West Bengal. Assembly polls in Assam are scheduled for April 9, while West Bengal will vote in two phases on April 23 and 29, with counting set for May 4. "I strongly believe that we will win in both Assam and West Bengal. It is the BJP's policy to take everyone together, irrespective of one's religion. We are opposed to infiltrators but are not against Muslims," Gadkari said in an interview with PTI. He said large-scale infrastructure development and governance-focused work remain central to the party's campaign strategy. "Projects worth about Rs 5 lakh crore are being implemented across the northeastern region, including Assam. Infrastructure



projects valued at around Rs 1.5 lakh crore have already been completed, while projects worth Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh crore are under implementation. In addition, another Rs 2 lakh crore worth of projects are in the pipeline," he said to PFI. According to him, these investments in road transport, highways and logistics are aimed at improving connectivity, boosting trade and accelerating economic growth. "This sustained push will change the face of infrastructure in Assam and the Northeast, a region that has historically faced connectivity challenges," he said. The remarks come as the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government seeks to retain power in Assam by highlighting its

development record and welfare initiatives. Gadkari reiterated that inclusivity remains central to the BJP's approach. "It is the BJP's policy to take everyone together," he said, adding that the party's opposition is directed at infiltration and not any religious community. Addressing a recent rally in Assam, he said India could offer shelter to people with shared heritage if they seek refuge, but could not accept illegal entrants, warning that it would turn the country into a "dharamshala" (charitable lodging). He further said unity in diversity remains "our essence" and that the BJP supports rights under the Constitution, including provisions for persecuted minorities under the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act. In West Bengal, Gadkari said there was a growing desire for change among voters. "People are in favour of change," he said, expressing confidence that the BJP would make significant electoral gains. He acknowledged that the contest in West Bengal is intense, but said the party would focus on governance and development rather than "unnecessary political confrontation." The BJP has been seeking to expand its presence in the state after emerging as a major opposition force in the 2021 elections. On Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's allegations that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is a "silent, invisible rigging ploy" by the BJP-led Centre to remove voters ahead of the polls, Gadkari said the party prioritises national interest in policymaking. "We do not want to enter into any kind of politics on national issues. We should look at issues (like SIR) keeping the nation's interest supreme," he said.

## Minister Rajnath lays stone for Large Cavitation Tunnel at NSTL in Visakhapatnam

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VISAKHAPATNAM: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a Large Cavitation Tunnel (LCT) at the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a premier lab of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in Visakhapatnam on Friday. The proposed facility is aimed at strengthening India's indigenous capabilities in naval research, particularly in the design, development and testing of ships, submarines and underwater systems. Addressing scientists and staff at NSTL, the Defence Minister said the LCT would enable critical testing of naval equipment and systems within the country, reducing dependence on foreign facilities. "Until now, even after successfully developing equipment, systems, and sub-systems, we often had to look abroad for critical testing. This situation will now change. This facility is not merely an infrastructure project, but an enabling



system, which will strengthen our capabilities in advancing propulsion systems, enable focused efforts on noise reduction and further strengthen stealth capabilities. It will serve as a foundational backbone for the design and development of submarines and ships, supporting future advancements in naval engineering and maritime defence systems," he said. Rajnath Singh highlighted the role of domestic industry, academia and research institutions in advancing indigenous capabilities. During the visit, the Defence Minister was briefed on ongoing programmes by DRDO

Chairman Samir V Kamat. Rajnath Singh also visited the Seakeeping and Manoeuvring Basin, where he witnessed demonstrations of underwater systems, including torpedoes, naval mines, decoys and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). A demonstration of swarm-enabled, man-portable AUVs showcased developments in autonomous maritime operations. He also reviewed technologies developed as spin-offs following Operation Sindoor. The Defence Minister appreciated NSTL's contributions in areas such as torpedo systems, underwater mines and AUVs, and emphasised the importance of emerging technologies, including lithium-ion battery systems, for defence

preparedness. "The systems and technologies boost the confidence and morale of sailors deployed at sea. Reliable and robust technological support significantly enhances the operational effectiveness of the defence forces," he added. The LCT project is conceived as a national facility for advanced hydrodynamic research. It will support both closed-loop simulations for submarine studies and free surface simulations for surface ships within a single integrated setup. Once completed, the facility is expected to aid validation of hydrodynamic designs and propulsion systems for major naval platforms, including destroyers and aircraft carriers, and contribute to India's shipbuilding ecosystem. Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan, Chief of Naval Staff Dinesh K Tripathi and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Sanjay Bhalla, and other senior officials were present.

## Andhra Pradesh HC terms long contract jobs as labour exploitation

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VIJAYAWADA: In a significant ruling, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has termed the prolonged engagement of employees on temporary, contract, or outsourcing basis without regularisation as 'labour exploitation'. The court made it clear that utilising workers for decades on meagre wages, without filling permanent vacancies through a proper recruitment process, is unconstitutional. A division bench comprising Justice Battu Devanand and Justice Subhendu Samanta observed that the government must act as a model employer and cannot exploit its



citizens. The bench criticised the practice of appointing qualified individuals on contract or outsourcing basis for essential and continuous work, instead of filling sanctioned posts on a permanent basis. The bench held that after extracting services for decades, the government cannot deny their rights on such pretexts. Questioning

the authorities, the court asked why these workers were continued for so long if there were no vacancies or need for their services. It emphasised that assigning them duties equivalent to regular employees while keeping them as daily wage workers throughout their lives violates their right to livelihood under Article 21 of the Constitution. The

case pertains to employees working for decades in the VMC and Telugu Ganga Project, whose pleas for regularisation were earlier rejected by the AP Administrative Tribunal in 2018. Setting aside the tribunal's decision, the court directed the government to regularise the petitioners' services within two months.

## Tech blackout: Why UAE has pulled out from key Rafale deal

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UAE pulled the plug on financing the development of the upgraded F5 fighter jet after negotiations on joint financing with France broke down. This comes after Paris offered Abu Dhabi the opportunity to join the program in December 2025 in exchange for investment, but without the participation of local companies or access to technology. According to La Tribune, the UAE was expected to contribute around €3.5 billion to the program, which is estimated to cost approximately €5 billion. Instead, France will now carry the entire burden alone through an expanded Military Programming Law, despite intensifying pressure from European rearmament and multiple competing defence priorities. The Rafale F5 has become far more than another fighter upgrade because French officials increasingly regard it as a sovereign insurance policy against



uncertainty surrounding Europe's future combat aircraft projects. Reportedly, French aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation unveiled the first Rafale fighter jet for the United Arab Emirates Air Force. In total, the UAE ministry of defence has placed an order for 80 aircraft, which will replace the Mirage 2000-9 fighters manufactured by the same company in the country's air force. This is the largest order of Rafale aircraft for a single country among all export customers. This volume has made the country an attractive potential buyer of additional

services, including the F5 modernization standard. Meanwhile, delivery of the first batch of Rafale fighters is expected by the end of 2026. The F5 standard is to feature a Thales RBE2 XG radar based on gallium nitride, an upgraded SPECTRA electronic warfare suite, new optoelectronic sensors, conformal fuel tanks, and a Safran M88 T-REX engine, which is expected to provide a 20% increase in afterburner thrust. In addition, the modernisation includes the integration of the UCAS escort drone. However, according to Dassault CEO Eric Trappier, it has not

yet been officially launched. Against this backdrop, the loss of potential UAE funding further complicates financing for the entire project package. By the end of 2022, due to budget constraints, only 20% of French Rafale aircraft were equipped with RBE2 AESA radars. Starting with the fourth tranche, all Rafale aircraft are equipped with RBE2 AESA radars. However, in 2023, General Stéphane Mille noted that at that time, the new radars were in use on only 25 aircraft, and by 2030, the fleet of aircraft equipped with them is expected to grow to 75 units.

## RBI likely to hold repo rate at 5.25% amid inflation risks from Middle East crisis

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The Reserve Bank is expected to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25% in its April monetary policy review, as rising inflation risks linked to the Middle East crisis cloud the outlook, according to a poll of economists cited by PTI. Geopolitical tensions, volatile commodity prices and sharp currency movements -- with the rupee hitting record lows -- have complicated the policy trajectory, with economists closely watching the central bank's projections on growth, inflation and policy stance. "Given the uncertainty around crude oil prices and geopolitical developments, the RBI is likely to remain on pause in the April policy and closely monitor incoming inflation data before taking any further action," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, PTI quoted. SBI's chief economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh said the central bank will be cautious in communicating its decision. "India is not unscathed from the current crisis and is feeling the mercury rising. Rupee is already hovering above 93 per dollar, and crude oil is adamant above USD 100 per barrel, resulting in a jump in imported inflation across states," he said, adding that the projected "super EI



Nino" will also put pressure on inflation. Dipti Deshpande, principal economist at Crisil, said under the base case scenario where inflation remains close to the MPC's target, the central bank may look through the supply shock and keep rates unchanged. The RBI has already cut the repo rate by 1.25% since last February, but has maintained status quo in its August, October and February 2026 policy reviews. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled to begin its April meeting on Monday, with the final decision expected on Wednesday. Economists noted that although retail inflation has eased closer to the RBI's medium-term target of 4%, the recent spike in crude oil prices has raised concerns over second-round effects on domestic prices, especially in fuel, transport and core inflation components. Estimates suggest that every USD 10 per

barrel increase in crude prices could push inflation up by as much as 0.60%. Crude prices have surged from around USD 60 per barrel to over USD 100 since the conflict began in late February. The rupee has also weakened by more than 4% during this period, adding to imported inflation pressures. "We do not expect any change in repo rate or stance this time. The tone will be cautious, and what will be eagerly awaited is the RBI's forecast of GDP and inflation under the prevailing uncertainty," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis. HDFC Bank principal economist Sakshi Gupta said a rate move based on short-term developments may not be prudent given ongoing volatility in global commodity markets. "The central bank would prefer to wait for clearer signals on the inflation trajectory," she said. Economists indicated that the RBI may revisit its

inflation and growth projections in the upcoming review to reflect evolving global risks, with a possibility of upward revision in inflation forecasts if crude prices remain elevated. Given the current scenario, the policy focus is expected to shift towards inflation management rather than growth support. "While domestic growth conditions remain supportive, the persistence of global uncertainties could weigh on exports and investment activity, requiring the RBI to maintain policy flexibility," said a treasury official at a private sector bank. The central bank is also likely to retain its neutral stance, signalling flexibility amid uncertain inflation dynamics and global developments. Liquidity conditions, transmission of past rate changes, financial market stability, currency movements, capital flows and bond market dynamics are expected to remain key considerations for policymakers.

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