

Chief Minister's support gives impetus to ecological revitalization project in Tadoba Tiger Reserve

Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai, Dec. 6: The Forest Department of the Government of Maharashtra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Zerodha Company and conservation partner Farmers for Forests to implement an ecological revitalization ('rewilding') project in the area of the biodiversity-rich Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. The project will be implemented with the encouragement and support of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and will be important for long-term ecological revitalization and climate resilience. This initiative will be the first comprehensive

landscape restoration project in the state that considers various land types such as protected forests, community lands, agricultural areas, grasslands and water resources. Emphasis will be placed on revitalizing the ecosystem, increasing biodiversity and strengthening human-wildlife coexistence by implementing scientifically designed measures according to each terrain. The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district is considered to be the oldest and largest tiger reserve in Maharashtra. Covering an area of about 1,727 sq. km., the reserve includes the core and buffer zones of the

southern tropical dry deciduous forests. The tiger population here is significant and it is estimated that there are more than 80 tigers in the reserve. The tiger population in this area has increased significantly in the last decade. Apart from tigers, leopards, wild dogs (dholes), bears, wild boars, various deer species, snakes (including the endangered Indian python) and more than 195 bird species are found here. Therefore, this area is considered very important for the biodiversity of Central India. However, the increase in tiger population and human settlement in the buffer zone is increasing the problem of human-wildlife conflict.



Development is also causing habitat fragmentation. This highlights the need for integrated and community-based restoration initiatives. Restoration of over 800 acres of degraded land around the reserve, creation of over 15,000 rural

employment days through restoration activities, community nurseries and environmental monitoring, and planting and conservation of over 100 native tree, shrub and grass species, which will provide habitat for

prey species and other wildlife. The project design is not limited to traditional tree plantations but is based on the broader objectives of restoring natural processes in the ecosystem, increasing habitat complexity and enabling wildlife to move freely across diverse terrains. The initiative will benefit all three components - wildlife, local communities and climate. Coordinated work across diverse terrains will address the causes of habitat degradation and build resilience for the future, the Forest Department said. The project will complement ongoing conservation initiatives in eastern Maharashtra. Since 2021, Farmers for Forests has been

working on about 2 lakh hectares of forest, agricultural and community lands. Efforts are underway to reduce human-wildlife conflict through various means such as forest conservation, reforestation, community participation, awareness through street theatre, fire management, distribution of energy-efficient stoves and habitat improvement. The new partnership will increase institutional capacity and technical resources and will give new impetus to the ecological restoration efforts in the Tadoba region. Zerodha, the company, donates 10 percent of its total revenue to social and

environmental initiatives. The Rain Matter Foundation, established in 2020, is promoting climate action, ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods and collaboration across sectors. On its 15th anniversary in 2025, Zerodha announced the 'Zerodha Rewind Fund', with a provision of Rs 100 crore for the restoration of degraded lands across the country. This fund will be implemented through Zerodha, in collaboration with Rainmatter Foundation, and aims to promote large-scale rewilding activities. This initiative is being implemented in the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve through this fund.

CM Launches 'My Village, Healthy Village' Statewide Campaign on World Health Day

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Mumbai : Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday launched the state-wide campaign "My Village, Healthy Village" aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery in rural areas and ensuring quality medical services at the grassroots level. Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra

Ajit Pawar, along with Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Prakash Abitkar and other cabinet members, were present at the launch ceremony held on the occasion of World Health Day. Speaking on the occasion, Abitkar briefed the Cabinet about the campaign, while an official video and informational booklet were also released. The initiative aims to transform the healthcare landscape



in rural Maharashtra by making it more robust, disease-free and self-reliant. The government plans to develop the campaign into a mass movement through public

participation, focusing on strengthening healthcare systems from the village to the state level. The campaign places greater emphasis on preventive healthcare

rather than treatment. Key focus areas include sanitation, safe drinking water, wastewater management, nutrition, and control of

communicable as well as non-communicable diseases. Special attention will also be given to maternal and child health, mental health, and lifestyle-related

ailments. For effective implementation, committees have been constituted at the state, divisional, district and grampanchayat levels. Villages demonstrating outstanding performance based on set criteria will be recognised as "Healthy Villages". The state government has earmarked significant funding for the initiative, with incentives

worth 65.25 crore to be awarded to gram panchayats, zilla parishads, panchayat samitis and health institutions. Describing the initiative as more than just a scheme, Abitkar and Minister of State for Health Meghna Sakore-Bordikar said it is envisioned as a people's movement that will help build a healthier, stronger and more prosperous rural Maharashtra.

Chief Minister's Assistance Cell's initiative for cancer treatment of children

Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai, Date 6: On the special initiative of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Chief Minister's Assistance Cell, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) Foundation and Tata Memorial Centre for the treatment of childhood cancer. To ensure effective and transparent implementation of this project, this tripartite MoU has been signed between the Chief Minister's Assistance Cell, BPCL Foundation and Tata Memorial Centre. Through this agreement, coordination will be maintained among all the concerned parties and the implementation of the project will be accelerated. Also, all the concerned parties have approved the scope and responsibilities mentioned in the proposal and have agreed to abide by the terms and conditions to be decided in the final MoU. Regarding this MoU, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said,



protection of children is the duty of the state. Early diagnosis, affordable treatment and awareness are necessary to fight cancer. Both the government and the society need to do this work together. Tata Memorial Centre had demanded expenditure from the Chief Minister's Assistance Fund for the expenses of operations of child cancer patients. Various organizations have taken the initiative together for this. BPCL Foundation has registered its participation in it from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Accordingly, Chief Minister Fadnavis said that BPCL Foundation will contribute to the support of child patients undergoing cancer

treatment at Tata Memorial Centre. Chief Minister Fadnavis said that BPCL Foundation's contribution has been appreciated under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in the public health sector. BPCL Foundation will provide special funds for this project under social responsibility. Such an MoU reduces financial barriers in cancer treatment of children. Quality treatment reaches the common man. The quality of healthcare services is improving in Maharashtra. Chief Minister Fadnavis said that this agreement is of great help in bringing about positive changes in the lives of children fighting cancer.

Children are the future of the country, so it is necessary to help them fight diseases like cancer. Inspired by this purpose, as much help as possible is being provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, said Rameshwar Naik, Head of the Chief Minister's Relief Cell. Rameshwar Naik, Head of the Chief Minister's Relief Cell, has made important contributions to bringing about the agreement, and the main objective is to provide urgent financial assistance to the poor and needy citizens, especially the patients, and to make the entire system efficient, the cell has informed.

Coffee Table

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Selection Trials for District-Level Talent Development Centre under 'Mission Lakshavedh'

Coffee Table
News Network

Ahilyanagar :Selection trials for admission to District-Level Talent Development Centres are being organized under the 'Mission Lakshavedh' initiative, aimed at boosting sports development across the state. The scheme focuses on nurturing athletes by providing structured training, sports facilities, equipment, expert guidance, and motivation to enhance their overall potential. District Sports Officer Dnyaneshwar Khurange has appealed to aspiring players to participate in large numbers by completing online registration and attending the trials with the required documents. The last date for online registration is April 12, 2026, and participants are advised to contact the concerned officials for further details. Under this initiative, 12 sports disciplines have been identified,

including athletics, archery, badminton, boxing, hockey, wrestling, weightlifting, shooting, rowing, sailing, table tennis, and lawn tennis. Among these, district-level centres in Ahilyanagar will be operational for athletics, weightlifting, rowing, table tennis, shooting, and hockey. A total of 20 players will be selected through these trials. Boys and girls under the age of 21 years (as of December 31) are eligible to participate. Selection will be based on the players' performance over the past two years in recognized school or association-level competitions, particularly those who have participated in or won medals at the state level. Additionally, candidates must qualify in skill-based and physical fitness tests. Selected athletes will receive advanced technical training, sports equipment,

financial assistance for participation in competitions, medical facilities, and sports nutrition support. These centres will function under the supervision of the District Sports Officer, Ahilyanagar. Interested candidates should send their details, including name,

certificates, and contact information, to ahilyanagards@gmail.com and attend the trials with necessary documents. Online registration must be completed via the provided Google Form link before April 12, 2026.

The district-level selection trials will be conducted between April 13 and April 15, 2026, at various venues:

Athletics: April 13 – Police Headquarters Ground, Ahilyanagar

Shooting: April 13 – District Sports Complex, Ahilyanagar

Weightlifting: April 13 – District Sports Complex

Wrestling: April 13 – Trimurti Public School, Nevasa Phata

Hockey: April 15 – Pravara Public School, Pravaranagar (Rahata Taluka)

For further information, participants may contact: Vishal Garje: 8369539077, Santosh Wable: 7588169493

Players are advised to carry all required documents while attending the selection trials.

Reel Festival 2026 Organized by Ahilyanagar Police to Promote Social Awareness

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News Network

Ahilyanagar : With the objective of creating awareness in society and educating citizens about laws and regulations, the Ahilyanagar District Police and SDPO Ahilyanagar City have jointly organized the "Jagar Reel Festival 2026." The event will be conducted from April 7 to April 27, 2026. The initiative is being carried out under the guidance of District Superintendent of Police Somnath Garge, Additional Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Kalubarme, and Sub-Divisional Police Officer Nagar City Dr. Dilip Tiparse. Citizens have been encouraged to participate actively



and showcase their creativity while contributing to social awareness. Participants are required to create short, creative reels of 30 to 90 seconds delivering meaningful messages on the

following topics: *Women's safety and empowerment *Cybercrime awareness *Traffic rules and discipline *Awareness against substance abuse *Anti-terrorism and anti-Naxalism

awareness *Caution against misinformation on social media The reels should aim to spread positive messages, promote social responsibility, and strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines. The competition is being organized in collaboration with the A' Nagar Cycling Club, and attractive prizes will be awarded to winners. The primary objective of the initiative is to encourage discussions on key social issues, raise public awareness, and contribute toward finding solutions. For further information, interested individuals can contact 8446086077.

New highway to connect Vadhan port 72 thousand trees, 21 lakes, 209 wells will be affected

Coffee Table
News Network

Palghar: The National Highways Authority of India has approved the expressway connecting Vadhan port. The contract for this project has been awarded to a company and construction will begin soon. This highway, connecting the villages of Waror and Tawa in Palghar district, will pass through 72,790 trees, 21 ponds and 209 wells. Therefore, it is seen that this highway will have a major impact on the environment. Vadhan port is being developed near National Highway 48 in Maharashtra. This



road will be built at a cost of Rs 2,360 crore to easily connect the port with other roads. This will give a direct connection to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway with NH-48. This route will have 800-meter-long twin tunnels and a 32.1-km-long expressway. Two major bridges, one double tunnel, two

inter-bridges, 33 small bridges, six flyovers, 84 culverts for underground water, a railway bridge and several underpasses will be constructed on this highway. At present, this highway is designed for four lanes and there are plans to make it eight lanes in the future. But many trees and projects will be

affected for this ambitious project. This route will pass through Dahanu and Palghar and 573 houses and construction projects in the villages there will be affected. The state government will provide a compensation of Rs 197 crore for this. It will pass through Wangaan, Ghol. Kolhan, Tawa, Dhamante, Kolavali, Varor, Chichni, Bawde and Tanashi villages in Dahanu. According to the information given to Hindustan Times by the Dahani Tehsildar's office, 244.18 hectares of land in these villages will be affected and 5,214 citizens will be

affected by the construction. Many tribals, farmers, and fishermen live in Palghar district. The Vadhan port is already being opposed as many citizens will be affected by it. Now, the intensity of the opposition is likely to increase due to the new highway. Meanwhile, currently, there are many routes available connecting Vadhan port to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and the Western Expressway. Therefore, some citizens are of the opinion that this project is unnecessary.

Harshvardhan Sapkal Criticizes Devendra Fadnavis Over Baramati By-Election Remark

Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai :Launching a sharp attack on Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal criticized his statement that the Baramati Assembly by-election should be uncontested in view of public sentiment, calling it hypocritical. Sapkal remarked that the Chief Minister's statement reflects the saying, "Preaching wisdom to others while remaining unaffected oneself," implying a disconnect between words and



actions. Reacting further, Sapkal said that it is, in fact, Fadnavis who is ignoring the real public sentiment in Maharashtra. He pointed out that there are growing concerns among people regarding the recent aircraft incident involving Ajit Pawar in Baramati, questioning whether it was merely an accident or a case of sabotage. Sapkal

asserted that the government should have immediately registered an FIR and initiated a thorough investigation into the incident. However, he alleged that the Chief Minister has failed to take prompt action and is overlooking the issue. Raising a pointed question, Sapkal invoked a rhetorical line, asking where the sense of duty was when such a serious matter arose. He emphasized that the true public sentiment demands a fair and impartial probe into the incident involving Ajit Pawar, with a formal case being registered without delay.

Social Equality Week to be Observed in District from April 8 to 14

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News Network

Ahilyanagar, April 7: The district will observe 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Social Equality Week' from April 8 to 14, 2026, through a series of awareness and outreach programmes. Providing this information, Assistant Commissioner of the Social Welfare Department, Pravin Korgantiwar, appealed to citizens to participate in large numbers, stating that various welfare-oriented activities will be conducted every day during the week. The week is being organized to mark multiple significant occasions, including the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution, the centenary year of

the Mahad Chavdar Tale Satyagraha, the bicentenary birth anniversary year of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, and the 150th birth anniversary year of Sant Gadge Maharaj. On the opening day, April 8, copies of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution will be distributed to every household, followed by the formal inauguration of the week. On April 9, lectures will be organized in colleges, government hostels, and residential schools across the district on the thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Mahad Chavdar Tale Satyagraha, and human rights. Competitions such as elocution, essay writing, and short plays based on the work of Sant Gadge Maharaj will also be conducted.

Additionally, beneficiaries will be provided with benefits from various government schemes on a representative basis. On April 10, awareness about Social Justice Department schemes will be spread through street plays in rural and urban areas by 'Samata Doots'. A special workshop will also be organized for beneficiaries of the Margin Money Scheme. On April 11, various programmes highlighting the social contributions of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule will be held across the district to mark his birth anniversary. On April 12, under the 'Samvidhan Jagar' initiative, lectures will be conducted on the making of the Constitution, fundamental rights, and duties. A women's

gathering will also be organized to highlight Dr. Ambedkar's contribution to women's empowerment. On April 13, awareness camps for senior citizens, blood donation camps for students, and cleanliness drives in localities will be undertaken. On the same day, online validity certificates will be distributed through the caste verification office. The week will conclude on April 14 with tributes to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in all government offices. Special programmes such as the Dadasaheb Gaikwad Empowerment Fair for farmers and lectures on the Mahad Chavdar Tale Satyagraha will also be organized to mark the closing ceremony.

Congress State President Flags Off Buses Carrying Voters from Mumbai to Kerala



Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai :Amid ongoing assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory, polling in Kerala is scheduled for April 9. Citizens of Kerala residing in Mumbai have begun traveling to their home state to exercise their voting rights. On this occasion, Harshvardhan Sapkal, President of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, flagged off buses carrying voters from Mumbai to Kerala and extended his best wishes. MLA Amin Patel along

with other Congress office-bearers were present at the event. Speaking on the occasion, Sapkal emphasized that elections are a festival of democracy and that it is the collective responsibility of citizens to strengthen democratic values. He appreciated the efforts of Kerala natives working in Mumbai who are traveling back home to cast their votes. He noted that many people often treat polling day as a holiday and opt for travel or leisure instead of voting. In contrast, Kerala

citizens make a conscious effort to return to their home state to participate in the electoral process. At a time when concerns such as alleged vote-buying and money power are said to be affecting elections, such commitment to voting is commendable, he said. Sapkal also stressed the need to work towards achieving 100 percent voter turnout. He added that while many Keralites migrate to other states for employment, they prioritize voting in their home state. He expressed concern for several

Kerala citizens stranded in Gulf countries due to ongoing conflicts, who may be unable to participate in the elections. Commenting on the Baramati by-election, Sapkal stated that there is no dispute regarding the election and that there is nothing wrong if any party progresses in a democratic manner following due process. However, he chose not to comment on remarks made by Parth Pawar regarding the Congress party.

Koyna Daulat Dongri Festival Need of the Hour - Deputy CM Eknath Shinde

Coffee Table
News Network

Satara, Date 6: Satara district is a district blessed with scenic beauty and historical heritage. The government is committed to giving this district a place of honor on the national and international map, and to making Satara district a 'tourism hub' and providing work to local people in the local area, said Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The closing ceremony of the Koyna Daulat Dongri Festival was held in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. On this occasion, the big bridge at Sangwad on the Koyna river, Shivdaulat Stadium at Daulatnagar and the musical fountain



and laser show at Maharashtra Daulat Loknete Balasaheb Desai Centenary Memorial, as well as the Late Shivajirao Desai Smriti Bhavan were inaugurated. Along with this, the water tourism center at Paparde was also inaugurated through a television system. On this occasion, Guardian Minister Shambhuraj Desai, District Collector Santosh Patil, Chief

Executive Officer Yashni Nagarajan, Superintendent of Police Vaishali Kadukar, Director of Tourism Department B. N. Patil, Manager Nilesh Kandana, Superintendent of Public Works Department Engineer Santosh Rokade, President of Morna Education Society Raviraj Desai, Chairman of Loknete Balasaheb Cooperative Sugar

Factory Yashraj Desai, and other dignitaries were present. Deputy Chief Minister Shinde said that 'New Mahabaleshwar' is being developed for tourism development and to reduce the pressure of tourists on Mahabaleshwar and to provide employment opportunities to the locals. This will get



good prices for the land of the locals and give a big boost to tourism. Koyna Backwater Festival will be organized in December-January. The government is trying to make this festival world-class. Big cultural festivals are always held in cities, but the hard-working farmers living in remote valleys in the hilly areas are being given a cultural

feast through festivals like Koyna Daulat Dongri Mahotsav. In this, Bhajan Kirtan, Lavani, Powada, Food Fair, along with adventure sports like paragliding, sea-plane ride and scuba diving are being promoted. This is also giving a platform to many artists. Ropeway has been approved in the budget for

Vasota and other important tourist destinations. Bridges are being built for quality infrastructure and connectivity. In this, big bridges are being built on the Koyna river at Tapola and Aпти, which will connect 105 villages in remote areas and will make communication between western Maharashtra and Konkan easier.

Deputy Chief Minister Shinde said that a scheme for farmers and youth is being implemented as a cluster farming initiative. So that even farmers with less land can take advantage of modern technology. Bamboo is now included in the 'grass' category and subsidies are being provided for its cultivation through MNREGA. Farmers have given their consent for bamboo cultivation on about 8,000 acres in Satara district. The work of Bondarwadi Dam will be promoted, efforts will be made to bring good industries to Satara MIDC, and the scheme 'Sediment-free Dam, Silt-filled Shivar' will also be implemented on priority, he said.

Adequate stock of petroleum products in the state; Government takes comprehensive measures to ensure smooth LPG supply

Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai, Date 6: The number of PNG connections in the state has reached 25.36 lakhs and 73 thousand new connections have been given in a month. The decision to grant 'Deemed Permission' for CGD pipeline will give impetus to network expansion. In the places where the PNG network has reached, consumers need to register for it. In the areas where it is not possible to lay the PNG pipeline, LPG supply will continue as usual and the supply of LPG, petrol and diesel is going on smoothly in Maharashtra, informed Additional Chief Secretary of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department Anil Diggykar. Additional Chief Secretary Diggykar gave this information at a press conference organized in the ministry. On this occasion, Ration Controller Chandrakant Dange, Principal Secretary and Director General of Directorate of Information and Public Relations Brijesh Singh, Director General of 'PIB' Smita Vats-Sharma, Oil Producer State Coordinator Umesh Kulkarni, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Agriculture Director Sunil Borkar and other concerned were present. Although the current geopolitical tension in the Middle East has put some pressure on the supply chain of petroleum products, the supply in the state is smooth, Additional Chief Secretary Diggykar said that the use of PNG will be increased wherever possible. Where pipeline gas supply is possible, PNG is mandatory in those places till June 30 and in those areas where laying of PNG pipeline is not possible, LPG supply will continue as usual. Its use should be increased in those areas where PNG connection is available and from the point of view of consumers, PNG is cheaper and its domestic production is higher. Additional Chief Secretary Diggykar said that consumers should register wherever the PNG network has



reached. Around 8,100 petrol pumps are being serviced through about 24 oil depots in the state and about 18,500 KL petrol and 40,000 KL diesel are being distributed daily. There is no fuel shortage as the sales between April 1 and 4 are also in line with the average of the previous months. Controller of Expenditures Mr. Dange said that around 2,200 distributors and 3.5 crore consumers are being served through 23 bottling plants in the state. Adequate stock of domestic LPG cylinders is available and an average of 5.82 lakh refills are being distributed daily. DAC (Delivery Authentication Code) has been made mandatory to make the distribution transparent. Consumers have been urged to book through digital platforms only and currently 95 percent of bookings are being done online. Booking interval restrictions have been imposed for fair distribution. The distribution of commercial LPG has been increased in phases. 100 percent supply has been maintained for essential services sectors, while 70 percent supply has been maintained for departments like defense, railways, police. 20 percent to 50 percent supply is being provided to industries and other sectors. As per the instructions of the Central Government, an additional 20 percent has been allocated on priority to hotels, restaurants, industrial canteens, food processing industries

etc. Vigilance teams have been formed across the state to check the black market of domestic gas. 3,628 cylinders have been seized under 14,329 checks/raids between March 1 and April 6. 21 transport vehicles have been seized and 2 gas capsules/tankers have also been seized during the operation. The total quantity of LPG gas seized is 71,565.14 kg. 53 cases (FIRs) have been registered in these cases and 36 people have been arrested. The total estimated value of gas and vehicles seized in this entire operation is Rs 2 crore 38 lakh 54 thousand 493. Control rooms have been set up at the state, division, district and taluka levels. A WhatsApp number 9769919221 has been announced for complaints regarding LPG supply. 2,409 complaints have been received between March 17 and April 6 and action is being taken on them. A state-level committee is functioning to monitor fuel supply and a review meeting is being held daily since March 8. It has been made mandatory for the district administration and oil companies to submit stock reports by 1 pm every day. Orders have been given to provide police protection to ensure smooth LPG transportation and distribution. Action will be taken against rumors on social media and instructions have been given to provide regular information through the media. Also, 3744 kiloliters of kerosene received from the central government has been distributed district-wise and there

are instructions to distribute 3 liters per family. Also, the process of implementing the "Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026" in the state is underway. Controller Ration Distribution and Director Civil Supplies Chandrakant Dange has been appointed as the state-level nodal officer to handle the situation related to petroleum supply. The government has implemented multi-faceted measures to ensure smooth supply of petroleum products in the state, and it was appealed to the citizens to remain calm and not believe in rumors. Director of Agriculture Sunil Borkar said that a total allocation of 48.80 lakh metric tons of fertilizers has been approved in the state for the Kharif season 2026 and currently about 52 percent of the stock is available. Due to low demand in the months of April-May, the stock will increase further and it is estimated that 55-60 percent of the fertilizer will be available at the beginning of the season. To ensure smooth supply of fertilizers, the Center and the State It is estimated that the demand for fertilizers will increase. Planning has been done at the central and state levels to ensure smooth supply of fertilizers. It has also been decided to keep a stock of urea and DAP to avoid shortages. Strict action is being taken to prevent black marketing, hoarding and bogus sales, and Borkar also appealed to farmers to use alternative fertilizers.

Man Brutally Murders Wife and 8-Year-Old Daughter with Axe

Coffee Table
News Network

Dharashiv: A horrifying incident has come to light from Beradwadi village in Umarga taluka, where a man allegedly murdered his wife and his eight-year-old daughter by attacking them with an axe. The brutal double murder has created panic and outrage across the area. The accused, identified as Ajit Annappa Vasudev, later surrendered himself at Murum Police Station in the early hours of Tuesday and confessed to the crime. The



deceased have been identified as Limbabai Ajit Vasudev and her daughter Mansi (8). According to preliminary information, the accused reached Murum Police Station around 2:00 am and informed the police that he had killed his wife and

daughter with an axe. Following his confession, police immediately rushed to the crime scene in Beradwadi. A police team, including Sub-Divisional Police Officer Shelar and Murum Police Station officer Sandeep Dahiphale,

conducted a detailed panchnama of the scene. Both bodies have been taken into custody and sent to the Government Hospital in Murum for post-mortem examination. The exact motive behind this gruesome act is still unclear. Considering the seriousness of the case, Superintendent of Police Ritu Khokar visited Murum Police Station and is personally supervising the investigation. Police have launched a thorough probe into the matter.

Attack on procession in Goregaon, Mumbai, bulldozer brought to demolish houses of rioters, 8 arrested by police

Coffee Table
News Network

Mumbai Goregaon: Big news has come to light regarding the clash between two groups in the Dindoshi Santosh Nagar area of Goregaon East, Mumbai. Action has been taken against the rioters in this incident. On behalf of the Mumbai Metropolitan Municipality (BMC), demolition action is being taken through JCB on the unauthorized houses of the rioters in the Dindoshi Santosh Nagar area. It is being said that this action is being taken after the municipal administration received a complaint that these houses are unauthorized. At this time, a large contingent of municipal officials, employees and police have been deployed at this place. Currently, there is tense peace in the area. Goregaon Rioters: During the demolition action through JCB on the unauthorized houses of the rioters, a clash broke out during the procession of Mariamma Devi in the



Dindoshi Santosh Nagar area yesterday (April 5) evening. After this dispute between the two groups, a stormy clash took place. It is reported that three to four people were seriously injured in this clash and many others were injured. Meanwhile, Dindoshi police have arrested 8 people in this case at midnight. It is reported that this incident took place near Jyoti Bar and Restaurant in Santosh Nagar area. In the same way, now a bulldozer is being driven on the unauthorized house of the accused who attacked the procession of Mariamma Mata. After this, the municipality took decisive action through JCB today. Last evening, the procession of Mariamma Mata was taken out in this area. Since the song of Ram was being played loudly in this procession, another group opposed it. After this, another group attacked the Hindu procession with swords and iron rods. Three Bajrang Dal workers have been seriously injured in this. All of them are undergoing treatment at Jogeshwari Trauma Care Hospital. This information was given by Bajrang Dal Konkan Province Co-

Convener Gautam Rawaria. However, if this action is being taken just for show, Bajrang Dal workers have warned that they will sit on the agitation again. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena Thackeray group local MLA Sunil Prabhu reacted on the same issue and said that this action is right. He also said that action will be taken against the guilty. Meanwhile, Bajrang Dal workers have alleged that the police created a riot in the Santosh Nagar area of Dindoshi yesterday. A heated argument broke out between Bajrang Dal workers and the police. This time, the workers became aggressive over mass recitation of Hanuman Chalisa at the same place where the procession was attacked. However, the police are convincing them to remove the Hanuman Chalisa, as there is a possibility of law and order breakdown there again. However, the Bajrang Dal worker is adamant on his decision and as a result, there is a storm of confusion among the police.

Editorial...

War worries over industry

Industry bodies' warnings of reverse migration of labour highlights the need for relief to MSMEs. The disruptions due to the West Asia war has evoked fears of a repeat of pandemic-era disruptions. The government has done well to dispel such fears. There is no reason to believe India will impose a lockdown like during the pandemic. So far, the mitigation measures have been limited to a rationing of gas supplies. Currently, India is better placed than most emerging markets on this count. However, the war's supply shock seems to have triggered a reverse migration of Indian workers, though not at the pandemic scale. Most anecdotal accounts suggest that this is happening because the working-class migrant cohort cannot source LPG for their kitchens. Hard data is difficult to procure, but intuition suggests that most of them had been buying LPG from the informal market. With a supply crunch, this option is either unavailable or prohibitively expensive, so much so that it makes more financial sense for these workers to return to their villages — where non-LPG cooking options still exist — rather than spend their meagre incomes on cooking fuel. Industry bodies such as CII and the India SME Forum, speaking on behalf of MSMEs — they are the mainstay of industrial

employment in India — are now confirming what started as anecdotal reporting about the problem. For industries that were already suffering from, or bracing for a supply-side disruption of inputs from the larger petrochemical economy, potential labour shortage is a double-whammy. As far as the government is concerned, it adds another problem to the list of many that need to be tackled. It has already taken steps to provide relief to MSMEs when US tariffs disrupted business and announced some measures because of supply-demand disruptions on account of the war. Oil companies can claim that they are hard-pressed to serve formal LPG consumers, and it is they who have the first right to cylinders. The solutions being advocated currently, such as getting PNG connections, will not work for such labour, which perhaps stays in slum or slum-like dwellings. The costs of inaction would be substantial. The only way is for the government, locally elected representatives, civil society and industry bodies to come together and provide relief to workers immediately. This is one thing which India's migrant workers did not get adequately during the pandemic lockdown. Do not blame them for being paranoid and leaving urban centres once again.

Who makes it to the candidate list in TN

No major political party in the two dominant political alliances in Tamil Nadu has given a ticket to a Brahmin candidate this season. The AIADMK, once seen by the community as a favourable platform despite its avowed allegiance to Periyar EV Ramaswami and ideals of the Dravidian Movement, has no Brahmin candidates in its list, a first in 35 years. More surprisingly, the AIADMK's NDA ally, the BJP, too, has followed the Dravidian parties and picked nominees from non-Brahmin communities for its allotted 27 seats. This absence is stark because the Brahmin community has been the most voluble supporter of the BJP in the state, championing its cause at every available platform. Uncharacteristically, Vijay's TVK and Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi have picked Brahmins as candidates, even though both subscribe to the Tamil nationalist plank established by the Dravidian majors. The pattern reveals that electoral politics in the state continues to view non-Brahminism as an essential part of social justice politics. For sure, the

demography works against Brahmins: They constitute just about 3% of Tamil Nadu's population, reside mostly in the cities, and mainly work as professionals. In recent times, the community by and large seems to have shifted allegiance to the BJP, particularly since the demise of J Jayalalithaa, a Brahmin, in 2016. With the DMK reviving the rhetoric on its Dravidian inheritance to staunch the BJP's growth, the foundational norms of the movement have found a second wind. Periyar used anti-Brahmin sentiment to popularise ideas of social justice and representation and forced the community to go on the defensive in the political arena. Though the Dravidian parties have turned transactional in their practice, they continue to see Periyar as their guiding light. This framework remains influential across parties, which prefer communities from numerically powerful non-Brahmin groups that negotiate hard for representation in a state where caste is coterminous with the Dravidian identity, despite the polity itself undergoing a major churn.

Buffering the blow: Policy responses amid the war

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News Network

New Delhi's challenge is twofold: Safeguard macroeconomic stability in the near term and continue building deeper structural resilience for a more fragmented global geopolitical landscape. The West Asia conflict shows no signs of an immediate resolution even after over a month, leaving global markets preoccupied with three imponderables: How long the conflict will last, how severe it may become, and what the new normal might look like once it ends. Much of the global commentary has focused on projecting oil price paths as a shorthand for these uncertainties. Yet the impact of this conflict extends well beyond energy prices. Its multidimensional nature has prompted countries to respond through varied strategies—administrative interventions, fiscal buffers, monetary adjustments, and, in some cases, simply relying on market-driven price adjustments. Oil price shocks have repeatedly tested the world economy in the past. Real oil prices tripled during the 1973 crisis and doubled again in 1978-79. By contrast, the recent increase—roughly 50%—appears modest. Still, the International Energy Agency has described the current episode as "the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market."

Unlike earlier episodes driven primarily by price spikes, the present challenge stems from physical supply shortages in oil and, more critically, natural gas. This distinction between price-driven and quantity-driven shocks is essential when drawing lessons from historical precedents. In this context, India is relatively better positioned than several Asian peers. One important reason is that natural gas accounts for only about 3% of India's electricity generation. Thailand and Bangladesh rely on gas for more than 60% of their power needs, while Malaysia, Japan, and South Korea derive roughly a third of their electricity from it. Since the current disruption has been more acute in natural gas than in crude oil, countries with a heavier gas dependency face significantly greater vulnerabilities. A second advantage for India is its status as a net exporter of petrol and diesel, with one of the largest net long diesel positions globally. This contrasts with countries such as the Philippines, which depends heavily on imported diesel—nearly 30% of which previously came from China, a country that has now halted exports of refined petroleum products. These two factors have helped insulate India's two critical economic fulcrums—power supply and mobility—from immediate pressure, reducing the



likelihood of a sudden domestic growth shock. Even so, three supply-side channels may still transmit the global shock into the Indian economy—the rationalisation of LNG and LPG supplies, disruptions in petrochemical inputs, and the wider "butterfly effect" arising from congestion in maritime routes. Quantifying the precise GDP impact of these channels is extremely difficult at this stage, as the ultimate effect will depend on the duration of the conflict and the inventory positions across industries. Among these, the petrochemical channel bears close watching. The chemical and petrochemical sector accounts for nearly 7% of India's GDP and supports industries ranging from fertilisers and paints to plastics, packaging, and pharmaceuticals. With about one-fourth of petrochemical inputs imported, any sustained disruption could create meaningful downstream stress. If the conflict and its

supply disruptions persist in a severe form, demand-side pressures may also emerge. Global growth could fall by as much as one percentage point if oil prices remain above \$100 per barrel for a prolonged period. That would weigh on demand for India's exports. Moreover, West Asia accounts for 14% of India's exports and 38% of remittances, adding a layer of idiosyncratic risk from the region. On the inflation front, roughly 14% of India's consumer price index (CPI) basket is significantly influenced by global prices, half of it through energy. Since the government has opted to keep retail fuel prices unchanged—absorbing the shock through excise duty reductions—the inflationary impact is expected to be delayed. Should oil prices remain above \$100 per barrel for three consecutive months, our estimates suggest an upside risk of 50-75 basis points to the FY27 average CPI forecast of 4%. Even in such a

scenario, headline CPI is unlikely to breach the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%. This relatively contained inflation trajectory offers the central bank the space to pause and observe, particularly since monetary policy is seldom the most effective tool to address transient supply shocks. The government's immediate response has focused on easing supply bottlenecks and reallocating scarce energy resources to priority sectors. India has been able to avoid demand-curtailed measures thanks to its relative comfort in electricity generation and transport fuels. Nonetheless, insulating the economy from imported inflation will likely carry a fiscal cost—especially in fuel and fertiliser subsidies—an issue that bond markets have already begun to reflect. We believe that it is too early to quantify this cost as the government might have some levers to offset the impact too. The external sector remains the most

immediate source of macroeconomic stress. India has recorded balance-of-payments deficits in both FY25 and FY26. Every \$10/bbl rise in crude oil prices widens the current account deficit by \$12-15 billion, with additional pressures from higher coal and fertiliser prices. With global capital flows likely to remain cautious, a third consecutive balance-of-payments (BoP) deficit in FY27 cannot be ruled out. The rupee's roughly 2% post-conflict depreciation is better than most other emerging markets, but further policy intervention may be needed to place a stable floor under the currency if external pressures persist. Managing excessive market volatility—and preventing domestic markets from amplifying global shocks—will likely remain the policy priority for now. As the world waits for the geopolitical dust to settle, India's policy challenge is twofold: Safeguard macroeconomic stability in the near term and continue building deeper structural resilience for a more fragmented global geopolitical landscape. The next step, inevitably, will be strengthening buffers that allow India to navigate an increasingly uncertain external environment with confidence. Samiran Chakraborty is managing director and chief economist, India, Citigroup. The views expressed are personal.

Welcome to Naxal-free India!

Over the years, movement drifted from its goal and became a severe law and order problem

Coffee Table
News Network

I was much depressed in May 2013 when my senior friend VC Shukla was riddled with Naxalites' bullets in Chhattisgarh. He was my friend and a sports administrator having been head of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and of the SNIPES. He is credited with the creation of new state of Chhattisgarh. Lakhs and lakhs of tribals in India's remote areas, police officials and paramilitary forces, besides forest staff across many states must be happy that Naxalism is history in India. So am I. They must salute Union home minister Amit Shah and the right-wing BJP for stamping out Left wing terrorism. The firm political resolve of the Union home ministry led by Shah has earned India a rare feat in many decades. The deadline of 31st March 2026 before which Naxalites had been asked to surrender or face bullets is achieved. Stamping out the red ultras from dense forests of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and



Madhya Pradesh was never an easy task. But consistent efforts, backed by multiple strategies and support by states, has proved that the government at the Centre could do what seemed impossible a decade back. End of Naxalism has proved that if political will is strong, major challenges can be overcome. While the government is passing through unprecedented criticism on different fronts from unemployment to upper caste ire - this marvelous achievement should give the Naxal socio-political problem has been sorted out and development of backward areas ensured. Shah must be congratulated in no uncertain terms. Opposition has a chance to smile and congratulate the Modi government. This is a victory of

positive regulatory governance which people seek from an elected government. The movement, which began from West Bengal (Naxalbari uprising) in the late 60s, was seen to be against extortionist officials who would fleece poor tribals and farm labourers across the states. The movement believed that forest contractors, field officers of revenue and police departments extort money from the tribals. It was called the People's War then. Sadly, over the years, the movement drifted from its goal and became a severe law and order problem. At the height of Maoist conflict with the security agencies, there were more than 175 districts which reeled under the scare of Naxalites and thus remained

backward. BJP adopted a strategy of development of backward areas and also used bullets when needed but not before dialogue. The twin strategy ensured a phenomenal and decisive success. Hundreds of kilometres of pucca roads were built in the affected areas and over 550 police stations were established where none could dare to enter. In 2025 alone, 320 Naxalites were neutralised, including top leaders. In the absence of black-top bitumen roads, Naxalites used to easily lay landmines and trigger blasts to kill people. Chhattisgarh, part of the erstwhile larger state of MP, remained the worst affected regions of the red corridor. Even a tribal Cabinet minister Likhiram Kawre

in Balaghat was killed in 1999 by Naxals who slit his throat when Digvijaya Singh was the chief minister in undivided MP. When Chhattisgarh was carved out as a smaller state, along with Uttarakhand and Jharkhand in the year 2000, Bastar was the dangerous hotspot of the Naxal activities. Old Bastar was among the largest districts of the country, comparable to Belgium. It has been divided into many districts now and the entire forested region has developed a lot. Among many attacks on forces, two stand out as worst killings. As many as 76 personnel of CRPF were killed in 2010 in Dantewada when BJP's Raman Singh was the CM. Another gruesome incident in Jhiram valley of Sukma in May 2013 witnessed an Indian National Congress convoy being targeted and party leaders slain by Maoists, killing state Congress president Nand Kumar Patel and others. It saw towering leader Shukla grievously injured and later succumb to injuries in a hospital. In all, 27 politicians were killed in that attack. The Naxalites

had also abducted Sukma district collector Alex Paul in 2012, and MP's former chief secretary Nirmala Buch and BD Sharma, an exemplary IAS officer who had empathies for the downtrodden, unlike today's bureaucrats, worked over time as interlocutors for the government to get Paul successfully released after many parleys with Naxalites. Year 2026 is the time to celebrate the humungous achievement. A nagging socio-political problem has been sorted out and development of backward areas ensured. Shah must be congratulated in no uncertain terms. I strongly feel that if Modi-Shah duo can deal with a complex social challenge, we can expect them to aggressively root out corruption which has pervaded almost all districts of India. It is equally insidious problem eating into India. It is there everywhere in Mumbai, Gandhinagar, Pune, Guwahati, Dehradun, Chandigarh, Patna and Indore. Will they oblige India, sorry, Bharat?

Leema Rose, 'lottery king's' wife, richest in fray with Rs 1,000cr assets

Coffee Table News Network

NEW DELHI: Leema Rose, wife of "Lottery King" Santiago Martin, filed her nomination from the Lalgudi constituency as an AIADMK candidate on Monday, ANI reported. With declared assets exceeding Rs 1,049 crore, she is the richest candidate in the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections 2026. According to her election affidavit, Leema Rose reported an income of Rs 9.82 crore for 2024-25. Her husband Santiago Martin declared an income of Rs 11.39 crore, while their son Jose Daison Martin reported Rs 19.56 crore, ANI said. The affidavit shows that Leema Rose owns movable assets worth Rs 139.62 crore and immovable assets valued at Rs 909.94 crore. Santiago Martin's movable and immovable assets stand at Rs 3,262.01 crore and Rs 887.36



crore respectively, while Jose Daison Martin has movable assets of Rs 225.56 crore and immovable assets of Rs 439.21 crore, according to ANI. Leema Rose's educational qualification is Class VI. Her nomination comes amid an intense political campaign in Tamil Nadu ahead of polling scheduled for April 23, with results set to be announced on May 4, ANI reported. The main contest is expected between the DMK-led

Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA), which includes Congress, DMDK and VCK, and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by AIADMK with BJP and PMK as allies. Actor-turned-politician Vijay is set to make his electoral debut with TVK, potentially turning the election into a three-way contest, ANI added. On Sunday, union minister and BJP Tamil Nadu election in-charge Piyush Goyal expressed confidence

that the NDA will form the next government in the state. "A superb campaign has started. Tomorrow, all our candidates will be filing nominations and there is a lot of enthusiasm on the ground," Goyal said. "We will certainly defeat anti-Tamil Nadu, anti-India forces of DMK and Congress and NDA will emerge victorious, forming the next government in Tamil Nadu and serving the people with welfare and development."

New Mumbai Metro link unlocked: CM Fadnavis flags off Phase-1 of Line-9 at Kashigaon

Coffee Table News Network

Chief Minister (CM) Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday inaugurated the much-awaited Phase-1 of Mumbai Metro Line-9 at Kashigaon, giving a major boost to commuters in the Mira-Bhayandar region. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, and Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde were also present at the inauguration ceremony. The first phase of the elevated Metro Line-9 spans 4.7 km and includes four stations: Dahisar East, Pandurangwadi, Miragaon, and Kashigaon. This new stretch provides seamless connectivity from the Mira Road area to Metro Line-7 at Dahisar East, enabling commuters to travel directly towards Andheri East and further to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport via Line-7A. The full Metro Line-9 corridor is planned as a 10.5 km elevated route with eight stations up to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Garden in Mira Bhayandar. Phase-1 marks the



beginning of significantly improved public transport for the rapidly expanding Mira-Bhayandar belt. The revised timetable focuses on reducing waiting time and enhancing commuter convenience. - Peak hour frequency will range from around 5.5 to 6 minutes- Non-peak frequency will range from 8 to 10 minutes- More trips will be operated across all corridors. Officials said this will help manage increasing passenger demand and reduce crowding. Seamless interchange: Commuters can switch to Metro Line-7 and Line-2A at Dahisar East without exiting the station, making travel to Andheri East

and the airport hassle-free. Traffic relief: The new line is expected to divert 20-30 per cent of road commuters to the metro, reducing congestion at Dahisar Toll Plaza by 10-15 per cent during peak hours. Time savings: Residents of Kashigaon and nearby areas will enjoy significantly shorter travel times to key hubs, benefiting daily office-goers and students. Multimodal integration: The metro will integrate smoothly with buses, autorickshaws, and other metro lines, reducing dependence on private vehicles. The metro line promotes green mobility through electric operations, regenerative braking, energy-efficient station design, and lower

carbon emissions. Stations are equipped with lifts, escalators, CCTV surveillance, modern signage, tactile paths, and barrier-free access for inclusive travel. Officials highlighted that the project will offer safe, comfortable, and faster travel while helping reduce traffic congestion and pollution in the eastern suburbs. This development is part of the Maharashtra government's larger infrastructure push to strengthen Mumbai's suburban connectivity. Commercial operations on the new stretch are expected to begin shortly after the inauguration.

Mamata Banerjee claims names of people belonging to 'specific communities' deleted from voter rolls

Coffee Table News Network

NEW DELHI: West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday accused authorities of selectively removing names from the state's voter rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise ahead of the forthcoming assembly

elections. Addressing a rally in Chakdaha in Nadia district, Mamata said the TMC would support individuals whose names were excluded from the electoral register after the latest revision process. According to the Election Commission, nearly 91 lakh voters have been deleted from the rolls in West Bengal as part of the post-SIR update, news agency PTI

reported. The CM claimed a large number of names had been reinstated after her interventions in the Supreme Court. "Following her intervention in the Supreme Court, around 32 lakh names out of nearly 60 lakh cases under 'adjudication' had been restored," she said, indicating that nearly half of the disputed entries were put back

on the rolls following legal action. The chief minister further alleged that "names were being removed from official records by targeting specific communities," suggesting that the deletions were not random but aimed at particular groups. The West Bengal assembly polls are scheduled in two phases, with voting on April 23 and April 29, and counting of votes set for May 4.

Air India fares set to rise from April 8 as fuel surcharge hiked amid Iran war

The Air India group on Tuesday announced a revision in its fuel surcharge structure across both domestic and international routes, citing a sharp surge in global jet fuel prices. The changes will come into effect from April 8, 2026, including flights operated by Air India Express. For domestic travel, the airline has shifted from a flat fuel surcharge to a distance-based grid system, aligning with the government's decision to cap Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price hikes at 25 per cent. The move follows directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, aiming to balance rising operational costs while limiting the impact on passengers. On international routes, however, the absence of similar regulatory relief has led to more significant increases in fuel surcharges. Fuel surcharge per



passengerAccording to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), global jet fuel prices have nearly doubled, rising from USD 99.40 per barrel at the end of February to USD 195.19 per barrel for the week ending March 27, 2026. Airlines are also grappling with a sharp rise in refining margins, or 'crack spread', which has surged from USD

27.83 to USD 81.44 per barrel within three weeks—further intensifying cost pressures. Despite the revision, Air India stated that the updated surcharges do not fully offset the steep increase in fuel prices, and the airline will continue to absorb a significant portion of the additional costs. The airline clarified that tickets issued before April 8 will not be affected, unless passengers make changes to their travel dates or itineraries that require fare recalculation. Air India also said that surcharge revisions for routes to and from

geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region. Earlier, from March 12, Air India had introduced a fuel surcharge of Rs 399 on domestic flights, while also rolling out phased increases on international routes, citing escalating ATF costs. The airline had clarified that passengers holding existing tickets would not be impacted unless they opted to modify their travel plans. On March 10, the airline had highlighted that ATF, which constitutes nearly 40 per cent of an airline's operating expenses, witnessed a significant surge due to supply disruptions. In India, the situation is further aggravated by steep excise duty and value-added tax (VAT) on ATF in key metro cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, adding pressure on airline operating margins.

| Distance Band (km) | Revised Fuel Surcharge | Effective From |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0-500 | INR 299 | |
| 501-1000 | INR 399 | 0901 Hrs IST of 08 April 2026 |
| 1001-1500 | INR 549 | |
| 1501-2000 | INR 749 | |
| 2000+ | INR 899 | |
| Distance Band (km) | Revised Fuel Surcharge | Effective From |
| 0-500 | INR 299 | |
| 501-1000 | INR 399 | 0901 Hrs IST of 08 April 2026 |
| 1001-1500 | INR 549 | |
| 1501-2000 | INR 749 | |
| 2000+ | INR 899 | |

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Sajjadanashin Of Dargah & Mutawalli Of Waqf Not Same

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The Supreme Court recently reiterated that the office of a Sajjadanashin of a Dargah is fundamentally distinct from that of a Mutawalli of a Waqf, emphasizing that the former is primarily a spiritual position while the latter is a secular administrative role. A Bench of Justice M.M. Sundresh and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi made this observation while deciding a dispute concerning succession to the office of Sajjadanashin of a Dargah in Karnataka. The Bench observed: "The office of the mutawalli and Sajjadanashin cannot be said to be one and the same in view of the aforesaid discussion. Sajjadanashin of a Waqf can also discharge the function of its Mutawalli, if appointed under Section 32(2)(g) of the Waqf Act of 1995, however, Mutawalli under Section 32(2)(g) cannot function as a Sajjadanashin but can only perform the duties as prescribed under the Act and the Rules. Sajjadanashin is the spiritual head of

Waqf and declaration of Sajjadanashin is a religious affair, however, role of Mutawalli of a Waqf only pertains to the administration and management of the Waqf. The Court was considering the issue of succession to the office of Sajjadanashin of Hazarat Akhil Shah Quadri Dargah situated at Channapattana. Respondent No.1 therein argued that the Civil Court lacked subject matter jurisdiction, as the property was a notified Waqf and the issue fell in the domain of the Waqf Tribunal. The High Court, on considering the aspects, set aside the lower Court decisions, noting that the power to appoint Sajjadanashin of a notified Waqf institution was with the Waqf hearing the parties, the Supreme Court held that the office of Mutawalli is not the same as office of Sajjadanashin. It was observed that the issue pertained to appointment of Sajjadanashin of a Dargah, not Mutawalli, and the High Court erred in setting aside the lower Court decisions for lack of jurisdiction. In

conclusion, the Supreme Court set aside the High Court decision and restored those of the lower Courts. The matter was remitted back to the High Court for consideration on merits, with a request for expeditious disposal (preferably in 9 months). The bench noted that succession to religious offices is ordinarily governed by custom, usage or nomination by the incumbent. In the case of Muslim religious institutions, it said, the Supreme Court has recognized that offices of Sajjadanashin or Mutawalli may devolve in accordance with established customs of the institution, including nomination by the predecessor rather than strict lines of inheritance. The bench also decided a connected appeal pertaining to succession to the office of Sajjadanashin of the Hazarath Mardane-Gaib Dargah, Shivasamudram, located in Chamarajanagar District, Karnataka. The original Sajjadanashin appointed his eldest son as his successor, however,



the latter pre-deceased his father. Thereafter, as per a Khilafatnama of 1981, the original Sajjadanashin appointed respondent No.1 - his grandson (late son's son) - as the successor. In 1988, the original Sajjadanashin passed away and respondent No.1 took office. However, a rival claim was raised by the appellant, the original Sajjadanashin's youngest son, based on a General Power of Attorney, a handwritten Khilafatnama, etc. The Courts below passed decrees in favor of respondent No.1-Syed Mohammed Adil Pasha Khadri and declared him as the lawful Sajjadanashin of the Dargah. They held in favor of respondent No.1 on

the ground that the office was hereditary in nature. The appellant's regular appeals and regular second appeals were rejected by the appellate court/High Court. The High Court agreed that the succession was hereditary in nature and governed by nomination. It further observed that the 1981 Khilafatnama was duly proved, while the documents relied upon by the

appellant did not confer Sajjadanashin-ship. Aggrieved, the appellant approached the Supreme Court, which directed status quo in 2009. Vide the present judgment, on examining the material and hearing the parties, the Supreme Court did not find force in the appellant's submission that the 1981 Khilafatnama was a fabricated document. It

observed that though the word "Sajjadanashin" was not expressly used in the document, it conveyed the original Sajjadanashin's intention to confer his spiritual authority onto respondent No.1. The Court also rejected the appellant's submissions regarding succession devolving only upon a living son, for lack of material. On the contrary, the Court observed, there was material before the Courts below to support nomination of a successor by the incumbent Sajjadanashin. Insofar as the appellant's reliance on a GPA, the Court held, "a document which merely authorises another person to act on behalf of the executant cannot be construed as

conferring succession to a spiritual office such as that of a Sajjadanashin." Notably, the appellant also contended that recognition of the respondent no. 1 as Sajjadanashin would extinguish the rights of other family members or stakeholders in the Waqf property. In this regard, the Court said, "The recognition of one individual as Sajjadanashin does not determine or extinguish the independent legal rights of other beneficiaries under Wakf law." Ultimately, it was held that no question of law arose before the High Court and the Court dismissed the appellant's appeal. The interim orders (for status quo) were vacated.

Supreme Court nine-judge bench begins review hearing of Sabarimala temple entry case

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The Supreme Court has commenced hearing in the long-pending Sabarimala temple entry review along with a batch of connected matters, which raise significant constitutional questions concerning the scope of religious freedom, the doctrine of essential religious practices and the limits of judicial intervention in matters of faith, reported ANI. The nine-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and comprising of Justices Joymalya Bagchi, B. V. Nagarathna, R. Mahadevan, M. M. Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A. G. Masih and Prasanna B. Varale, will examine issues including -- the scope and ambit of the right to freedom of religion under Article 25; the interplay between individual rights under Article 25 and denominational rights under Article 26; whether Article 26 rights are subject to other provisions of Part III beyond public order, morality and health; the meaning and extent of "morality" under Articles 25 and 26, including whether it encompasses constitutional morality; the scope of judicial review over



religious practices; the interpretation of the phrase "sections of Hindus" in Article 25(2)(b); and whether a person outside a religious denomination can challenge its practices through a public interest litigation. Earlier, in 2018, a Constitution Bench of the apex court permitted the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, striking down the centuries-old practice that barred women between the ages of 10 and 50, reported ANI. According to ANI, on November 14, 2019, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, by a 3:2 majority, held that the issues arising in the review petitions against the Sabarimala judgment were not confined to the temple alone, but raised broader and recurring questions of constitutional

interpretation concerning the interplay between the right to equality and the right to freedom of religion. The Court identified a set of overlapping constitutional issues that also arose in other pending matters. These included: (i) the permissibility of restricting the entry of Muslim women into mosques, particularly the challenge to practices that bar women from offering prayers in certain Islamic places of worship; (ii) the validity of the practice of Female Genital Mutilation among the Dawoodi Bohra community, examined in light of dignity and essential religious practices and (iii) the rights of Parsi women who marry outside the community to enter Parsi Fire Temples. Subsequently, a nine-judge Constitution Bench on February 10, 2020, upheld the decision of the Sabarimala Review

Bench to refer to a larger Bench broad questions concerning the interplay between essential religious practices, equality, and constitutional morality across faiths, reported ANI. In February 2026, the top court had, while fixing a schedule for the hearings, noted, "A nine-judge bench shall commence hearing in these matters on April 7, 2026 (Tuesday) at 10:30 AM. The review petitioners or the parties supporting them shall be heard from April 7-9, April 2026. The original writ petitioners opposing the review petitioners shall be heard on April 14-16, 2026. The rejoinder submissions, if any, will be heard on April 21, 2026, followed by the final and concluding submissions by the learned amicus, which is expected to be over by April 22."

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CM Chandrababu Naidu launches AP's action plan for water security

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News Network

ANANTAPUR : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday launched a 100-day Water Security Action Plan and a dedicated mobile application at Yadiki in Tadipatri constituency, Anantapur district. The initiative, running until July 14, is designed to conserve water, recharge groundwater, and ensure sustainable irrigation across the State. Addressing a public gathering under the Jaladhara - Water Security & Responsibility of

Water Users Associations programme, Naidu declared water security as the government's foremost priority. He outlined measures such as check dams, farm ponds, micro-irrigation, desilting of canals and tanks, and projects under NTR Jalasiri. He noted that Andhra Pradesh has become the No. 1 state in micro-irrigation, with Rs 1,031 crore invested. Drip irrigation, he said, has transformed drought-prone Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub, while conservation efforts have raised

groundwater levels by 1.92 metre statewide. Naidu pointed to the Purvodaya scheme, which is expected to bring Rs 30,000 crore in Central assistance, alongside Rs 70,000 crore in investments. Projects like Handri-Neeva and Pattiseema have ensured irrigation even to tail-end lands, boosting agricultural productivity. He said the State requires 1,300 TMC of water annually, and this year alone, 74 TMC has been brought to Anantapur. Improved reservoir management will



secure both Rabi and Kharif crops, while sustaining industrial and drinking water needs. Reiterating the government's stand, Naidu declared Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. He criticised attempts by the Opposition



to 'confuse people' with alternative terms and the three-capital proposal, calling them politically motivated. He pointed out that out of 50 parties in Parliament, 49 supported Amaravati, while only one opposed it. Crowds at the event responded

with 'Jai Amaravati' slogans and placards, celebrating the Parliamentary approval that granted legal status to the capital. Former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy attended, holding an Amaravati logo, symbolising public endorsement of

the capital city. In a move to ensure transparency, the Chief Minister presented the progress report of the Tadipatri constituency and reviewed departmental performance in front of the public. He praised efficient officials as 'super achievers' and urged government employees to work in partnership with citizens for development. Naidu stressed that the government's mission is to deliver efficient, accountable governance while safeguarding public assets, ensuring law and order, and

promoting investments. He warned that those obstructing investments or creating fear among investors are harming the State's future and should be rejected by the public. Looking ahead, Naidu expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh would emerge as a leading state by 2047, supported by well-defined regional growth hubs - Visakhapatnam for North Andhra, Amaravati for the central region, and Tirupati for Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

NDA has built trust among people through good governance: Sonowal

Coffee Table
News Network

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has been at the forefront of the BJP's Assam election campaign. In an interview with TNIE, he says that he believes the NDA will be re-elected for another term. Excerpts Do you think the NDA can retain power in Assam? The mood on the ground leans clearly toward the NDA. Across the state, there is visible, spontaneous public support—one that has emanated from people who feel their lives have actually changed. Roads that reach. Schemes that land. Benefits that get credited. The NDA's core political asset is consistency. Infrastructure has been developed, while welfare schemes are in operation. People and voters remember who



delivered and who did not. NDA is not just positioned to win — it is positioned to win decisively. Can you mention three things that may work in the NDA's favour? First, good governance and welfare delivery schemes have reached people directly without leakages, which has built trust. Second, sustained peace and stability — Assam has witnessed a significant improvement in law and order, enabling development to take place. Third, infrastructure and

connectivity — from roads and bridges to railways and digital connectivity, these have transformed both urban and rural areas. We have proved the Congress model of non-performance to be wrong. Election-time announcements are a part of democratic engagement. Welfare measures aimed at supporting rural households, women and economically weaker sections are extensions of an ongoing governance approach, not a reaction to any

specific challenge. We must remember that welfare schemes like Ujjwala and PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana have been designed and implemented for the benefit of people with LPG connections, as well as to improve agricultural productivity. Could "Justice for Zubeen" and demands for ST status influence youth voting? In any election, local issues and sentiments play a role, and it is important for all stakeholders to engage with them sensitively. The culprits behind the tragic demise of Zubeen Garg will be brought to justice through the due course of law. The youth of Assam today are more aspirational and aware. They are evaluating choices based on both emotional connection and practical outcomes. Ultimately, their decision will reflect a balance of these considerations.

If House isn't safe, how will public be safe, says AAP after security breach

Coffee Table
News Network

NEW DELHI: Moments after a major security breach at Delhi Assembly, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) raised the matter of security arrangements. The party, in a statement, said that breaking through the gate and entering a high-security place like the Legislative Assembly is a serious lapse. "On one hand, elected opposition MLAs are stopped at the gate, and on the other, some vehicles drive straight inside! Continuous bomb threats, an attack on the chief minister, and now this incident—Is this what the capital's security system amounts to? Delhi Police comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs. So who will take responsibility? If the Legislative Assembly isn't safe, how will the common public be safe?" the AAP said. Calling it a major security lapse, the AAP attacked the



BJP and questioned Delhi's overall safety apparatus. AAP MLA and Chief Whip Sanjeev Jha said that if even the Assembly is not secure under BJP rule, it raises serious concerns about the safety of ordinary citizens. On Monday, Jha shared a photograph of the broken Assembly gate on the social media platform X and targeted the BJP government. "A serious

question has once again been raised over Delhi's security arrangements. A car breaking the gate and entering a high-security site like the Assembly is a grave lapse," he said. Jha further said, "On one hand, the BJP government stops elected opposition MLAs at the gate, while on the other, a vehicle manages to enter directly. Delhi has been receiving repeated

bomb threats; Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has already been attacked, and now this incident of a car breaking the Assembly gate and entering has occurred." He further said, "Since Delhi Police comes under the Union Home Ministry, who will take responsibility? If the Assembly itself is not safe, how can ordinary citizens be safe?" Sanjeev Jha concluded by questioning.

Rahul Gandhi questions Bahujan representation in public works contracts

Coffee Table
News Network

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the Modi government of fostering systemic exclusion, raising concerns over the lack of representation of 'Bahujan' entrepreneurs in major public sector contracts. The Congress leader said he questioned the government in Parliament about how much of the Rs 16,500 crore worth of public works contracts awarded last year went to businesses owned by Dalits, Adivasis, and Other Backward Classes. "Their response was deeply concerning - the government does not maintain any data regarding this matter," he said in a post in Hindi on Facebook. "The policy mandates that, under the public procurement process, 25% of purchases must be made from MSMEs, of which 4% is earmarked for Dalit and Adivasi entrepreneurs. However, when it comes to the largest and most

lucrative contracts -- public works -- the government claims that this is not 'mandatory'," Gandhi said. "This is not merely an administrative oversight. It is a deliberately engineered system of exclusion perpetuated through the Modi government's policies that undermines social and economic justice," Gandhi said. In his questions to the government in Lok Sabha on April 2, Gandhi had asked the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs about the total number and value of public works and infrastructure contracts awarded by the Central Public Works Department and under urban infrastructure schemes of the Ministry during the last five years, year-wise. He sought to know about the total number and value of such contracts awarded to enterprises owned by persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) during the last



five years, year-wise. Gandhi had also asked whether the government has met the existing sub-target of four per cent procurement from SC/ST owned businesses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor. He had also asked whether the government proposes to introduce procurement targets from OBC owned businesses and/or enhance procurement mandates for SC/ST owned enterprises in public works and infrastructure contracts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons

therefor. In his written answer to Gandhi's questions, Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu had given a year-wise number and value of public works and infrastructure contracts awarded. Sahu had said there is no existing mechanism to ascertain the contracts awarded to enterprises owned by persons belonging to SC, ST and OBC. "All the above contracts fall under Works Contract. So, no such information is available as it is not mandatory for Works contract," he had said.

Expelled Congress MLA Navjot Kaur Sidhu announces new political party

Coffee Table
News Network

Former Congress MLA Navjot Kaur Sidhu, who was expelled from the party about two months ago has announced the launch of a new political outfit named Bharatiya Rashtrawadi Party. Kaur came under fire from Punjab Congress and was suspended from the party for sparking a political row with her "Rs 500 crore for chief minister's chair" remark. She was later expelled from the party following her repeated criticism of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. Kaur, wife of ex-cricketer and former Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, announced her decision on an X post late on Monday night. Dubbing her move a "much-awaited announcement," Kaur shared a picture of her along with another person with the party banner -- Bharatiya



Rashtrawadi Party -- in the background. "The much-awaited announcement: We have been working on a new alternative at a national level after carefully monitoring and reviewing the current standards of performance of political leaders," Kaur's post read. "Just wanting to dedicate our lives to our country, giving back to the people what they truly deserve and expect from us. A divine intervention, which just put together some like-minded individuals who just have the ability, confidence, courage and

determination to work on each state with the common goal to provide justice and peace, and through love work with the energy of higher consciousness and deliver just what Waheguru Ji desires from us," she wrote. Kaur further said she will lead Punjab to achieve its long-lost glory of being a Golden State, "where people just know about the power of love, sharing, justice, freedom and working with a purpose of selfless service and spiritual growth to attain their goal, values and vision without any outside

interference." Kaur was elected an MLA from Amritsar East in 2012 on a BJP ticket and had also served as chief parliamentary secretary (health). She joined the Congress along with her husband ahead of the 2017 assembly polls. Kaur had been attacking Punjab Congress chief Warring, accusing him of "damaging" the state unit and calling him "the most horrific, incapable and corrupt president ever." She had also launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. On February 6, Congress general secretary in charge of Punjab, Bhupesh Baghel, announced that Kaur had been expelled from the party. Meanwhile, the role of her husband Navjot Singh Sidhu remains unclear in the new political party as some political observers suggest that he may focus on his career in the showbiz industry and cricket commentator carrier.

Did US use F-15E rescue op as cover to seize uranium? Iran claims 'deception mission'

Coffee Table
News Network

Iran on Monday alleged that the United States rescue mission for the second downed F-15E crew member may have concealed a broader covert objective, claiming it could possibly have been a cover to "steal enriched uranium" from within the country, even as Washington described the operation carried out deep inside Iranian territory as a complex intelligence-led extraction and as "one of the most daring search and rescue operations in US history". The remarks came after US President Donald Trump said a second crew member of an F-15E fighter jet shot down over Iran had been safely recovered in what he described as a "daring" search-and-rescue operation. Iran's military dismissed the mission as "a deception and escape mission", insisting it



had been "completely foiled". Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said there were "many questions and uncertainties" surrounding the operation, AFP reported. "The area where the American pilot was claimed to be present in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province is a long way from the area where they attempted to land or wanted to land their forces in central Iran," Baqaei said. "The possibility that this was a deception operation to steal

enriched uranium should not be ignored at all." Iranian authorities also said several US aircraft were hit during the mission and forced to make emergency landings in Isfahan province, adding that the US resorted to heavy bombardment of the downed jet. US officials, however, have described the operation as a complex intelligence-led rescue. According to an NBC News report, the Central Intelligence Agency carried out a covert "deception campaign"

to mislead Iranian forces while locating the missing crew member. "While the Iranians were confused and uncertain of what was happening, the Agency used its unique, exquisite capabilities to search for -- and find -- the American," a senior US official said. The F-15E Strike Eagle had gone down over Iran on Friday amid the escalating conflict between Iran, the US, and Israel that has entered its second month.

'Bleeding profusely, hiding in crevice':

Trump discloses details of daring rescue of downed US pilot in Iran

Coffee Table
News Network

US President Donald Trump on Monday revealed dramatic new details of the daring rescue of the second downed member of an F-15E crew in Iran, describing how the severely injured Air Force officer survived nearly 48 hours behind what he called "enemy lines" before being extracted in one of the most complex missions in recent US history. The officer, a colonel known by the call sign "Dude Bravo 44", was part of a downed F-15E Strike Eagle crew. While the pilot was quickly recovered near Isfahan, the weapons systems officer landed a significant distance away and remained stranded in hostile terrain, The New York Post reported. Trump said the airman was "injured quite seriously" and "bleeding profusely" as he evaded capture in an area "teeming with terrorists" from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Despite his condition, the officer climbed to higher ground — a survival tactic — and treated his own wounds while hiding in a crevice. "He was injured quite badly and stranded," Trump said, praising his "absolute commitment to surviving". At one



point, the colonel transmitted a brief message, "God is good," a US defence official told Axios. Trump told Axios it "sounded like something a Muslim would say", referencing "Allahu Akbar", or "God is great", before US forces determined the message was genuine and not a trap. The rescue mission that followed was described by Trump as "one of the most complex" ever undertaken. He said 155 aircraft, including bombers, fighters, refuelling tankers and rescue units were deployed in a coordinated effort involving deception tactics and low-altitude flying under threat of enemy fire. John Ratcliffe said intelligence operations helped "confuse the Iranians who were desperately hunting for our airman",

likening the effort to finding "a single same grain of sand in the middle of a desert". The extraction itself faced last-minute complications when aircraft became stuck in wet sand during take-off. "We ... got pretty well bogged down," Trump said, adding that contingency plans ensured a successful escape. Joint Chiefs Chairman Dan Caine credited the airman's resilience, saying his "will to survive" proved critical. Meanwhile, US secretary of War Pete Hegseth said Iran was left "embarrassed and humiliated" by the operation. According to Fox News, during the rescue operation, US B-2 bombers struck an underground IRGC headquarters in Tehran using bunker-buster munitions. The target was a gathering of senior IRGC commanders, and US

officials said the facility was destroyed with many presumed dead. Multiple B-2s flew a 36-hour round trip from Whiteman Air Force Base, deploying the same class of bombs used against nuclear sites, in a strike ordered by CENTCOM chief General Cooper. Iran, however, alleged on Monday that the US rescue operation deep inside its territory may have concealed a broader covert objective, describing it as a "deception and escape mission" and claiming it could have been a cover to "steal enriched uranium", even as Washington maintained the operation was an intelligence-led extraction and "one of the most daring search and rescue operations in US history".

30 Indian fishermen repatriated from Sri Lanka

Coffee Table
News Network

COLOMBO: At least 30 Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka on Tuesday and are currently on their way back home, authorities said. "30 Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka today and are on their way home," the Indian High Commission here said in a post on X. According to the Sri Lanka Navy, till April 2026, 15 trawlers and 102 Indian fishermen have been arrested



by the Navy. In 2025, some 346 fishermen had been arrested in 44 trawlers while poaching in Sri Lankan waters, the Navy said. The Navy spokesman Commander Buddika Sampath told PTI he was not certain

which batch of detentions the 30 fishermen were from. "It depends on the court procedure," he added. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy

personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters. The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries. Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters.

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