

## Focus on concrete implementation with broad objectives to make Maharashtra a leader in per capita income - CM Fadnavis

### Coffee Table News Network

Mumbai, Date 8: The period from 2026 to 2030 is very important for the state and the country. If the right decisions and implementation are made during this period, it will be possible to make Maharashtra not only a big economy but also a leading state in per capita income. In this regard, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis directed that the departments should focus on achieving measurable goals by 2030 in the next four years for the effective implementation of the ambitious vision 'Developed Maharashtra 2047' prepared for the long-term progress of Maharashtra. The Chief Minister was speaking at a meeting of the Vision Management Regulatory Board formed under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Fadnavis at the Sahyadri Guest House to review the implementation of the Developed Maharashtra Vision 2047. Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant



Patil, Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharane, Environment Minister Pankaja Munde, Other Backward Classes Welfare Minister Atul Save, Public Works Minister Shivendra Singh Bhosale, Rural Development Minister Jayakumar Gore, Minister of State Ashish Jaiswal, as well as Chief Secretary Rajesh Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Secretary, senior officers of all the concerned departments were present on this occasion. Chief Minister Fadnavis said that any vision remains only on

paper without a concrete policy for its implementation. That is why the state government has established a "Vision Management Unit" and held in-depth discussions with each department, and a clear division of goals that can be achieved by 2030 has been made. Stating that for the development of the state, the advanced districts should grow faster on the basis of new technology and the 11 backward districts of the state have a large-scale development opportunity, Chief Minister Fadnavis said that it is necessary to work towards increasing

the per capita income of Maharashtra. Some districts are still lagging behind the national average. These districts can be the main centers of growth of the state in the future. The action plans prepared by the departments must not only be ambitious but also specific, measurable, time-bound. In order to achieve 100 percent target fulfillment in four years, each department should set clear time limits and indicators for its work. Chief Minister Fadnavis clarified that a separate large fund will not be available for this vision, but work will have to be done within the existing

financial framework. The expected results will not be achieved just by announcing it, but its actual impact should be checked after six months and a year. It is necessary to measure the results of policy formulation and implementation. For this, all policies should be based on measurable indicators. Monitoring through dashboard All departments should finalize their action plans by April 30 in coordination with the Finance Department. In the future, dynamic monitoring of all progress will be done through the dashboard. This will ensure regular and

transparent review of the work of each department, the Chief Minister said, expressing satisfaction with the work of all departments and saying that the effective implementation of this plan will now be the next important step. He appealed to all departments to work in coordination and responsibly to make the dream of "Developed Maharashtra 2047" a reality. Principal Secretary of the Planning Department A. Shaila gave information through a presentation in connection with the implementation of the Developed

Maharashtra Mission Document. On this occasion, the departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Development, Industry, Tourism, Urban Development, Housing, Energy, Forests, Public Works Department, Environment, Water Supply, Water Resources, Transport, Health, School Education, Higher Education, Women and Child Development, Social Justice Department, Minority Department, Finance Department, Information Technology provided information about the planning of the Vision Document through presentations.

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## Advanced interconnectivity and capacity to increase bandwidth will be useful for the government - CM Fadnavis

### Coffee Table News Network

Mumbai, Date 8: Bandwidth shortage was a major problem during the online implementation of various government schemes. Especially for farmers, when the online application process was started, there was a possibility of the system collapsing due to the sudden increase in internet traffic. In such a situation, advanced interconnectivity in the data center and the capacity to increase bandwidth immediately will be very useful for the government, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Chief Minister Fadnavis inaugurated the MB 3 data center of Equinix company at Varsha's residence. At that time, Chief Minister Fadnavis



was speaking. On this occasion, Principal Secretary of the Industries Department P. Anbalgan, Chief Economic Advisor Kautubh Dhavase as well as APAC President Cyrus Adgra, India Managing Director Manoj Paul, V.P. Max Parry, Head of Growth and Emerging Markets, Ganesh Pawar, Senior Director, IBX, and Elizabeth Hernandez, Director, Public Policy

and Governance were present. Equinix is the world's largest data center and interconnection services company, with a network of 280 data centers in 77 metropolitan areas across 36 countries. Equinix's first fully-owned and newly built data center in India, MB3, is spread over an area of approximately 3.7 acres, with a total investment of approximately US\$ 750 million

(approximately Rs. 6,000 crore). Once fully operational, it will have a capacity of over 4,200 cabinets. Equipped with cutting-edge technology, the MB3 data center is capable of delivering Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based services. Also, the hybrid multi-cloud interconnection facility will enable connectivity to Equinix data centers around the world and to more than 11,000 customers. In order to ensure energy sustainability, a large part of the energy required for this data center is being provided from the 26.6 MW solar project set up in Yavatmal. Currently, about 60 percent of the energy used in Equinix data centers in Mumbai is obtained from this solar project.

## Will petrol and diesel prices be reduced in India? 12 million barrels of crude oil will enter the country at a discount

### Coffee Table News Network

The ongoing war in the Middle East has disrupted international oil and gas supplies. Due to which India had to import an estimated 10-12 million barrels of crude oil from Venezuela in South America in April. According to data from commodity market analysis company Kepler, this will be the highest import in the last six years. The data also shows that April will be the first month after May last year, when Venezuelan crude oil will arrive at Indian ports. Although these barrels are only a small part of India's total crude oil imports, it is expected to provide some relief to

the country and strengthen its policy of diversifying crude oil sources. India meets more than 88 percent of its crude oil requirements through imports and processes more than 5 million barrels of crude oil per day. More than 40 percent of imports come from West Asia via the Strait of Hormuz, where shipping has been almost completely halted since early March. The Venezuelan oil supplies coming to India may have been purchased before the war in West Asia broke out. This highlights how diversifying crude oil supply sources is proving beneficial during a global crisis. India has been importing oil from

more than 41 countries in recent years, reducing its dependence on West Asia and maintaining adequate stocks of crude oil, petrol and diesel. Sumit Ritolia, manager at Kepler, says Indian refiners are already diversifying their crude oil sources, especially given the uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. The April oil arrivals are not a temporary measure but part of a long-term strategy, which represents a competitive advantage in the global energy market. Reliance Industries (RIL) was a major buyer of Venezuelan crude oil in 2019, but imports were halted due to US sanctions. After the sanctions were eased

in October 2023, RIL and other Indian refiners resumed imports. Venezuelan heavy crude oil supports the production of distillates such as diesel and jet fuel, which strengthens India's distillate production capacity. In the current situation, importing oil from Venezuela diversifies crude oil sources and increases the production capacity of Indian refineries. RIL, Naira Energy and some state-owned refineries process Venezuelan heavy crude oil. HPCL-Mittal Energy and Indian Oil refineries also process it to a limited extent. This is gradually increasing India's crude oil processing capacity.

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# Vingroup's project to boost modern, integrated urban development - CM Fadnavis

## Vietnamese company invests \$6.5 billion in Maharashtra; MoU with Industries Department and MMRDA

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Mumbai, Dec. 8: Vingroup Joint Stock Company of Vietnam will invest about \$6.5 billion in Maharashtra in the fields of sustainable urban development, industrial and tourism growth, renewable energy capacity and electric mobility. In this regard, Vingroup Company signed a MoU with Industries Department, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed confidence that Vingroup Company's investment will boost sustainable development, green energy, modern infrastructure and dynamic transport system in the state. The program held at the official residence of Varsha was attended by MMRDA Metropolitan

Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, Principal Secretary, Industries Department P. Anbalgan and Vin Group (Asia Operations) CEO Pham Sanh Chau signed the agreement. On this occasion, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that it is a matter of pleasure and honor for Vin Group to come to Maharashtra in the backdrop of the ongoing development in the state. The company is investing at the right time and in the right place and the Mumbai and Raigad area will become the most dynamic urban area competing globally in the future. After the project is launched, a strong and dynamic urban environment will be created. Assuring that the entire machinery of the state government will fully cooperate with the investors, he appealed to them to contact the concerned officials



and directly in case of any problem. He said that the state administration is capable of resolving any problem based on the experience of the past few years. Vingroup CEO Pham Sanh Chau said that we are happy and proud to participate in this important project along with the Maharashtra government and MMRD and the Industries Department. Maharashtra is a fast-growing region in Asia with great opportunities. Our

Vingroup company has global experience in integrated urban development, electric transport and eco-friendly projects. We are committed to providing quality and better facilities for long-term economic growth, environmental protection and improving the quality of life of the people. MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee said that MMRDA is committed to making the Mumbai

Metropolitan Region a globally competitive economic hub through infrastructure development and international partnerships. This collaboration with Vingroup is fully in line with our vision for next-generation urban development. This includes Mumbai 3.0 and the new Special Planning Authority (SPA) areas that MMRDA is developing. According to the NITI Aayog report, the Mumbai

Metropolitan Region contributes more than 6 percent to the country's total GDP. We are trying to further increase this momentum through such initiatives. Projects in select locations in the state including the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Under this agreement, Vingroup has proposed to invest about 6.5 billion US dollars in the next two years and various projects will be set up on an area of about 5 thousand acres. It is expected to create about 24 thousand 700 direct jobs through this. These projects will be implemented in select locations in the state including the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. As per this agreement, Win Group will invest in smart residential townships, electric mobility solutions, social and public infrastructure, renewable energy, tourism and entertainment. As

per this agreement, emphasis will be placed on setting up smart residential townships on a large scale. A world-class, eco-friendly and integrated township will be developed on an area of about 2,700 acres and a population of about two lakh has been considered. Along with this, it is proposed to start electric taxi services on a large scale to promote electric mobility in the state and a mobility-as-a-service platform will also be developed. In social and public infrastructure, international standard schools through WinSchool, multispecialty hospitals through WinMake and an electric vehicle charging network across the state through V Green will be set up. For this, an area of about 170 acres will be set up. Apart from this, a 500 MW solar power project will be set up to focus on clean energy generation,

for which about 1,200 acres of land will be required. To promote the tourism sector, there are plans to set up an international standard theme park, zoo and safari project on an area of about 865 acres. These projects will increase tourism in the state and generate employment on a large scale. At the time of this agreement, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Lokesh Chandra, Metropolitan Commissioner of MMRDA Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, Principal Secretary of the Industries Department P. Anbalgan, Chief Advisor Kaustubh Dhavase, as well as CEO of Win Group (Asia Operations) Pham Sanh Chau, Consul General of Vietnam Le Quang Bien, Advisors Gokul Kant Ti, Aman Singh, Vaibhav Thakur etc. were present.

## Creative Activities Organized under "Rhythm-2026" at Dr. Vithalrao Vikhe Patil College of Engineering

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Ahilyanagar – As part of "Rhythm-2026," a cultural initiative organized at Dr. Vithalrao Vikhe Patil College of Engineering, various creative activities such as poetry collection, sketches, artwork, rangoli, and special collective displays were conducted to encourage students' creativity. The program was inaugurated by Mrs. Sujata Paymode (Founder, Kalarang Academy, Ahilyanagar). On this occasion, she appreciated the artistic talents of the students and expressed that such initiatives help in nurturing and enhancing creativity. During the



event, students presented their self-written poems beautifully and showcased attractive sketches and artworks on various themes. A unique feature of the program was the use of QR codes, through which poems and artworks could also be viewed in digital format, allowing the audience to experience students' creativity more closely. Students expressed their imagination on diverse themes such as social issues, emotions, nature,

and modern lifestyle. This initiative provided a valuable platform for students to showcase their hidden talents and received wide appreciation from the audience. The event was coordinated by Cultural Coordinator Prof. Sunil Mandhare. Faculty coordinators Dr. C. V. Ghule and Dr. S. S. Magar, along with student council members Siddharth Wake, Vaishnavi Shrimant Warule, and Rohit Pravin Fegade, contributed

significantly to the success of the program. Additionally, Technical Director Prof. Sunil Kalhapure and Principal Dr. Ravindra Navthar provided valuable guidance for the event. The initiative was highly appreciated by Dr. P. M. Gaikwad, Director General (Administration), Dr. Vikhe Patil Foundation; CEO Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil; and Honorable Chairman and State Water Resources and Guardian Minister of Ahilyanagar, Mr. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil. This program created a vibrant creative atmosphere in the college and helped students understand the importance of art, literature, and self-expression.

## Orders Issued to Immediately Release Non-Irrigation Water from Bhandardara Dam



**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Shirdi : Considering the rising heat intensity and the growing shortage of drinking water in the command areas, State Water Resources Minister and District Guardian Minister Dr. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil has directed officials of the Water Resources Department to

immediately commence the release of water from the Bhandardara Dam for non-irrigation purposes. A large number of villages in Sangamner, Rahata, and Shirampur talukas, which fall under the dam's command area, are already facing acute water scarcity. Due to the depletion of local water sources and a

significant drop in water levels in riverside villages, the shortage has intensified across gram panchayats as well as municipal council areas. Taking into account the needs of citizens, officials have been instructed to ensure proper planning and management of the available water storage in the dam. While releasing the water, special care

must be taken to ensure that it reaches even the last village in the supply chain. Authorities have also been directed to prevent any wastage of water during the process. This non-irrigation water release is expected to benefit both rural and urban populations across Sangamner, Rahata, and Shirampur talukas.



## ₹45 Lakh Aid Announced for Kin of Dindori Accident Victims

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Mumbai : The Maharashtra government has sanctioned financial assistance of 45 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the families of those who lost their lives in a tragic accident in Dindori taluka of Nashik district. The accident occurred on April 3, 2026, at Shivajinagar in Dindori, where nine members of a single family died after their vehicle plunged into a well. Taking serious note of the incident, Chief Minister



Devendra Fadnavis had directed immediate financial assistance for the victims' families. Accordingly, an amount of 5 lakh per deceased has been approved, totaling 45 lakh. The sanctioned amount has been transferred to the account of the District Collector,

Nashik, for further disbursement to the legal heirs. The victims, all belonging to one family from Indore village, have been identified as Reshma Sunil Dargode, Asha Anil Dargode, Khushi (Srishti) Anil Dargode, Shreyas Anil Dargode, Rakhi Sunil Dargode,

Shravani Anil Dargode, Samrudhhi Rajendra Dargode, Madhuri Anil Dargode, and Sunil Dattu Dargode. District authorities have been instructed to verify the legal heirs and ensure prompt distribution of the sanctioned aid. For further information regarding the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, citizens can contact the toll-free helpline 1800 123 2211, said Rameshwar Naik, Head of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Charitable Hospital Assistance Cell.

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Ahilyanagar : The Tourism Directorate of the Maharashtra government has urged owners, entrepreneurs, and citizens associated with the tourism sector to officially register their accommodation facilities, including homestays, tourist apartments, and hostels. The appeal comes as part of ongoing efforts to promote tourism across the state through various initiatives. The Deputy Director of the Tourism Directorate in Nashik emphasized the importance of

registration to ensure that tourists are provided with safe, clean, and quality accommodation options. The registration process has been introduced to enhance the overall tourist experience. It will enable visitors to closely experience local culture, traditions, and lifestyle, while also offering a wider range of accommodation choices. Registered facilities will be awarded a 'Tourism Recognition Certificate,' which helps build trust among tourists. Additionally, adherence to government-prescribed standards ensures

improved safety, hygiene, and quality of services. Registered operators will also become eligible to avail benefits under various government schemes. With tourism expected to grow in the coming years, the demand for officially recognized accommodation facilities is set to rise. Registered homestays and similar establishments will provide reliable lodging options to tourists while creating employment and income opportunities for local residents. The Tourism Directorate has appealed to

stakeholders to actively participate in the development of Maharashtra's tourism sector by registering their accommodation facilities. For more information, interested individuals can contact the Office of the Deputy Director, Tourism Bhavan, Government Rest House area, near Golf Club Ground, Nashik. Alternatively, visit the official website [ww.maharashtra.gov.in](http://ww.maharashtra.gov.in) or reach out via phone at 8390731737 / 0253-2995464 or email at [ddtourism.nashik-mh@gov.in](mailto:ddtourism.nashik-mh@gov.in).

## Belkar and Salke Elected Unopposed to Market Committee; Ruling Panel Retains Control Under MP Nilesh Lanke

Coffee Table  
News Network

Parner (Ahilyanagar District): Gangaram Tukaram Belkar has been elected unopposed as Chairman, while Sandeep Laxman Salke has been elected unopposed as Vice-Chairman of the Parner Agricultural Produce Market Committee. The unanimous selection reflects the clear majority and coordinated approach of the ruling panel led by MP Nilesh Lanke. The process to elect new office-bearers began after outgoing Chairman Kisanrao Raskar and Vice-Chairman Kisanrao Supekar resigned from their posts on March 12 to give an opportunity to other directors. Following this, several aspirants actively put forward their claims. In an effort to build consensus among directors,



MP Nilesh Lanke took the initiative by encouraging discussions among members. Directors were even sent on a trip to Ankura Valley in Dhavalpuri to deliberate and arrive at a mutual decision, though no final agreement was reached during the trip. Eventually, on Thursday morning, all directors were called to Lanke's contact office in Parner. After understanding each member's stance, a final consensus was reached on the names of Gangaram Belkar for Chairman and Sandeep Salke for Vice-Chairman. Subsequently, a special

meeting was held in the committee hall under the chairmanship of Presiding Officer and Assistant Registrar Vikas Jadhav. As only one nomination each was filed for both posts, Belkar and Salke were declared elected unopposed. Secretary Suresh Adhav assisted in the election process. The 18-member board is dominated by the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar faction) and supporters of MP Nilesh Lanke, with 12 members from the NCP faction, 5 from the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction), and 1 from the Nationalist

Congress Party (Ajit Pawar faction). This numerical strength made an unopposed election largely expected. Speaking after his election, Chairman Gangaram Belkar assured that he would work collectively with all directors for the development of the market committee. Vice-Chairman Sandeep Salke also expressed his commitment to carrying forward the legacy of previous office-bearers. Following the announcement, supporters celebrated the victory and later felicitated the newly elected leaders at MP Nilesh Lanke's contact office.

## Priority to Tourism Development Around Dams : Minister Dr. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil

Coffee Table  
News Network

Shirdi : To boost tourism, the Water Resources Department has given priority to the development of areas surrounding major dams, and work in this regard has already commenced, said State Water Resources Minister and District Guardian Minister Dr. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil. He informed that tourism hubs will be developed around prominent dams such as Jayakwadi Dam, Majalgaon Dam, and Isapur Dam, along with Nilwade Dam and Bhandardara Dam in Ahilyanagar district, with a



strong focus on generating employment opportunities. Dr. Vikhe Patil was speaking to the media after welcoming Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at Shirdi International Airport. Animal Husbandry Minister Pankaja Munde and former minister and MLA Dhananjay Munde were also present on the occasion. Elaborati

ng on the policy, he stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the state government has taken a significant decision to utilize land owned by the Water Resources Department around dam areas for the development of tourism centers. A structured policy has been formulated, and multinational

companies will act as consultants for the initiative. The tourism development work has already been initiated through the Godavari Irrigation Development Corporation. The primary objective behind this initiative is to generate financial resources for the corporation while also creating large-scale employment opportunities at the local level. The minister further noted that proper planning has been undertaken to attract tourists by developing water sports facilities and resorts under the new policy.

## Horrible incident with IT youth in Pune; Police extort money by threatening to implicate them in prostitution

Coffee Table  
News Network

Pune: A serious incident of taking young men and women working in the IT sector to the police station at midnight and extorting money from them by threatening to take action against them took place at Wagholi police station. Strict action has been taken against three police officials who extorted money. The names of the suspended employees are Police Constable Kiran Abdagire, Shipoin Ganesh Khade and Kiran Kamble. The order for this action was given by Somay Munde, Deputy Commissioner of Police, on 7. On the night of April 2, information about suspicious activities in a society in Wagholi was given to Wagholi police by the control room (dial 112). Accordingly, Beat Marshal Ganesh



Khade and Kiran Kamble reached the spot. From there, they detained a 24-year-old youth and brought him to the police station. At that time, Abdagire was on duty as Thane official. While it was expected that the police would investigate the incident and take legal action, they threatened the youth with the threat of 'involving them in a sex racket, losing their jobs, and calling their relatives.' Khade then beat up the youth, while Kamble made the

youth stand at the police station and mentally harassed them. To settle the matter, the three demanded Rs 10,000 and it was revealed that the amount was accepted online. It has also come to light that this amount was taken through a scanner called 'Omkar Auto Garage'. When the youth became suspicious about the incident, when a thorough investigation was conducted by the youth, it became clear that this incident was only designed to extort

money. After that, the victim youth filed a complaint with Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar. The commissioner immediately ordered their suspension as the allegations were found to be true during the preliminary investigation. Meanwhile, Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar has warned that "indiscipline or abuse of power will not be tolerated in the police force. Strict action will be taken against the guilty."

## Monthly Review Meetings Announced to Boost Industrial Development in District

Coffee Table  
News Network

Ahilyanagar : In a move aimed at accelerating industrial growth, District Collector Dr. Pankaj Ashiya has announced that a monthly online review meeting will be held on every fourth Monday at 12:00 noon to address issues faced by industries in the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) areas. The initiative is designed to understand and resolve the problems of entrepreneurs from

key industrial zones such as Supa, Shirdi, Ahilyanagar, and Shrirampur, along with other industrial areas across the district. The meetings will focus on pending matters, technical difficulties, and the need for coordination among various government departments. A permanent Google Meet link and QR code have been provided for participation, and entrepreneurs have been urged to join the meetings through these digital platforms. In case the meeting



cannot be held on the scheduled Monday due to unavoidable reasons or holidays, it will be conducted the following day (Tuesday) at the same time. Entrepreneurs are required to submit their issues in a prescribed format via email at

least two weeks in advance—by the second Monday of each month—at [industryhmh17@gmail.com](mailto:industryhmh17@gmail.com). Concerned departments have been directed to prioritize these issues, ensure timely resolution, and submit action-taken reports to the District Collector's office by April 20, 2026. The initiative is expected to streamline problem-solving, improve coordination, and provide a significant push to industrial development in the district.

## Congress Withdraws from Baramati By-Election Citing Maharashtra's Political Culture: Harshvardhan Sapkal

Coffee Table  
News Network

Mumbai : The Congress party has withdrawn its candidate from the Baramati Assembly by-election, citing Maharashtra's tradition of political decorum, mutual understanding, and cultural values, said State Congress President Harshvardhan Sapkal. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Sapkal stated that although the party firmly believed it should contest the by-election, it decided to step back after appeals from leaders of both factions of the Nationalist

Congress Party. "While we have taken two steps back today, Congress will ensure that it wins the Baramati seat in the 2029 elections," he asserted. Sapkal revealed that Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar had requested the Congress leadership to withdraw its candidate, citing the late Ajit Pawar's long-standing association with the Congress. Senior leaders including Minister Chhagan Bhujbal and former minister Dhananjay Munde



also personally appealed for the withdrawal. Additionally, a delegation of NCP leaders, along with MLAs such as Manoj Kayande, Sanjay Khodke, Sana Malik, and Rajesh Vitekar, met Congress leaders to request the same. Further, Rohit Pawar and MP Supriya Sule also reached out,

while veteran leader Sharad Pawar expressed similar sentiments. Following discussions with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party in-charge Ramesh Chennithala, and other senior leaders, the decision to withdraw was finalized. Despite the withdrawal,

Sapkal clarified that the Congress remains firm on its demand for a probe into the circumstances surrounding Ajit Pawar's death. He also reiterated the party's opposition to the alliance between the NCP and the Bharatiya Janata Party, calling it "unacceptable and against public

sentiment." Responding to a media query, Sapkal confirmed that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had called and suggested that the Baramati by-election be uncontested in the spirit of Maharashtra's political culture. However, he clarified that the call had no bearing on Congress' decision to withdraw. Sapkal also noted that Rohit Pawar thanked the Congress for its stand on investigating Ajit Pawar's death, including the registration

of an FIR by the Karnataka government. Meanwhile, Parth Pawar expressed regret over his earlier remarks about the Congress, which Sapkal described as "unnecessary and immature," adding that they should not be given undue importance. Before

finalizing the decision, Sapkal held a video conference with Congress candidate Adv. Akash More, other aspirants, and local party workers in Baramati to understand their views. The decision was announced only after taking their opinions into consideration.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to declare that Proposed Ladjalgaon Stone Quarry (ML area 1.60 Ha) Located at Sy No -209 Parts, Village - Ladjalgaon Tehsil - Shewgaon, District - Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra by Shri. Uday Bahusaheb Mundhe has been granted Environmental Clearance from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), EC identification No. EC26C0108MH528870N Maharashtra on 06 April 2026. The Environmental Clearance letter is available with MPCB, website of the company and on Parivesh <http://parivesh.nic.in> website.

## Editorial...

## Beyond bluster

Amid the rhetorical turbulence that has come to define the public posture of US President Donald Trump, a quieter and potentially consequential development is taking shape: The reported possibility of a 45-day ceasefire in an ongoing conflict theatre. Stripped of the bluster, this moment demands a sober assessment not of personalities, but of prospects. Ceasefires, by their very nature, are paradoxical instruments. They signal both fatigue and opportunity fatigue from protracted conflict and opportunity for recalibration. A 45-day pause, if realised, would not in itself resolve under-lying disputes. But it could create a narrow diplomatic window, one that allows humanitarian relief, backchannel negotiations and a reassessment of strategic objectives by all parties involved. The scepticism, however, is warranted. Temporary ceasefires have historically functioned as tactical pauses rather than genuine steps towards peace. Armed actors often use such interludes to regroup, replenish and reposition. Without robust monitoring mechanisms and clear commitments, the risk of violations remains high. In this context, any optimism must be tempered by realism: A ceasefire is only as credible as the incentives that sustain it. Trump's role in this evolving scenario is emblematic of a broader tension in contemporary diplomacy: The interplay between performative politics and

substantive negotiation. His public statements, often marked by exaggeration and confrontation, can obscure the quieter diplomatic channels where actual progress is made. Yet, it would be a mistake to dismiss the potential influence of political signalling altogether. Even abra-sive rhetoric can, at times, serve as a pressure tactic, nudging stakeholders towards negotiation. More crucial, however, is the role of institutions and intermediaries. Durable ceasefires are rarely the product of unilateral declarations. They emerge from sustained engagement involving multiple actors state, non-state and international. Verification regimes, humanitarian corridors and confidence-building measures must accompany any announcement in these times. Without these, a ceasefire risks becoming little more than a headline. There is also a humanitarian imperative that cannot be overstated. In conflict zones, even a temporary cessation of hostilities can mean the difference between life and death for civilians. Access to food, medical aid and safe passage -- often impossible during active conflict becomes feasible, however briefly. For this reason alone, the prospect of a 45-day pause carries significance beyond its strategic implications. Yet, the larger question remains: What follows the ceasefire? History is replete with examples where temporary truces collapsed

## Kerala story

The rescue of Kerala trekker G S Sharanya from dense forest terrain after four harrowing days is, at one level, a story of relief and resilience. But beyond the immediate celebration lies a deeper narrative one that compels us to rethink how India approaches wilderness tourism, emergency response and its engagement with indigenous communities. The survival of the 36-year-old techie, against considerable odds, under-scores both human endurance and the limits of preparedness. India's forested landscapes, particularly in ecologically sensitive regions like the Western Ghats, are as unforgiving as they are breathtaking. Yet, the growing popularity of trekking and adventure tourism has not been matched by a corresponding strengthening of safety protocols. Permits are often treated as formalities, real-time tracking remains rudimentary and awareness among trekkers about terrain-specific risks is uneven at best. It is here that the

rescue effort offers its most powerful lesson. While the police and forest officials coordinated the operation, it was the knowledge and skill of local tribal communities that proved decisive. Their familiarity with the land its contours, sounds and subtle cues -- transformed what could have been a prolonged search into a successful mission. In an era where technology is often seen as the ultimate solution, this episode is a reminder that lived knowledge, honed over generations, remains invaluable. Yet, this contribution rarely finds institutional recognition. Tribal communities are frequently viewed through a narrow developmental lens, their expertise underutilised and their role in conservation undervalued. Integrating them formally into search-and-rescue frameworks, as well as forest management systems, would not only improve outcomes but also acknowledge their rightful place as custodians of these ecosystems.

## Together, let us empower our Nari Shakti!

True strength of a democracy lies in its ability to evolve and become more inclusive over time

## Coffee Table

News Network

In the coming days, India will be immersed in a festive sea-season, with celebrations taking place across the length and breadth of the nation. The people of Assam will mark Rongali Bihu while Odisha will celebrate Maha Bishuba Pana Sankranti. In West Bengal, Poila Boishakh will usher in the Bengali New Year and in Kerala, Vishu will be observed with immense enthusiasm. In Tamil Nadu, Puthandu will be celebrated while in Punjab and other parts of Northern India, it will be Baisakhi, which will usher in a spirit of hope as well as positivity. I convey my best wishes to all those across India and the world who are marking these festivals. May these auspicious occasions bring happiness and prosperity to everyone's lives. Furthermore, on the 11th of April, we will commence the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Phule and on the 14th, India will pay homage to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Ambedkar Jayanti. On In addition to these special occasions, when the spirit of renewal fills our hearts and minds, our nation stands at the threshold of another historic occasion. It is an opportunity to deepen the tions of our democracy and reaffirm our collective

commitment to equality and inclusion. On the 16th of April, Parliament will be convened to discuss and pass an important Bill that advances women's reservation. To describe this merely as a legislative exercise would be an understatement. It is a reflection of the aspirations of crores of women across India. It is an affirmation of a principle that has long guided our civilisational ethos, that society progresses when women progress. Women constitute nearly half of India's population. Their contributions to our nation are vast and invaluable. Today, India is witness- India has always shown that when it comes to matters of national importance, it can rise above differences and act with unity. This is one such moment. Let us move forward together to strengthen constitutional values and empower our Nari Shakti for national progress. Remarkable achievements by women across every field. From science and technology to entrepreneurship, from sports to the Armed Forces and from music to the arts, women are at the forefront of India's progress. Over the years, sustained efforts have been made to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment. Greater access to education, improved healthcare, enhanced financial



inclusion and better access to basic amenities have strengthened the foundations of women's participation in economic and social life. Yet, their representation in the world of politics and legislative bodies has not always been commensurate with their role in society. This is particularly unfortunate because when women participate in administration and decision-making, they bring with them experiences and insights that enrich public discourse and improve the quality of governance. It is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly elections to various states in the coming times are conducted with women's reservation in place. Over the decades, there have been repeated efforts to provide women with their rightful place in democratic institutions by the previous governments. Committees were

formed, bill drafts were introduced but they never saw the light of day. But the broad consensus has remained that women's representation in legislative bodies has to increase. In September 2023, Parliament passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam with the same spirit of consensus. I consider it to be among the most special occasions of my life. This opportunity to ensure women's reservation also resonates deeply with the spirit of our Constitution. The makers of our Constitution, envisioned a society where equality is both enshrined and realised in practice. Strengthening women's participation in legislative institutions is an important step towards fulfilling that vision. It reflects our commitment to building a society where every citizen has an equal stake in shaping the nation's destiny. This is a moment that cannot

be deferred any longer. Every delay in advancing women's representation is, in effect, a delay in strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of our democracy. For decades, the need for greater participation of women in legislative institutions has been acknowledged, discussed and reaffirmed. To postpone action now would mean extending an imbalance that we already recognise and have the capacity to correct. At a time when India is moving forward with confidence and purpose, it is essential that our institutions reflect the aspirations of all citizens, especially those who form half our population. Timely action will not only honour long-standing commitments but also ensure that the momentum of progress is sustained. This is truly a historic opportunity to make our democracy more representative, responsive and

future-ready. This moment calls for collective action. It is not about any one government, party or individual. It is about the nation as a whole recognising the importance of this step and coming together to realise it. It is what we owe to our Nari Shakti. That is why the passage of a Bill for women's reservation should reflect the broadest possible consensus and be guided by the larger national interest. Such opportunities call upon us to act not for ourselves, but for future generations. They remind us that the true strength of a democracy lies in its ability to evolve and become more inclusive over time. As we approach this historic Parliament sitting, I appeal to all members of Parliament, across party lines, to come together in support of this important step for the women of India. Let us seize this opportunity with a sense of responsibility and purpose. Let us act in a manner that reflects the highest traditions of our democracy. India has always shown that when it comes to matters of national importance, it can rise above differences and act with unity. This is one such moment. Let us move forward together to strengthen constitutional values and empower our Nari Shakti for national progress.

## One mantra, one world: Call for global peace, no war

## Coffee Table

News Network

In this transitional phase of world history, when humanity is groaning under the burden of war, violence, tension, terrorism and intolerance, the celebration of World Namokar Mantra Day on April 9, 2026 emerges as a unique explosion of spiritual energy. This day is not merely a religious observance, but a powerful awakening of divine consciousness an occasion where the miraculous and transformative energies generated through collective chanting are poised to illuminate the entire world. With the resolve of 'One world, one day, one mantra,' when the sacred Namokar Mahamantra resonates simultaneously across the globe at dawn, it will not be just sound, it will be the creation of a divine wave of energy. According to spiritual science, when millions chant a single sacred mantra together, the vibrations purify the environment, dissolve negative energies, amplify positive consciousness and herald peace and non-violence. This collective energy becomes a form of Sankalp Shakti (power of intention), capable of transforming the impossible into reality. This extraordinary day will unite people beyond caste, creed and community barriers across thousands of temples and venues, becoming a

beacon of inspiration where the flowers of friendship bloom and the rays of peace and harmony shine brightly. Despite remarkable progress in science and knowledge, humanity has lost sensitivity towards its own life and that of others. Intellectual revolutions have occurred, but ethical transformation remains limited. Discussions on peace, non-violence and human rights are widespread, yet the absence of right conduct, right vision and right character is deeply felt. The Namokar Mahamantra profound, miraculous and transformative is not confined to anyone religion; it is universal, timeless and global. Through its chanting, individuals can shape pure conduct, healthy living and manifest peace, non-violence, coexistence and harmony. This initiative, organised by Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO), aims to unite people world-wide through collective chanting. Participants from over 180 countries will take part, with more than 100 mega events and 6,000+ venues hosting the chant globally. The main event in Delhi will be graced by dignitaries like Ram Nath Kovind and Amit Shah, giving it a global stature. The miraculous and transformative powers generated through this collective chanting are not merely a matter of faith but of experience. The mantra touches the deepest layers of the soul, from where pure streams of

consciousness flow. It is believed that during this collective chant, mental peace and stability are profoundly experienced, reducing stress, fear and depression. The aura is purified, enhancing positivity and personal

Mantra and the Namokar Mahamantra. The Namokar Mantra is not only the fundamental mantra of Jainism but also a universal formula for purification and elevation of consciousness. Its power is

experiential accounts suggest relief from illness, fear, poverty and distress through its remembrance. The energy generated through its chanting serves as a guiding force for transforming lifestyle towards environmental awareness, non-violence, mindful living and harmony between body, mind, soul and nature. Its essence reflects the noble principle of 'Live and let live'. The mantra consists of 68 syllables and is considered an eternal, auspicious and all-beneficial chant. Its practice leads ultimately to liberation (moksha) from worldly bondage. It is a repeated sacred vibration shaping reality and thus holds immense relevance for building a peaceful, war-free world. The message of Lord Mahavir -- 'Happiness is dear to all, suffering is disliked by all' forms the essence of this mantra. When it resonates, from millions of voices simultaneously, it becomes a global declaration of compassion, non-violence and coexistence. Philosopher Acharya Umaswati's dictum Parasparopagraho Jivanam' (all life is bound by mutual support) comes alive through this collective practice. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his previous address, described this mantra as a medium of 'inner revolution' a force that connects individuals to themselves and society into unity. At a time when the world struggles with war, violence and terror, this event can become

a powerful 'spiritual resolution for peace'. It is a moment when humanity collectively invokes peace and the divine vibrations of the Namokar Mantra guide the world towards a new direction. Ultimately, this day reminds us that true transformation is internal. By imbibing the power of this mantra, not only can individual lives be transformed, but the entire world can move towards peace, harmony, non-violence and joy. This is its miraculous power, its spiritual accomplishment and its global message. The Namokar Mahamantra nurtures the grand vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' the world as one family. Humanity has suffered and continues to suffer from the devastating consequences of war and violence. To safeguard humanity and the world, there may be no greater refuge than this mantra. Thus, World Namokar Mantra Day serves as a powerful medium to awaken humanity from self-welfare to global welfare. For purification, liberation and a life of happiness, prosperity, health and joy, regular chanting of Namokar Mahamantra is essential. It is the greatest inner support in overcoming life's difficulties, anxieties and obstacles spreading auspiciousness and elevating consciousness across the world.



influence. Health improves as positive vibrations balance the body's cellular energy. The power of intention (Sankalp Siddhi) strengthens, helping fulfil noble desires. The process of Karma Nirjara (shedding of karmas) accelerates, aiding spiritual growth. Among the many mantras in the world, two are considered especially powerful the Gayatri

infinite and eternal. It does not invoke any individual but reveres the pure, perfected state of the soul. Unlike worldly mantras that yield material benefits, this transcendental mantra fulfills both worldly and spiritual aspirations. It is regarded as a supreme, all-accomplishing mantra that destroys sins and generates profound peace. Numerous

## Solapur-Mumbai Siddheshwar Express marks golden jubilee with station celebrations

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The 12116/12115 Solapur-Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) Siddheshwar Superfast Express completed 50 years of service on April 8, with Central Railway's Solapur Division marking the occasion with a commemorative event at Solapur railway station. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were held shortly before the train's scheduled departure at 10:30 pm, drawing the presence of railway officials, staff, rail enthusiasts, passenger association members and local residents. The locomotive of the Siddheshwar Express was decorated with flowers and ceremonially garlanded as part of the anniversary observance. A cake-cutting ceremony was also organised at the station. The event featured a performance by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) band, adding to the atmosphere at the venue. In a symbolic gesture, young rail enthusiasts from Solapur presented a photo frame capturing key moments from the



train's journey over the decades, reflecting its significance among regular passengers. Introduced on April 8, 1976, the Siddheshwar Express has served as a key overnight rail link between Solapur and Mumbai for five decades. Named after Shri Siddharameshwar, the train is closely associated with the cultural and spiritual identity of the region. Over the years, it has remained an important mode of transport for daily commuters, business travellers and pilgrims. The service connects passengers to major religious destinations such as Pandharpur, Tuljapur, Akkalkot and Ganagapur, in addition to facilitating travel during events

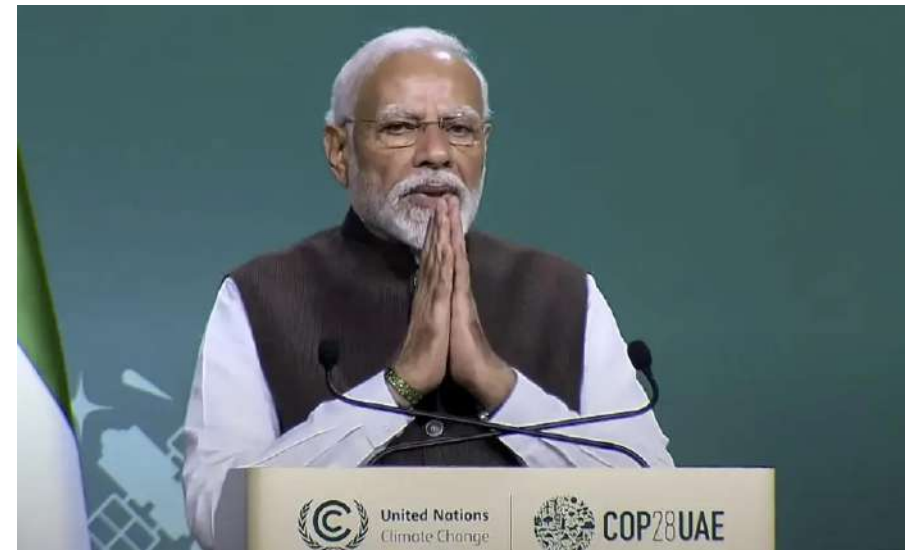
like the annual Shri Siddheshwar Gadda Yatra. The Siddheshwar Express has undergone several upgrades in line with Indian Railways' modernisation efforts. From its initial diesel-powered operations with conventional ICF coaches, the train is now fully electrified and hauled by high-capacity electric locomotives such as WAP-7. A significant upgrade came in November 2018 with the introduction of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, which improved safety standards and passenger comfort. At present, the train operates with 22 LHB coaches catering to various travel classes. Covering a distance of approximately 455 km in around 8 hours and

5 minutes, the Siddheshwar Express connects key stations including Mohol, Madha, Kurduvadi, Jeur, Daund, Pune, Kalyan, Thane and Dadar. Railway officials said the focus remains on improving passenger safety, comfort and service quality. As the Siddheshwar Express enters its next phase, it continues to play a significant role in connecting regions and supporting economic and social activity across Maharashtra. With a maximum permissible speed of 130 km/h on select stretches, the train continues to be a vital and efficient transport link between Solapur and Mumbai, supporting both daily travel and regional connectivity.

## India withdraws bid to host COP33 in 2028; Congress questions govt's climate commitment

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

India has withdrawn its proposal to host the 33rd Conference of the Parties (COP33) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2028, sources told news agency ANI. The move has drawn sharp criticism from the Congress. According to sources, the decision was communicated to the Asia-Pacific group on April 2. No official reason has been cited for the move. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier proposed that India host COP33 during his address at the high-level segment of COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. "India is committed to the UN Framework for Climate Change process. That is why, from this stage, I propose to host the COP33 Summit in India in 2028," he had said. Reacting to the development, Congress General Secretary and former environment minister Jairam Ramesh questioned the government's intent behind withdrawing the bid. "I am very surprised. It was high on PM's agenda especially since 2029 will be the year of Lok Sabha polls. So



atmospherics could have been created," he said. In a post on X, Ramesh said the decision reflects the Modi government's "true commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement both in letter and spirit" and raises questions about its willingness to adopt more ambitious carbon mitigation goals in the near term. He also drew parallels with the G20 Summit hosted in New Delhi ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, alleging that the earlier plan to host COP33 was aimed at creating similar "atmospherics". Ramesh further said that by 2028, the seventh assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is expected, which could

have placed additional pressure on India as host to push for enhanced climate commitments globally. "Incidentally, do we recall what the PM had told a group of children some years ago on his view of climate change? He had remarked that 'people have changed, climate has not.' Bizarre!" Ramesh said. The Congress leader also termed the move a "flip-flop" by the government. Meanwhile, the Union Cabinet last month approved India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the period 2031-2035, aimed at enhancing the country's climate ambitions under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. According to an official release,

the updated NDC is guided by the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', focusing on building a climate-resilient and sustainable future. "India's successive climate targets build upon India's earlier commitments, many of which have already been achieved ahead of schedule, reflecting the country's consistent track record of delivering on climate action," the release said. "The five qualitative targets are intended to embed sustainability into everyday life and governance systems, promote climate-resilient development pathways, and enable a just and inclusive transition for all sections of the society," it added.

## In major relief to passengers, aviation ministry cuts landing and parking charges for domestic airlines by 25 per cent

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Thursday announced a 25 per cent reduction in landing and parking charges for domestic airlines for a period of three months, as part of efforts to ease operational costs amid global disruptions in aviation, officials said. The decision comes in the wake of rising crude prices triggered by the West Asia conflict, which has affected global air operations. Earlier, the government had capped the hike in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for domestic carriers at 25 per cent, even as international fuel costs surged sharply. Speaking about the new measures, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said, "Under the leadership



of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the primary focus of the government in the aviation sector has been to make flying a more affordable and convenient travel option for passengers. Even in the prevailing challenging situation, when global air operations are impacted, we have ensured that cancellations and rising fuel costs do not severely affect the operations of our domestic carriers. While ATF costs globally have risen by more than 100 per cent, we have passed

on only a moderated increase capped at 25 per cent." He added, "Now, with the ultimate aim of supporting airlines and, in turn, passengers, airfare increases are being further contained by reducing landing and parking charges levied by airport operators. This step is part of the Ministry's overall effort to keep the aviation sector stable during this volatile period and to ensure ease of flying for passengers. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has been directed to

reduce landing and parking charges at all major airports under its purview by 25 per cent, with any under-recovery to be adjusted during tariff determination in the next five-year control period. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also been instructed to apply the same reduction at non-major airports. Officials said the measure is expected to reduce landing and parking charges payable by airlines at major airports by approximately Rs 400 crore during the three-month period. The ministry said it will continue to closely monitor the situation and take further steps if necessary to ensure the viability of domestic air operations and safe, affordable air travel for passengers.

## Indian vessel 'Green Asha' carrying 15,400 tonnes of LPG reaches Navi Mumbai port

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

An India-flagged vessel, 'Green Asha', carrying LPG, has safely reached the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), offering reassurance about the country's energy supply during ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, reported the ANI. The vessel carried around 15,400 tonnes of LPG and safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy routes. According to an official government statement, the ship docked at JNPA's liquid berth operated by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited

(IOCL) on Thursday. According to the ANI, the arrival of 'Green Asha' is particularly important as it is the first suich LPG vessel to reach JNPA since the start of the ongoing conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. This development comes at a time when concerns had been raised about possible disruptions to energy supplies due to tensions in the region. Officials highlighted that the successful journey of the vessel shows the strength and resilience of maritime operations. Despite the challenging geopolitical situation, supply chains have continued to function effectively, ensuring

that essential fuel supplies reach the country without interruption, reported the news agency. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, reiterated that India's LPG supply remains stable. He emphasised that ships have been moving through the Strait of Hormuz without any delays. "Ships have been continuously coming even when there was a blockage. It takes its normal travel time," he said, adding that there has been no disruption in supply, reported ANI. Mittal also assured that the government is keeping a close watch on the situation. "The

government is reviewing this on a daily basis. If any change has to be made, it will be done," he said. The smooth docking of 'Green Asha' highlights India's ability to maintain steady energy supplies even during uncertain global conditions. The Strait of Hormuz remains a vital route for energy imports and continued vessel movement through, crucial for the country. The development reassures both consumers and industry stakeholders that LPG supplies are secure and that the government is actively managing the situation to avoid any disruptions.

### ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS

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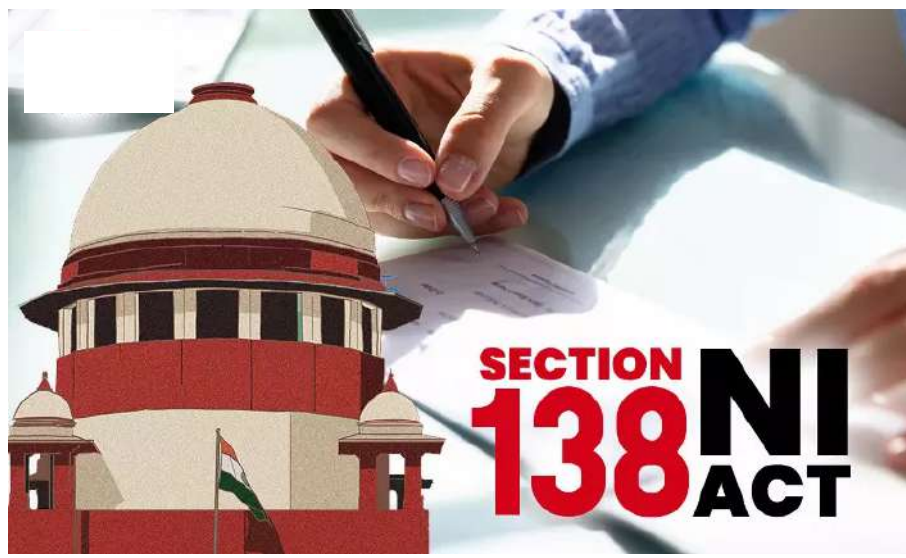
## S.142 NI Act | Signing Of Board Resolution Doesn't Mean Director Was Aware Of Company's Day-To-Day Affairs

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Supreme Court has held that merely signing a Board Resolution does not establish that a director was in charge of and responsible for the day-to-day affairs of a company, and therefore cannot by itself justify prosecution under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. Allowing the appeal of a company director, the bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Augustine George Masih quashed criminal proceedings initiated against her in a cheque dishonour case, observing that there was no specific allegation demonstrating her active role in the

conduct of the company's business. The case arose from a complaint under Sections 138 and 142 of the Negotiable Instruments Act after three cheques issued by the company towards payment for iron and steel were dishonoured on the ground that the drawer's signatures differed and there were alterations on the instruments. Legal notice was issued and summons were subsequently issued by the Magistrate against the company and its directors. The appellant, one of the directors of the company, challenged the summoning order. The revisional court and the High Court refused to quash the proceedings,

holding that her signing of a Board Resolution indicated involvement in the company's day-to-day management. Mere Directorship Or Signing Resolution Insufficient Setting aside the High Court's reasoning, the Supreme Court reiterated that liability of a director under Section 141 of the Negotiable Instruments Act requires a specific averment that the person was in charge of and responsible for the conduct of the company's business at the relevant time. Reference was made to the judgments in *N. Vijay Kumar v. Vishwanath Rao N. 2025 INSC 537*, *K.S. Mehta v. Morgan Securities & Credits (P) Ltd*,



*Hitesh Verma v. Health Care at Home (India) (P) Ltd*. The Court observed that a Board Resolution is typically signed by directors for major policy decisions and does not imply knowledge or participation in routine operational transactions. It held that the absence of any direct allegation regarding the

appellant's role in the day-to-day affairs of the company was fatal to the prosecution." a Board Resolution is a document that is signed by the members of the Board of Directors for decisions taken or conclusions arrived at for matters placed before the Board for consideration and decision. This may be inter alia regarding hiring of

personnel at management levels, acquisition or liquidation of assets affecting the overall position of the assets and liabilities of the Company or any other such major directional issue. This, however, does not in any manner mean that each and every member of the Board of Directors is aware of all decisions taken in

the everyday transactions that are involved in running a business concern." The bench emphasised that the statutory requirement is not satisfied merely by establishing the person's designation as a director, and that deemed liability cannot be inferred without specific factual assertions. The Court also noted that there was no direct allegation in the complaint against the appellant that she was in charge of, and responsible for the conduct of business of the company. The Court also disagreed with the High Court's view that once a revision petition has been filed, a subsequent petition under Section 482 of the

Code of Criminal Procedure on the same grounds is restricted. Relying on earlier precedents, the Court clarified that the inherent powers of the High Court under Section 482 CrPC remain available to prevent miscarriage of justice and cannot be curtailed solely because revisional jurisdiction was invoked earlier. Holding that the essential ingredients for prosecuting the appellant were not satisfied, the Supreme Court quashed the criminal proceedings against her, while clarifying that its observations were confined to her case and would not affect the trial against the other accused persons.

## Motor Accident Claim | Insurance Company Impleaded As Party Can Raise All Grounds, Contest Quantum Of Compensation

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Supreme Court recently allowed an Insurance Company's plea against a Bombay High Court decision preventing it from raising submissions on the quantum of motor accident claim compensation. The Court observed that when an Insurance Company is impleaded as a party-respondent to a motor accident claim compensation case, it has a right to contest the claim on all available grounds. That is, there is no restriction to raise only the grounds contained in Section 149(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act (such as, breach of policy condition, non-disclosure of material fact, etc.) the Insurance Company, when impleaded as a respondent in the claim petition, has the right to contest the claim on all available grounds, without any restriction to grounds available under Section 149(2) of the 1988 Act, a bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Vijay Bishnoi observed. As per Section 149(2) MV Act, the insurer can only raise the ground of breach of policy. However, if it is added



as a respondent, then it can raise all grounds, including dispute on negligence as well as quantum of compensation. The case pertained to a 54 year old man, who was hit by a high-speed car while he was walking in a street. As a result of the accident, the man died on the spot. Later, his wife and children filed a claim petition before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal against the Insurance Company, the car driver and the car owner. In 2015, the MACT allowed their claim, awarding Rs. 52,33,440/- with simple interest at 9% per annum. Against the award, the Insurance Company filed an appeal before the High Court, but the same was rejected as non-

maintainable. After considering the material, the Supreme Court held that the High Court erred in not allowing the Insurance Company to address the Court on the quantum of compensation. It referred to the decision in *United India Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Shila Datta*, where it was observed thus, "Therefore, where the insurer is a party-respondent, either on account of being impleaded as a party by the Tribunal under Section 170 or being impleaded as a party-respondent by the claimants in the claim petition voluntarily, it will be entitled to contest the matter by raising all grounds, without being restricted to the grounds available

under Section 149(2) of the Act. The claim petition is maintainable against the owner and driver without impleading the insurer as a party." Ultimately, the Court relegated the matter back to the High Court to decide the issue of quantum of compensation, with a request that the hearing be expedited. Appearance: For Appellant: Advocates Abhishek Kumar Gola, Anshul Mehral, Arun Kumar Nagar, Manohar Naagar and Rajshree Singh, AoR Sudhir Naagar For Respondent(s) : AoR Salvador Santosh Rebello, Advocates Serves Malyankar, Raghav Sharma, Moulisree Pathak and Jaskirat Pal Singh

## 'Matrimonial Battle Of Mahabharata', Supreme Court Dissolves 10-Year Estranged Marriage, Quashes 80+ Cases Between Couple

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Supreme Court on Wednesday (April 8) dissolved a marriage between a couple who were living apart for the last 10 years, and have filed over 80 cases against each other, their relatives and counsel, in what it described as bringing an end to the "matrimonial battle of Mahabharata". A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta strongly criticized the conduct of the respondent-husband, a lawyer by profession, observing that he had deliberately prolonged the litigation by misusing his legal expertise. The Court noted that he went to



the extent of targeting the wife's legal counsel, filing nine cases against them across various forums to intimidate them, besides initiating proceedings against relatives. "...the respondent-husband was exploiting his knowledge as a law professional to frustrate the proceedings and to intimidate the

advocates appearing for the appellant-wife...". the court noted. During the course of the proceedings, the Respondent-husband showed his incapacity to pay the permanent alimony, citing his recent resignation from the company's directorship, which the Court found to be 'subterfuge'. The Court

rejected the husband's defence that the Appellant-wife was a well-qualified and trained professional, hence could take care of herself and her kids living abroad. Instead, the Court said that "maintenance, upbringing and the education of the son would require significant financial resources, especially considering today's high cost of living and education. Thus, even if the appellant-wife is highly educated and professionally qualified, that by itself cannot be a reason to absolve the respondent-husband from his matrimonial, paternal, moral and legal responsibility to provide for his wife and children."

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# Coffee Table

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## Sabarimala judgement proceeds on assumption that men are superior: Centre tells SC

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday backed the restriction on the entry of women of menstruating age into Kerala's Sabarimala temple, saying that the top court's 2018 judgement proceeds on the assumption that men are superior and women are on a lower pedestal. A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant is hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the Constitution bench -- also comprising Justices BV



Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi -- that he filed a written submission and gave instances where men are not allowed in temples. "It is a Devi Bhagwati temple, there are certain faiths and beliefs attached. There is one temple in Kerala, I read it, where men will go dressed as women. They go to beauty parlour and female family members help them

dress in saree... So it is not a question of male-centric or female-centric religious beliefs. In the present case, it happens to be woman-centric," Mehta told the bench. At the Kottankulangara Sree Devi Temple in Kerala, men dress as women annually for the Chamayavilakku festival, honouring the goddess in a tradition dating back centuries. Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj said public morality is the governing standard, and not the constitutional morality

as interpreted earlier. In September 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench, by a 4:1 majority verdict, had lifted the ban that prevented women between the ages of 10 and 50 from entering the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in Kerala, and held that the centuries-old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional. Later, on November 14, 2019, another five-judge bench headed by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, by a majority of 3:2, referred the issue of discrimination against women at various places of worship to a larger bench. The bench had then framed broad issues on freedom across religions, saying they cannot be decided without any facts of the particular case.

## Rahul Gandhi vows to scrap 'discriminatory system' in CAPFs which denies leadership opportunities to CAPF

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said that when his party comes to power, it will dismantle the "discriminatory system" that denies Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel leadership opportunities, and ensure they receive their rightful rights and privileges. Marking the Valour Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Gandhi said both he and the Congress party hold CAPF personnel in the highest regard. He emphasised that opportunities for advancement within their own forces, access to top leadership roles, and due respect are their rightful entitlements. "On CRPF Valour Day, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and pay my respectful homage to the courageous and brave soldiers of our Force," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. "Your courage and sacrifice safeguard our nation every single day. Stationed at our borders, you keep the country secure; you confront the threats of terrorism and Naxalism; and you ensure that the greatest festival of democracy -- our elections remains peaceful and safe," the Leader of Opposition said. "However, a true tribute consists of more than just words. Despite years of sacrifice, arduous duty, and service, CAPF personnel receive neither timely



promotions nor the right to lead their own Force simply because the top leadership positions are reserved for individuals from outside the organisation," he said. Gandhi further noted that CAPF personnel possess specialised training, valuable ground-level experience, and deep strategic insight. "Therefore, from the perspective of national security itself it is imperative that these forces be led by individuals drawn from within the very same system, who truly understand the unique challenges and requirements of the troops," Gandhi argued. From being denied opportunities for leadership to facing long-pending issues regarding pay, welfare, and dignity this institutional injustice undermines the morale of the very soldiers who have dedicated their entire lives to the service and security of the nation, he said. "This is not merely a matter of career progression; it is fundamentally an issue of justice and dignity," Gandhi

said. "The Congress Party and I hold you in the highest esteem and affection. We firmly believe that advancement within your own Force, access to top leadership roles, and due respect are your rightful entitlements," Gandhi said. "Upon forming the government, we will dismantle this discriminatory system and ensure that CAPF personnel are granted their full rights and privileges," the former Congress chief said. The nation stands indebted to our brave heroes -- and the time has now come to ensure that they receive the justice they deserve, Gandhi said. His remarks come days after a bill to create a unified legal framework governing personnel across different Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), replacing the current patchwork of separate service-rule regimes for the five central forces, was approved by Parliament. Several opposition members said the bill should be referred to a joint committee of

Parliament for threadbare scrutiny and stakeholder consultations. They said personnel and officers should be consulted before bringing in a new legal framework. They had said that if the government had understood the grievances of the personnel and officers of the CAPFs, a better law would have been in place long ago. The bill, passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday last, was approved by the Lok Sabha by a voice vote. Gandhi had said the government is bent on legally perpetuating the injustice of discrimination against CAPF jawans through the bill and asserted that his party will repeal such a "discriminatory law" when it comes to power. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha had said he wanted to speak on the bill in the House and had requested the government to make adjustments as he was visiting Assam, but it refused as it "does not want me to speak on this in Parliament".

## Protest rallies across Manipur valley districts against bomb attack, demand arrest of perpetrators

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

IMPHAL: Defying curfew, thousands of demonstrators across five valley districts of Manipur held protest rallies and burnt tyres against the bomb attack that claimed the lives of two children in Bishnupur district. At Tiddim Line in Imphal West district, hundreds of people under the aegis of the All Manipur United Clubs Organisation staged a rally from its office near Kwakeithel, denouncing the killings and demanding the immediate arrest of the perpetrators. Several children, holding posters of the two minors killed in the attack, also attended the rally, which was stopped by security forces from advancing further near Kwakeithel. Later, representatives of AMUCO and others were escorted to meet Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh to



address their concerns. On April 7, a 5-year-old boy and his 6-month-old sister were killed when suspected militants hurled a bomb at their house at Tronglaobi in Bishnupur district. Soon after the incident, a mob of around 500 protesters stormed a CRPF camp near Gelmol, a few hundred metres from Tronglaobi, and engaged in vandalism and burning of security vehicles. In the ensuing firing by personnel, three protesters died while 30 were injured. On

Thursday, at Samuroi in Imphal West district, hundreds of protesters also attempted to head towards the CM's official bungalow but were stopped by police. Protesters also burnt tyres and stopped vehicular movements at Moirang Lamkhai and Ningthoukhong in Bishnupur district. Similar incidents of tyre burning were reported from Khurai in Imphal East district and parts of Thoubal and Kakching districts. On Wednesday night,

clashes broke out between protesters and security forces at Khurai Lamlong in Imphal East district, where agitators resorted to stone pelting, prompting security forces to fire tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. Earlier, police arrested three suspected cadres of the United Kuki National Army during operations following the Tronglaobi incident. However, police have yet to confirm whether those arrested were directly linked to the blast.

## MAVIGUN costs just 10% of Amaravati: YSRCP leader Jagan Mohan

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

VIJAYAWADA: YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has placed the MAVIGUN Corridor proposal at the centre of his political narrative, describing it as the most practical solution to Andhra Pradesh's long-pending capital issue. Addressing YSRCP leaders from Tadepalligudem constituency on Wednesday, Jagan accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of leaving the State without a capital even after 12 years, while highlighting MAVIGUN as a ready-made alternative that could function from day one. Jagan explained that the corridor -- MA (Machilipatnam), VI (Vijayawada), GUN (Guntur) -- spans 110 km, connecting Machilipatnam port, Vijayawada international airport, and Guntur via a national highway. He argued that this stretch could be declared a capital corridor, with administrative buildings constructed along it. "They are wasting Rs 2 lakh crore on Amaravati, and just 10% of that is enough to build a magnificent capital here. From day one, it will be functional and serve as a growth engine,



creating jobs for future generations," he contended. He reminded that the groundwork for the Machilipatnam port was completed during the YSRCP's regime, including land acquisition, approvals, and financial closure. With the port nearing completion, Jagan insisted that the corridor offers natural advantages -- connectivity, infrastructure and economic potential -- that Amaravati lacks. Jagan criticised Amaravati as a "never-ending project," pointing out that even basic infrastructure like roads, electricity, drainage and water supply costs Rs 2 crore per acre. For 1 lakh acres, this amounts to Rs 2 lakh crore, which he warned could double to Rs 4 lakh crore over decades. "Already 12 years have passed since the bifurcation of the State, and

there is still no capital. Even after 20 years, the situation will remain the same," he said, accusing Naidu of misleading farmers and the public. He alleged that Amaravati contracts are grabbed by Naidu's associates, benefiting from inflated costs and mobilisation advances. "Amaravati means loot, share, and consume. That is why no matter what I say, Naidu dismisses it," Jagan charged. Beyond the capital issue, Jagan painted a grim picture of governance under the coalition. He alleged that debt has ballooned to Rs 3.52 lakh crore in just two years, without direct benefits to citizens. In contrast, he claimed his government borrowed Rs 3.31 lakh crore over five years, of which Rs 2.73 lakh crore was directly transferred into beneficiaries' bank

accounts through welfare schemes. He accused the current administration of dismantling welfare programmes, leaving the rural economy shattered. Farmers, he said, no longer receive minimum support prices, crop insurance, or input subsidies. Government schools have weakened, with arrears of over Rs 10,000 crore in fee reimbursement and schemes like Vidya Deevena and Nadu-Nedu halted. Healthcare too, he alleged, is collapsing, with Aarogyasri dues amount to Rs 3,200 crore. Jagan also targeted TDP legislators, citing allegations of harassment, misconduct, and sexual assault, claiming no action was taken against them. He described the State as being under "rakshasa palana" (rule of demons), where impunity prevails.

## Assam polls: Opposition front to take on NDA's might

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

GUWAHATI: The stage is set for elections to the 126 assembly seats in Assam on Thursday. An Opposition front, comprising Congress, Rajior Dal, Assam Jatiya Parishad, CPI(M), CPI(ML), and All Party Hill Leaders Conference, will take on the might of the ruling BJP-led NDA, which is seeking a third straight term in power. The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland People's Front are the two other NDA entities. The NDA had an aggressive poll campaign, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. The NDA wooed voters by promising to drive out the "infiltrators," sustain the state's development trajectory, maintain peace and solve the perennial problem of floods. The Congress's biggest promise was

that it would ensure justice for singer-musician Zubeen Garg within 100 days of coming to power. He died while swimming in a sea in Singapore in September last year, and there is a demand in Assam for justice for the larger-than-life music icon. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Gaurav Gogoi spearheaded the party's election campaign, targeting the Chief Minister particularly. The polls will decide whether the NDA can defeat anti-incumbency or if the Congress, which ruled the state for 15 years (2001-16) under former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi until being ousted from power by a resurgent BJP, can rise from the ashes like a phoenix. The results may impact the elections in ethnic violence-hit Manipur next year, and in Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya in 2028. The BJP had opened the gateway to the Northeast by winning

Assam in 2016, even as the Congress continued to lose its ground in the region that it ruled for most part. The BJP fought the 2016 and 2021 elections under Sonowal's leadership. This marks the first time that Sarma is leading his party into an election. He spent over two decades in the Congress before joining the BJP in 2015. During the campaign, Amit Shah appealed to people to make Sarma the Chief Minister again by voting in favour of the NDA candidates. The high-voltage election campaign was marked by controversies. Congress leader Pawan Khera had claimed that Sarma's wife possesses passports of three countries, owns luxury properties in Dubai and has investments worth several lakh crore rupees in the United States. She lodged an FIR with the Crime Branch police station in Guwahati and the Assam Police are now searching for him. The Assam Police claimed about recovering

"incriminating" material after a search at his New Delhi residence on Tuesday. As for Sarma, he ruffled quite a few feathers by claiming that Sujata Chowdhury Gurung, mother of Assam Jatiya Parishad's (AJP) Guwahati Central candidate Kunki Chowdhury, is a beef eater. Altogether 722 candidates, including 59 women, are in the fray. The prominent candidates include Sarma, Gogoi, ministers Pijush Hazarika, Jayanta Malla Baruah (both BJP), leader of Opposition Debabrata Saikia (Congress), All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, Rajior Dal president Akhil Gogoi, AGP president Atul Bora, AJP president Lurinjyoti Gogoi, and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) chief Pramod Boro. The Congress fielded the highest number of candidates at 99, followed by the BJP (90), AIUDF (30), AGP (26) and UPPL (19).

## Iran Warns Of Ceasefire Exit If Israel Continues Lebanon Strikes

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

Iran could withdraw from its ceasefire agreement with the United States if Israel continues military strikes in Lebanon, according to a report citing a source familiar with the matter. An informed source told Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency that Tehran is reviewing the situation amid what it described as continued violations of the truce by Israel. The source said Iran would reconsider



its commitment if attacks on Lebanon persist. The development comes as Iran maintains that the ceasefire understanding included a halt to fighting across all fronts, including against Lebanon's "Islamic resistance." However, Israel has

continued operations, which Tehran has termed clear breaches of the agreement. Israeli forces said they carried out strikes on more than 100 sites within 10 minutes across Beirut, the Beqaa Valley and southern Lebanon,

describing it as the largest coordinated assault since the current offensive began. Israel has continued air and ground operations in southern Lebanon following a cross-border attack by Hezbollah on March 2, despite an earlier ceasefire in place since November 2024. Lebanese authorities reported that Israeli strikes have killed at least 1,530 people and injured 4,812 so far, underscoring the scale of the ongoing conflict.

## Israel kills Hezbollah secretary's aide in Beirut, hits weapons sites

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Thursday that it has killed Ali Yusuf Harshi, personal secretary of Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem, in Beirut. Harshi was also nephew of the Hezbollah chief who heads the Lebanese group backed by Iran. In a statement shared on X, the IDF said that it has also hit two key crossings used by Hezbollah for moving weapons south of the Litani River and 10 weapons storage sites, launchers and command centres in southern Lebanon. "ELIMINATED: Ali Yusuf Harshi, the personal secretary to Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem in Beirut. A close associate and personal advisor, Harshi played a key role in managing and securing Qassem's office. The IDF also struck two key crossings used by Hezbollah to move weapons south of the Litani River, along with 10 weapons storage sites, launchers and command centers in southern Lebanon," IDF posted on X. The development comes a



day after the US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire agreement. Earlier, IDF claimed it has killed a Hamas terrorist operating under the guise of a journalist. The IDF claimed that Muhammad Samir Muhammad Washah was actively involved in planning attacks against IDF troops and posed a threat to forces in the area. In a post on X, IDF stated, "ELIMINATED: Muhammad Samir Muhammad Washah, a Hamas terrorist operating under the guise of an Al Jazeera journalist. Washah, a key terrorist in Hamas' rocket & weapons production HQ, was also involved in the production and transfer of weapons through Gaza. The terrorist was actively involved in planning

attacks against IDF troops & posed a concrete threat to forces in the area." On Wednesday, IDF Chief of the General Staff LTG Eyal Zamir, overseeing the wave of strikes against Hezbollah, said that Israel will continue to strike Hezbollah and use every operational opportunity, according to his statement shared by IDF on X. He further said, "We will not compromise the security of the residents of northern Israel. We will continue to strike with determination." The IDF said on Wednesday that it has completed the largest coordinated strike in Lebanon since the start of Operation Roaring Lion. According to the statement, IDF hit more than 100

Hezbollah headquarters, military arrays and command-and-control centers in Beirut, Beqaa and southern Lebanon. "In 10 minutes, the IDF completed the largest coordinated strike across Lebanon since the start of Operation Roaring Lion. The strike targeted 100+ Hezbollah headquarters, military arrays, and command-and-control centers in Beirut, Beqaa and southern Lebanon, including: Intelligence command centers and central headquarters used planning terror attacks, Infrastructure of firepower and naval arrays, responsible for launching missiles, Assets of the Radwan Force, and the Aerial unit—Hezbollah's elite units," IDF posted on X

## US military to remain deployed around Iran until "real agreement", says Trump

**Coffee Table**  
News Network

President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that the US military deployments will remain in place around Iran until the "real agreement" is reached, reported the ANI. In a post on Truth Social, Trump warned that any failure to uphold the agreement—though he described it as unlikely—could result in a significantly stronger military response. He suggested that the United States is prepared to act decisively if necessary. Trump reiterated that the Strait of Hormuz will remain open and secure. He also stressed that Iran will not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons, reaffirming a long-standing U.S. position on the issue, according to



the ANI. The former president criticised media outlets, including The New York Times and CNN, accusing them of publishing what he described as a fabricated "ten-point plan" related to Iran negotiations. He dismissed the reports as inaccurate and misleading, as per the ANI. According to the ANI, the White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt supported Trump's position, stating that the proposal attributed to Iran had been rejected outright by U.S. negotiators. She

described the plan as unserious and said it had been completely discarded. Leavitt also urged the media to avoid spreading unverified or misleading information, noting that Iran's public messaging often differs from its private communications with U.S. officials. She underscored confidence in Trump's ability to secure outcomes aligned with American interests. In his social media post, Trump asserted that all U.S. naval vessels, aircraft, military

personnel, and additional weaponry would stay in place to ensure enforcement. "All U.S. Ships, Aircraft, and Military Personnel, with additional Ammunition, Weaponry, and anything else that is appropriate and necessary for the lethal prosecution and destruction of an already substantially degraded Enemy, will remain in place in, and around, Iran, until such time as the REAL AGREEMENT reached is fully complied with. If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the 'Shootin' Starts,' bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

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