

## Akhilesh yadav claims over 1,000 went missing at Mahakumbh

PTI, NEW DELHI: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday claimed that about 1,000 Hindu devotees who had gone to the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj were missing and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should have talked about finding these people when he gave his statement in the Lok Sabha.

Yadav's remarks come a day after Prime Minister Modi said the Mahakumbh strengthened the spirit of unity in the country and gave a befitting response to those who questioned India's capability to organise such a large congregation.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, Modi said the success of the Mahakumbh was a result of the contributions of countless people from the government and society.

Yadav said the biggest question is what was the

Yadav's remarks come a day after Prime Minister Modi said the Mahakumbh strengthened the spirit of unity in the country and gave a befitting response to those who questioned India's capability to organise such a large congregation

budget allocated by the government of India for the Mahakumbh.

"Can anyone imagine that the chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were just deciding where the vehicles will be parked. There were a number of IPS officials who were stopping people from going for the 'snan', saying that they do not have the capacity to facilitate them," he told reporters in Parliament House premises.

"People were being stopped at the borders. The

Centre would have given a budget for the Mahakumbh to the state government -- that should be mentioned. At a time when pages of history are being turned, the biggest loss of lives has been of Hindu devotees," he said.

The BJP and its people should help the families of those who lost their loved ones in the Mahakumbh, the former UP chief minister said.

"Even now, 1000 Hindus are missing from the Kumbh whose whereabouts are not known. The BJP should provide information on the 1000 people who are missing," Yadav said.

"The government should find the Hindu brethren who are missing and unite them with their families. People put up posters of missing people and the government is even getting those removed," Yadav said.

## Minor girl forced to drink, gang-raped in Odisha

PTI, NABARANGPUR: An 11-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by two teenage boys after coercing her to drink liquor in Odisha's Nabarangpur district, police said.

According to police, the incident occurred on March 15 (Saturday) when the girl was playing Holi near her house within Umerkote police station limits. However, it came to light the following day when the girl informed her parents, police added.

The girl's parents later lodged a complaint at Umerkote police station, alleging that two local boys forced their daughter to drink alcohol before raping her.

"We have arrested two boys aged 15 and 17 years on charges of raping the girl. They were produced before a court at Nabarangpur on Tuesday and sent to a juvenile home," Nabarangpur SP Mihir Kumar Panda told PTI.

The victim, a class 7 student in a local school, and the boys were distant relatives, police said, adding that the girl's age was 11 years, which was verified from the school register. Both the victim and the boys were sent for medical examination



examination at the district headquarters hospital here.

Congress MLA Sofia Firdous raised the issue in the Assembly on Wednesday. "A girl was gang-raped in Nabarangpur. Sexual assaults have become common in the state. We have been demanding the formation of a House committee to probe sexual assaults on women and girls in the state," he said outside the House.

She said the Congress will gherao the Assembly on March 27 to protest violence against women in the state.

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## Israel launches ground operation to retake part of key corridor in Gaza

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): Israel said Wednesday it launched a "limited ground operation" in northern Gaza to retake part of a corridor that bisects the territory, and the country's defence minister warned that the army plans to step up the attacks that shattered a two-month ceasefire "with an intensity that you have not seen."

The military said it had retaken part of the Netzarim corridor, which bisects northern Gaza from the south and from where it had withdrawn as part of the ceasefire with Hamas that began in January.

Defence Minister Israel Katz warned Palestinians in Gaza that the army would

again order evacuations from combat zones soon, and that its attacks against Hamas would become more fierce if dozens of hostages held for more than 17 months weren't freed.

As Israel continued its airstrikes on Gaza Wednesday, the United Nations said an international United Nations staffer was killed and five others were wounded in a strike Wednesday on a UN guesthouse in Gaza.

Jorge Moreira da Silva, head of the UN Office for Project Services, declined to say who carried out the strike in the central city of Deir al-Balah but said the explosive ordnance was "dropped or fired" and the blast was not accidental or

related to demining activity.

He did not provide the nationalities of those killed and wounded. The UN body, known as UNOPS, carries out infrastructure and development projects around the world.

The Israeli military, which has carried out a heavy wave of airstrikes throughout Gaza since early Tuesday, denied earlier reports that it had targeted the UN compound.

But Moreira da Silva said strikes had hit near the compound on Monday and struck it directly on Tuesday and again on Wednesday, when the staffer was killed. He said the agency had contacted the Israeli military after the first strike and confirmed that it was aware of the facility's location.

"Israel knew this was a UN premise, that people were living, staying and working there," he said.

After the strike Wednesday, the wounded were rushed to Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in central city of Deir al-Balah. One man was carried inside on a blanket held up by medical workers.

## Pope Francis stops using oxygen mask, Vatican says

AFP, VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has suspended the use of an oxygen mask, the Vatican said on Wednesday, adding that the 88-year-old's clinical conditions were "improving" after more than one month in hospital.

The Argentine pope has been in Rome's Gemelli hospital since February 14 suffering from pneumonia in both lungs, but the Vatican has reported recent progress after earlier worries that his life could be at risk.

"The Holy Father's clinical conditions are confirmed to be improving," wrote the Vatican in a medical bulletin, which it is now publishing only sporadically, instead of daily, due to his improved health.

He has "suspended non-invasive mechanical ventilation and also reduced the need for high-flow oxygen therapy," it said, adding that there was progress in the pope's motor and respiratory physiology.

## Judge moves Columbia student activist's detention challenge to New Jersey

AP, NEW YORK: A Columbia University student activist detained by the US government over his participation in pro-Palestinian demonstrations can challenge the legality of his detention, but the case should be heard in New Jersey, rather than in New York or Louisiana, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

Mahmoud Khalil, 30, a legal US resident with no criminal record, was detained by federal immigration agents on March 8. He was held overnight at an immigration detention centre in New Jersey before being moved to an immigration facility in Jena, Louisiana.

Judge Jesse Furman in Manhattan called the legal challenge an "exceptional case" in need of careful legal review to determine whether the government "violated the law or exercised its otherwise lawful authority in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner."

Furman said New Jersey was the appropriate venue because Khalil was detained there when his lawyers sought the government.

Federal authorities argued to move the case to Louisiana, saying Khalil was there because of a lack of available detention centre beds in the metropolitan New York region and because of a bedbug infestation at a lockup in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Khalil's lawyers said the transfer was a "retaliatory" action separating Khalil from his lawyers and an effort to find a jurisdiction where judges may be more favourable to the Republican administration's unusual legal claims.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Government lawyers had said that if the case wasn't sent to Louisiana, New Jersey was also a proper venue.

In a statement released by the American Civil Liberties Union, Khalil's wife, Dr. Noor Abdalla, called Furman's order a "first step."

"His unlawful and unjust detention cannot stand. We will not stop fighting until he is home with me," said Abdalla, a dentist and US citizen who is pregnant with their first child.

**FUNERAL DATE CHANGED**

**LUIS FRANCISCO FURTADO**

Due to unavoidable circumstances the funeral will not be held Today.

The Funeral will be held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2025 at 4:15 pm at St Blaise Church, Gaundalim-Cumbarjua**

*Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
GOANRITES 9822136397

**LORD I AM COMING HOME**

**GREGORIO AGNELO LUIS FERNANDES (PACLO)**

( Gaumvadi, Anjuna )

**Born:** 17th Nov 1954 **Death:** 18th Mar 2025

Son of Late Joao / Late Catarina Fernandes  
Beloved husband of Sabina Fatima Fernandes  
Loving Father/father-in-law of Alden/Dazeline, Alvis/Joylyn, Late baby Alisha.  
Grandfather of Alrica & Eden.

Brother/Brother-in-law of Late Rita/Late Joao, Fatima/Late Philip Neri, Clementina/Late Paul, Joanita/ Late John, Jose Pedro/Miguelinha, Jacinta/ Late Sebastian, Antonio/Antonette.  
Brother -in law of Philomena/ Alex.  
Loving uncle to his nieces and nephews.

**Funeral Cortege will leave his residence on 20th March 2025 at 3.45pm to St Michael's Church, Anjuna for a Eucharistic celebration at 4 pm followed by burial.**

*Friends and Relatives please accept this as the only intimation*  
Cosry's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850477904

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**

"If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord" **Romans 14:8**

**BORN:** 04/09/1946 **DIED:** 19/03/2025

**JOSE ROMANO CARDOSO**

Zambimolli-Canacona

Loving husband of **Dielina G. Fernandes**. Caring father /father-in-law of Late **Advin/Rosy Cardoz**, **Neville/Zarina Cardoz**, **Belinda/Rony Corte**, **Leena/Cruz Afonso**. Doting grandfather of **Rayson & Rishon Corte**, **Naysa**, **Nevah**, **Anrika & Adinah Cardoz**, **Ashton & Anicia Afonso**.

Funeral cortege will leave from his residence at 3.30 p.m. on **20th March 2025 (TODAY)** to **St. Theresa of Jesus Church, Chaudi Canacona** at 4.00pm for Eucharistic celebration, followed by burial.

*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

## FROM PAGE 1

### JAIRAM HAILS SC ROLE IN FIGHT TO SAVE GOA'S FORESTS

"We know how forests are being destroyed in Goa," the bench comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan had observed, while passing its order on the land that is spread across 855 survey numbers.

The Supreme Court intervention came after a petition filed by the NGO Goa Foundation seeking a status quo order on lands identified as private forests by two expert committees - headed by VT Thomas and Francisco Araujo - in their 2018 reports. Reacting to Ramesh's comment, Claude Alvares, Director of Goa Foundation, said, "We are happy that Jairam Ramesh is endorsing our concern about the destruction of Goa's forest. The Supreme Court had to step in to stop felling of trees on 855 survey numbers. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant should take responsibility for this and the Goa government should say that it will protect the forests."

During the Supreme Court hearing, senior advocate Norma Alvares, appearing for the Goa Foundation and assisted by Advocate Om D'Costa, had argued that although no trees had been felled yet, the issuance of conversion sanads - official permits to change the land's use - was a precursor to deforestation. She presented evidence of such a sanad being granted to the M/s Bhutani project in Sancoale, a plot that had been marked as a private forest by the expert committee. The bench had also raised questions about how such conversion sanads could be issued while the matter was still under judicial review.

Ramesh, in his social media post, cautioned that the Supreme Court's order was "a temporary respite" and that "bigger battles lie ahead."

### BANDORA LOCALS 'BREATHING AND EATING DUST', THANKS TO SHIPYARD

"I conceived after 12 years of marriage, and now my seven-month-old is constantly falling ill and had been admitted to hospital four times recently," she added.

Seema Naik, another local resident, highlighted the impact on everyday life, saying, "While the company earns profit, we are left to suffer. Dust gets into our food, and we constantly deal with itching and eye pain."

Elderly resident Vithoba Pokle added that he is suffering from constant health problems, including persistent itching and coughing. His family fears that these ongoing issues could lead to more severe health complications.

Prajot Naik, a concerned resident, criticised the delay in GSPCB officials visiting the area said claimed that the company had previously been more responsive to residents' grievances but has since ignored their concerns. He has urged the company to relocate its sand blasting operations to a dry dock or a secluded area.

Naik also pointed out that the ongoing road construc-

tion in the area adds to the dust pollution and called for urgent resurfacing of roads with hot mix carpeting to mitigate the situation.

### 8 BAJRANG DAL, VHP ACTIVISTS SURRENDER; RELEASED ON BAIL

They were booked by Kotwali Police for hurting religious sentiments by organising a protest on Monday for the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb.

A case of hurting religious sentiments was also registered at Ganeshpeth police station against Govind Shende, VHP's secretary in-charge of Maharashtra and Goa and others. He is not arrested yet.

The eight accused surrendered at Kotwali police station in the afternoon, following which police produced them in the court, the officer said.

Police have so far registered six FIRs against 1,200 individuals and arrested 54 individuals.

Mobs went on a rampage on Monday night in central Nagpur areas, damaging vehicles, hurling petrol bombs and stones at police, and attacking houses.

Rumours about a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions being burnt during protests led by VHP for the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb, located in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar district, was the prima facie trigger for violence.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has denied reports that any ayat (Quranic verses) were burnt during the protest, stressing that the violence was pre-planned. "Only a replica of Aurangzeb's grave was burnt (during the VHP's protest). We have verified that no ayat (verses from the Quran) was burnt. But rumours were spread deliberately," he told the legislative assembly.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

*In loving memory of*

**SAVITA COTTA**

(Ex. Teacher - St. Mary's High School, Varca)

-: VARCA -:

"Yes my soul finds rest in God, my hope comes from Him." **Psalm 62:5**

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **SAVITA COTTA** at 7.30 a.m. on **Friday, 21st March 2025** at **Our Lady of Gloria Church, Varca**, followed by prayers & blessing at the grave, offered by her sorrowful husband: **Sabino Cotta**; son: **Adv. Sylvester Cotta**.

*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
Confident Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**4<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Late Shree Harish (Anna) Narayan Ganesh Prabhu Zantye**

(Our Founder, and Ex- Chairman)

*You will always remain in our hearts forever*

Fondly remembered by:

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Directors, Officers, staff of

**THE BICHOLIM URBAN COOP BANK LTD,**  
Nandanvan, Bicholim Goa

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

*In everloving memory of*

**JACINTO CHAVAN MONIZ**

Talconda - Raia

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved **Chavan on 21st March 2025 (Friday)** at 7:30 am at **Our Lady Of Snow's Church, Raia** followed by prayers and blessing of the grave offered by his sorrowful **Wife: Fatima Children: Tassia/ Nigel, Tarushka/ Shushti, Nathan, Grandchildren: Lily, Oliver & Anita**

*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**5<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

*In Everloving Memory of*

**VALENCIO WILLIAM ABREU**

(Moira Goa)

*Our lives goes on without you But nothing is the same We have to hide our heartache When someone speaks your name The special years will not return When we are all together But with the love in our hearts You walk with us forever.*

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved **VALENCIO ABREU** at 7.00 am on **21<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 (TOMORROW)** at **Immaculate Conception Church, Moira**, offered by **Napoleon, Perpet, Vivan** and the entire **Abreu and Rodrigues family**.

*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**MONTH'S MIND**

*In Ever loving Memory of*

**TOME HILITOR DE OLIVEIRA**

(Bondir / Alto Sta. Cruz - Goa)

*The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ...Wisdom 3:1-3.*

There will be Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved **Tome Hilitor De Oliveira** on **21st March 2025** at **7.15 a.m** at **Holy Cross Church Santa-Cruz, Santa-Cruz-Goa**.

Offered by sorrowful:  
Mother/Mother-in-law: **Carmena (Baby)/Joanita**,  
Wife: **Jennifer**,  
Children: **Shiny/Ralsten, Shane, Sania & family**.

*(Relatives, neighbours and friends accept this as the only intimation)*

**First Death Anniversary**

*In everloving memory of*

**JOAO AGOSTINHO FERNANDES**

(Ex. Salgaocar Football Player)

**SUCKLEM - CURTORIM**

*On your first death anniversary, Our prayers are just for your heavenly peace, dad. We hope your soul has found rest and ease with God.*

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved **Joao Agostinho** on **FRIDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025** at **7:30am** at **St. Alex Church, Curtorim** followed by prayers at the grave, offered by children: **Valenton Austin/Melvitta, Adelia/Joy**, Grandchildren: **Beliza, Daniel & Denzil** and family.

*Relatives, friends, neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation*  
BOOKIES 9822129657