

# SC slams inhuman, illegal demolition in Prayagraj

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Calling the demolition of residential homes in Prayagraj “inhuman and illegal”, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the city development authority to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation to each aggrieved house owner within six weeks.

“The manner in which the demolition has taken place shocks our conscience. Residences of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished. There is something called right to shelter, due process of law,” said a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan.

The bench said the “high handed” manner of the demolitions showed insensitivity on the part of authority while underlining the “rule of the law in the country”.

Residential structures of citizens cannot be demolished in such fashion, it

**“The manner in which the demolition has taken place shocks our conscience. Residences of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished. There is something called right to shelter, due process of law**

**– Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, bench of Justices**

added.

The apex court said the Prayagraj Development Authority must remember right to shelter is an integral part of Article 21 and there is a rule of law which is basic part of the Constitution.

The top court said the demolition was carried out by the authority under Section 27 of the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973.

The bench observed a showcase notice was issued on December 18, 2020, and pasted on the houses the same day, with the remark that on two occasions attempts had been

made to serve it in person.

The court said a subsequent order of demolition was also affixed on January 8, 2021, but not sent by the registered post.

“The first registered post communication was sent on March 1, 2021, received on March 6, 2021, and the demolition was carried out the next day, leaving the appellants with no opportunity to appeal under Section 27(2) of the Act,” the bench said.

The top court went on, “The object of the proviso to Section 27(1) is to provide a reasonable opportunity to showcase before demolition. This is no way

of granting a reasonable opportunity.” As per provisions, the bench said, genuine efforts should be made to serve notice in person before resorting to affixture.

“When the provision talks about a person who cannot be found, it is obvious that genuine efforts are required to be made for affecting service in person. It cannot be that the person entrusted with the job of serving notice goes to the house and affixes it after finding that on that day the person concerned is not available,” it said.

The order observed it was “obvious that repeated efforts have to be made” to make a personal service.

“Only if those efforts fail then there are two options available. One is of affixing and second is of sending by registered post,” the bench added.

## IMD forecasts thundershowers; orange alert for Maharashtra

**PTI, MUMBAI:** Mumbaiers are likely to get some respite from the sweltering heat, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted thundershowers and a light thunderstorm for Tuesday and Wednesday.

The department has issued an orange alert for several parts of Maharashtra for Wednesday.

Mumbai recorded a maximum temperature of 33-34 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

“There will be a slight drop in the temperature. Thundershowers are likely towards Tuesday evening, and thundershowers on Wednesday accompanied by gusty winds in the suburbs can bring relief for Mumbaiers,” IMD Mumbai director Shubhangi Bhute told PTI.

Humidity was more than 80 per cent on Tuesday, she said.

## A fireball from burst gas pipeline in Malaysia injures 145 people



Smoke rises from a fire caused by a gas pipeline leak in Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia

**PTI, KUALA LUMPUR:** A fireball that erupted from a burst gas pipeline soared into the sky outside Malaysia's largest city and injured 145 people as it burned for several hours before being put out, authorities said on Tuesday.

National oil company Petronas said the fire started at one of its gas pipelines outside Kuala Lumpur. The inferno caused 20-story flames and a huge crater in an empty area near a residential neighbourhood.

Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad was quoted by the New Straits Times daily as saying 145 people including three children were injured. He said 67 people were still being treated at public hospitals, mostly for second and third-degree burns, while 37 others sought treatment from clinics and private hospitals.

The fire department said the fire damaged 190 houses and 148 cars.

Investigations were un-

derway into the cause of the fire. Authorities said homes within 290 metres (yards) of the site will remain off-limits for now.

There is a lot of damage across housing areas, said Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who visited affected residents and announced financial aid for victims. He told them the government and Petronas will be responsible for repairing affected homes, which could take months.

Some residents said they

felt a strong tremor, and homes shook.

Lee Weng Ken, whose left leg was burned, said the ceiling of his house collapsed.

I rushed out of my house but fell and suffered burns due to the heat from the blaze, he told Bernama.

Another victim who only wanted to be known as Andy told Bernama he ran out of his home with his children when they felt tremors and saw the fire about 100 metres away.

## Himanta, Biren criticise Yunus over remark on North East

### Cong slams India's weakened foreign policy

**PTI, GUWAHATI /IMPHAL:** Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's remarks on the Northeast triggered sharp political reactions on Tuesday with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condemning the comments as offensive, while the Congress criticised the central government, claiming that it was due to India's “weakened” foreign policy.

Former Manipur CM N Biren Singh also joined in, accusing the neighbouring country's interim government of using the region as a strategic pawn.

Calling Bangladesh the “only guardian of the ocean” in the region, Yunus had urged China to extend its economic influence to his country, mentioning that India's northeastern states being landlocked could prove to be an opportunity.

“The statement made

**YUNUS' REMARKS SPARK SHARP POLITICAL BACKLASH**

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The recent comments made by Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on India's northeastern states drew sharp reactions from political leaders across party lines on Tuesday, dubbing his remarks as “shameful” and “provocative”. Congress leader Pawan Khera on Monday shared a video clip on X of Yunus, in which he claimed that Bangladesh was the sole “guardian of the ocean (Bay of Bengal),” as India's northeastern states were “landlocked”. He said this opens up a “huge possibility” and urged China to extend its economic influence to his country. These comments were purportedly made during his four-day visit to China. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on Tuesday said this was a “very serious issue” and it concerns the “safety and security” of the nation.

by Md Younis of Bangladesh, the so-called interim Government referring to the seven sister states of Northeast India as landlocked and positioning Bangladesh as their guardian of ocean access, is offen-

sive and strongly condemnable,” Sarma posted on X.

“Such provocative statements by Md Younis must not be taken lightly, as they reflect deeper strategic considerations and longstanding agendas,” he added.

## Body of bar dancer found in flat, boyfriend held

**PTI, KOLKATA:** The body of a bar dancer was on Tuesday recovered from a flat in the Baguihati area in North 24 Parganas district, an officer said. The deceased was identified as Manisha Roy, a resident of Deshbandhunagar in Baguihati, he said.

“She went to the flat of one of her friends to celebrate her birthday on Monday night. Today morning we got information that a woman died following which our officers recovered her body from there,” the officer said.

Police broke open the lock of the collapsible gate of the flat and found her boyfriend in one room and the woman's body in another room, he added.

## SACRED WORSHIP



Women perform rituals during 'Chaiti chhath puja' festival, on the banks of the Hooghly river in Nadia, West Bengal

## 2020 Delhi riots: Court asks Delhi Police to file FIR against BJP's Kapil Mishra

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** In a major setback to Delhi law minister Kapil Mishra, a court on Tuesday ordered an FIR to probe his alleged role in the 2020 riots in the national capital.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasia found a “prime facie” cognisable offence, saying Mishra's presence at the place of the incident couldn't be ruled out and the matter required a probe against him and others.

“It is clear that Mishra was in the area at the time

of alleged offence further probe required, the judge said.

The court directed Delhi Police to file a “compliance report” in the matter by April 16, the next date of hearing.

“Let the further investigation be initiated with respect to Mishra and his associates with respect to first incident (on February 23, 2020) only and cognisable offence has been disclosed by the complainant. Put up for the compliance of the order from DCP

North-East on or before April 16, 2025,” the order said.

The court directed the police to examine the complainant, and then Delhi Police's DCP Ved Prakash Surya who was reportedly wandering at the site during the alleged incident, saying “If you don't stop the protest, then the consequence will happen here that you all will be killed.” The order said once it was established prima facie, Surya was to be interro-

gated over the presence of Mishra, and what had transpired between them.

“He (Surya) is the best person to explain as what transpired on the day between him and Mishra coupled with ultimatum and warning by DCP Ved Prakash Surya subsequent thereof as alleged by the complainant and this requires serious investigation. This is being based by only relying upon the material supplied by the prosecution itself,” the court said.

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### TARIKH PE TARIKH, SMART CITY SAGA AN UNENDING SOAP OPERA

Rodrigues further argued that, from the Central government's perspective, most of the work has been completed, and only finishing touches remain. “Ninety per cent of the work is done,” he said. “All road network work has been completed as per the deadlines specified in the affidavit submitted to the High Court. However, the final tasks, including the laying of bituminous concrete, road markings, traffic signage installation, and rectification of areas affected by deep digging, will be completed by May 31.”

As of April 1, Rodrigues assured, there will be no road closures, barricading, open trenching, or digging in central Panjim under the Smart City Mission. “If any such work is happening, it is unrelated to this project,” he stated.

Rodrigues also clarified that roads such as A B Road, 18 June Road and Pandurang Pissurlekar Road do not fall under the scope of the Smart City Mission. “We have been very clear that these roads cannot be included in the Smart City Mission due to the central drains running through them,” he explained. According to him, the State government is aware of this issue and has allocated a special budget for addressing these roads in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Talking about the work in Ribandar, Rodrigues confirmed that both sewage and road works have been completed. “I mentioned this in the affidavit and in my previous press conference,” he said. “The final layer of Bituminous Concrete (BC), along with road markings and traffic signage installation, will begin on April 1 and is expected to be completed by May 31. Landscaping and tree plantation will take place from June 1 to June 30, 2025,” he added.

### IT'S A POLITICAL WEAPON: KAMRA ON GOVT SILENCING DISSSENT

“How to Kill an Artist: A Step-by-Step Guide”

- 1) Outrage - just enough for brands to stop commissioning their work
- 2) Outrage more- until private and corporate gigs dry up
- 3) Outrage louder -so big venues won't take risk
- 4) Outrage violently - until even the smallest spaces shut their doors
- 5) Summon their audience for questioning - turning art into a crime scene,” he posted on X.

According to Kamra, an artist is left with only two choices under such circumstances. “Sell their soul and become a dollar puppet or wither in silence. This isn't just a playbook, it's a political weapon. A silencing machine,” he wrote.

There were reports that audience members who attended Kamra's show were sent notice to appear before the police. However, a police official denied that this was so.

“This is wrong information,” the official told PTI.

Kamra, known for his anti-establishment views, has refused to apologise for his over 40-minute video that has garnered over 11 million views on YouTube.

The comedian failed to appear before Khar police in the

case registered against him. On Monday, a team went to his Mahim home to check his availability.

The comedian later took a jibe at the police saying the visit was a waste of time and public resources as he had not been living there for the past 10 years.

In a post on X, Kamra said, “Going to an address where I haven't lived for the last 10 years is a waste of your time & public resources.”

Kamra was supposed to appear before Khar police during the day, an official said, adding that it was the second time he was summoned.

Last week, three FIRs against him – at Nashik Rural, Jalgaon and Nashik (Nandgaon) – were transferred to Khar police station where a case has already been registered on the complaint of Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel.

### BLAST, BLAZE AT FIRECRACKER GODOWN IN GUJARAT KILLS 18

The unit was meant to store firecrackers, and so far no clue has been found that firecrackers were being manufactured, Makwana said.

Earlier, officials had said it was a factory.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed grief over the incident and announced a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured persons.

“The incident of the death of workers due to fire and slab collapse in a firecracker godown in Deesa is heart-breaking. My heartfelt condolences are with the relatives of the deceased in this hour of grief,” Patel said in a post on X.

“I am in constant touch with the administration regarding the relief, rescue and treatment work in this accident. I have instructed the administration to ensure that the injured get proper treatment at the earliest. The state government will provide an assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured,” he said.

“I pray that God grants peace to the souls of the deceased workers and speedy recovery to the injured,” Patel said in the post.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also expressed grief over the untimely death of workers hailing from MP in the incident.

Yadav said the MP government was in constant contact with the Gujarat authorities.

He said workers affected by the incident will be extended full assistance. All necessary efforts will be made to assist the workers and help their families, Yadav added.

### PRIVATE FOREST CONVERSION: SC NOTICE TO BHUTANI, OTHERS

The court had also granted time of four weeks to the respondent to file a counter affidavit.

At the March 28 hearing, the apex court clarified that its March 3 order will not apply to John Nazareth and Antonio Nazareth, whose 1,750 square metres of land at Assagao was declassified as non-forest by the State government.

## Rajya Sabha passes The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, which seeks to give legal effect to certain international agreements in their application to India, which includes the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (also known as Cape Town Convention of 2001) and Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment. India had acceded to these in 2008.

The Bill states that before exercising any remedy, the creditor must notify the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the occurrence of a default. In cases of a default, it gives creditors certain remedies, including the right to take back possession of the asset within two months or a mutually agreed upon period, whichever is earlier.

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## MORE OBITS ON PAGE 12

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
**WILLIAM ANGELO BAPTISTA D'SOUZA**  
Born: 25 .06 .1960 - Died: 01/04/2025  
Son of late Joseph H D'souza & late Livia D'souza  
husband of Perpetua D'souza  
Father of Walter and John D'souza  
Funeral Cortage will leave his residence to St. Francis Xavier Church Duler Mapusa at 3.30 pm Today 02.04.2025 for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.  
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation  
Cosy's Ads, Chinchin, Navelim, 9870473994

**LORD I AM COMING HOME**  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted (Mat 5:4)  
**RAUL PEREIRA**  
Born: 07/11/1951 Died: 01/04/2025  
( Nagmoddem - Navelim / UK )  
Loving husband of Mina Monteiro  
Affectionate father/father-in-law of Valinco/Patrisa, Valonia/Aldrich and Valmon  
Adorable grandfather of Predencia.  
**FUNERAL DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.**  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992