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WOMEN IRAN'S NEW REVOLUTIONARIES



Schoolgirls in Isfahan

...Contd... from Last Issue
Karunakshim Vatsalam - This time on the ground, several activists and journalists have been arrested

or detained, though there is no clarity on the numbers. According to an Associated Press report, an Oslo based group called Iran Human

Rights "estimates at least 154 people have been killed, though that includes an estimated 63 people killed in violence in the eastern Iranian city of Zahedan. Iranian authorities have described the Zahedan violence as involving unnamed separatists." Even though supportive of the current regime, many right thinking people are saying, "Why are we doing this to our children?"

(... Contd... on Page 3)

MARUTI SUZUKI COMMITS 35 K CR TO NEW GUJRAT PLANT, 12 K JOBS



Staff Reporter- Maruti Suzuki Unveils Massive Gujarat Expansion -Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. is set to unleash a new automotive manufacturing powerhouse in Gujarat, announcing a monumental ₹35,000 crore investment. The proposed plant, situated on 1,750 acres in Khoraj, near Ahmedabad, will be a critical expansion of the state's already robust automobile sector. *Contd... on Page 4)*

DAKSHIN - SOUTH INDIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT IN NAVI MUMBAI



Staff Reporter - Navi Mumbai: Dakshin - The 10-days

South Indian Food Festival at the Courtyard By Marriott in Nerul here is being held from January 23 to February 1, 2026. The food festival was inaugurated on January 23 by Shri Subhabrata Roy, the General Manager of Court-

yard and Shri Vishwarath Nayar, a senior journalist of the city. Shri Mohandas Nair of the Navi Mumbai BJP South Indian Cell and Adv. Sudip Gholap graced the inaugural function.

FORMER MAHARASHTRA MINISTER SHALINITAI PATIL PASSES AWAY AT 94



Staff Reporter - Former Maharashtra minister Shalinitai Patil passed away on Saturday at the age of 94. Patil,

the wife of former state chief minister Vasantdada Patil, held ministerial positions in various Congress govts in the 1980s, having risen from being member of the Satara district council to president of the party's women's wing. She represented Sangli in the Lok Sabha and was also MLA from Koregaon during her long political career. Describing her as a forthright *(... Contd... on Page 3)*

NAVI MUMBAI COURT QUASHES Rs. 40 LAKH FOREX TRADING CASE AGAINST JAI KADAM

Staff Reporter - The Belapur Civil Court has quashed a forex trading fraud case involving Jai Manohar Kadam, Suraj Kadam, Sachin Dongre, and Vikas Nikam, citing absence of evidence to substantiate allegations of a Rs.40-lakh fraud. The case was earlier registered at the *(... Contd... on Page 2)*

MUMBAI APMC WILL STAY IN VASHI AND WILL BE REDEVELOPED, SAYS CHIEF MINISTER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS



Staff Reporter - The sprawling Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) at Vashi will not be shifted, but only be modernised under a redevelopment plan, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said, while addressing a BJP election rally at Airoli on Monday. He also urged people not to believe rumors that the wholesale market yard would move to a distant location in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Fadnavis said the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)

would be named after PAP leader and 'son of the soil' the late D B Patil, citing local sentiment and noting that the airport was developed on land surrendered by villagers. He also said that the proposed Poshir dam on the outskirts of Navi Mumbai, which is expected to supply around 1,000 million liters per day (MLD), will cater to Navi Mumbai's future water needs. Fadnavis said his govt allocated Rs 750 crore for the expansion of Kalamoli *(... Contd... on Page 4)*

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Editorial

Welcoming the New Year

As we welcome the New Year 2026, it's the perfect time to send heartfelt wishes to those who've made the past year special. Whether you're celebrating it with your loved ones or reaching out from afar, a thoughtful New Year's message can spread joy and set the tone for the year ahead. From warm wishes for health and happiness to inspiring words for a fresh start, these messages are perfect for personalizing your New Year's cards. Share your hopes for 2026 with family, friends, and co-workers, and let your words ring in the new year with positivity and love. May this new year bring you peace where you need healing, hope where you need strength, and joy where you least expect it. May 2026 be a gentle reminder that every day is a chance to begin again. Let go of what no longer serves you, and make space for growth, kindness, and quiet happiness. May your efforts be rewarded, your dreams feel closer, and your heart stay light even on challenging days. Wishing you a year filled with good health, meaningful progress, loving moments, and reasons to smile. Step into 2026 believing that better things are on their way. New year, New mindset, New possibilities.

ASK PROPERTY FUND TO INVEST Rs. 210 CR IN RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS IN NAVI MUMBAI

Staff Reporter - ASK Property Fund, part of the Blackstone-backed ASK Asset & Wealth Management Group, will invest ₹210 crore in two residential projects of Gami Group, located in Navi Mumbai. One of the projects is located in CBD Belapur, spanning 2 acres, with two- and three-bedroom residences available to offer. Another project is located in the Ghansoli micro market, close to both Ghansoli station and Thane-Belapur Road. Bhavin Jain, chief invest-

ment officer, ASK Property Fund, said, "This investment signifies ASK's initial foray into the Navi Mumbai market, which has experienced considerable momentum due to significant infrastructure upgrades such as the Navi Mumbai International Airport and improved connectivity with Mumbai via Atal Setu. Both these projects represent a remarkable investment opportunity, given their prime locations within well-established catchment areas." •

NAVI MUMBAI COURT QUASHES Rs. 40 LAKH

..... *Contd. from Page 1* Turbhe MIDC Police Station following a complaint by Manisha Kirve. During the proceedings, the complainant submitted a notarized affidavit stating that Jai Manohar Kadam and Suraj Kadam were named in the complaint under a wrong impression and emotional distress, and that they had no role in the alleged transaction. She further clarified that there was no business or financial dealing with them. The court observed that the prosecution failed to produce any documentary evidence showing

transfer or deposit of ₹40 lakhs into the accounts of the accused. No bank records, transaction trails, or financial links were presented before the court. The court also noted that there was no material evidence connecting the accused to the company, JKV Global, in relation to the alleged offence. Taking into consideration the complainant's sworn statement and the lack of financial or documentary proof, the Belapur Civil Court held that there were no grounds to file a charge sheet, and consequently quashed the case. •

HUMAN RIGHTS

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

There is no doubt that the Freedom of religion, at least originally, was intended by the framers of the Constitution to be an effective right, and not the mere force to which it appears to have been reduced. One clearly unjustified entry of the State into the field of religion is the presence of Section 123 (3) in the Representation of the People's Act. It proclaims appeals for votes on the grounds of religion to be a corrupt practice; this is a clear violation of Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution. The Court upheld it as a reasonable restriction within the ambit of Article 19 (2). But, public order, etc. under Article 19 (2), are provided for by the presence of Section 123 (3-A), which deals with the promotion of enmity and hatred on the grounds of religion. The presence of this reduces the scope of Section 123 and places it outside the ambit of Article 19 (2) of the Constitution. It is surprising to note that in age of judicial activism when fundamental rights are being continuously expanded to act on guidelines other than restrictions on State action, the right to freedom of religion has escaped notice. The right has effectively been reduced to a myth and only strenuous



Adv. Sosamma Varghese

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judicial and legislative action can revive it.

Article 25 (1) of the Constitution guarantees to all persons, subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of Part III of the Constitution, freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion. Freedom of conscience is not to be separated from the right to profess, practise and propagate religion. They go together and together they form part of the Right to Freedom of Religion. Clause (2) of Article 25 however, stipulates that the freedom and the right guaranteed by clause (1) shall not prevent the State from making any law regulating or restricting, any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice, or to provide for social welfare and reform or to throw open

Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus. So, the Article makes it clear that secular activity may be associated with religion, though the guarantee of the Article does not extend to such activity.

The exercise of the freedom to act and practice in pursuance of religious beliefs is as much important as the freedom of believing in a religion. In fact to persons believing in religious faith, there are some actions which are as much part of religion is the faith itself. The freedom to act and practice can be subject to regulations in our Constitution subject to public order, health and morality and to other provisions in Part III of the Constitution. However, in every case, the power of regulation must be so exercised with the consciousness that the subject of regulation is a fundamental right of religion, and as not to unduly infringe the protection given by the Constitution. Further, in the exercise of the power to regulate, the authorities cannot sit in judgment over the professed views of the adherents of the religion and to determine whether the practice is warranted by the religion or not. That is not their function.

SIMPLE LIVING AND HIGH THINKING



C.K. SUBRAMANIAM-

All that one perceives is not real but merely a dream. Every incident, person, emotion, every branch of knowledge is part of this Dream. Every vision, experience, ec-

stasy, name and form is part of this Dream. One is always trapped in the Dream in wakefulness or Dream in Sleep. Only when one can stand apart from these Dreams can one abide in Self. Only Dreams are born and dreams die. If one is apart from these dreams there is no birth and death. If one wants to get out of this dream state one should sleep in wakefulness and be wakeful in Sleep. One should be ever in Dreamless Slumber and Sleepless Sleep. Self alone is beyond all states. It remains as it is and even if one realizes it

does not make any difference to Self. The beauty of Self is disregarding the pursuit, the pursuer the Self remains as Silence. All scriptures are silent on the "Silence of the Self" as it is beyond words and description. Youth today are becoming exceedingly greedy and totally selfish, harboring feelings of hatred and jealousy. Their lifestyle of enjoying worldly and carnal pleasures will result in diseases. In ancient times, youth and saints alike, led a life of sacrifice and sense control and enjoyed peace

(... *Contd...* on Page 4)



*From an
Easychair*

Jubel D'Cruz

Minorities under fire again

(...Contd. from Last Issue)

A disturbing incident took place on July 26 this year at the Durg Railway Station in Chhattisgarh, where two Catholic nuns from the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI), Preeti Mary and Vandana Francis, were arrested. These nuns were wrongfully accused of trafficking under Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and charged under Section 4 of the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act, 1968, for allegedly forcing religious conversions. Such accusations not only tarnish their reputation but also serve to intimidate and silence religious workers who are dedicated to humanitarian efforts and community support. The government of India must uphold its commitment to religious freedom and ensure that individuals are not unjustly targeted or harassed for their religious beliefs. Concrete steps should be taken to investigate such incidents and bring those responsible for instigating violence and spreading hate to justice. Reform of existing laws, like the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act, which can be misused to falsely accuse religious minorities, must also be considered. Ever since the NDA government has taken over

the country, Christians are being targeted and nuns are being raped. The government should be aware that they are ruling the country today is only because of the minority communities (Christians and Muslims) who willingly voted for them. Just because we Christians are peace-loving people and do not retaliate, it does not mean that the government can take an upper hand of us. Churches are being burnt and the police does not take any action against those involved in these dastardly acts. India will never prosper with all this atrocities taking place. The Catholic-Christian community in India does not indulge in terrorism, anti-social or anti-national activities, smuggling, underground activities, cheating and corruption, arson looting, rioting, communal and fundamentalist activities, criminal activities, encroaching government lands to create slums, female foeticide/infanticide and over-population. They are extremely secular and work with honesty and dedication. But in spite of being very peaceful and law-abiding citizens, they face religious discrimination and persecution. It is very shameful on the part of the Indian government to treat Christians like this.

Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire is said to have left a will to his son, Humayun which is still preserved in the State Museum of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. The contents of the will are that Babur informs his son Humayun that India is the home of many religions and he has to be respectful and impartial towards all of them and ought not to burn, destroy or disturb any shrine of any religious order. But what is happening today? All religious structures and shrines are being destroyed, demolished or desecrated. Our present-day politicians do not care for the people and they have no respect for the common man, especially the minority communities. In the name of religion, they destroy religious structures and kill people belonging to the Christian religion. I quote what our freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has said: "My religion is truth, love and service to God and humanity. Every religion that has come into the world has brought the message of love and brotherhood. Those who are indifferent to the welfare of their fellowmen, whose hearts are empty of love, they do not know the meaning of religion."

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(Jubel D'Cruz is a freelance writer and the author of several books for children. He also writes letters to the editor for newspapers and magazines all across India on various social, national and environmental issues. He lives in Dombivili, Mumbai)

FORMER MAHARASHTRA MINISTER SHALINITAI PATIL ...

.... Contd. from Page 1 and outspoken leader, NCP's (SP) Sharad Pawar said, "She criticised me as openly as she conveyed Vasantrao Patil's message to colleagues, urging them to accept Sharad's leadership. She never hesitated to express her views openly". Shalinitai Patil was a clear-speaking leader, a scholar of law and a former minis-

ter who made her mark in public life, he added. Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said Maharashtra has lost a distinguished personality. "I pay my heartfelt tribute to Shalinitai Patil. By standing firmly by late Vasantrao Patil throughout his life, she made a valuable contribution to social and public life," the deputy CM said in a statement. Satara

MP Udayanraje Bhosale said her guidance was inspirational at several stages of his political and social life. Her advice during difficult times, lessons in patience and her commitment to working honestly for the people will always be remembered, Bhosale said while paying tribute to the departed soul. •

WOMEN IRAN'S NEW... Contd. from Page 1

This doesn't make sense anymore for this religion, for this generation". Even Hassan Khomeini, a grandson of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the 1979 Islamic revolution, had issued a public statement supporting Amini and calling for the government to engage in dialogue.

Regime's Existential Threat

The threat posed by these protests, analysts say, is existential to the regime and is one of the Islamic Republic's biggest challenges in years. "These are primarily very, very young people, a younger generation who have apparently completely lost faith that this Islamic Republic can be reformed," said Trita Parsi, executive vice president at the Washington, DC-based Quincy Institute. "They're breaking from their previous generation who was seeking to reform the system from within," Parsi added. "This new generation seems to not have any faith in that at all."

Political Changes

At the same time, the country was going through important political changes. In the revolution's early days, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was very popular, and his hard-line faction easily found a broad base of support among the population, Bajoghli said. But his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who took office in 1989 and is Iran's current supreme leader, was less popular and less respected as a cleric. Khamenei worked to build a base of support among the country's ultra-religious conservatives to shore up his power. But over time, as Iran has become a younger and more urban country, that base has grown smaller and shattered into competing factions, Bajoghli said. Today, the ayatollah is 83 years old and reportedly in poor health, raising the prospect of a succession struggle shortly. Nevertheless, he is

still believed to have the support of Iran's powerful and heavily armed Revolutionary Guard and many of its paramilitary militias. However, the reaction to Amini's death has highlighted the growing dissatisfaction even elite supporters of the Islamic Republic may have with his hard-line approach. That has left Iran's hard-line faction in a political bind: It faces a shrinking political base and one that is increasingly out of step with society. Authorities have responded with intensifying violence to crush the dissent, apparently unwilling to allow any alternative vision of Iranian identity.

Social Changes due to Education

But the veil requirements may have helped to set Iran on the path to the current protests in an unexpected way: by making conservative families more comfortable allowing their daughters to go to university. Narges Bajoghli, professor of Middle East Studies at Johns Hopkins University and the author of 'Iran Reframed: Anxieties of Power in the Islamic Republic' says: "All of a sudden, in their minds, society had become Islamic, and therefore it was safe for their daughters to leave home and go away for college." Today, women make up more than half of university graduates. Education opened new opportunities for women to enter public life. And that, in turn, led many to become dissatisfied with the limitations they found there, such as rules that barred women from holding senior judge-ships. "In the mid-1990s and 2000s, there's a lot of folks from within the religious components of society beginning to say, 'We need to rethink these laws because it's beginning to impact our peers'," Narges Bajoghli adds.

(... to be Contd...)

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HEALTH

VAGINAL HEALTH

IDENTIFYING THE HIDDEN CULPRITS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE

Vaginal infections are a common concern for many women. While some risk factors are well-known, there are certain hidden habits that can also contribute to the development of these functions. So, in the article, we will explore some of these lesser-known habits, and provide guidance on how to avoid them. What are the habits that increase vaginal infections risk? Wearing tight clothing-Tight clothing, such as skinny jeans or tight underwear, can restrict airflow to the vaginal area, creating a warm and moist environment that is conducive to the growth of harmful bacteria. Opt for looser, breathable clothing to reduce the risk of vaginal infections. Overusing antibiotics-While antibiotics are essential for treating bacterial infections, overuse can disrupt the natural balance of bacteria in the vagina, leading to the overgrowth of harmful organisms. Use antibiotics only as prescribed by a healthcare professional. Not getting enough sleep-Lack of sleep can weaken the immune system, making it harder for the body to fight off infections. Aim for seven to eight hours of quality sleep each night to support overall health, including vaginal health. Using scented feminine products-Scented soaps, douches, and sprays may seem appealing, but they can disrupt the natural pH balance of the vagina, making it more susceptible to infections. Stick to mild, unscented products specifically formulated for intimate hygiene. Poor hygiene practices-Neglecting proper hygiene, such as not washing hands before inserting tampons or not changing sanitary pads frequently enough, can introduce bacteria to the vaginal area & increase the risk of infections. Practice good hygiene habits to maintain vaginal health. Using public toilets without proper precautions-Public toilets can harbor bacteria and other pathogens that can



cause vaginal infections. Always use a toilet seat cover or clean the seat with a disinfectant wipe before sitting down to minimize the risk of contamination. Engaging in unprotected sexual activity-Unprotected sexual activity can introduce foreign bacteria and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) into the vaginal area, increasing the risk of developing a vaginal infection. Use barrier methods like condoms to protect STIs and maintain vaginal health. Wearing wet swimsuits or workout clothes for extended periods-Sitting in wet swimwear or sweaty workout clothes for long periods can create a moist environment that promotes bacterial growth. Change out your wet clothes as soon as possible to prevent vaginal infections. Stress and anxiety-Chronic stress and anxiety can negatively impact the immune system, making the body more susceptible to infections, including vaginal infections. Practice stress management techniques, such as exercise, meditation, or talking to a therapist, to reduce stress levels. Consuming a poor diet-A diet lacking essential nutrients weakens the immune system makes it harder for the body to fight off infections. Make sure your diet includes variety of foods, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins to support overall health, including vaginal health. •

MUMBAI APMC WILL STAY IN VASHI

..... *Contd. from Page 1*
junction to decongest traffic. This junction is the merging point of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Sion-Panvel Highway, Atal Setu, NMIA, JNPA-Panvel Highway and Mumbai-Goa Highway. Fadnavis further said that work on the Virar-Alibaug corridor project

will soon be kicked off, and the Navi Mumbai and Mumbai Metro corridors would be integrated for seamless travel. Hailing for-est minister Ganesh Naik, Fadnavis said his long-pending demand for the conversion of leasehold land to freehold would be done very soon to allow leaseholders property ownership rights. He added. •

MARUTI SUZUKI COMMITS...

..... *Contd. from Page 1*
Officials confirmed the landmark investment will directly generate employment for approximately 12,000 people. The state government highlighted the project at an investment letter handover ceremony in Gandhinagar, attended by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Maruti Suzuki India Managing Director Hisashi Takeuchi. This ambitious facility is slated for an annual production capacity of 10 lakh vehicles. Development will occur in four distinct phases, with each unit projected

to contribute 2.5 lakh vehicles per year to the overall target. The state government anticipates production commencing in FY29. This move significantly bolsters Gujarat's standing as a premier automotive manufacturing hub, attracting ancillary industries and creating an estimated 7.5 lakh indirect jobs. The land acquisition for the Khoraj Industrial Estate, costing Maruti Suzuki ₹4,960 crore, was approved by the board on January 12. This acquisition is a key component of Maruti Suzuki's broader strategy to enhance its vehicle production capacity by up to 10 lakh units each year. •

SIMPLE LIVING AND HIGH...

..... *Contd. from Page 2*

and joy. All of us are blessed with the wealth of love from the moment of our birth. In this field of worldly activity it is very difficult to safeguard the treasure of love. Therefore, we need to find a faithful friend to hand it over - and the only true friend is God. So let us hand over the wealth of love to God and lead a secured life filled with peace and joy. Right from the Stone Age, we have worked towards simplifying our lives. Whether it was through the discovery of fire or invention of the wheel, we looked to reduce the effort we expended in life. However, today, in this quest to make our lives simpler, it seems like we are defeating the very purpose of this action. We wake up early, not to enjoy a beautiful sunrise but to plan ahead for the rest of the day. We rush to our offices not because we love our work, but because we are caught up in the endless grind to earn aliving—a high living that is better than what we had yesterday. We come home, not to our families, but to a pile of bills that are waiting to be paid. Sure, our

kitchens have the latest appliances, our living rooms have the best of home theatre systems, and our patios have the best furniture pieces. But, we are nowhere in the picture to enjoy these. Time and money have constantly been at loggerheads. In this inverse relationship, we have begun to sacrifice time to earn more money. One thing we are missing in this endless rut is that money can be deposited in the bank and withdrawn, but there is no bank where you can deposit time and withdraw it when you are in need. Following one dictat can solve this incessant battle—simple living high thinking. Simple living does not necessarily mean giving up all worldly pleasures to lead the life of a monk. Simple living means having the ability to feel content with what one has acquired. A person without contentment is like a bottomless pit—no matter what you put into it, no matter how much you put into it, it is bound to seem empty and darkness is all you'll find when you look into it. **A simple living and high thinking can bring cheer in life all the time.** •

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