

Two Bombay HC judges elevated as chief justices

Revati Mohite-Dere and MS Sonak

Urvi Mahajani

MUMBAI

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Poonam Apraj

Supreme Court appeals to all women to make their will**T. S. Tijoriwala**

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The Female of the house, in the earlier days looked after the house, was not a working woman and did not have many assets in her own individual name.

However, things have changed and women are playing a vital role in acquisition, retention and growth of the family's wealth. This article emphasises why a woman should make her will bestowing her assets as per her

WINGS OVER INDIA | The survey will be carried out between the 1st & 3rd week of Jan; bird counts will be accepted from Dec '25 onwards to the end of Feb '26

Count wings, conserve wetlands: BNHS calls for waterbird survey**Manoj Ramakrishnan**

MUMBAI

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has invited birders to join the country-wide Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in India in January 2026.

The survey will be carried out between the first and third week of January, and bird counts will be accepted from December 2025 onwards to the end of February 2026, BNHS said. The nationwide citizen science exercise will help collect data on birds that migrate to India in summer and understand migration trends and the status of the wetlands, the organisation said.

The AWC, initiated in 1987, is recognised as the longest-running citizen-science programme dedicated to the conservation of waterbirds and wetlands in the region. Wetlands International South Asia (WISA), BNHS, Birdcount India, and National Biodiversity Authority are among the organisations participating in the survey.

"Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on earth, supporting rich biodiversity and providing essential ecological services that are vital for both nature and humans," said Kishor Rithe, director of BNHS.

Rithe said that the field implementation of the AWC is made possible through a

Picture Credits: BNHS team

**1987**

Year the AWC was initiated

2018-2023

Period of India's National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along the CAF mentioned

Component 5

Position of AWC in the National Action Plan

strong collaborative network. "AWC's state coordinators will head the programme, but we need the support of local birders, researchers, university students, and other dedicated contributors," said Rithe.

BNHS stated that they have written a letter to the chief wildlife wardens and the heads of forest protection forces of state forest departments to facilitate participation of their staff in data collection as well as in conducting the census. The National

Biodiversity Authority has instructed all the state and union territory Biodiversity Boards to provide support to the census by involving village-level Biodiversity Management Committees.

Dr P Sathyaselvam, senior scientist heading the Central Asian Flyway programme in India, deputy director of BNHS, stated that several wetlands have recorded changes in waterbird populations due to degradation of aquatic habitat. "This exercise will help to understand the pres-

ent status of our wetland ecosystems, and hence monitoring waterbird populations will be crucial for their conservation and restoration," said Sathyaselvam. Data from the census will be used to prepare the national action plans and concerted action plans at the global level, he stated further.

Drhru Varma, senior technical officer at WISA, explained that the BNHS, Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) coordinators, and AWC state coordinators will train and sensitise local

observers that the duo "utilized their knowledge for illegal activities rather than its use for the benefit of society," the court refused leniency, stating it was a "fit case to impose maximum punishment" for its deterrent effect.

On January 9, 2017, ANC

trapped Waghela at Chheda Nagar Bus Stop, recovering 200 grams from him and 10 kg from his car. A raid on their Karnata plant yielded 7 kg more. Investigation linked Waghela to absconding UK resident Minal Chamheria via Firdos for export. Prosecutor BG Rajput examined 23 witnesses. Firdos was acquitted as mere call records without transcripts or further evidence were insufficient to prove conspiracy.

Duo gets 20-year jail in drug case**Charul Shah Joshi**

MUMBAI

The special NDPS court has sentenced two pharmacists, Pravin Waghela, 34, from Bandra and Ramdas Nayak, 40, from Hubli, Karnataka, to 20 years of imprisonment for manufacturing banned narcotic substance Mephedrone (MD) in 2017, intending to export it abroad. The ANC officials seized a total of 17 kg of MD.

**Weave into heritage**

Discover the beauty of handcrafted textiles and rich traditions at the Antaran Artisan Exhibit – a Tata Antaran initiative – at the World Trade Center, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai, on 18th and 19th December Mumbai on 18th and 19th December. – Vijay Gohil

'After full 4G coverage, Maha moves to 5G'**FPJ News Service**

MUMBAI

Union Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya Scindia, stated in Parliament on Thursday that Maharashtra has achieved 100% 4G saturation and is now rapidly progressing towards comprehensive 5G connectivity. He noted that, to strengthen digital connectivity across the state, around 1,64,000 4G and 40,000 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) have been installed so far, resulting in significant improvement in telecom services in both urban and rural areas.

The Minister specifically highlighted the expansion of digital infrastructure in the Konkan region, stating that extensive 4G and 5G network

deployment has been carried out across various districts. He shared that Palghar district has 5,463 4G and 1,609 5G BTS. Thane has 6,710 4G and 1,989 5G BTS. Raigad has 2,940 4G and 791 5G BTS, Ratnagiri has 2,292 4G and 465 5G BTS, and Sindhudurg has 975 4G and 256 5G BTS installed. This was stated by the Press Information Bureau in a press release.

Scindia stated that, in line with Prime Minister Modi's Digital India vision, the Government of India is committed to providing accessible, fast, and reliable digital connectivity to every citizen of the country. With the further expansion of the 5G network in the coming period, digital empowerment across Maharashtra and the entire country will be taken to new heights, he added.

HC bars Nashik trees felling

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court has barred felling any trees in Nashik's Tapovan area for the 2027 Simhastha Kumbh Mela without its prior permission. The state plans to cut around 1,800 trees for Sadhugram, a residential facility for sadhus. Petitions challenge this, citing biodiversity loss and Godavari river impact, with residents staging Chipko-style protests. The government is vetting public objections. The National Green Tribunal had earlier stayed cutting till January 2025.

Urvi Mahajan

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Global Cancer Care begins patient-first support in Mumbai**FPJ News Service**

MUMBAI

of a possible cancer diagnosis can be deeply isolating. You face complex medical terms, conflicting advice and overwhelming fear, often without knowing where to turn. Global Cancer Care was created to ensure that no one has to navigate those first steps alone," she said.

Dr Shivam Shingla, clinical director, noted that many patients in India reach oncologists too late, not due to lack of care options but because of delayed action. "Our aim is to normalise screening, promote early diagnosis and guide patients through ethical, transparent and affordable treatment pathways. When patients are supported emotionally and guided clearly from the start, outcomes improve significantly," he said.

Backed by a multidisciplinary team and a trusted network of oncologists across Mumbai, GCC assists patients with symptom awareness, screening pathways, interpretation of diagnostic reports and access to credible specialists. For those undergoing chemotherapy, the platform also provides structured treatment guidance and access to cooling cap therapy.

To ensure continuity of care, Global Cancer Care has announced a phased expansion plan. It currently operates 10 inpatient beds and plans to expand to 100 beds within a year, with a long-term goal of 400 beds over the next five years. The organisation is also exploring partnerships for pan-India expansion, with a continued focus on affordability, transparency and patient-centric care.

2 college students killed in scooter-truck collision**Megha Kuchik**

ever, the accused has not been arrested yet.

This was the third such fatal incident this week in which two people riding a two-wheeler lost their lives.

According to the Bangur Nagar police, the Malad accident occurred around 10pm on Wednesday at Evershine Nagar, Malad West. The two were travelling on a scooter when it collided with a trailer truck that was allegedly parked dangerously by the roadside. The boy, who was riding the scooter, rammed into the rear of the truck, resulting in the death of both riders.

The deceased have been identified as Ridaj D'Souza and Kelyn Fernandes, both college students. On Thursday, the Bangur Nagar police registered an FIR against the truck driver; however,

A case has been registered against the truck driver.

wishes, more so in the light of a recent Supreme Court Judgement. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, noted that Education, employment and entrepreneurship of women in India, including Hindu women has led to their acquiring self-acquired properties in accordance with Section 30 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1925. We say so in order to safeguard the interests of not only Hindu women in this country, but all women in general so as to avoid any further litigation in this regard." This observation was made while the Court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation challenging Section 15(1)(b) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, a provision that determines how the property of a Hindu woman devolves if she dies intestate, that is, without a will.

The writer is a practising Advocate in the Bombay High Court