

# UDAN fails to take flight in Maha, 120 places to be added in scheme

At Present, 7 Airports Have Flights Under The Initiative



“The UDAN scheme was discussed at the meeting with CM Fadnis. It will be for the first time the state govt will give viable gap funding to start a flight on the Mumbai-Solapur route. We expect a Fly91-operated flight to begin soon — **Murlihar Mohol**, STATE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION

Pune: The Centre has provided a boost to UDAN in the Union Budget and it is likely to lead to a surge in the number of flights under the scheme in Maharashtra. So far, the state has had a dismal performance despite being among the first to start operations under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), said minister of

state for civil aviation Murlihar Mohol on Saturday. “The finance minister said 120 new destinations will come up due to enhanced RCS or UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme as it is popularly known. Maharashtra will be positively impacted with the increase

MADC officials told TOI that though the seventh airport, Amravati, was allotted an RCS route, it was yet to get a licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for flight operations.

“We are trying to get a licence for Amravati airport, following which an RCS flight connecting to Mumbai will begin. Serious attempts are being made to increase the number of RCS flights from MADC airports,” Swati Pandey, vice-chairman and managing director of MADC, told TOI recently. At present, state airports with facilities managed by different agencies, including the Airports Authority of India, have 24 flight movements under UDAN. Mohol told TOI that on

## Patil: Inspect non-operative units to curb drug menace

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolhapur: Sangli guardian minister Chandrakant Patil on Monday directed the administration to inspect the non-operational units in the industrial areas in the district to prevent their use for illicit activities, including the production of illegal drugs.



The move follows the seizure of methedrone (MD) worth Rs 6 crore from Vile industrial in Sangli district last month, after which an anti-narcotics task force was formed under the minister. The collector should issue separate orders for the inspection of 34 closed factories in the industrial areas of the district. The factory owners should cooperate with police,” he said.

Patil has directed the district authorities to come up with short films to spread awareness about the ill-effects of drugs on health. “Public awareness should be increased about the harmful effects of drugs on people. Films should be produced to explain the effects of drugs to students. I will visit schools and colleges to spread the awareness,” he said at a meeting in Sangli. The minister announced that he would review the task force’s performance every week and guide them to root out drug menace in the district. Earlier, he declared a personal incentive of Rs 10,000 for individuals providing details about drug manufacturing operations or sales activities.

## Income tax raid at properties of former Satara ZP prez ends

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Kolhapur: The search carried out by the income-tax department at the residences and milk dairy associated with NCP (SP) functionary and former Satara ZP president Sanjeevrao Naik Nimbalkar ended on Monday after around five days.

As soon as the search ended, veteran NCP leader Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar posted a cryptic status — ‘You Started, I Will Finish’ — on his WhatsApp number, highlighting a political storm in Satara district and in particular in Phaltan. The search started a couple of days after Sanjeevrao met deputy CM Ajit Pawar amid talks of returning to the NCP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, except for Ramraje, his two cousins and other relatives had joined the Shurard Pawar-led NCP (SP), helping unsettle the BJP in the Madha Lok Sabha constituency. This political master

stroke also yielded results in nearby constituencies. There is an ongoing political feud between ex-MP of BJP Ranjeetsingh Naik Nimbalkar and the Ramraje family. After the search concluded on Monday, Sanjeevrao said he was not sure whether the search was initiated with political motives. “But surely it was an experience about which he was hearing for a long time. The IT officials did not harass me or my family members. We cooperated with them. They did not take the cash, jewellery or any document from my house or from Govind Milk’s office. I learnt that the search was regarding the milk dairy and allied businesses,” he said.

After the search started, Ramraje, head of Phaltan’s royal family, posted a status asking the supporters to be patient, not to gather outside his house and assured them that nothing would come out of the search. TOI tried to reach out to Ramraje, but he was not available for comments.

## Bhujbal demands no leniency for accused cops in Parbhani case

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Nashik: Former deputy chief minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Monday disapproved of the demand that police officers suspended in the Somnath Suryawanshi murder case should be let off with a slap on the wrist, in show of “bigger heart”. He argued that it’s outrageous to consider forgiving criminals involved in murder cases based on their race, caste, creed or religion.

Bhujbal made the statement when asked if he was aware of a video of BJP MLA Suresh Dhas, in which he could be heard telling people that it was improper to demand action against the police and that they should be excused by showing a large heart. The video, purportedly recorded in Nashik on Saturday, has gone viral on social media.

Bhujbal claimed that he was not aware of such a demand. “A human was murdered, and the law should take its own course. Why should the perpetrators of a crime against a person of one community be treated differently than those against a person of another community? Is it okay to kill a deity and get away with it? Constitution is same for all,” he said. An environment minister Pankaja Munde’s claim that late Gopinath Munde commanded a huge force to kill a deity and get away with it, he said. On environment minister Pankaja Munde’s claim that late Gopinath Munde commanded a huge force to kill a deity and get away with it, he said. On environment minister Pankaja Munde’s claim that late Gopinath Munde commanded a huge force to kill a deity and get away with it, he said.

regarding the preparations for Kumbh Mela, Bhujbal said, “I have also requested CM Devendra Fadnis to write to Centre for Kumbh funds.”

“When I was deputy CM, Gopinath Munde had expressed a similar desire. I had told him then that we would have to first weigh the decision, given that he held a good post in BJP. The subject never figured in any discussions after that,” Bhujbal said.

Regarding the preparations for Kumbh Mela, Bhujbal said, “I have also requested CM Devendra Fadnis to write to Centre for Kumbh funds.”

## Charge police with culpable homicide: Suryawanshi’s kin

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Pune: The family members of Somnath Suryawanshi, who died in judicial custody in Parbhani last Dec, on Monday expressed disappointment over more suspension of the police personnel involved in the case and demanded that a culpable homicide case be registered against them.

A group of protesters took out a long march from Parbhani towards Mumbai last week, demanding justice for the Suryawanshi family. The protesters discontinued the march after a delegation of state govt, including minister of state Meghna Bordkar and BJP MLA Suresh Dhas, met and assured them of action against the police personnel concerned.

The Suryawanshi family said they were disappointed to know that no stern action was taken against the police personnel. Suryawanshi’s mother Vijayabai said, “We are not ready to accept mere suspension for these police personnel who are responsible for the death of my son. They will resume their duties in a few days, and no action will be taken against them later. We are firm that they should be charged with culpable homicide and the strictest punishment should be given to each one of them.”

BJP MLA Dhas is urging [Suryawanshi] family to pardon the personnel involved in the custodial death as he is not going to gain politically in this case. Jitendra Ahwad | NCP (SP) MLA

The family members and the opposition parties have come down heavily against BJP MLA Dhas for appealing to the family to show a big heart and pardon the police personnel involved in Suryawanshi’s death. His brother, Prabhakar, said, “When Dhas met the protesters in Nashik, he appealed

them to pardon the police personnel. We were shocked to hear his speech. He is not ready to fight for us. It shows that he is siding with the police department, which is responsible for my brother’s death.”

NCP (SP) MLA Jitendra Ahwad also questioned the BJP MLA’s stand in this case. “He (Dhas) is being vocal on Santosh Deshnutk’s murder case due to his own political equations. But he is urging the [Suryawanshi] family to pardon the personnel involved in the Suryawanshi’s death as he is not going to gain anything politically in this case. Will he make a similar appeal if someone from his family had died in such a manner?” Ahwad asked.

The 35-year-old Somnath Suryawanshi was arrested by the Parbhani police in connection with the violence that erupted over the damage to the replica of the Indian Constitution in the district in Dec last year. Suryawanshi was kept in the Parbhani district prison, where he died on Dec 15, 2024.

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